



# THE ENTERPRISE

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## Long-time council member to step down at the end of his term

**By Taylor Boyd**  
Ray Weiland announced he would not seek reelection to the Stuart Town Council when his current term ends on December 31. He currently serves as mayor.

At the April 20 Town Council meeting, Weiland said he's served on the council for 23 years. This year marks his 12th as mayor.

"I think it's time to step aside and let somebody else have fun for a while," he said.

Weiland said he's worked with several good councils during his tenure with the town, including the current one.

"I just want to thank everybody here for everything that they've done for me and previous councils that I've had," he said.

Weiland also voiced his appreciation for Town Attorney Chris Corbett.

His current job as the acting field director of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Drinking Water and his role as mayor sometimes creates a conflict of interest.

"As a matter of fact, I had a meeting with Bryce (Simmons, town manager) concerning monies that we're getting from the Office of Drinking Water and I didn't know which hat to wear in that meeting because we were giving and accepting, so that can't be done," he said. "We're going to try to avoid things like that in the future, so it will be best for me to do that, to step aside."

Councilman Dave Hoback said he believes Stuart has been blessed to have Weiland in the mayor's position.



Stuart Mayor Ray Weiland does not plan to seek reelection when his current term ends in December.

"He has a knowledge of utilities and state programs and all that. He brought something to the table that none of the rest of us could have," Hoback said.

Corbett added that the town has been blessed to have Weiland.

In other matters, the council:

\*Approved the meeting minutes as written.

\*Scheduled a public hearing on a noise ordinance for April 17.

\*Heard from Alpha Hiatt, who voiced her objection to the proposed noise ordinance. She also suggested the town website be updated and a kiosk be installed at the town office.

\*Heard an update on public works projects.

\*Heard an update on town policy.

\*Scheduled budget committee meetings for April 4 and April 11 at 2 p.m.

\*Heard an update on the wastewater treatment plant.

\*Paid the bills.



County officials said they would support the installation of a stoplight at the intersection at U.S. 58, Spring Road, and South Mayo Drive.

## County supports bid for a stoplight in Patrick Springs

**"How many more people have got to die?" Galen Gilbert asked board members.**

**By Taylor Boyd**  
The need for a stoplight at the intersection of U.S. 58, Spring Road, and South Mayo Drive in the Patrick Springs area was highlighted at a recent Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting, and the board seemed to agree that one is needed.

Galen Gilbert, one of the speakers to address the board, said there were two more wrecks at the intersection in early March.

"The last one was severe enough that the patient was airlifted to Baptist Hospital," he said.

Gilbert said board member Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, previously experienced the loss of a family member after a collision at the intersection.

Kendrick's aunt, Louise Deal, was killed when her vehicle and an oncoming vehicle collided.

(See Stoplight p.3)

## Fine-tuning its mission, vision statement among the board's goals at a recent retreat



The Patrick County Board of Supervisors held a retreat at the Reynolds Homestead on March 19.



**By Taylor Boyd**  
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors discussed its mission and vision statements during its annual board retreat on Tuesday, March 19.

Held at the Reynolds Homestead, the retreat was hosted by Dr. Stephanie Davis, who quizzed the board about how they wanted Patrick County to look in 20 years.

Brandon Simmons, the chairman,

said he wants to see job opportunities, local healthcare, and great education.

"Beauty and scenery mean a lot to Patrick County I know, and that's one of the biggest ways we make

our money, but we have got to find new ways to make" the county "attractive besides trees and the hills," he said.

Simmons said the county needs to

(See Retreat p. 3)

## Government veteran runs for congress in SW Virginia

Karen G.H. Baker served her country for 30 years as a federal employee and now is running for Congress in Virginia's 9th House District.

According to her campaign, voters throughout the sprawling Southwest Virginia district are circulating petitions to get her on the ballot as a challenger to incumbent U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, who has held the seat since 2011.

"I got into it kind of late," and became a candidate the last weekend in February, said Baker, 72. "I was recruited" and encouraged by several people to run.

She decided to pursue the opportunity because it resonates with her life experiences.

"I have lived a life of service my whole life," said Baker, who worked as a trial lawyer in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and eventually as the agency's assistant general counsel for systemic litigation. Later she served 17 years as an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration. Since moving to Floyd County in 2014 she has continued her legal career by providing pro bono assistance to individuals seeking disability benefits

Sandwiched in between, she also "became a nurse. After 30 years of sitting at a desk, I went to nursing



Karen G.H. Baker

school. I worked at night helping families, translating people's needs into actions and I've always been for the little guy my whole life," Baker said.

"I'm not going to Congress to make a career for myself. I'm going for my district. To serve them ... that's the only reason I'm going. It is ingrained in me that this is what I do," she said and explained that when she was 4 years old, "I was told I needed to serve, and that my life didn't exist just for me. It was to serve others, and that's what I'm

(See Congress p.3)

## Memorial Wrestling event set

**By Taylor Boyd**  
National Independent Championship Wrestling (NICW) will hold its second annual Ken Steel Memorial Mardi Gras Brawl on Saturday, March 30, to honor "The Machine" Ken Steel, a former pro wrestler who is better known to some as Kenny Pack.

The show will be held at the Stuart Rotary Building. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the bell to start the first match rings at 7 p.m.

Scott Rutter, of Rutter's Martial Arts, said Steel was originally from Patrick County.

"He was an independent professional wrestler. I know the last couple of years before he passed away, he actually was an assistant football for Patrick County High School (PCHS)," he said.

Rutter said Steel also worked in the Quest program to help with troubled youth.

"He worked with some of those kids through Patrick County and at the high school and elementary schools," he said.

Rutter said he decided to hold the show to honor Steel because Steel previously owned the NICW promotion.

"His goal before he passed away was to host wrestling promotions in our area. in Patrick County, Floyd, Martinsville, Henry County, Bassett. He was always wanting to host them, and just bring an



The second annual Ken Steel Memorial Mardi Gras Brawl is set for Saturday, March 30 at 7 p.m.

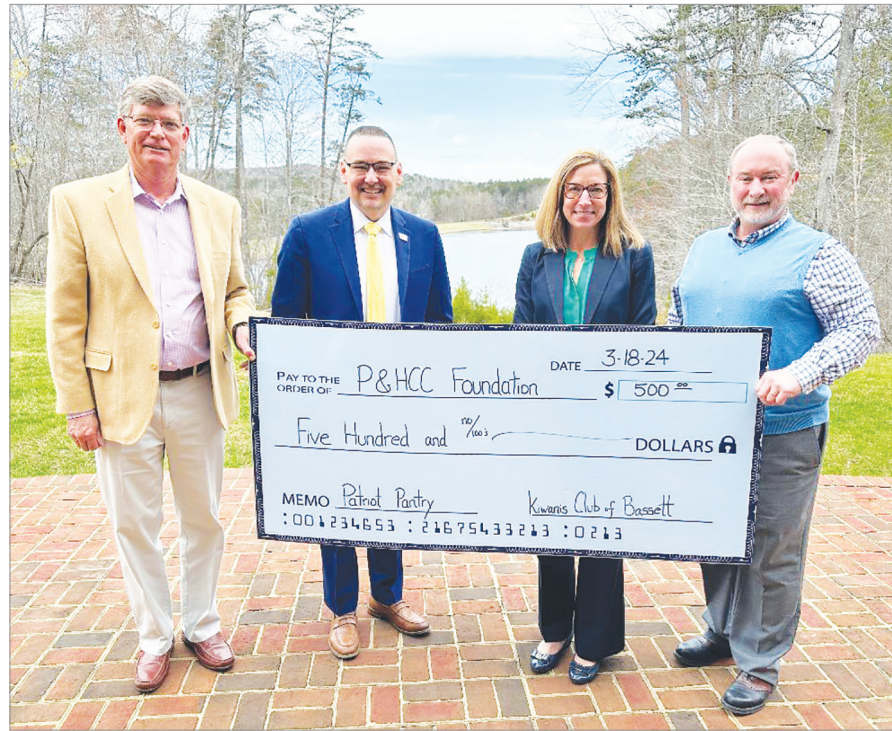
old-school, pro-wrestling, family-oriented event to our area," he said.

When Steel hosted a show, Rutter said he often gave back to the community with some of the funds from ticket sales and concessions going back to help the PCHS band, wrestling team, or football team.

"He had gotten sick because he was diabetic, and he held like one or two shows in Patrick County in 2014-2015, somewhere in that time. He was unable to continue to do it consistently because of his health," Rutter said. "When he passed away, I took over the wrestling promotion and I wanted to keep that memory and keep that going."

Rutter said the show is called the

(See Wrestling Event p. 3)



P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges and P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood accept a donation to support Patriot Pantry from Stu Warren (L) and Tim Stone (R) of Bassett Kiwanis Club.

## Patriot Pantry Receives Community Support

Patrick & Henry Community College has hosted Patriot Pantry, a food and hygiene shop for students, since 2016. The Pantry exists thanks to the donations of P&HCC staff and community members. Bassett Kiwanis Club was one such recent donor, gifting the Pantry funds to purchase items for the spring semester.

“Success can be defined as helping an individual/s to reach whatever destiny or purpose in one’s life; however, it will take the community to change one person at a time to see the success,” said Student Success Center coordinator Seberina Tatum, adding, “We are so grateful to the Kiwanis Club for their support of the success of our students and the Pantry.”

P&HCC students can shop at the Pantry for food and hygiene items as well as school supplies once per month based on a points allocation system. Patriot Pantry stocks a wide variety of non-perishable food items including grab-and-go meals, pop-top canned food items, and traditionally popular protein bars and shakes.

In the 2022-2023 school year, the Pantry was visited by 271 students. The Pantry has served 489 students in the current academic year.

Community members who are interested in learning more about the Pantry or in making a donation are encouraged to contact Seberina Tatum or Lisa Coffey at 276-638-8777.

## Peer-to-Peer Payment Scams

Many of us have used a peer-to-peer (P2P) payment app to split a bill or send money to a friend, and some people even use them for traditional shopping. However, there are inherent risks that exist on these payment apps that everyone should know about.

First and foremost, because they’re as fast and convenient for criminals as they are for consumers, P2P apps — like Zelle, Venmo and Cash App — are favorite tools for modern-day scammers. It’s also important to know that, even though they may be associated with your bank account, no fraud protec-

tions exist on P2P apps. Once you press send it is virtually impossible to get your money back.

The keys to staying safe when sending money this way is to avoid out of the blue requests for money and make sure you know the person on the other end. Think of P2P apps as cash. Before you hand over cash that you will never get back you always want to know exactly who you are giving it to.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork).

## Crooked Road receives funding boost

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has awarded a \$64,135 grant dedicated to the Crooked Road, Virginia’s Music Heritage Trail. The funding supports a project that commemorates the 20th anniversary of the organization.

“The Crooked Road celebrating its 20th anniversary is exciting. I was there in the Virginia House of Delegates when Delegate Phillips got the House Bill passed design-

ating the Crooked Road as Virginia’s Music Heritage Trail,” 9th District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith said.

“The trail generates major economic activity as their festivals and venues garner thousands of visitors year-round,” said Griffith, R-Salem. “This monetary contribution by ARC will continue the Crooked Road’s mission in promoting Southwest Virginia’s identity which includes traditional music.”

## Emergence of cool-season crop signals springtime

Perhaps this season’s early emergence of asparagus spears is a springtime reward for Virginians who endured a dreary, wet winter.

With a short harvest window usually beginning in April, this popular perennial vegetable is a top seller at Hidden Springs Family Farm’s booth at the Fluvanna Farmers Market. Farmers Dewey and Barbara Haines said asparagus is always a high-demand item.

That demand may be even stronger, as fewer Virginia growers are harvesting asparagus, as revealed in the preliminary findings of the 2022 U.S. Census of Agriculture. Mostly harvested for fresh sales, Virginia-grown asparagus was cultivated at 157 farms on 123 acres in 2022. In 2017, 190 farms grew asparagus on 176 acres.

The Haineses grow Millennium asparagus, known for its high yield, long life and soil adaptability; and the Purple Passion cultivar—sweet, nutty and tender, turning green when cooked.

Millennium spears were already pushing up in their garden beds by mid-March.

Virginia Cooperative Extension horticulture specialists report that the spears of this cold-hardy crop develop daily from underground crowns during the eight- to 10-week harvest window, and stems should reach 5—8 inches aboveground before harvesting.

Snap the spears at the soil surface when they are the width of a No. 2

pencil, or fatter, said Dewey Haines, who said a family friend eats spears straight from their garden while walking his dog.

Growing good asparagus is an exercise in patience. While this perennial vegetable can be productive for up to 50 years in some cases, asparagus should not be harvested the first season after crowns are set.

Harvest lightly for three to four weeks the second year, Extension recommends. The fleshy root system needs to develop and store food reserves for growth in subsequent seasons. Plants harvested too heavily too soon often become weak and spindly, and crowns may never recover.

The Haineses planted 2-year-old crowns in 2022 and refrained from harvesting the following spring, letting them seed and turn brown.

“Starting June 1, we leave the crowns because that’s what feeds the plant,” Barbara continued. “The leaves are little solar panels absorbing all that energy, overwintering and feeding the crowns next year.”

Unharvested asparagus produces fern-like foliage with tiny yellow flowers and red berries that help support Hidden Springs’ birds and honeybees. Their foot-deep asparagus crop is a companion planting to shallow-rooted strawberries.

Visit [bit.ly/4ab7Yom](http://bit.ly/4ab7Yom) for more Extension tips. To find fresh asparagus near you, visit the Virginia Grown website at [vdacs.virginia.gov/va-grown](http://vdacs.virginia.gov/va-grown).

## Virginia ag census data reveals overall drop in producers, with increasing numbers of Hispanic farmers

Though the overall number of agricultural producers in Virginia has dropped in recent years, Latino and Hispanic farmers represent a growing demographic in statewide agriculture.

Industry leaders and policymakers are paying attention to preliminary data recently released from the National Agricultural Statistics Service’s 2022 Census of Agriculture, which provides a comprehensive picture of agriculture every five years.

The overall number of Virginia farm producers dropped from 70,594 in the 2017 census to 67,798 in 2022. However, producers of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin rose to 1,026 from 845 in 2017. Many in that population are farming in Loudoun and Fauquier counties.

Tia Earman, Loudoun County Farm Bureau president, said she has noticed the steady growth of a younger and more diverse farming community overall since the 2017 census, and the county Farm Bureau Young Farmers committee is very active.

“The face of our agriculture is changing,” she said. And so is the Washington-adjacent landscape.

“We don’t have a lot of 300-acre cow farms left,” Earman continued. “But we have really intensive vegetable farming happening on small acreage that is direct-marketed to consumers.”

She noted Loudoun added 73 farms since the last agriculture census, and now has 805 farms between 10 to 49

acres. “We have proximity to a stable, direct market who can afford to go to farmers markets and pay higher prices to purchase local food that supports local farmers,” Earman said.

Black farmers in Virginia number 1,603, down by 90 since 2017. Halifax County has the most Black farmers, with 147 counted by the census.

Female farmers in Virginia number 25,237. Rockingham and Loudoun counties are home to the highest numbers of female operators.

Farming is the primary occupation for 27,471 producers. And 40,327 farmers hold other jobs as primary occupations.

New and beginning producers account for 20,378 of all farmers. They are operating almost 13,000 farms on 1.7 million acres. The largest number of beginning farmers are in Rockingham and Loudoun counties.

The average age of producers crept up from 58.5 to 59.2 years old. Young producers ages 34 and younger total 5,139 farmers. Rockingham County is home to the largest number, with 390 young farmers.

Farmers ages 25 to 54 make up smaller percentages than older farmers, with most of them in the 55- to 74-year-old age range.

The census identified 7,679 military veterans who are farming, with the greatest number of them operating in Loudoun County.

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## Pets of the Week



This honey colored male hound mix was found on Fayer Drive.



This sad fuzzy girl found on Squirrel Spur in Meadows of Dan looks to be a young Pyrenees mix that really wants to go home.

Visit the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) Facebook page to view available pets or call (276) 694-6259 for more information. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination.

