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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE SINCE 1876 | Dedicated to serving the communities of Patrick County

Apex Mills, Patrick County ink performance agreement



Apex Mills manufactures technical fabrics such as warp and circular knits, mesh/netting, elastomeric, and 3D spacer fabrics. Pictured above are warp knitting machines manufacturing 3D Spacer fabrics.



Apex Mills 3D technical spacer fabrics are used in Steelcase chairs for cushioning and durability.



3D spacer fabric manufacturing equipment.

By Taylor Boyd

Apex Mills – Insight Textiles will make a capital investment of \$3.1 million and create 140 cumulative new jobs according to a recent performance agreement between the county and the company.

According to the performance agreement, Apex Mills will receive \$300,000, which was awarded by the Commonwealth’s Development Opportunity Fund through the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority (VEDP), to induce it “to acquire an existing facility and to equip, improve, and operate a knit fabrics and dye manufacturing facility in the locality.”

The company must create and maintain at least 140 cumulative new full-time jobs, with an average annual wage of at least \$39,253, according to the agreement. Seasonal, temporary, or part-time positions, or positions that are created when a job function is shifted from an existing location in Virginia, and positions with construction contractors or vendors, do not qualify as new jobs.

“Each new job must require a minimum of either 35 hours of an employee’s time per week for the entire normal year of the company’s operations, which ‘normal year’ must consist of at least 48 weeks or 1,680 hours per year,” the agreement states.

An estimated \$3.1 million capital expenditure made by or on behalf of Apex Mills will be used for the acquisition, equipping, improvement, and operation of the facility.

The performance agreement states approximately \$2,060,000 of that amount will be invested in machinery and tools, approximately \$236,000 will be invested in furniture, fixtures, and business personal property, and around \$300,000 will be used in the acquisition of an existing facility.

“Approximately \$501,000 will be invested in the construction, expansion, and up-fit of the buildings for the facility,” the agreement states.

County Administrator Beth Simms said the company has until June 30, 2026, to meet all the

requirements of the performance agreement.

If the county, in consultation with VEDP, deems that good faith and reasonable efforts have been made and are being made by Apex Mills to achieve the targets, the locality may request an extension of the performance date by up to 15 months. Any extension requires the prior approval of Apex Mills and the VEDP Board of Directors.

It’s not unusual for localities to have performance agreements with companies, Simms said and explained that performance agreements

(See Apex Mills p.3)

Council to consider revised noise ordinance

By Taylor Boyd

For the first time in the town’s history, town council members will consider a proposed noise ordinance, and its revisions, on Wednesday, April 17. A public hearing will be held on the matter when the meeting gets underway at 7 p.m. in the town offices.

The council tabled the proposed noise ordinance at the March 20 meeting until it could be revised.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said the genesis of the noise ordinance began late last year.

“We began receiving complaints about a gentleman in town that was playing a radio that could be heard from the right-of-way, and it was sort of obvious that it was be-

ing done to annoy his neighbors,” he said.

Neither the town nor the county has a noise ordinance, according to Simmons, who said the town was advised that without an ordinance, there were no legal ramifications to pursue.

“Because of that, we went through the process of developing a noise ordinance that would give the town the authority to address these warranted complaints from citizens,” Simmons said.

While the issue with the particular town resident and his radio motivated the idea for the ordinance, Simmons said there have been instances with vehicles that are play-

(See Council p.3)

Hundreds gather in Williamsburg to plan America’s 250th birthday celebrations

Local committee expects to add several events



‘Thomas Jefferson’ discussed the need to support those who were punished for the Boston Tea Party.

By Pat Delaney

With America’s 250th birthday coming up in 2026, 450 local and state commemoration planners from 37 states and 33 cities and counties from all over Virginia, including Patrick County, gathered in Williamsburg for ‘A Common Cause to All.’ The three-day program allowed planners to network, share ideas, and discuss how best to commemorate America’s Semiquincentennial.

A theme running throughout the conference was how the 250th

commemoration can bring together and unite Americans, much as the Bicentennial did in 1976. The commemoration can also increase interest in American history for all ages, but particularly for children.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin highlighted the conference’s opening night. He spoke about how important knowing our history is, and how the 250th commemorations can help inspire Americans and Virginians alike to learn more about their home state and country. Youngkin

(See Williamsburg p. 7)



Litter initiative returns - with cash

“Love our county, don’t trash it,” is the theme of the ‘Pick Up Patrick’ campaign that kicks off in April. The county-wide initiative encourages individuals, schools, clubs, and organizations to help clean up their community by cleaning up the roadsides and waterways.

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, EMI Security, the Patrick County Greenteam, and Patrick County Tourism are partnering on the project.

EMI Security provided a generous donation that the chamber will use to encourage participation through monetary awards.

All clubs, teams, and organizations that register on the chamber’s website to clean up an area will be entered into a contest to win \$500. One award per group, and there are ten awards to be offered.

Research shows that 90 percent of Americans think that litter is a problem, according to the 2020 Keep America Beautiful National Litter Survey.

Another part of the study shows that littering is often accompanied by a pack mentality, meaning that people who have friends who litter are more likely to litter themselves.

“The visual blight that it has on the landscape takes away the beauty and thus drives our tourists away. Littering is bad, period,” said James Houchins, director of Tourism and Marketing.

Other notes of importance from the survey reflect there are over 50 billion pieces of litter on the ground in America. That equates to 2,857 pieces per mile of roadway and 2,411 pieces per mile of waterway.

For more information or to register for any of the Pick Up Patrick sponsored events, visit the chamber website at www.patrickchamber.com or call the office at (276) 694-6012.