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## Stoplight

(cont. from page 1)

“What made it really bad too was that it was in seeing distance of her daughter,” Kendrick said, adding that Deal’s “daughter went out and saw it all. It’s just terrible.”

Kendrick said at least two other people have died in motor vehicle crashes there, “and every time you turn around” there are wrecks in the general area.

“How many more people have got to die before we get something done down there,” Gilbert asked. “That is the worst intersection in the county, and before you know it there’s cars there on top of you, people pulling out. I know Wal-Mart bought their stoplight, our taxpayers should buy our stoplight. We need one down there bad.”

Gilbert said he doesn’t know how many times a helicopter has flown in to transport those involved in a wreck at that intersection.

“I’ve seen wrecks where they’ve hit and went all the way up to when it was Town & Country and knocked a post out from under the porches up there,” Gilbert added and noted that some drivers say there’s not enough sight distance at the intersection.

“Well, they put a flashing light at Walmart to warn them that the light’s getting ready to change, so what’s the problem down there,” he said.

Gilbert said he’s thankful his mother was never involved in an accident there before she passed. “She would go out of her way to go other places to get on 58 because it’s so bad down there.”

He also asked the board to pressure the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to install a stoplight there.

Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, asked if the board could pass a resolution or something similar

stating the board agrees. The resolution could potentially be considered at the next board meeting.

Although “it’s just a formality, but at least it shows our support for the idea of getting this done,” he said.

Following the meeting, Kendrick said the board had been trying to get a stoplight in the area, even before he got on the board.

“Probably 10 to 12 years, maybe even longer than that. Every time they come up with something” VDOT says “the traffic count’s not high enough or you can’t stop traffic on 58,” Kendrick said.

“I even asked them one time if you couldn’t stop traffic on 58 why Walmart had a light,” he said, adding he was told that the company purchased the stoplight.

Kendrick said VDOT resident engineer Lisa Price-Hughes is supposed to attend the April 8 supervisor meet-



Galen Gilbert said a stoplight is needed at the intersection of U.S. 58 and Spring Road in the Patrick Springs area.

ing.  
“I’ll ask her again,” he said.

## Retreat

(cont. from page 1)

find more ways to grow and make money besides its viewsheds and tourism.

Amphitheaters in the county’s parks that focus on music and arts, while encouraging and building up mom-and-pop stores, like the old general stores, are among the views shared by Doug Perry, vice-chairman.

“I want parks and recreation and outdoor markets and festivals, so when people think” of the county when wondering where they can go to have fun for a weekend, Perry said.

With the right amenities, that question could be answered with, “We can go to Patrick County’ and go get entertained, go to these quaint shops, enjoy the people, or go ride bikes or play at the park, or even go to a market or a Christmas Festival, or something like that,” Perry said. “This should be the first place in their mind when” they think of “where can we go and what could we do.”

Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, said he wants the county to stay as it is now, but with a developed robust economy.

“You know, festivals and that sort of thing, tourist-based thing, but also a good environment for everything from the day economy ... right to retail and commercial,” he said.

Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, said he shared the views of the other board members but also wants to ensure there are service-based businesses in the future - like welders, linemen, and grading.

Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, said his concern is as the county moves forward over the next 20 years, the people who have lived in Patrick County all their lives or those who currently live here don’t get forgotten.

“Take for instance, you go to Floyd on a Friday night, a lot of people there are local, but a whole lot more of them are passing through. It’s sometimes the ones that have been here versus the ones that are coming to visit or move in. It’s a fine line,” he said.

Wood also believes the county needs to capitalize on its natural resources.

In addition to enjoying the scenery, “there are a lot of things out there with the different festivals with small, mom-and-pop stores that I think could be a good opportunity for us to do that,” Wood said.

The board determined its values include accountability, historical and cultural competency, transparency, and ethics and equity.

The results of the community survey made available from January 31 to February 25 also were discussed at the retreat, with 982 people responding, Davis said.

“We’ve got some demographic information at the end to give you a general perspective. Fifty percent of the people who responded to the survey live in Patrick County, 3.5 percent work in Patrick County, and 43.75 percent live and work in Patrick County. Then we have a few that don’t live or work and just thought it would be fun to give their perspective.”

The survey’s first question was about Emergency Management Services (EMS). Davis said 21 percent of respondents, or 205, had placed a call to 911.

“Thirty-five percent said that the response time met their expectations, 65 percent did not meet their expectations,” she said.

Davis asked the board if this response was expected.

“Right now, that’s not surprising. It’s something we all want to change,” Simmons answered.

For housing, Davis said 48 percent of survey respondents were dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with the availability of affordable housing, 40 percent were neutral, and 12 percent were satisfied.

Davis said 84 percent of respondents were dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with the current healthcare service access in the county.

Simmons and the other board members agreed healthcare is a priority for the board.

“There is a note of 108 “respondents” driving out of Patrick County for childcare,” Davis

said and asked the board what it thinks about jobs, what are some strategies, and priorities around jobs in the county.

Perry said he’s a little conflicted on this topic.

“So, Apex (Mill), I know they always seem to be hiring and so’s Worley Machines in Woolwine. I don’t know what their turnover rate is,” Perry said. “Ten Oaks and their associate Prolam always seems to be hiring. So, I don’t know if they’re just not good jobs, or I don’t know.”

Simmons said he believes there will be more jobs lost when the minimum wage goes to \$15 an hour.

Marshall said the only thing the board can do is try to facilitate businesses to come to the county.

Regarding the festivals, markets, and mom-and-pop stores previously mentioned, Davis asked who was in charge of that and would help get that off the ground.

Perry said he thinks that would fall under the Economic Development Authority’s (EDA’s) umbrella. Perhaps setting up some kind of incentive or assistance would help.

The county also needs a tourism strategy to draw those who live one to two hours away. Additional county needs like a recreation center, indoor pool, gym, and senior programs and general government services like solid waste management, business licenses, and salary adjustments to retain employees, and other topics also were discussed.

Following the meeting, County Administrator Beth Simms said her biggest takeaway was the belief that the supervisors have a good grasp on the needs of the community.

“From my perspective, you know, they were engaged. I think we got a lot accomplished. it was an encouraging day,” she said.

Simms said Davis will return sometime in late spring or early summer to help finalize the board’s strategic plan.

The retreat is “like a two-session thing,” she added.

## Congress

(cont. from page 1)

about.”

Owing to her career in the federal sector, “I am aware of the bureaucracy. I understand how government works, I understand how federal budgets work and how agencies get their funding,” Baker said.

“Another large part is providing constituent services,” Baker said, adding, “I think I would be effective at doing constituent services. I know what to do if I get Congress and people need to have a voice.”

Ranking third on her priority list is listening to those in her district.

“I will listen to what they say, let people know what I have done” with respect to their requests/comments, and “I will follow up with them,” she said.

She also would work to secure funding for broadband, healthcare, and other services that are often overlooked in rural areas.

“One of the problems is that private industry would have done it if it was profitable,” Baker said of services like broadband. “The problem is we have a lot of geography and not a lot of people” to make providing the service attractive for

those in the private sector.

“If it were profitable, we would have a lot of birthing centers in the district, but it’s not profitable,” said Baker, and added that the more rural parts of the district as a “maternity desert.”

Capitalism, she said, “is not a form of government. It’s just not. If we accept that all Americans should partake of healthcare, then we have to have the government provide it like it does Medicare.”

Noting that “rural districts have a particular need,” Baker said, “We need improved rural healthcare, with emphasis on homegrown, community care, support for RNs to become nurse practitioners, comprehensive women’s healthcare, and a plan to let our seniors age in their homes.”

She also sees a need in the district for jobs and for skills training, so young people needn’t leave the area to find work: “Any comprehensive plan for job creation also requires a plan to provide broadband for all, more housing, and equity for our public schools.”

Baker added that “Southwest Virginia literally fueled the industrial growth and electrifica-

tion of America. We have earned an investment in well-paying 21st-century jobs, a robust rural healthcare system, improved housing, great schools, and protection of our land, water, and air. I will fight for the fighting 9th because we deserve the nation’s respect.”

Baker worked as a trial lawyer in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and eventually as the agency’s assistant general counsel for systemic litigation. Later she served 17 years as an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration.

Baker’s late husband, Richard Kimm, was a 20-year Navy pilot who continued his aviation career with Eastern Airlines and other companies. At their farm in South Carolina, they raised horses and fostered rescue border collies.

With her husband’s health declining, Baker entered nursing school at Greenville Technical College, became a registered nurse in 2011, and was able to help care for him. Kimm died in 2014 with Lewy body dementia.

There’s more about her campaign at <https://bakerforva9th.com>.

## Wrestling Event

(cont. from page 1)

Mardi Gras Brawl because New Orleans, LA was one of Steel’s favorite places in the world to visit.

“His wrestling character was billed from New Orleans,” he added.

The main event will be a NICW title match with street fight rules between “Dragon” Scott Lee and “Bad Luck” Bobby Yela.

A NICW Tag Team title match between The Starliners Mike Williams and Rick Kelly and The Unholy Alliance Eclispo and Scott Weddle

also will be held.

Other matches include an APW heavyweight championship match between Chase Bennett and Lance Erikson, the Mid-Atlantic Heritage Title match between Larry Cooter and John Heartbreak, and the Cuban Assassin vs. “USA” Tony Ray.

Marshall Law, Damien James, Adam Hex, Ace England, Kidd Lightning, K-Killah, and Adam Marcum will also perform, and an over-the-top-rope battle royal is scheduled.

Adult tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets for children under 12 are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

Advanced tickets can be purchased at Little Caesars, Boyce-Holland Veterinary Services, Stage Coach, and at all Rutter’s Martial Arts locations.

The event is sponsored by Rutter’s Martial Arts, Impressive Prints and Designs, Boyce-Holland Veterinary Services, Friedrich’s Family Eye Care, Lawless Welding & Fabrication.

# He is Risen



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

As we approach Easter, I am always reminded of one of my favorite stories from the Cold War, between the United States, the West and the Soviet Union.

That story involves Soviet Communist leader Nikolai Bukharin. A Bolshevik revolutionary and member of the Politburo, Bukharin rose to great prominence in Soviet circles following the Russian Revolution of 1917.

The Communist regimes of Eastern Europe were ruthless in their tactics. Soviet troops occupied many of the countries and food shortages were commonplace.

The public could not express themselves in a free and open manner without there being serious repercussions. Secret police forces sniffed out any potential dissenters. Loved ones and friends were jailed or went missing.

These were precarious times for the people of Eastern Europe and the rest of the world. Because of the oppressive rule exercised by Communist regimes in Eastern Europe, many people were led to believe that their lives revolved around the government.

As the story goes, in 1930, Bukharin traveled from Moscow to Kiev to speak before a large crowd (one version I have heard says it was a crowd of thousands and in a stadium). While he gave his remarks, he emphatically denounced religion as the communist atheist regime frequently did. The story as I have heard it said, he had harangued the crowd and belittled religious thought. After he finished, he asked if the audience had questions.

In response, an orthodox priest approached and mounted the speaker's platform. The man then exclaimed to the crowd in the customary Orthodox way, which translated into English would be: "Christ is Risen!"

The crowd answered back: "He is Risen indeed!"

The story about Bukharin in Kiev has been told many times, but it may be a legend; no reporting at the time confirms it, although the Communist rulers of the Soviet Union no doubt would not want such a story to be repeated.

But decades after the episode with Bukharin reputedly took place, the whole world could see in previously Communist-ruled countries a similar widespread affirmation of faith and rejection of state-imposed atheism.

In spite of bleak conditions, the masses remained secretly steadfast in their faith. No matter how oppressive or tyrannical the Soviet regime was, the people recognized there was something more in life than just the government. For

many, their faith did not waver.

Today, even Putin ostensibly acknowledges the significance of the Russian Orthodox Church to Russians. In Kiev, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church gives the people emotional strength based on their faith.

The power of faith prevails. Thus, the Bukharin story is inspiring to me.

I am a Christian and celebrate Easter because "He is Risen."

I respect your religion and your ability to practice your faith, whether that be tied to Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Atheism, etc. All faiths should be respected. We are better suited to develop harmonious relationships, come together and overcome obstacles by recognizing the freedom to pray however one chooses.

One of the things that I love about our country and having served in the Virginia House of Delegates is Jefferson's Statute for Religious Freedom.

Virginia's law was the first to cement liberty.

James Madison said of the Statute that it is the "true standard of Religious liberty: its principle the great barrier against usurpations on the rights of conscience."

The Statute for Religious Freedom would become the model for the First Amendment in the Constitution, establishing religious freedom for all Americans. Other countries would follow suit.

The House of Delegates chamber in Richmond has a plaque dedicated to this triumph and celebrates Virginia as the birthplace of religious freedom in the world.

I am very proud to call the birthplace of religious freedom my home.

During Easter, I hope and pray that God's love and peace will be with each of you, and that there will be peace and joy amongst all faiths.

God is good and he sent his only begotten son in order for our sins to be able to be forgiven.

So if on Easter, someone says to you,

"He is Risen,"

Remember the story of the priest and Bukharin. And respond:

"He is Risen indeed."

For questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or via email at <https://morgangriffith.house.gov>.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Changes in the 1960s

(MRCTV, Fox, NY Times, Boston Review, The Atlantic, Discovery Institute)

In the 1960's the public education system came to realize students from American public school systems were no longer prepared for colleges curriculum.

Elementary and secondary public education traditionally had been governed, and standards determined, by local school boards and State Boards of Education. Knowledge and skills in language, mathematics, Western and U.S. history, civics, sciences, and arts were recognized as important to develop and maintain a prosperous, productive society.

The changes in the 1960s combined to change the education system to a national means of indoctrination and political manipulation. These were part of a long-term process with roots in dark German philosophies. The objective was to change society in accordance with ideas dating from Hegel, expanded by Marx, using methods identified by Wundt, which were consolidated and formulated by the Frankfurt School in the 1920s. The goal of the Frankfurt School was to overthrow the West to remake world society in accordance with Marxist-Socialist ideas.

The U.S., as the most prosperous and politically advanced expression of the West, became its primary target. The Frankfurt School methods for a cultural revolution to impose socialism on the U.S. are summarized below:

- Create racism offenses.
- Continual change to generate confusion.
- Teach sex and homosexuality to children.
- Undermine schools' and teachers' authority.
- Open immigration to destroy national and cultural identity.
- Promote excessive drinking and drug use.

Discredit religion and empty the churches.

Destroy reliability and trust of legal system with bias against victims of crime.

Create dependency on the state or state benefits.

Control and dumb-down the media.

Encourage breakdown of the family.

Sound familiar? Like something happening now? These plans were formulated in the 1920s and were slowly and persistently applied to our society to reach culmination with university student intolerance, leftist faculty dominance, widespread Marxist campus advocacy. The same principles are being used by the Biden Administration.

The violent anti-Semitism on many campuses and the fumbling testimony of so-called elite university presidents of Harvard, MIT and Penn has torn away the curtain, but the rot is pervasive throughout the university system across the country.

Many student Marxists are enthusiastic about a political and economic system they do not understand. Faculty who might object are not hired or are sidelined. Others do not have the moral conviction or backbone to do anything about it.

Marx never built anything, never started a business, never ran a business, never made anything, and never experienced another culture. People accept his ideas for organizing societies, economies, and government as valid. Why? Adherents of his philosophy have been responsible for the deaths of tens of millions of people and the impoverishment of hundreds of millions. His ideas have not been successful anywhere they have been adopted. Followers use hate, violence, and intolerance to impose their will.

Pray for our country.

William Salser,  
Stuart

## Club hosts community trash pick up



Members of the Patrick Springs Ruritan Club and Patrick Springs Boy Scout Troop 69 picked up trash in the Patrick Springs area on March 16. (Photo contributed by David Clement)

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club held a community trash pick-up on Saturday, March 16, assisted by the Patrick Springs Boy Scout Troop 69. The group picked up trash between Providence Drive to U.S. 58 on Spring Road (Virginia 680) and across on South Mayo Drive to the bridge before Big A School Road.

A big thanks to the Boy Scouts

from Troop 69, their leaders, their parents, and members from the Ruritan Club that participated in this community project.

The club also thanks the drivers who slowed down and moved their vehicles over for the safety of those who were picking up trash. The cleanup is an annual project of the Ruritan Club to improve the beauty of our community.

## Senior market program opens for applications on April 16

Virginia's Farm Market Fresh for Seniors (also known as the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program) is available through Southern Area Agency on Aging (SAAA).

Eligible seniors may receive \$50 worth of vouchers that can be used to purchase locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and cut herbs at participating farmer's markets. The number of people who can participate is limited. Beginning on Tuesday, April 16, the SAAA will take applications over the phone and in person. The SAAA will also continue to take applications throughout the following week(s) while the supply of \$50 booklets lasts.

You may qualify to participate if:

\*you are (or will become) 60 years of age or older on or before June 1, 2024, and

\*you are a resident of the cities of Danville or Martinsville,

or the counties of Franklin, Patrick, Henry or Pittsylvania, and

\*you do not live with and are not an immediate family member of the farmer who grows the produce, and

\*you have a gross monthly household income that does not exceed the income requirements of the program. The income limit for this program has changed. Individuals who were not eligible in the past may be eligible now, so all are encouraged to apply.

Individuals and couples who wish to apply for vouchers must contact Southern Area Agency on Aging at (276) 632-6442 or toll-free at 1-800-468-4571.

Beginning April 16, 2024, and continuing as long as the supply of vouchers lasts, applicants must be prepared to certify total gross monthly household income information when applying over the phone or in person.

## Bridge work continues



Crews with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) have been replacing a bridge on The Hollow Road, the Ararat River Bridge, because of flood damage. (By Mary Dellenback Hill)

## Patrick Pioneers

*Leathia Pearl Moore Boyd*

**By Beverly Belcher Woody**

Many folks in Patrick and Henry counties in Virginia and Rockingham County, North Carolina can claim ancestry to a truly remarkable woman, Leathia Pearl Moore Boyd. Leathia was born in Franklin County, Virginia on March 20th, 1818, to William Moore and Rebecca Tabor Swinney.

Leathia was the fifth child born to William and Rebecca, their known children were Abraham; Judith Elizabeth Moore Jones; Martha "Patsy" Moore Worley; Wilson; Cynthia Moore Goodson; William; and Mary "Polly" Moore Graham.

Leathia married John Jackson Boyd in Floyd County on the 27th of December 1836. John Jackson Boyd was the son of William Jesse Boyd and Sarah "Sally" Newberry of Franklin County. Leathia and John settled on the top of Belcher Mountain near the Floyd-Patrick County line.

Leathia and John's first child, Samuel Shepard Boyd was born on the 15th of September 1837. Samuel married Miss Nancy Conner Jones, the daughter of David Conner and Susan Adams. Nancy was the widow of Floyd Jones, who died in 1864, during the Civil War. Floyd and Nancy had two young children and Samuel and Nancy had at least eight more children, who once they were married, filled the hills and hollers of Woolwine.

Leathia and John's second child, Wilson, was born in 1838. On January 30th, 1862, Wilson married Miss Virginia Catherine Page, the daughter of James D. Page and Lucy Barringer of Floyd County. The wedding took place on Lucy Shelor's farm and David Howell performed the ceremony. Wilson joined the 54th Virginia Infantry and was sent to fight with the Army of Tennessee. On the 19th of August 1863, Wilson was killed at the Battle of Strawberry Plains, Tennessee; he was 23 years old.

Leathia and John's third child, William "Bill" Boyd was born in January of 1840. Bill married Miss Elmira Harmon, the daughter of Benjamin Harmon and Susanna Huff of Floyd County. Elmira was also the widow of a Confederate soldier, having married John William Thomas, who died in 1865 at Camp Douglas in Chicago, Illinois. Bill and Elmira also had eight children who they raised on a farm on Belcher Mountain in Meadows of Dan. Tragically, Bill was working alongside his family hoeing corn on a hot, muggy day in June 1910. A thunderstorm

quickly came up and the children all ran to the house. Bill sought shelter under a tree between the field and the house. Lightning struck the tree, killing Bill Boyd instantly.

Leathia and John's fourth child (and only daughter), Julia Angelina Boyd was born on the 10th of March 1842. Julia married widower Henry B. Howell on the 11th of September 1862. Henry had lost his wife Luanna Epperly Howell to consumption in 1859. Julia and Henry raised ten children near the top of Rock Castle Gorge.

Leathia and John's fifth child, Hiram Howard Boyd, was born on the 2nd of March 1847. Hiram married Miss Elizabeth Boyd, the daughter of Henry Boyd and Sarah Nancy Cockram of Meadows of Dan. Henry Boyd was the brother to John Jackson Boyd. Hiram and Elizabeth raised eight children in the Bent section of Patrick County.

Leathia and John's sixth child, George Washington Boyd, was born on the 15th of July 1849. George married Miss Mildred Jane Conner, who was also the daughter of David Conner and Susan Adams of Woolwine. George and Mildred raised twelve children on top of Belcher Mountain.

Leathia and John's seventh child, John Tyler Boyd, was born on the 8th of April 1850. John Tyler married Miss Lucinda Hylton, the daughter of Moses Hylton and Elizabeth Cruise of the Lone Ivy community of Patrick County. John and Lucinda raised seven children near the homeplace where John had grown up.

Leathia and John's eighth child, Pleasant Green Boyd was born on the 11th of April 1852. Pleasant Green married Miss Sarah Jane Knowles on the 13th of December 1870 in Mount Airy, North Carolina. Sarah Jane was the daughter of David Knowles and Elizabeth Hill of the Round Meadow section of Patrick County. Pleasant Green and Sarah Jane had eleven children, their youngest named Leathia Pearl, in honor of her grandmother.

Leathia and John's ninth child, James Andrew Boyd, was born on the 20th of May 1856. James married Miss Sarah Susan Jones, the daughter of Floyd Jones and Nancy Conner. Remember that James' oldest brother, Samuel Shepard had married Floyd Jones' widow, Nancy and Sarah was Samuel's stepdaughter. James and Sarah raised seven children in the Bent section of Patrick County.

John Jackson Boyd passed away on November 15th, 1886, and was buried on top of Belcher Mountain overlooking Rock Castle Gorge. If you



Leathia Pearl Moore Boyd

travel the fire trail in Rock Castle, you will pass a rock ledge at least two stories high with a small waterfall cascading down the ledge; this waterfall is known as the Leathia Springs in honor of Leathia Pearl Moore Boyd.

After Jack died, Leathia remained a tough, independent woman, living on her own on Belcher Mountain and running her farm. On the 12th of February 1908, Leathia's only daughter, Julia Angelina Boyd Howell died. I suspect this was more than 89-year-old Leathia could bear because she passed away eight days later on the 20th of February 1908. Leathia was staying with her youngest son, James Andrew at the time and there was a big snow. The family was unable to return Leathia back to Belcher Mountain to be buried alongside Jack, so a cemetery was begun on James Andrew's farm. Now, Leathia rests alongside twenty-six of her descendants at the Boyd cemetery on the Bent Road in Patrick County.

Thank you so much to Shirlien Belcher for all your help sorting out all these family members! Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

## Social Security Matters

**By Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens**

**Ask Rusty – Veteran Uncertain About Social Security and Healthcare Coverage**

**Dear Rusty:** I'm not sure what I should sign up for in terms of Social Security: I am 64 and I am still employed full time and intend to stay employed until age 70. I am retired from the Navy and receive military retirement payments, and have military TriCare, as well as medical, dental, eye and life insurance through my employer. I don't want to lose benefits, but I also don't want to take Social Security until it reaches the maximum at age 70 (I think that is correct?). I will turn 65 in 4 months. Can you advise me? Signed: Uncertain Veteran

**Dear Uncertain Veteran:** First of all, thank you for your service to our country. From what you've shared, and since you're still working full time, not claiming Social Security yet is a smart decision. If you were born in 1959 your full retirement age (FRA) is 66 years and 10 months and, if you claim SS before your full retirement age, you'll be subject to Social Security's earning test which would likely make you ineligible to receive SS benefits at this time.

The 2024 earnings limit (limit changes yearly) when collecting Social Security early is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). If you significantly exceed the limit, SS will declare you temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less. The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. So, if you're now employed full time and plan to stay so until age 70, and you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for someone your current age), delaying until age 70 to claim Social Security is how to get your maximum Social Security benefit.

As for your healthcare coverage as a veteran: TriCare requires you to enroll in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Part B (coverage for outpatient services) at age 65, but you do not need to take Social Security when you enroll in Medicare. You must, however, enroll in Medicare at age 65 or you will lose your TriCare (military) healthcare coverage. You could choose to delay enrolling in Medicare at 65 because you have "creditable" employer coverage, but if you do so you will lose your current TriCare coverage and need to rely solely on your employer healthcare plan. In that case, you would still be able

to enroll in both Medicare and TriCare-for-Life without penalty prior to your employer coverage ending and have coverage under both programs thereafter. I suggest you contact TriCare directly at 1-866-773-0404 to discuss your personal TriCare coverage after age 65. You can also go to [www.TriCare4U.com](http://www.TriCare4U.com).

Whenever you enroll, Medicare will be the primary payer of your healthcare costs and TriCare will be the secondary payor. Your vision, dental, and prescription drug coverage would be through TriCare (Medicare does not cover those services) or acquired separately. Just remember, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to have TriCare-for-Life coverage after age 65.

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## No Time for Exercise? How About a 1 Minute Workout?

Ever feel like you just absolutely don't have time for exercise? Where you're so busy that you never have time to go to the gym? Or even the time to eat lunch and walk around the block (like you keep telling yourself you're going to do). You may not have time for an hour at the gym, a 30-minute fitness class, or even a 10-minute walk but everyone has a minute to spare. Like literally one minute.

If you're one of those busy people, the good news today is that a study in European Journal of Applied Physiology has found that a high intensity workout for even just one minute spread out over 3 times per day resulted in a 43% increase in metabolism. And a significant improvement in a person's cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF). Improving your CRF "can reduce your risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease," says Martin Gibala, a professor of kinesiology at McMaster University in Ontario who was one of the authors of the study. Improved CRF increases insulin sensitivity and lowers triglycerides.

In the study, a group of inactive people did 20 second bike "sprint snacks" where they pedaled as hard as they could on a stationary bike for 20

seconds, three (3) times a day. Each sprint snack was separated by 4-5 hours of inactivity. After six weeks, the groups CRF improved by 9%—similar to the 13% improvement by the other group in the study that did 10 minutes of high intensity stationary biking per day.

"We have this notion that it takes at least an hour to get in a good workout—more if you factor in the time required to get to and from the gym," Gibala writes in his book "The One-Minute Workout: Science Shows a Way to Get Fit That's Smarter, Faster, Shorter." My studies show that idea is nonsense." Indeed.

So how can we do this?

Get a stationary bike. Put it by your desk. Take a break and pedal as fast as you can for 20 seconds, just 3 times a day. Don't have a bike? No problem. Do some jumping jacks, burpees, mountain climbers, lunges or squats for 20 seconds. If you are older or overweight, do an exercise that is manageable (don't get injured) and remember that the key is to get your heart rate going. Whatever the exercise, go hard for 20 seconds where you get your heart beating fast and then go back to work or study. The harder the in-

tensity, the better. And if you can do more than 20 seconds per session, go for it.

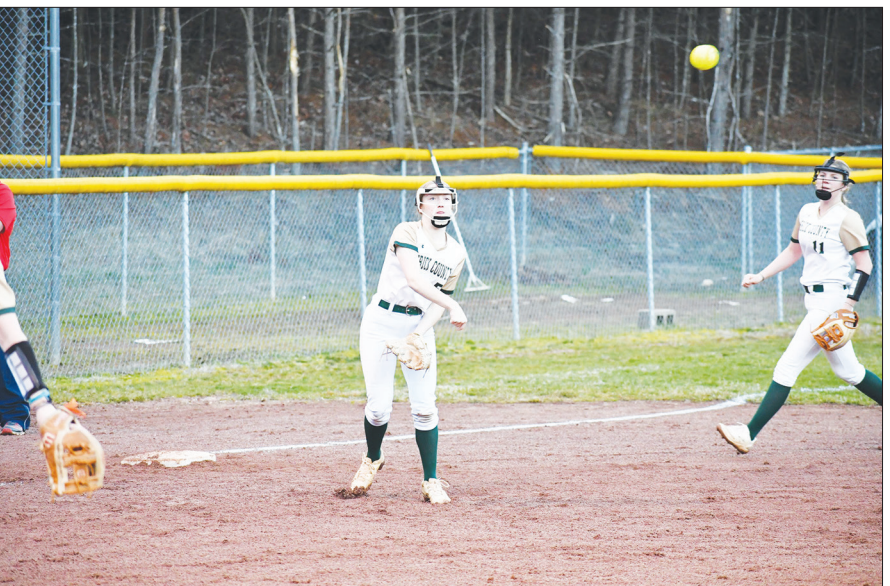
"The exact reason why exercise snacks work has yet to be determined, but they may improve the pumping capacity of the heart and its ability to transport oxygen throughout the body," Gibala says. He goes on to say that "these snacks can help break up sedentary periods. The message is that little is better than nothing, and every little thing counts."

So, the next time you're hard at work and you feel like getting a snack, get a "sprint snack" instead. Remember, even a little is better than nothing.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Used by permission from [www.lifeandhealth.org](http://www.lifeandhealth.org). Courtesy of LifeSprinting – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

VISIT US ONLINE AT  
[WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET](http://WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET)

## Cougar Softball Loses One

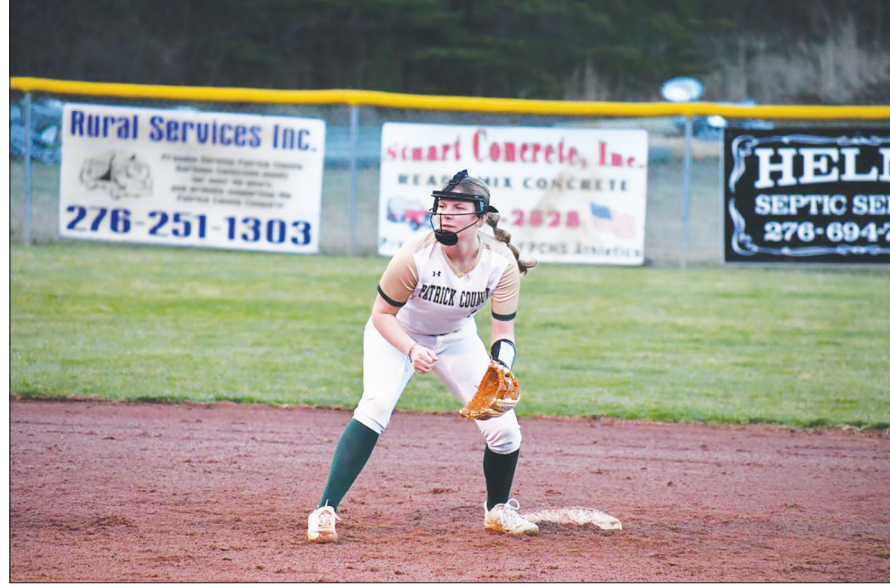


Lauren Hazelwood makes a throw from 3rd to 1st.

**By Ashlee Mullis**  
The Lady Cougars lost 6-5 to Dan River on Monday, March 18. McKenzie Holt pitched 5 innings striking out 5, giving up 3 earned runs in the 9-inning game. Journey Moore finished the last 3 innings

giving up 2 runs. Lilly Hazelwood led the Cougars with 3 hits. Journey Moore had 2 hits with a triple. Hayden Lawless had 2 RBIs and Maria Turner added 1 RBI. Lauren Hazelwood had 2 hits with a double.

## Holt pitches near perfect game as varsity team bounces back with wins

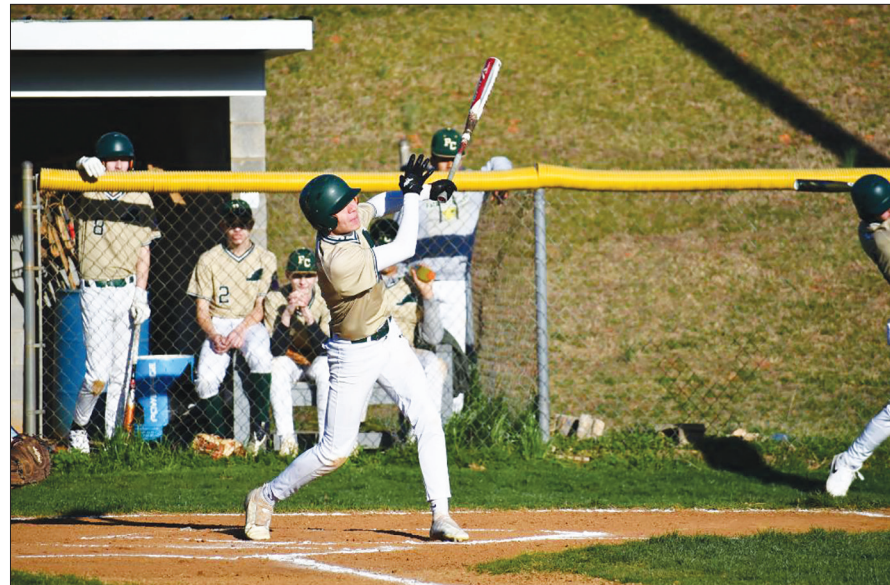


McKenzie Holt pitched a no hitter on March 21.

**By Ashlee Mullis**  
McKenzie Holt pitched a complete game no hitter, only one walk short of a perfect game, striking out 9 in the process when the Lady Cougars defeated North Stokes 5-0 in Lawsonville on Thursday, March 21. Journey Moore hit a solo homerun to put the Lady Cougars on the board. Lilly Hazelwood, Lauren Hazelwood, Marie Turner, Kyleigh Gu-

sler, Aniya Penn and Holt all had hits in the win. The Cougars got a 4-1, Wednesday, March 20, over Glenvar High School. Moore got the win, pitching 5 innings, striking out 9, allowing 1 earned run. Holt pitched 2 innings, striking out 6. Lauren Hazelwood and Maria Turner hit back-to-back homeruns, and Lilly Hazelwood had 2 hits in the win.

## Two road wins credited to JV Baseball Team



Jackson Callahan gets a hit for the Cougars.

**By Ashlee Mullis**  
The JV Team traveled to Glenvar on Wednesday, March 20, beating the Highlanders 4-1. Noah Caine had 1 hit, 1 RBI, 2 runs and 2 stolen bases. Jackson Callahan had 1 hit and 1 RBI. Christian Hylton had 2 hits. Laine Errichetti had 1 walk and a hit, while Greely Terry added 1 hit and 1 run scored. Hylton pitched 4 innings, striking out 6 and allowing 0 earned runs. Mark Register went 3 innings, striking out 1 and allowing 0 runs. On Thursday, March 21, the JV team beat Martinsville 23-1

in the 3-inning slaughter rule. Laine Errichetti had 3 hits, 3 runs, and 4 RBIs. Anderson Brim had 3 hits, 3 runs, and 4 RBIs. Reid Corns had 3 hits, 3 runs, and 3 RBIs. Jayden Corns had 2 hits and 2 RBIs. Ethan Errichetti had 2 hits and 2 RBIs, and Eli Bogle added 2 runs, 1 hit, and 2 RBIs. Corns went 1 inning on the mound, striking out 2 and allowing 0 runs. Terry went 1 inning, striking out 3 and allowing 1 run. Noah Caine threw 1 inning, striking out 2 and allowing 0 runs. They are 5-0 on the season.



Cecelia Cisneros gets the win for PC.

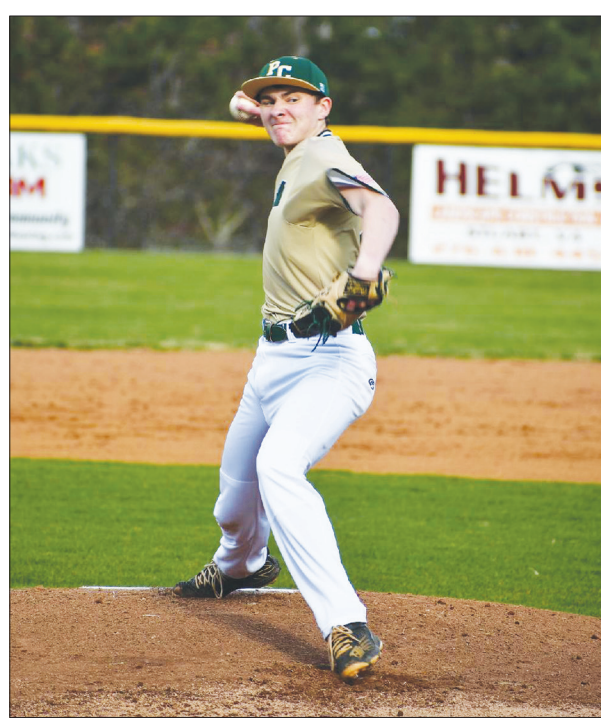
## Girls Tennis Opens Season

**By Ashlee Mullis**  
The PC Girls Tennis Team traveled to Bassett on March 13, losing 0-9. On March 19, the Lady Cougars took on Martinsville, winning 8-1. In singles, PC was 6-0 over the Lady Bulldogs. Cecilia Leon Cisneros defeated Nayti Patel 8-1, Katie Vernon defeated Cassidy Dodson 8-6, Shyanne Holt defeated Ahmyr Washington 8-2, Aaliyah Reynolds defeated Vex Miller 8-1,

Brooke Collins defeated Kamori Dillard 8-0, and Dylan Barker defeated Santrell Danios 8-6. In doubles, Nayti Patel/Kassidy Dodson (Mville) defeated Cecilia Leon Cisneros/Katie Vernon 8-6, Shyanne Holt/Aaliyah Reynolds defeated Ahmyr Washington/Vex Miller 8-4, and Brooke Collins/Dylan Barker defeated Kamori Dillard/Santrell Danios. The Cougars are 1-1 on the season.

## JV Baseball Gets Home Win

**By Ashlee Mullis**  
The JV Baseball team hosted Dan River on Monday, March 18, getting an 8-2 win over the Wildcats. David Lawson got the start on the mound, going 5 Innings, allowing 2 hits, 0 earned runs, and striking out 8. Mark Register went 1 inning, striking out 1, and allowing 0 earned runs. Greely Terry pitched 1 inning, striking out 1. Carter Gregory had 2 hits and 2 runs. Will Heath had 1 hit and 2 RBIs. Noah Caine, David Lawson, and Jackson Callahan one hit each.



David Lawson pitches for the win.

### PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of March 30 – April 7:

3/30	10a	Softball vs Bassett (at Franklin M.S., Rocky Mount)
4/2	4pm	Baseball vs Raceland H.S (at Myrtle Beach)
4/4	6:30p	Baseball TBA (at Myrtle Beach)
4/6	TBA	Track Meet at William Byrd H.S.

## Women's group treated to meal



Hunters Chapel Assembly Church's men's group cooked breakfast recently for the women's group. Pictured (left to right) are Clint Hill, Wayne Moore, Jeff Eubank, Pastor Joseph M. Easter, and Ronnie Easter. (By Mary Dellenback Hill)

## First Quarter Salary donated to Roanoke area agencies



Gov. Glenn Youngkin and First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin donated the first quarter salary to Straight Street and Bradley Free Clinic to Support Wellbeing. (Official photo)

## Neither Princess, nor Pauper is immune to the cancerous toxicity of gossip

By J. Basil Dannebohm

Niccolò Machiavelli once said, "Everyone sees what you appear to be, but very few experience the real you." It's basic human nature to protect our hearts, our minds, our wellbeing, and our spirits. Most of us do this by keeping a relatively small circle of trusted people. The downside of safeguarding our boundaries is that at some point it will inevitably cause people outside of our trusted circles to gossip about us. I used to feel like my side of the story needed to be told in order to ensure accuracy. These days, however, I don't care what people outside my circle choose to believe. Others don't have it so easy, though. Take Catherine, the Princess of Wales, for example.

You'll probably recall that on January 16th, 2024, Her Royal Highness underwent abdominal surgery. On January 29th, the 42-year-old princess was discharged from the hospital. She then took time away from public duties to recover and spend time with her trusted circle. Shortly thereafter, she became the victim of a vicious rumor mill.

On February 7th, the Prince of Wales returned to his public duties for the first time following Kate's surgery. It was at that point when the gossip mill started turning. It began with allegations that William had a mistress. On February 27th, His Royal Highness had to bow out of a royal engagement due to what was described as a "personal matter." By that point, speculation was that the princess had passed away and the palace was most certainly hiding the information. This prompted a palace spokesperson to announce on February 29th that Kate was "doing well" as she continued to recover. Those outside of her circle, however, were still not convinced. Hence, they gossiped.

The saga continued on March 10th when Kate marked Mother's Day in the U.K. by sharing a photo and a message on X.

The public still was not satisfied. Adding fuel to the fire, the photograph that accompanied her message turned out to be slightly altered. It was at this point that the rumors took a hypocritical turn.

Celebrities like Kim Kardashian and Blake Lively, who literally employ an entourage of staff to ensure that the images they share on social media appear absolutely flawless, heckled Kate for the image. Celebrities weren't the only ones who ridiculed at the expense of the princess. In this age of unlimited social media filters and artificial intelligence, people cried foul that the royal family would have the audacity edit a photograph. Though goodness knows that an unedited photograph would draw equal criticism. It was becoming obvious that nothing would satisfy the gossiping masses. Their fixation on Kate was only growing ... like ... a cancer.

On March 16th, online tabloid TMZ published a video of the Prince and Princess of Wales out shopping. Rumors began circulating that the woman by William's side was an impersonator who was "much thinner and more hunched over than the actual princess." Honing their inner John Madden, self-anointed experts took out yellow pens and highlighted what they perceived as irreconcilable variations in the image of Kate in comparison to previous images of the princess. This, they would attest, was irrefutable proof that the woman in the video was an imposter.

The next day it was revealed that an investigation had been launched alleging that staff members at the London Clinic, where Kate underwent surgery, were caught trying to access her sealed private medical records in order to sell them to the highest bidder.

On March 22nd, the Princess of Wales, having succumbed to the exhaustion of the constant barrage of rumors, chose to post a video message explaining her withdrawal from public life. Her Royal Highness shared that after undergoing abdominal surgery, tests showed "cancer had been present" and that she was undergoing chemotherapy.

Shortly after the video was released, those who perpetrated rumor upon deceptive rumor were divided into two camps: those with regret for spreading rumors, and those who criticized the palace for not making the announcement sooner. Lively issued a state-

ment expressing her remorse. Kardashian, a victim of unabashed public ridicule and gossip for years, issued no statement of apology.

For William and Kate, though, the court of public opinion didn't matter. Paramount to them was their children: 10-year-old George, 8-year-old Charlotte, and 5-year-old Louis. The children had only too recently suffered the loss of their great-grandmother, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The family was also coping with the news that their grandfather, King Charles III was diagnosed with cancer in early February. They had one simple request for the public: privacy.

The fact remains, however, that nobody, not even a public figure, should be forced to validate or dismiss rumors spread about them. Moreover, nobody should ever have to implore the public to respect their privacy while they cope with deeply personal issues.

Whether you're a public figure or an everyman, you are not responsible for anyone's distorted perception of you. Unfortunately, some people have a tendency to question every good thing they hear about somebody, but will believe all of the bad things without a second thought. I speak from experience, however, when I say that anybody who believes lies about you before hearing your side of the story was already looking for a reason to stand against you. In her book, "Rise Up and Salute the Sun," Suzy Kassem writes, "One who gossips usually carries boredom in one hand and bitterness in the other."

Most of us can be thankful we're not public figures. It means that should we ever find ourselves the victim of gossip or ridicule, we are not obliged to waste our time trying to explain ourselves to people who are committed to misunderstanding us. In most cases, doing so would only add fuel to their fire anyway. Remorse on the part of those who gossip is rare. Hence, we have to learn to accept that we will never be understood by those who are not meant to have a place in our life's journey.

The moral of the story for those who engage in gossip against the royal family or the family next door: Before you assume, learn the facts. Before you judge, understand why. Before you hurt someone, feel. Before you speak, think. Paulo Coelho once wrote, "Everyone seems to have a clear idea of how other people should lead their lives, but none about their own."

J. Basil Dannebohm is a freelance writer and publisher of *The Dannebohm Dispatch*. He resides in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## Ararat student among new members inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Rachel Russo of Ararat, Va., was among the 15 new members inducted into the Alpha Xi Tau Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society at Surry Community College during its annual induction ceremony for Fall 2023/Spring 2024 in the Grand Hall of the Shelton-Budgett North Carolina Center for Viticulture and Enology on Feb. 23.

SCC President Dr. David Shockley provided opening remarks. The keynote speaker was James Quick, SCC Lead Instructor in Applied Animal Science and this year's recipient of the SCC Excellence in Teaching Award. In addition, Heather Couch, a PTK member and SCC Financial Aid Compliance Specialist, provided entertainment with musical performances of "A Million Dreams" by Pink and "What a Wonderful World" by Eva Cassidy, made popular by Louis Armstrong.

Other inductees are Autumn Beck of Lowgap, Veronika Dimeo of Westfield, Megan Hancock of Pilot Mountain, Luke Johnson of King, Melinda McCane of Mount Airy, McKenna Merritt of Dobson, Melanie Munoz-Lorenzo of East Bend, Autumn Simmons of Ararat, N.C., Bridgette Slate of Mount Airy, Lina Staley of Yadkinville, Kaitlynn Thomas of Dobson, Sydney Tucker of Pilot Mountain, Jae Vogler-Fain of Mount Airy, and Megan Wilkins of Siloam.

Chapter officers for 2024/2025 were also installed. They are Ellie Edwards, Veronika Dimeo, Melinda McCane, Rachel Russo, Autumn Simmons, and Megan Wilkins.

The Surry Community College's

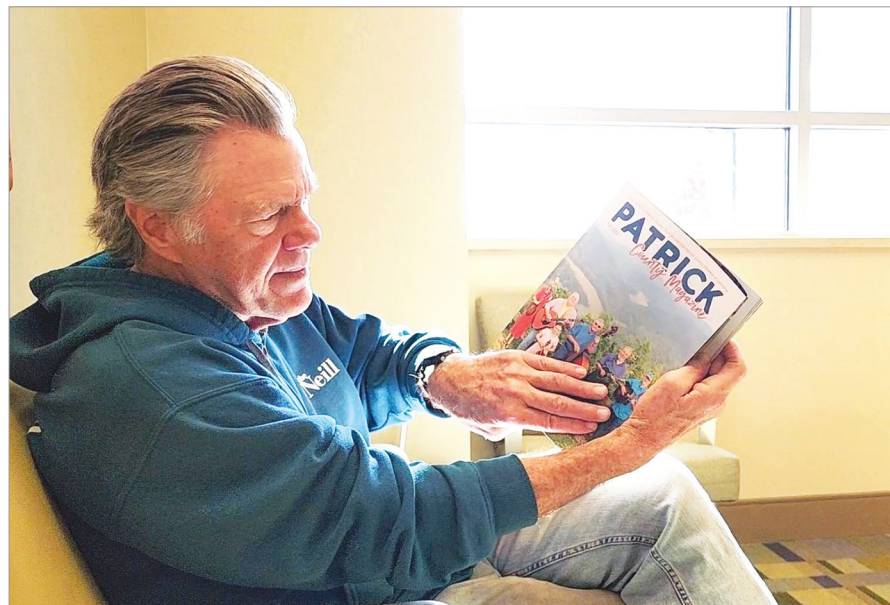
PTK chapter is designated a Five Star Chapter, very active in service to the community. Most recently, the chapter worked on an Honors in Action project researching the effects of single-use plastic on local waterways. As part of the project, they hosted a cleanup on the Ararat River. Currently the chapter is creating videos answering common questions which parents and students have about the transition from high school to college that will be featured on surry.edu.

Established in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership, and service programming.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 3.5 million members and 1,300 chapters located in all 50 states, U.S. Territories, and nine nations (U.S., Canada, Germany, Peru, the British Virgin Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the United Arab Emirates). In 1929, the American Association of Community Colleges recognized Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges.

For more information about Phi Theta Kappa and their projects, contact PTK's faculty co-advisors Dr. Kathleen Fowler at (336) 386-3560 or fowlerk@surry.edu or Kayla Forrest at (336) 386-3315 or forrestkm@surry.edu or go to www.ptk.org.

## Levering discusses magazine, play



Frank Levering enjoyed reading his copy of the Fall 2023 Patrick County Magazine. During a recent interview, Levering told Mary Dellenback Hill that the magazine was wonderful, something to be proud of. He was intrigued by the Patrick County music articles (The Crooked Road), and that four of those pictured on the cover - Willis Gap Jammers, of the Willis Gap Community Center Open Jam - have also been in his play at different times, "Thunder In The Hills" Hillsville Courthouse Shootout of 1912. Pictured on the cover are Dot Shickenjanski, Ed Dalton, Les Edgell, Dan Shickenjanski, with Tommy

Nichols, and Lena Nichols. Levering is an author, director, and playwright, associated with Levering Orchard, Cherry Theater of the Levering Orchard, 163 Levering Lane, Ararat. Email him at franklevering1@gmail.com or check out his website at leveringorchard.com/virginia-outdoor-theatre. He also can be reached on the Fruit Hotline at (276) 755-2224, Pack House at (276) 755-3573 or on his cell at (276) 730-4722.

"Thunder In The Hills" is now playing April 5th-7th, 12th-14th, 19th-21st. For more information, call (276) 728-4113. (By Mary Dellenback Hill)

## Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

\*David Edward Johnson, 41, of Woolwine, was charged March 16 with assault. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

\*Hannah Marie Thomas, 29, of Spencer, was charged March 17 with assault and batter. Senior Deputy C.M. Gilbert was the arresting officer.

\*Greta Annette McAdams, 54, of Stuart, was charged March 17 with embezzlement. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

\*Alexander Paul Geohagan, 23, of Claudville, was charged March 19 with drive while intoxicated. Sgt. W.D. Hill was the arresting officer.

\*Charles Richard Milligan, Jr., 28, of Collinsville, was charged March 19 with one count each indecent exposure and possess Sch. I or II. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

\*Bradley Hunter Eanes, 46, of Ridgeway, was charged March 19 with probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Taylor Renee Rorrer-Haynes, 24, of Stuart, was charged March 20 with unauthorized use of vehicle. Senior Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

\*DeShaun Michael Hughes, 35, of Stuart, was charged March 21 with two counts of fail to appear. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

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**Rebecca "Granny" Beasley Raines**

Mrs. Rebecca "Granny" Beasley Raines, age 81 of Stuart, passed away Friday, March 22, 2024, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born in Patrick County on April 7, 1942, to the late William E. Beasley and Ruth Palmer Beasley. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Dennis Edgar Raines; and two brothers, Mike Beasley, and Harold Beasley. Mrs. Raines had retired from Renfro in Mt. Airy, NC and was a member of Middle Cross Missionary Baptist Church. She was an avid gardener who could make anything grow and loved doing



puzzles. She was a loving wife, mother, and granny.

Surviving is her children, Chris Rakes of Stuart, Shirley Joyce (Tim Agee) of Martinsville, Sandra (Darryl) Clement of Ararat, David (Tammy) Rakes of Pearisburg; seven grandchildren; ten great grandchildren; stepdaughter, Beverly Raines Henson of New Jersey; and her special

fur babies, Smokey Joe and Phoenix.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 1:00 PM with Pastor David Heath, Dr. Jonathan Casstevens, and Ken Barnard officiating. Burial will follow in the State-line Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Flowers will be accepted, or memorials can be made to Mountain Valley Hospice, 240 Commonwealth Blvd. W. Unit 602B, Martinsville, VA 24112. Online condolences may be sent to [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Jeffrey Harlan Harbour**

Mr. Jeffrey Harlan Harbour, age 58 of Bassett, passed away Saturday, March 16, 2024 at his home. He was born in Patrick County on March 7, 1966 to the late James Cosley "J.C." Harley Harbour and Nettie Ruth Quesenberry Harbour Winfield. In addition to his parents, Mr. Harbour was preceded in death by a sister, Vicky Harbour Purdy, and his step-father, Bill Winfield. He attended Faith Fellowship Church and loved the Lord. He was an intelligent man who loved talking and never met a stranger. He loved all sports, especially racing and was a Miami Dolphins fan. He was a Mama's boy through and through.



life, his fiancé, Rebecca Brannock; two sons, Michael Harbour of Stuart, James Michael Whitt, Jr. (Tasha) of Mount Airy, North Carolina; a granddaughter, Alexis Bryant "Peanut"; three siblings, Lesia Cockram (Don) of Claudville, Teresa Lancaster of Stuart, James Harbour of Columbiana, Alabama; a step-sister, Robin Bryant (Joe) of Martinsville; several nieces and nephews;

special friends, Maurice and Beth Focier and Kenneth Rorrer; and his fur babies, Polly, Rowdy and Fancy.

Funeral services for Mr. Harbour will be held Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Freddy Bonds officiating. Burial will follow in Sycamore Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Clover Cat Rescue, P.O. Box 829, Stuart, Virginia 24171 or to PAWS (Patrick County Welfare Society), P.O. Box 743, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Frances Bishop Burkhart**

Mrs. Frances Bishop Burkhart, age 85, of Claudville, Virginia, passed away on Tuesday evening, March 19, 2024, at Sovah Martinsville Hospital. Mrs. Burkhart was born in Ararat Virginia, on July 9, 1938, to the late Willie Franklin and Mary Velma Culler Bishop. She was a charter member of The Fellowship Church of Ararat, Virginia. She was a loving wife, mother, and friend to the many that were blessed to have known her. Mrs. Burkhart had resided most recently at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection. She is survived by her

daughters and sons-in-law, Bonnie Overby and Ricky, Doris Isaac and Charles; grandchildren and their spouses, Andrew Overby and Michelle, Kyle Overby and Jenna, Casey Thomas and Caleb, Sabra White and Cole Slate, Destiny White and Craig; great-grandchildren, Lance, Alyssa, and Ella Overby, Cayleigh Thomas and Easton Leonard; sister, Lois Arlene Pedigo; brothers and sisters-in-law, Willie Richard Bishop and Verlie, Alva Leonard Bishop and Barbara Ann; several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Frances was pre-

ceded in death by her loving husband of 59 years, Fred Burkhart. Funeral services will be held Friday, March 22, 2024, 2 PM, at Moody Funeral Home in Mount Airy, with the Rev. Mark Collins officiating. The family will receive friends at Moody Funeral Home in Mount Airy, from 1 PM until time of the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Fellowship Church, PO Box. 80, Ararat, Virginia 24053. Moody's of Mount Airy is respectfully serving the Burkhart family. Online condolences may be made at [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Joy Dean Gilliam Stamey**

Joy Dean Gilliam Stamey, age 89 of Stuart, Virginia, passed away peacefully at her daughter's home in Smithfield, Virginia, on Friday, March 15, 2024, on her 66th wedding anniversary. She was born in Granite Falls, NC, on December 9, 1934, to the late Lona (Polly) Edge and Carl Leroy Gilliam, Sr. Joy and her deceased husband Jimmy were proud parents of five children. She was a stay-at-home mom, making her children a priority and supporting her husband during his 30-year career in the military. This entailed many challenges especially while Jim was away from home including two tours of duty in Vietnam. The family was also blessed to spend many years overseas while Jim was stationed in Europe. After Jim retired in 1988, they built their dream home in the beautiful rolling countryside just out-



side of Stuart. There Joy enjoyed numerous outdoor activities including gardening and traveling often to visit family. She was such a sweet woman who was loved by everyone, and her smile always lit up the room. She always displayed a mother's love with her willingness to sacrifice her own comfort, needs and desires for the well-being of her children. Joy was a member of Liberty Live Church in Smithfield, VA, where she was baptized in 2021, and is now in the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Joy is survived by

two sons, Jimmy Carl Stamey (Archer Lewis) of Florence, MT, and Shane Helms (wife Katie) of Stuart, VA; four daughters, Pam Reeves (Ralph London) of Newton, NC, Sharon Voigt (husband Wesley) of Denver, NC, Julia Dancy (husband Bill) of Smithfield, VA, and Lisa Campbell (Charlie Vik) of Chesapeake, VA. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren plus a deceased granddaughter, Robin Robinson Gibson.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Patrick Memorial Gardens in Stuart, VA with Pastor Dewayne Troutt officiating. The family will receive friends from 12:00 until time to leave in procession at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart, VA. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Chester Lee Prillaman**

Mr. Chester Lee Prillaman, age 87, of Stuart, Virginia passed away from this earthly life on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at his home. He was born in Patrick County on November 14, 1936, to the late Gold Lewis Prillaman and the late Eva Hylton Prillaman. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Wilfred Prillaman and Dewey Prillaman. Chester was a member of Life Tabernacle Church in Stuart. He was a good man who liked to fish, enjoyed talking about the good ole days, always had a joke to tell with a smile on his face, and never met a stranger. Chester loved his family and loved being Papa to his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and his great-great-grandchild. Mr. Prillaman will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.



Danny Shelton, II; one great-grandchild, Brittany Shelton; one great-great-grandchild, Harper Shelton; two step-children, Rhonda Halsey of Roanoke, Virginia; Ronald Chaney of Woolwine, Virginia; two step-grandchildren, Madison Halsey, Breanna Halsey-Prillaman; one step-great-grandchild, Oakley Perdue; two sisters, Lena Mae Nichols, Fern Wimmer, both of Stuart, Virginia;

one sister-in-law, Linda Prillaman of Stuart, several nieces and nephews; three beloved dogs, Coco, Molly, and Max; and many dear friends.

A funeral service for Mr. Prillaman will be held on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Stuart with Pastor Gary Stoots and Pastor Carlton Fitzgerald officiating. The burial will immediately follow the funeral service in the Prillaman Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the funeral service on Monday afternoon at the funeral home. Flowers will be accepted. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is respectfully serving the Prillaman family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

*In Appreciation*

To those who have given so generously and unselfishly of their love, support, and time, the family of Chevondia Gail Nowlin wish to extend their heartfelt gratitude. Through your prayers, smiles and words of encouragement and other acts of kindness, getting through this difficult time has been made easier. We say thank you and may God bless and keep you with Him always.

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3	8	7	9	6	2	1	5	4
6	4	9	1	7	5	8	2	3
2	1	6	7	3	9	4	8	5
4	7	8	5	1	6	3	9	2
9	3	5	4	2	8	7	1	6

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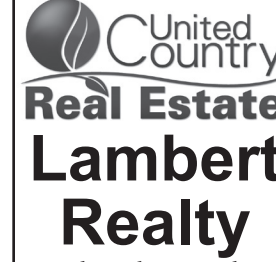
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# Land Transfers in February

The following land transfers were reported in February, according to records in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office:

- Elise L. Adams; by Atty to Donald E. Lewis and wife, 9.12 acres, no district given.
- Judy Barnard to Raymond Dale Leath and wife, 56.8175 and 3.8233 acres, Blue Ridge District.
- Dennis L. Brammer and other to William Justin Hall and wife, 2.75 acres, Smith River District.
- Claudia Lavergne Brind-Woody to Norris Rees Woody Jr., 3.884 acres, Blue Ridge District.
- Eddie Butcher, Exor. to Herbert F. Conner and wife, 2.000 acres, Mayo River District.
- Frank Butler to David L. Richardson and wife, 28.712 acres, Smith River District.
- C.L. Martin Family LLC to John Eric Digiacinto and wife, 128.6574 acres, Mayo River District.
- Wayne Carpenter and wife to James Nathan Isner and wife, 12.000 acres, Smith River District.
- Star Cochran to Robert K. Becker, 2.9282 acres, Peters Creek District.
- Terry W. Dalton to Morgan Page Cobbler, 0.28 acres, Peters Creek District.
- Cristina Spence Daniels and others to Lindsay

- Plyler Martin, lots, Town of Stuart/Mayo River District.
- Bettie S. Epperson to William E. Smith and other, 60.623 acres, Dan River District.
- Caleb E. Eyre to James Nathan Nelligan and other, 2.094 acres, Smith River District.
- Aaron Kriss Foley to Gary Tyler Viperman and wife, tracts, Smith River District.
- Ralph E. Howell and other to Christopher E. Cisco and wife, lots Peters Creek District.
- J & J Vacation Rentals LLC to Venkata Rahul Chowdary Yarra and others, unit, Blue Ridge District.
- Anthony P. Johnson and other to Todd Johnson and wife, 2.5129 acres, Mayo River District.
- Mary Elizabeth H. Largen to Maslin P. Bick and wife, 0.799 and 0.076 acres, Blue Ridge District.
- Roy Alden Lawson to James Ray Stevens, 5.359 acres, Dan River District.
- Dennis K. Martin to David H. Hawkey and wife, 1.15 acres, Dan River District.
- Gary Wayne Massey and other to William R. Hall and wife, 3 acres, Smith River District.
- Oscar S. Meeks and other to Benjamin J. Ruggles, lots, Smith River District.
- Charles R. Morrison and others to Charles R. Habershaw and other, 12.430 acres, Smith River

- District.
- Rosaria P. Palumbo to MFSF Properties LLC, lots, Mayo River District/Town of Stuart.
- Terry Pike and wife to Bobbie Nelle Lackey, 2.943 acres, Mayo River District.
- Michael Puckett and other to Jonathan Thomas Simmons, 8.570 acres, Smith River District.
- Amanda H. Redd to Michael Solares, lot, Dan River District.
- Michael Steven Rorrer and other to Rev Trust of Thayer Dolan Jr., 5.9831 and 54.898 acres, Peters Creek District.
- Glenna C. Shelor; by ATTY to Donald A. Towns and wife, 24.624 acres, Mayo River District.
- Dana A. Smith to Leslie M. Garrett and wife, 2.8519 acres, Mayo River District.
- Tracey Stump; exor to Kathy Puckett Nichols, 3 ½ acres, Dan River District.
- Lucy Erlene Turner and other to Edwin Boyd and wife, lots, Mayo River District.
- Tabatha Lee Wallace to Danny Kendrick and wife, 2.062 acres, Mayo River District.
- Richard Alan Wigley to Eric Glenn Wolf and wife, 33.83 acres, Mayo River District.
- Pamela H. Wood to Nathan C. Holton and wife, 3.607 and 8.853 acres, Blue Ridge District.
- Glenna T. Young to Matthew Joseph Stanley, 3.489 acres, Peters Creek District.

## Witness the solar eclipse at a Virginia State Park

On April 8, the skies will offer a rare spectacle as a total solar eclipse crosses North America, the last solar eclipse visible from the contiguous United States until 2044. In

celebration of this extraordinary event, Virginia State Parks invites visitors to witness this celestial wonder firsthand.

early, giving visitors the chance to learn how to be a safe observer, explore the science behind the eclipse and in some cases, make pinhole viewers. To learn more about the solar eclipse events being offered through April 8, go to [dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/solar-eclipse](http://dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/solar-eclipse).

The solar eclipse, a natural phenomenon where the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, casting its shadow on Earth, promises a breathtaking experience for all who witness it. Virginia State Parks, renowned for their pristine natural settings and commitment to environmental education, provide an ideal backdrop for observing this awe-inspiring event.

What visitors will see during the solar eclipse depends on the weather and the park's location. Many parks, especially those in Southwest Virginia, are expected to experience more than 85 percent sun obscuration, with Wilderness Road experiencing 90 percent. For a breakdown by park of eclipse start, peak and end times and the percent of obscuration, click here.

With 42 state parks across Virginia, visitors will have ample opportunities to find the perfect spot to witness the eclipse.

Visitors are encouraged to plan ahead and arrive early, as parking and viewing areas may fill up quickly. To ensure guests can view the eclipse safely, parks will have a limited number of solar viewing glasses available for purchase. They cost \$1 plus tax and will be located in parks' visitor centers and gift shops.

For more information about viewing locations and educational programs, go to [dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/solar-eclipse](http://dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/solar-eclipse).

### LEGAL

**FOR PUBLIC NOTICE:**  
The Town of Stuart has scheduled two (2) upcoming Budget Committee Meetings. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Stuart Town Office located at 100 Patrick Avenue. The second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Stuart Town Office located at 100 Patrick Avenue. The Stuart Budget Committee will discuss the Town's Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. Those that are interested in providing comment to the Budget Committee, please contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager by phone at (276) 694-3811 or by email at [bryce.simmons@stuartva.org](mailto:bryce.simmons@stuartva.org)

### LEGAL

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:** The Town of Stuart will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stuart Town Office located at 100 Patrick Avenue in Stuart, Virginia, to discuss a proposed Noise Ordinance. If you would like to review the proposed Noise Ordinance, you may do so at the Stuart Town Office, referenced above, or by visiting the Town's website ([www.townofstuartva.com](http://www.townofstuartva.com)). If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager, at (276) 694-3811 or [bryce.simmons@stuartva.org](mailto:bryce.simmons@stuartva.org)

### LEGAL

**Patrick County Sheriff's Office**  
The Patrick County Sheriff's Office will be disposing of the following items. Any person knowing why these items should not be disposed of should contact Lieutenant Nicholas Pendleton with the Patrick County Sheriff's Office prior to April 6, 2024. Patrick County Sheriff's Office, 742 Commerce St, Stuart, VA 24171. 1-276-694-3161

- Marlin 70HC .22 rifle
- S&W 9mm
- Sig Sauer P250 40 cal pistol
- CVA 50 cal muzzle load
- S&W .38 special
- Savage model 949 20 ga.
- Rohm 22 revolver
- Remington 870 Express 12 ga.
- S&W CTG .32
- Iver Johnson Champion 12 ga.
- Marlin model 336 .35 cal
- Davis model P380
- Marlin model 883SS .22 cal
- H&R model 922 .22 cal
- Derringer muzzleloader
- Ruger Mark II .22 cal
- Thompson Center Muzzleloader .54 cal
- Cobra .38 cal over/under
- Taurus .357
- Remington model 700
- CVA Magnum Hunter .50 cal muzzleloader
- Winchester model 70 7mm
- New England .410 ga single shot
- Sig Sauer P230 357 SIG
- Iver Johnson 12 ga
- Remington Nylon 66
- Jennings .22 cal
- Bushmaster 450
- Beretta 9mm
- Taurus model 699 357 mag
- Savage Mark I .22 cal
- Taurus 9mm
- Savage Revelation 350
- F. Lipetta .44 cal muzzleload
- S&W Model 36
- S&W .38 special
- S&W .38
- North American Arms .22 cal
- Glenfield Model 778 12 ga
- Glenfield model 65 .22 cal
- Savage Arms model 6870 20 ga
- Long Tom 12 ga
- Anderson Arms AM15
- Springfield 1911 .45 cal

### LEGAL

The Patrick County School Board is accepting bids from interested parties to furnish custodial supplies for the 2024-2025 school session (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025). Invitations For Bid (IFB) packets can be picked up Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Maintenance Office at 117 Via Avenue, Unit 1, Stuart, VA 24171. Bids will be accepted at the Maintenance Office until 10 a.m. on April 12, 2024. For further information, call 276-694-6984.

### LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ004868-07-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia CODE §8.01-316  
**PATRICK J & DR - JUVENILE**  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NEFF, MICHAEL WILLIAM  
The object of this suit is to:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF JOHN NEFF "RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES" MEAN ALL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REMAINING WITH THE PARENT AFTER THE TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY OR GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE RIGHT OF VISITATION, CONSENT TO ADOPTION, THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPPORT.  
It is ORDERED that JOHN NEFF appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before 04/04/2024 at 11:15 a.m.  
2/29/2024

### LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ004869-07-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia CODE §8.01-316  
**PATRICK J & DR - JUVENILE**  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NEFF, CYAN RAYNE  
The object of this suit is to:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF JOHN NEFF "RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES" MEAN ALL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REMAINING WITH THE PARENT AFTER THE TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY OR GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE RIGHT OF VISITATION, CONSENT TO ADOPTION, THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPPORT.  
It is ORDERED that JOHN NEFF appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before 04/04/2024 at 11:15 a.m.  
2/29/2024

### LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ004866-07-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia CODE §8.01-316  
**PATRICK J & DR - JUVENILE**  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NEFF, ANIYA ELLYSE  
The object of this suit is to:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF JOHN NEFF "RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES" MEAN ALL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REMAINING WITH THE PARENT AFTER THE TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY OR GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE RIGHT OF VISITATION, CONSENT TO ADOPTION, THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPPORT.  
It is ORDERED that JOHN NEFF appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before 04/04/2024 at 11:15 a.m.  
2/29/2024

### LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ004867-07-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia CODE §8.01-316  
**PATRICK J & DR - JUVENILE**  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* NEFF, CONNOR AIDEN  
The object of this suit is to:  
TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF JOHN NEFF "RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES" MEAN ALL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REMAINING WITH THE PARENT AFTER THE TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY OR GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE RIGHT OF VISITATION, CONSENT TO ADOPTION, THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPPORT.  
It is ORDERED that JOHN NEFF appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before 04/04/2024 at 11:15 a.m.  
2/29/2024

### LEGAL

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1023 UNION BRIDGE ROAD, FERRUM, VA 24088.** In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 30, 2010, in the original principal amount of \$104,295.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 100001137. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on May 6, 2024, at 1:15 p.m., the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL OF THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, LYING AND BEING IN SMITH RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, BEING DESIGNATED AS TRACT 6A CONTAINING 5.412 ACRES AS SHOWN ON THAT PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "KATIE V. LANE" PREPARED BY TERRY A. WALLER, L.L.S., DATED SEPTEMBER 28, 2008, OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 0802379.  
**TERMS OF SALE:** ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit often percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). VA-368816-1.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building located at 106 Rucker Street in Stuart, Virginia to discuss the proposed Patrick County High School Cellular Phone Tower. The hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Veteran's Memorial Building, 106 Rucker Street in Stuart, Virginia. Action will be taken at the meeting. If you would like to review the Patrick County High School Cellular Phone Tower proposal, you may do so at the County Administration Office, Suite 218. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

### LEGAL

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 2559 EGG FARM RD, PATRICK SPRINGS, VA 24133**  
In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$52,040.00, with an annual interest rate of 4.250000% dated July 30, 2014, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Patrick as Deed Instrument Number 140001099, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Patrick, at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Patrick located on the corner of Blue Ridge and Main Streets, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia on May 29, 2024 at 11:00 AM, the property with improvements to wit:  
N MAYO R  
I#14-1098  
Tax Map No. 5314-4, 5214-23  
THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.  
**TERMS OF SALE:** ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: USDA.  
Reference Number 24-296109.  
PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 (703) 449-5800.

**Meetings**

**Wednesday, March 27**

The Patrick County EDA will meet at 7 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

**Monday, April 8**

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building at 6 p.m.

**Thursday, April 11**

The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

**Events**

**Friday, March 29**

The Wayside Community Church, 3520 Wayside Road, Stuart, will hold a Friday Night of Worship at 6:30 p.m. Music by Kelly Ratchiff; guest speaker is Pastor Mark Wright. A light meal will be served after.

The Stuart Church of the Living Water will hold a Tenebrae Service (A service of Darkness), 7 p.m. at Stuart Church of Living Water 101 East Blue Ridge Street, Stuart.

**Saturday, March 30**

The second annual Memorial Show in honor of Kenny Pack, the former assistant football coach and teacher at Patrick Count High School (PCHS) and PC Alumni will be at the Stuart Rotary Building. Doors open at 6 p.m. The bell rings at 7 p.m.

The Patrick County Democratic Committee will host Karen Baker, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress at its 11 a.m. meeting at the Patrick County Library.

**Sunday, March 31**

Woolwine Methodist Church will hold a Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. with breakfast following the event.

The Stuart Church of Living Water will hold an Easter Sunrise Service starting at 7 a.m., breakfast will be at 8 a.m., and the worship service will be at 9:45 a.m.

Wayside Community Church will hold its Easter Sunrise Service starting at 7 a.m. Breakfast

will follow in the fellowship hall, and Sunday Service and music will start around 8:30 a.m.

Five Fork Wesleyan Church will hold an Easter Sunrise service at 7 a.m., with breakfast to follow in the fellowship hall. All are welcome.

Sun Rise Service, 7 a.m. at Ross Harbour Methodist Church, 6260 Elamsville Road, Stuart. Breakfast to follow. Regular worship at 10 a.m.

**Friday, April 5**

The community food pantry will be at the SRRS building in Woolwine from 3-4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, April 6**

JEB Stuart Rescue Squad will hold a community breakfast from 7-10 a.m. Plates are \$8, and dine in, carry out, and curb service options are available. Orders can be placed by calling (276) 694-6171.

**Wednesday, April 10**

The Patrick County Food Bank will hold distribution at the Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m., at Ararat starting at 8:30 a.m., and at Meadows of Dan starting at 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, April 11**

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its April monthly meeting at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field. Entertainment will be provided by Charles Bowman. Barbeque, slaw, buns, and beverages will be provided to all attendees, attendees are requested to bring vegetables and/or desserts to share with the group.

**Ongoing**

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105 at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

The Coffee Break Café hosts live music on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring an instrument, or just come and listen.

The Patrick County Library will hold the LEGO Club with Ms. Sam on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. This program is mainly intended for school age children. Story Time with Ms. Sam is held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays with

books, songs, finger plays, and more. For more information, call (276) 694-3352.

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month at the Alzheimer's office at 109 Buena Vista Ave in Stuart. New members or volunteers are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

The Patrick County Quilters' Sit-N-Sew is held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Quilted Colors. For more information, call 276-694-3020 or email patrickcountyquilters@gmail.com.

The Stuart Elementary School Running Club will hit the pavements along the sidewalks in town on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

The Ararat Ruritan Club will hold Rook games every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m.

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Honey Pot, 106 N. Main St., Stuart (across from The Coffee Break). Call (276) 694-2356 for more information.

Willis Gap Community Center will hold an Open Jam Acoustic every Friday night with doors opening at 6 p.m. for hotdogs, chips, candies, popcorn, coffee, and assorted sodas. From 7-10 p.m. there will be old time country, bluegrass, and gospel music. A 50/50 drawing will be held at about 8:15 p.m.

The Patrick County Senior Citizens is sponsoring a three day and two nights trip to Elkins, West Virginia, departing Wednesday, September 18 and returning Friday, September 20. The trip will include chartered bus transportation, two nights' accommodations at the Holiday Inn Express in Elkins, tour of the WV Railroad Museum, 4-hour train ride, admission to the Crandell Creek Band bluegrass music show, admission to the Gandy Dancer Dinner Theatre, admission and guided tour of the Green Bank Observatory, five meals (two breakfasts, one lunch, and two dinners), baggage handling, all taxes, and all gratuities. Any adult, regardless of age, is eligible to participate. Trip flyers and more specific information, including cost, can be obtained by calling the Recreation Department at (276) 694-3917 or Judy Lacks, trip coordinator, at (276) 694-4767.

# Two plead guilty to 2022 gun store burglary in Patrick County

A pair of men from the Carolinas, who in the pre-dawn hours of a September morning in 2022 burglarized a Patrick County gun store, pleaded guilty last week in U.S. District Court in Roanoke.

Bradley Wayne McCraw, 43, of Gaffney, S.C., and Justin Darrell Whitaker, 31, of Mooresville, N.C., each pled guilty to one count of stealing firearms from a federal firearms licensee and aiding and abetting in the same, and one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

According to court documents, in September 2022, McCraw and Whitaker stole a truck, attached a chain from it to the back door of the Rabbit Ridge Gun Shop and Range, and yanked it open. Surveillance video captured them wearing masks and entering the store where they proceeded to steal more than a dozen firearms, including shotguns, rifles, and pistols.

Both McCraw and Whitaker entered into plea agreements with the government in

which the defendants would be sentenced to a range between 100 to 150 months in prison.

United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh and Craig B. Kailimai, Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, made the announcement.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated the case with assistance from the Patrick County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Offices in Cherokee County, South Carolina, Spartanburg, South Carolina, and Cleveland County, North Carolina also assisted with the investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kristin B. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

## Rose named to Dean's List

Lincoln Rose was named to the Dean's List - Fall 2023 at Western Carolina University.

## NOTICE

**All announcements to be included in the Community Calendar must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday the week before publish date. Items are published as space permits. Email to: [dhall@theenterprise.net](mailto:dhall@theenterprise.net)**

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

8		4						3
5				4		9		7
	6		2		1			
		2			4	6		
3	8							5
			1	7				3
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	7		5					2
	3				8		1	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦**

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# Ararat student among new members inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society



The Alpha Xi Tau Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society at Surry Community College held its annual induction ceremony for 15 new members for Fall 2023/Spring 2024 on Feb. 23 at the Dobson campus. PTK members are, left to right, Heather Couch (PTK Alumna), Kayla Forrest (PTK Co-Advisor), Sydney Presa of Ararat, N.C. (PTK Chapter President), Veronika Dimeo of Westfield (PTK Chapter Officer), Melinda McCane of Mt Airy (PTK Chapter Officer), Rachel Russo of Ararat, Va., (PTK Chapter Officer), Autumn Simmons of Ararat, Va. (PTK Chapter Officer), Megan Wilkins of Siloam (PTK Chapter Officer), Autumn Beck of Lowgap, Megan Hancock of Pilot Mountain, Luke Johnson of King, McKenna Merritt of Dobson, Melanie Munoz-Lorenzo of East Bend, Bridgette Slate of Mount Airy, Lina Staley of Yadkinville, Kaitlynn Thomas of Dobson, Sydney Tucker of Pilot Mountain, Jae Vogler-Fain of Mount Airy, Ellie Edwards of Elkin (New PTK Chapter President), Dr. Kathleen D. Fowler (PTK Co-Advisor).



Heather Couch, a PTK member and SCC Financial Aid Compliance Specialist, provided entertainment with musical performances of "A Million Dreams" by Pink and "What a Wonderful World" by Eva Cassidy at the induction ceremony.



James Quick, SCC Lead Instructor in Applied Animal Science and this year's recipient of the SCC Excellence in Teaching Award was keynote speaker at the induction ceremony.



Chapter officers installed at the PTK induction ceremony are, left to right, Megan Wilkins, Autumn Simmons, Rachel Russo, Melinda McCane, Veronika Dimeo, and Ellie Edwards.

Rachel Russo of Ararat, Va., was among the 15 new members inducted into the Alpha Xi Tau Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society at Surry Community College during its annual induction ceremony for Fall 2023/Spring 2024 in the Grand

Hall of the Shelton-Badgett North Carolina Center for Viticulture and Enology on Feb. 23.

SCC President Dr. David Shockley provided opening remarks. The keynote speaker was James Quick, SCC Lead Instructor in Applied Animal Science and this year's recipient of the SCC Excellence in Teaching Award. In addition, Heather Couch, a PTK member and SCC Financial Aid Compliance Specialist, provided entertainment with musical performances of "A Million Dreams" by Pink and "What a Wonderful World" by Eva Cassidy, made popular by Louis Armstrong.

Other inductees are Autumn Beck of Lowgap, Veronika Dimeo of Westfield, Megan Hancock of Pilot Mountain, Luke Johnson of King, Melinda McCane of Mount Airy, McKenna Merritt of Dobson, Melanie Munoz-Lorenzo of East Bend, Autumn Simmons of Ararat, N.C., Bridgette Slate of Mount Airy, Lina Staley of Yadkinville, Kaitlynn Thomas of Dobson, Sydney Tucker of Pilot Mountain, Jae Vogler-Fain of Mount Airy, and Megan Wilkins of Siloam.

Chapter officers for 2024/2025 were also installed. They are Ellie Edwards, Veronika Dimeo, Melinda McCane, Rachel Russo, Autumn Simmons, and Megan Wilkins.

The Surry Community College's PTK chapter is designated a Five Star Chapter, very active in service to the community. Most recently, the chapter worked on an Honors in Action project researching the effects of single-use plastic on local waterways. As part of the project, they hosted a cleanup on the Ararat River. Currently the chapter is creating videos answering common questions which parents and students have about the transition from high school to college that

will be featured on surry.edu. Established in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership, and service programming.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 3.5 million members and 1,300 chapters located in all 50 states, U.S. Territories, and nine nations (U.S., Canada, Germany, Peru, the British Virgin Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the United Arab Emirates). In 1929, the American Association of Community Colleges recognized Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges.

For more information about Phi Theta Kappa and their projects, contact PTK's faculty co-advisors Dr. Kathleen Fowler at (336) 386-3560 or fowlerk@surry.edu or Kayla Forrest at (336) 386-3315 or forrestkm@surry.edu or go to www.ptk.org.

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Publisher Michael Showell  
 Editor Debbie Hall

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The columnists' views appearing on this page do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of *The Enterprise*.

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## SCC to Host an Agriculture Day on April 19

Surry Community College is hosting an Agriculture Day for local high school students. The event will be held on April 19, from 9 a.m. to noon in the courtyard of the Dobson campus. Students and all community members are wel-

come. The event will include an agricultural presentation for students, a petting zoo, and a cash-only plant sale. There will also be music, games, food, and giveaways for attendees.

For more information about the event or to learn more about college agricultural programs, contact James Quick quickj@surry.edu. Any agricul-

tural organizations or businesses interested in participating in the event may also contact James Quick.

Surry offers a diploma and certificate in Applied Animal Science Technology and a certificate in Sustainable Agriculture. The college offers a degree and several certificates in Viticulture and Enology. Check surry.edu for additional information.

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## Super Crossword

### Answers

I	N	P	J	S	S	C	O	W	L	A	L	S	O	L	A	S	H
M	E	T	A	L	I	O	N	I	A	G	A	P	S	E	X	P	O
F	A	L	S	E	A	R	R	E	S	T	O	H	I	O	A	L	E
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T	O	G	A	O	N	C	E	T	H	A	T	S	U	N	R	E	A
C	L	O	T	E	T	T	U	N	E	R	D	Y	C	I	R	C	A
H	E	R	E	S	O	A	P	A	M	A	S	S	H	O	S	E	D

## February's unemployment rate unchanged at 3.0 percent

Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February remained unchanged at 3.0 percent, which is the same as the rate from a year ago, according to Virginia Works.

A household survey data in February indicated that the labor force increased by 3,159 to 4,591,543 as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 74 to 139,703. The number of employed residents increased by 3,233 to 4,451,840. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 0.9 percentage points below the national rate, which increased by 0.2 percentage points to 3.9 percent.

The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate remained unchanged at 66.6 percent in February. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

In February, Virginia's nonagricultural employment, from the monthly establishment survey, increased by 10,600 to 4,209,900. January's preliminary estimate of employment, after revision, decreased by 700 to 4,199,300. In February, private sector employment increased by 8,500 to 3,466,800 while government employment increased by 2,100 to 743,100. Within that sec-

tor, federal government jobs increased by 1,300 to 191,800, state government employment increased by 600 to 159,100, and local government increased by 200 to 392,200 over the month.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for eleven industry sectors. In February, eight experienced over-the-month job gains, and three experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Professional and Business Services (+3,800) to 811,900. The second largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+2,400) to 598,700. The third largest job gain occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,300) to 672,700. The other gains were in Government (+2,100) to 743,100; Construction (+1,000) to 219,900; Leisure and Hospitality (+400) to 416,400; Information (+100) to 69,500; and Mining and Logging (+100) to 7,300.

The largest job loss occurred in Financial Activities (-1,000) to 221,400. The second largest job loss occurred in Manufacturing (-500) to 248,200. The third largest job loss occurred in Miscellaneous Services (-100) to 200,800.

From February 2023 to February 2024, Virginia Works estimates that total nonfarm employment in Virginia increased by 58,300 to

4,209,900, private sector employment increased by 44,700 to 3,466,800, and government employment increased by 13,600 to 743,100 jobs. Within that sector, federal government jobs increased by 4,000 to 191,800, state government employment increased by 5,100 to 159,100, and local government increased by 4,500 to 392,200 over the year.

For the eleven industry sectors in Virginia over the year, eight experienced over-the-year job gains, one remained unchanged, and two experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Education and Health Services (+24,500) to 598,700. The second largest job gain occurred in Government (+13,600) to 743,100. The third largest job gain occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+9,200) to 416,400. The other gains were in Construction (+5,400) to 219,900; Miscellaneous Services (+3,700) to 200,800; Manufacturing (+1,800) to 248,200; Financial Activities (+900) to 221,400; and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+700) to 672,700.

The largest job loss occurred in Information (-1,400) to 69,500. The second largest job loss occurred in Professional and Business Services (-100) to 811,900. Mining and Logging remained unchanged.

## Prepare for potential extreme spring weather, SCC urges

The arrival of spring can usher in tornadoes, strong winds, hailstorms, flash floods, lightning and other extreme weather. Severe weather can strike anywhere and anytime. Advance planning is the key to protecting yourself, your loved ones and your property, both physically and financially.

The State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance (Bureau) encourages Virginians to plan now for potentially extreme spring weather. "Assess your risk and make sure you have the insurance coverage you need if severe weather causes damage to your home, business, vehicles or other property," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Scott A. White. "If you have questions, contact your insurance agent or company or the Bureau of Insurance."

The bureau encourages Virginians to consider the following:

Review your insurance policy and update it, if needed. Understand what it does and does not cover, as well as any deductibles you may have to pay when filing a claim.

Create a detailed inventory of your belongings including photos, serial numbers, videos and receipts.

Keep electronic copies of your homeowners, auto and other insurance policies with your home inventory and, if possible, store paper files in a safe, fireproof and waterproof place. Take these documents with you if you must evacuate. These records will contain your policy numbers and the phone numbers of your insurance companies in case you have questions or need to file a claim.

Keep in mind that homeowners and renters insurance policies issued in Virginia typically do not cover damage resulting from floods, surface water or storm surges. The federal government, however, does sell insurance for direct flood and flood-related damage to homeowners, renters and businesses in eligible communities through its Na-

tional Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There is typically a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect. To learn more, contact your insurance agent; call the NFIP at 877-336-2627; or visit [fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program).

Automobile other-than-collision insurance coverage, often called "comprehensive" insurance coverage, helps pay to repair or replace vehicles if they are stolen or damaged by such things as fire, water, wind, hail, vandalism, glass breakage, falling objects or contact with an animal.

Know what to do if your home, business, vehicles or other property are damaged as a result of a severe weather event. The Bureau recommends the following:

Once the danger or risk has passed, contact your insurance company or agent as soon as possible.

Take reasonable steps to prevent further damage to your property once it is safe to do so.

Record all damage to your property with photographs, notes and repair-related receipts.

The bureau offers free consumer guides for homeowners and commercial property owners with information about what to do when a disaster strikes. These and many other consumer insurance guides are available on the Bureau's website at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Insurance](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Insurance).

The bureau's specially trained staff can assist consumers with their insurance-related questions and concerns. To learn more, contact the Consumer Services Section of the Bureau's Property and Casualty Division toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or in Richmond at 804-371-9185.

For additional emergency preparedness information relating to various types of disasters and hazards, visit the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at [vaemergency.gov](http://vaemergency.gov).

## Proposed legislation would support first-generation homebuyers

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine co-sponsored the Downpayment Toward Equity Act, legislation to address the growing concern around rising home prices, lack of access to home-buying assistance, and the widening wealth and homeownership gaps in Virginia and throughout the country. The bill would provide federal grants, administered through local entities, to aid first-generation homebuyers with qualifying expenses toward purchasing their first home—including downpayment costs, closing costs, and costs to reduce the rates of interest.

"Homeownership is one of the most powerful pathways to accumulate wealth, but first-generation homebuyers — predominantly people of color — still face steep obstacles to achieving it and punching their ticket to the middle class," Warner, D-Alexandria. "The Downpayment Toward Equity Act could serve as a powerful tool to level the playing field, close the racial wealth gap, and help more families achieve their American Dream."

"I was a fair housing attorney in Richmond for nearly two decades, and I saw up close the impact that years of discriminatory housing policies had on families' ability to purchase a home and benefit from the wealth building that comes from homeownership," Kaine, D-Richmond, said. "While we've made significant progress in combating discriminatory policies since then, their lasting effects continue to be evident in the wide homeownership and wealth gaps that people of color face. The Downpayment Toward Equity Act

would take a substantial step in addressing these gaps, by helping first-generation homebuyers overcome the disadvantages they face when trying to purchase a home."

The Downpayment Toward Equity Act would administer grants of up to \$20,000 to qualified first-generation homebuyers through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Additionally, HUD would have the ability to increase these grants for socially and economically disadvantaged homebuyers. States would receive 75% of the funds each year, distributed by population, median home prices, and racial disparities in homeownership, and the remaining 25% would be competitively awarded to CDFIs, MDIs, and other non-profit, mission-driven entities that target services to minority and low-income populations.

Warner and Kaine are longtime supporters of initiatives to assist first-generation homebuyers. The senators introduced the Low-Income First Time Homebuyers (LIFT) Act to establish a program to help first-time, first-generation homebuyers — predominantly Americans of color — build wealth much more rapidly. The LIFT Act will establish a program at HUD, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, to sponsor low fixed-rate 20-year mortgages for first-time, first-generation homebuyers who have incomes equal to or less than 120 percent of their area median income to increase access to homeownership for millions of families.

## Recent healthcare hack prompts legislation to protect providers in the event of future hacks

The Health Care Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2024, proposed legislation that would allow for advance and accelerated payments to health care providers in the event of a cyber incident, as long as they and their vendors meet minimum cybersecurity standards, was introduced by U.S. Sen. Mark Warner last week. The proposal follows a ransomware attack on Change Healthcare that has paralyzed billing services for providers nationwide, leaving many in danger of becoming financially insolvent.

"I've been sounding the alarm about cybersecurity in the health care sector for some time. It was only a matter of time before we saw a major attack that disrupted the ability to care for patients nationwide," said Warner, D-Alexandria.

A member of the Senate Finance

Committee and co-chairman of the Senate Cybersecurity Caucus, Warner added "The recent hack of Change Healthcare is a reminder that the entire health care industry is vulnerable and needs to step up its game. This legislation would provide some important financial incentives for providers and vendors to do so."

In rare situations, Medicare Part A providers (such as acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other inpatient care facilities) and Part B suppliers (including physicians, nonphysician practitioners, durable medical equipment suppliers, and others who furnish outpatient services) can face cash flow challenges due to specified circumstances beyond their control (for instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic.) Since the 1980s, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

(CMS) has provided temporary financial relief to participants in these programs through Accelerated and Advance Payment (AAP) programs, during which these providers and suppliers receive advance payments from the federal government that are later recovered by withholding payment for subsequent claims.

The Health Care Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2024 would modify the existing Medicare Hospital Accelerated Payment Program and the Medicare Part B Advance Payment Program by:

Requiring the Secretary to determine if the need for payments results from a cyber incident;

If it does, requiring the health care provider receiving the payment to meet minimum cybersecurity standards, as determined by the Secretary, to be eligible; and

If a provider's intermediary was

the target of the incident, the intermediary must also meet minimum cybersecurity standards, as determined by the Secretary, for the provider to receive the payments.

These provisions would go into effect two years from the date of enactment.

In 2022, Warner authored "Cybersecurity is Patient Safety," a policy options paper, outlining current cybersecurity threats facing health care providers and systems and offering for discussion a series of policy solutions to improve cybersecurity across the industry. Since publishing, Warner has launched the Health Care Cybersecurity Working Group with a bipartisan group of colleagues to examine and propose potential legislative solutions to strengthen cybersecurity in the health care and public health sector.

# Support Women Veterans license plate unveiled last week

Gov. Glenn Youngkin led the celebration of Virginia Women Veterans Week during a special ceremony hosted by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. As part of the ceremony, the Governor and First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin also unveiled the new Support Women Veterans license plate, now available at the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

This is the seventh consecutive year that the Commonwealth has designated the third week of March as Virginia Women Veterans Week to honor and recognize the contributions and achievements of the more than 108,000 women military

veterans that call Virginia their home.

"I was privileged to recognize and honor Virginia's women veterans for their service in every branch of our armed forces to defend our Nation and our Commonwealth," said Youngkin. "By unveiling the new Support Women Veterans specialty license plates and declaring Virginia Women Veterans Week, we want our female veterans to know that Virginia values you. I remain committed to making Virginia the best state in the nation for servicemembers, veterans, and their families to live and work."

"As a woman veteran, I fully understand the unique challenges that our women veterans face when they transition to civilian life," said Lt. Gov. Earle-Sears. "Our Com-

monwealth is blessed to have the largest percentage of women veterans per population of any state. Each brings along the skills and talents learned during their military service to their new roles in our local communities. Our women veterans truly make a major difference in assuring that Virginia remains the #1 state in America for all our citizens to live, work and thrive. Today, we salute you."

"Women veterans comprise eighteen percent of Virginia's total veteran population of nearly 700,000 and their numbers grow every year," said Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Craig Crenshaw. "Having served with so many outstanding women during my Marine career, I am pleased that Virginia was one of the first states to



establish a Woman Veterans Program with specific programs and services to address their unique challenges and opportunities when they leave active duty."

"Our women veterans have dedicated so much to the Commonwealth and to the United States. It is an honor to pay tribute to their service by unveiling this special license plate today. I look forward to seeing them adorn vehicles across the state," said Secretary of Transportation Shep Miller.

# Callerys 2024: Enjoy the flowers, then turn to sweet-smelling natives

By Judy Ferring, PC EMG

Drive along any road in Patrick County right now and you'll see spring's promise. Clouds of white-flowering trees, lightly draped in emerging shades of green, line a bright blue horizon. Sunny yellow daffodils nod in the foreground.

Some would call it a foretelling of heaven.

It's not.

Most of those white flowering trees are quietly, not very slowly, destroying the county's treasured viewscape.

They're callery pears (*Pyrus calleryana*) and their descendants. Some are feral, some purposeful cultivars with names like Bradford, Cleveland Select, Aristocrat. Avery Park, Grant St. Yellow and Stone Hill. There's Whitehouse, a narrow columnar form with a strong central leader; Autumn Blaze with striking red-to-purple leaves in fall; Valzam, able to survive very harsh conditions; and Chanticleer, likened by some to a sheared topiary.

Callerys can be remarkably tough. When the World Trade Center's twin towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001, one was found at the site still alive but severely burned with damaged roots and branches. Known today as the Survivor Tree, it was rescued from the rubble, taken to a local nursery to recover, and later replanted at Ground Zero as a symbol of resilience.

## Slow Recognition

But there are many things not to like about these deceptively beautiful trees. Most frequently mentioned: the smell, usually described as the aroma of rotting meat. *Pyrus calleryana* has plenty of other flaws, most of them far more serious than being repugnantly odoriferous.

The tree's scent attracts flies, its primary pollinator.

It drinks such a huge amount of water that it can cause other trees and plants to go thirsty.

Its branches are brittle, its sharply V-shaped crotches, structurally weak. On a windy day (and we've had plenty of those lately), they easily break.

It grows fast, and can quickly overcome its new neighborhood.

Seedlings may be hard to detect since most callerys don't bloom until the third year.

Recognition of the problems with callerys has been slow to materialize. The trees were first brought to North America from China after the U.S. Department of Agriculture



Virginia landowners who cut down callery pear trees on their property can get up to three free replacements from the Virginia Department of Forestry. The trees are easy to identify and the directions for removal are clear.

created the Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction Office in 1898. Its mission was to find "economically important" plants. China was of special interest because its climate was similar to the United States' but its flora was largely unknown.

One hunter termed *Pyrus calleryana* "simply a marvel. One finds it growing under all sorts of conditions; one time on dry, sterile mountain slopes; then again with its roots in standing water at the edge of a pond; sometimes in open pine forest, then again among scrub on blue-stone ledges in the burning sun; sometimes in low bamboo-jungle ... and then again along the course of a fast flowing mountain stream or in the occasionally burned-over slope of a pebbly hill. The tree is nowhere found in groves; always as scattered specimens."

Another searched central China and reported that when the trees were cut for firewood, they'd put out "new sprouts from the stumps and continue to live for many years."

By the 1960s, scientists were beginning to recognize these same attributes as dangers.

Now, state legislators are getting involved. In February 2023, the Virginia House of Delegates approved bills to help deter the spread of invasive plants in Virginia and encourage use of native plants. The bills were worded to allow plant breeders and the nursery industry time to recoup any economic loss and remain profitable by carefully phasing out commercial production of specific invasives, including calleryana, and replacing them with "suitable alternatives" — entirely different trees and shrubs, or a

sterile variety of *P. calleryana* said to be under development.

This year, it passed bills that would, among other things, require a seller of an invasive plant species to display a sign warning customers and encouraging them to ask about alternatives. According to a report in the *Virginian-Pilot*, based in Newport News, retailers would face a \$500 penalty and a stop-sale order if they fail to post the signs.

## What You Can Do

Report the invaders. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has joined an informal documentation of the extent of the invasion, asking the state's nature-lovers "who are out and about" to note observations of escaped pear trees.

"Please do not report Callery pears in yard, street, or parking lot plantings - places where they may have been planted purposefully," says VDCR's Cindy Haddon Andrews. "If you see Callery pear trees where they weren't planted, document them to iNaturalist," which has been set up by the National Heritage.

At home, Virginians can control proliferation of calleryana by keeping a stand to a single cultivar. These fruit trees cannot produce fruit on their own; there must be two or more cultivars within an estimated one-mile range. The cultivars will be genetically different enough to enable cross-pollination, produce fruit and ultimately seeds.

Alternatively, the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) says that callery pear fruit production can be reduced as much as 95% by spraying flowering trees with ethe-

phon, a plant growth regulator that does not affect the flowers' appearance but does make them incapable of developing fruit.

In addition, VDOF is launching the Callery Pear Exchange program to promote the removal of these invasive trees and provide a replacement native tree in a 2-gallon pot for every calleryana that has been removed, with a limit of three (3) trees per individual. The offer is limited to Virginia residents who remove callery pear trees from their own privately-owned land.

The landowner is responsible for all costs incurred in tree removal. For safety reasons, VDOF recommends hiring an ISA-certified arborist to remove the tree and treat the stump with herbicide to prevent regrowth.

Pre-registration is required because of the limited supply of replacement trees. After registration, landowners should:

- Properly remove the callery pear tree(s).
- Take a photo of the removed tree. Ensure the tree is identifiable as a callery pear (i.e., in flower or close-up shot of buds, leaves or fruit).
- Bring your photo of the removed callery pear tree (on your cell phone is fine) to pick up your replacement tree on pickup day. A variety of native tree species will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Pickup will occur on Saturday, April 20, from 9 to 11 a.m., at Virginia Department of Forestry Headquarters, 900 Natural Resources Drive, Charlottesville VA. Trees not claimed during the pickup window will not be available at another time.

If you fail to win a free tree from VDOF and decide to invest in an alternative on your own, consider this list of suggested North American natives from Missouri's callery buy-back program:

- *Viburnum prunifolium* (black haw viburnum)
- *Prunus americana*, Wild Plum
- *Ostrya virginiana* (ironwood or Eastern hop hornbeam)
- *Cercis canadensis* (Eastern redbud)
- *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood)
- *Nyssa sylvatica* (black gum)
- *Cladrastis kentukea* (Yellowwood)
- *Prunus virginiana* (chokeberry or chokecherry)

# Youngkin takes action on 60 additional bills

Gov. Glenn Youngkin recently took final action on 60 pieces of legislation, signing 36 bills into law, offering amendments to 2, and vetoing 22.

"I'm pleased to sign bipartisan bills into law, including legislation that will aid economic development in Southwest Virginia Coal Country, put reasonable restrictions on the use of canines in corrections facilities, make it easier for Virginians to prosecute violations of their protective orders, and improve the delivery of services to Virginians with developmental disabilities by allowing them more time to work with support coordinators to find the right provider," said Youngkin.

"I also took action against legislation which would have undermined public safety. We have a duty to protect the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia from harm. I vetoed 22 bills: which protect il-

legal immigrants, or impede law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges from holding criminals accountable and bringing them to justice," he added.

Youngkin amended two bills to ensure the final version signed into law is in its best form:

HB 452 & SB 362, Drug offenders; eligibility for first-time disposition.

The Governor's recommendation returns the legislation to the version which passed the House of Delegates unanimously.

The 22 bills vetoed include:

HB 972, Defendant; prohibiting inquiry into immigration status, notification of consequences.

SB 69, Law-enforcement officers; minimum qualifications for positions of chief of police, etc.

HB 455, Controlled substances; posses-

sion of an item containing residue of a substance, penalty.

HB 776, Law - enforcement officers; minimum qualifications, citizenship, waiver.

HB 45, Earned sentence credits; incarceration prior to entry of final order of conviction.

HB 77, Robbery; conforms certain provisions of the Code of VA to the degrees of robbery offenses, etc.

HB 161, Individuals experiencing or reporting overdoses while incarcerated; disciplinary procedures.

HB 250, Law-enforcement officers; interrogation practices.

HB 63, Criminal cases; request for a jury to ascertain punishment.

HB 457, Decreasing probation period; establishes criteria for mandatory reduction.

HB 267 & SB 357, Assault or assault and battery against a law-enforcement officer; prosecution of an individual.

SB 449, Juveniles; juvenile correctional centers, eligibility for parole.

HB 1515, Discovery; electronic means.

HB 1420 & SB 23, Juveniles; adjudication of delinquency.

SB 144, Nolle prosequi or dismissal without prejudice prior to preliminary hearing; subsequent indictment.

HB 1252 & SB 505, Limitation on sentence upon revocation of suspension of sentence; technical violations.

HB 614, Community service work in lieu of payment of fines and costs; work performed while incarcerated.

SB 80, Decreasing probation period; establishes criteria for mandatory reduction.

SB 334, Plea agreements and court orders; prohibited provisions.

# Reynolds Homestead launches the spring session of College for Older Adults



Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead in Critz, Virginia, has opened registration for its spring session of College for Older Adults. Classes begin April 15 and run through May 24.

The variety of opportunities this session includes hiking, cultural culinary cooking, Greek & Roman history, yoga, and a very informative Road to Civil Rights series. Many classes are expected to reach capacity, so enroll now and secure your seat for these offerings. The full schedule of classes and activities is posted on the Reynolds Homestead website: reynoldshomestead.vt.edu.

College for older adults is a semiannual program lasting six weeks in both the spring and fall. The sessions offer cultural, intellectual, so-

cial, and fitness opportunities for adults ages 50 and older. College for Older Adults is perfect for: lifelong learners, those curious about the world around them, people interested in trying new things or making new connections, and anyone who enjoys planned outings and activities.

The membership fee for COA is \$65 and includes tuition for all weekly classes along with specialty one-time offerings. Some classes such as art/crafts classes, make and takes, and field trips may have additional supply or transportation fees. A hiking only track is available for \$30 and includes six guided hikes.

Payments may be made online by credit or debit card, or via check made payable to the Treasurer of Virginia Tech. Online and print-

able registration options can be accessed from Reynolds Homestead's Facebook page and website. Paper catalogs are available at Reynolds Homestead, the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and Blue Ridge Regional Library.

The 2024 spring session is sponsored by the Landmark Center of Stuart, which serves the community by specializing in assisted living services, and the Estate and Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia, where families can find support and assistance in estate planning, long-term care, and rehabilitation. For more information contact Melanie Gilbert, assistant manager for community engagement programs at mtgilbert68@vt.edu or by calling (276) 694-7181 ex.22.

# Students from Stuart inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Lisa Allen and Brandy Bembry, both of Stuart and attending Radford University, recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

They are among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approv-

al by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a de-

sire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. The Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

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# Watch out for slow-moving farm equipment on roadways this spring

Virginia farmers plant their crops this spring, motorists should keep an eye out for slow-moving farm equipment on public roads—it could save a life.

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry workers experienced one of the highest fatality rates at 20 deaths per 100,000 full-time workers in 2021. Transportation incidents, which include tractor overturns and roadway crashes, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farmworkers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Many of these deaths occur during spring planting season.

“Drivers can expect to see an increase in the amount of farm equipment out on the roads right now, and most of that equipment moves very slowly,” warned Matt Nuckols, Virginia Farm Bureau safety coordinator.

A car traveling 55 mph takes 5 seconds to brake 300 feet—the length of a football field—

to avoid colliding with farm equipment traveling 15 mph.

To prevent catastrophe, drivers should look out for bright orange slow-moving vehicle emblems on the backs of farm tractors and self-propelled machinery. The signs warn that a vehicle is likely traveling 25 mph or slower.

Many farmers also use flashing amber lights, reflective decals, flags and escort vehicles to alert approaching drivers.

Nuckols said farmers are encouraged to use escort vehicles whenever they can—especially with equipment that’s wider than one travel lane.

Drivers should slow down when approaching farm equipment, and give themselves enough space to stop. Equipment operators cannot see drivers who are following too closely.

“There’s no benefit to being right on top of a tractor or piece of farm equipment,” he noted. “Just leave some extra space, and remember that they might be turning pretty soon.”

While it can be tempting to try to pass farm equipment, motorists should keep standard traffic laws in mind, and remember that it’s illegal to pass on a solid yellow line. Even if passing is allowed, Nuckols advised against it.

“Most of this equipment is not traveling very far, so if you do get behind one, just a little bit of patience can go a long way because they’re likely not going more than a mile or two.”

While many farmers move equipment between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. or at midday to avoid peak traffic times, motorists should always expect to see farm equipment where there are farms—especially with a rising demand for locally grown food.

“If you’re willing to wait in line at the grocery store or for a table at your favorite restaurant, please provide that same patience for the farmers growing and raising your food,” Nuckols said.

Visit [vafb.com/Safety](http://vafb.com/Safety) for more information on rural road safety.

## Storytime for Spring and Sprouts

Spring and Sprouts were celebrated at Storytime, hosted by the Patrick County branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library. Children’s librarian Sam Edmundson read the books, “And Then It’s Spring,” by Julie Fogliano and “Don’t Touch That Flower!” by Alice Hemming. Youngsters then learned about seed sprouting and made their very own sprout head in a recycled glass cup to grow micro greens at home.

Master Gardeners Jessica Hines and Norma Bozenmayer led the program and left some brochures on growing sprouts, micro greens and baby greens behind. You can find them in the box in the Books Blooms and Bugs Children’s Garden section.

While at the library, also visit the seed library to get some free seeds for your own sprouting. Please don’t forget to return the unused seeds for others to enjoy.

Quick fact: Did you know that 4 to 40 times more nutrients are found in eating sprouts than eating mature plants?



## A dedicated donation for Mabry Mill

By Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation

Did you know that Mabry Mill was almost lost forever in 1938? In the early years of Parkway construction, many buildings were either designated to be saved or razed along the route. Although the mill had seen better days when it passed to the National Park Service, it landed firmly on the save list. Still, a miscommunication sent a state highway crew to the site to demolish the structure built around 1910. By sheer luck,

Park Ranger Edwin Mac Dale spotted the team entering the mill and stopped the destruction before it could start according to Ed and Lizzie: The Mabrys and Their Mill by Michael Ryan.

Thankfully, the mill was not lost that day, and underwent renovations over the next several years. It would not be the first time the Mabry Mill has required special care, and it is in need of your help right now. You can ensure the mill continues to share the history of the area by making a dona-



Mabry Mill during the first preservation efforts by the National Park Service in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Photograph courtesy of Blue Ridge Parkway/National Park Service.

tion to replace the roof with new shake shingles. The project will be the first phase of improvements to the historic structures on-site. Please give today to give future visitors

the chance to step back in time at this picturesque place, just as we have for decades. To donate or for more information, visit <https://www.brpfoundation.org/donate>.

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# Women take center stage in BRMC's summer Saturday evening concert lineup



Alison Brown



Maddie Denton (Shelly Swanter Photography)



Molly Tuttle



Shaye Cohn

The Blue Ridge Music Center's Deep Roots, Many Voices: Summer Outdoor Concert Series is highlighting women who are leading the way in refining, adapting, and redefining American roots and traditional mountain music.

Inspired by its 2021 virtual video series "A Place in the Band," which features interviews with women in bluegrass music, the Music Center continues to showcase women in all genres of roots music and to shine light on the important contributions female artists make to the field.

Innovative musicians like fiddle player Maddie Denton of East Nash Grass, founding member of The SteelDrivers Tammy Rogers, cornetist Shaye Cohn and vocalist Erika Lewis of New Orleans jazz band Tuba Skinny, blues and soul singer Martha Redbone, and 2024 Grammy winners and First Ladies of Bluegrass Alison Brown and Molly Tuttle are just a few of the women showcased in this year's concert series.



Martha Redbone

The lineup of more than 20 bands also features Amanda Cook and Carolyn Van Lierop of The Amanda Cook Band, Telisha Williams of Wild Ponies, Sarah McCombie of Chatham Rabbits, Danielle Yother, Madeline Dierauf, and Molly Johnson of The Wilder Flower, Ashlee Watkins and Rina Rossi of The Alum Ridge Boys & Ashlee, Bonnie Bond and Caroline Beverley of New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters, Suz Slezak of David Wax Museum, Ella Jordan of Liam Purcell & Cane Mill Road, Natalya Zoe Weinstein of Zoe & Cloyd, Libby Rodenbough of Mipso, and Shelby Means and Bronwyn Keith-Hynes of Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway.

**2024 summer concert series lineup:**



Erika Lewis



Tammy Rogers of SteelDrivers

May 25 East Nash Grass + The Amanda Cook Band  
 June 1 Caleb Caudle performing with Wild Ponies  
 June 8 Chatham Rabbits  
 June 15 The SteelDrivers + The Wilder Flower  
 June 22 An Evening with Tuba Skinny  
 June 29 Appalachian Road Show + None of the Above  
 July 6 The Alum Ridge Boys & Ashlee performing with New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters  
 July 13 David Wax Museum + The Travis Williams Group  
 July 20 Fireside Collective performing with Liam Purcell & Cane Mill Road  
 July 27 Martha Redbone + Zoe & Cloyd

Aug. 3 Mipso  
 Aug. 17 An Evening with Steep Canyon Rangers  
 Aug. 24 Alison Brown Quintet performing with Wayne Henderson & Friends  
 Aug. 31 Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway  
 Concerts take place Saturday nights in the Music Center's outdoor amphitheater. Gates open at 5:45 p.m. and concerts begin at 7 p.m.  
 Season passes (full season, half season, or pick three) and individual concert tickets are available now at [BlueRidge-MusicCenter.org](http://BlueRidge-MusicCenter.org).

## REAL ESTATE AUCTION

**Valuable Real Estate For Sale  
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 Closing April 11, 2024 @ 1:00 PM**

This is an ONLINE ONLY AUCTION held in partnership with Mountain Valley Auction Group and is being hosted on their website.

Property Tour Date: Monday, April 8 from 1-4 PM.  
 Other times by appointment.



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**Tract #2** - is 24.837 +/- Acres along Old Hall Ridge about 3500 ft SW of intersection with Foley Ridge Rd.

**Tract #3** - 12.910 +/- Acres along Mullies Mountain Ln about 3000 ft from Foley Ridge Rd & Wagoner Rd intersection.

**Tract #4** - 34.994 +/- Acres along Mullies Mountain Ln about 4500 ft from Foley Ridge Rd & Wagoner Rd intersection.

**Tract #5** - 45.111 +/- Acres at the end of Mullies Mountain Ln about 5200 ft from Foley Ridge Rd & Wagoner Rd intersection.

**Tract #6** - 6.991 +/- Acres along Mullies Mountain Lane beginning about 3800 ft from Foley Ridge Rd & Wagoner Rd intersection.

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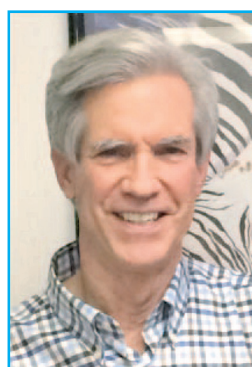
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