The new and improved Pick Up Patrick campaign for April would not be possible without the chamber’s partners, which also include the Rotary Club of Stuart.

Beer & Wine Festival set for Saturday

By Taylor Boyd

The Town of Stuart will hold the 9th annual Beer & Wine Festival on Saturday, April 6, at the Star Theatre in Downtown Stuart from 12-4 p.m.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said four wineries will participate, including Stanburn Winery, Childress Vineyard, Wood’s Acre Fruit Wines, and Villa Appalachia.

Fairy Hair by Amanda, Buckin’ Good Eats & Lemonade, LLC, Henry’s Fresh Roast, and the Patrick County Alzheimer’s Group, LLC will be onsite vendors.

Live music will also be played during the event. Merry-Go-Rounders will perform from 12-1:45 p.m. and then Marcie Horne will take the stage from

2-4 p.m.

During last year’s festival, Simmons said the town decided to hold the event at the Star due to a weather-related advisory.

“It just seems that every year right around Beer & Wine Festival, there’s either it’s cold, or it calls for potentially bad weather. So, we made the executive decision this year to just go ahead and hold it at the Star, so we don’t have to worry about the weather,” he said.

Tickets for the wine tasting will be available at the door for \$10.

“It’s free admission, but it’s a \$10 wine tasting, which includes a wine glass,” he said, adding the ticket allows a sample of wine from every winery present.

Chamber Chat

By Rebecca Adcock

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.~ Robert Louis Stevenson

March is the time that we sow the seeds for our garden. And at the chamber, those seeds are meetings -- rows and rows of meetings.

We co-hosted the Economic Summit with Reynolds Homestead on the last day of February and have had a wrap up meeting to finalize the report to share with you. While many of the challenges are larger businesses mentioned are not eye opening, such as childcare, employee health and wellness, finding new hires and soft and hard skill training, it is always good to have it in print so we can share with our local, state, and federal representatives. A portion of that summit, we also allowed our businesses to share successes they have had. A strong sense of community and support for each other was a highlight of such successes. We are a county that is lucky to have such long standing businesses, many of which are multi-generational in length. Griffith Lumber is celebrating 90 years in business, Poor Farmers Market celebrated 40 years of continual daily operations, and Howell Grocery is gearing up on May 4 to celebrate 100 years in business. To address the challenges, it will take a concerted effort on behalf of our county, town and regional leaders to work toward solutions.

The chamber is excited to be part of the Patrick County delegates that will participate in the Appalachian Regional Commission Gateway Community Initiative. We have been meeting during March to prepare for our April training.

We met with the head of the Mar-

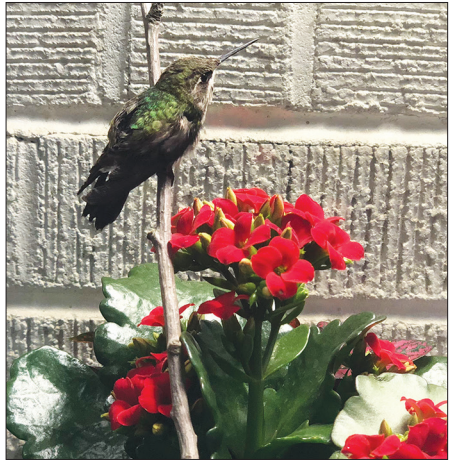
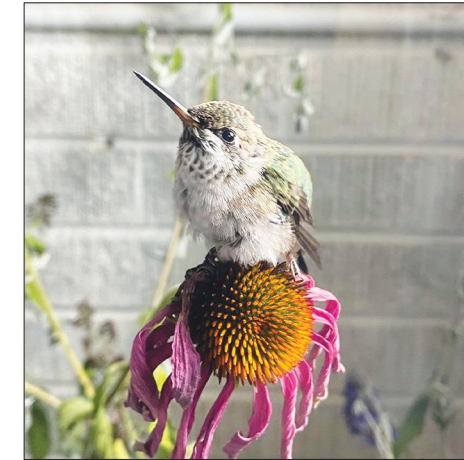


tinsville-Henry County Chamber to address the needs we both face and how we partner together. The chamber also attended the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation's reception in Roanoke, alongside Patrick County Tourism. Showing up for these regional get togethers allows us to network with partners and keep Patrick County in the spotlight. We are finalizing our "how to start a business checklist" and will be sharing that with everyone soon. We will also be offering a seminar in April to discuss the resources available. We hosted the Business After Hours at The Historic Star Theatre on March 7th which was well attended and a Ribbon Cutting for CPB Behavioral Therapy and Advocacy LLC for their expanded offices on Main Street in Stuart.

For April, we will be hosting the aforementioned seminar on "starting a business in Patrick County." The Pick-Up Patrick litter campaign all month and attending the ARC training.

(Adcock is the executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.)

Wildlife center says hummingbirds are on the way



Hummingbird migration is underway, and they'll be coming to feeders in our area soon, according to the Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke.

These amazing birds will expend an extraordinary amount of time and energy to get here. Some will fly all the way across the Gulf of Mexico in one flight. Of the 350 different species of hummingbirds, the United States is only home to

15 breeding species. The most common in our area is the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. If you're really lucky, you might get a glimpse of a seldom seen Rufous or an Allen's Hummingbird. Although not common in this area, they are sometimes blown off their migratory routes giving local birders a rare treat.

Below are some important guidelines for hummingbird feeder

maintenance:

-Clean feeders every 3-5 days with a mixture of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water; be sure to clean the inside thoroughly too.

-The proper water to sugar ratio is 1/4 cup of sugar to 1 cup of water. Bring the solution to a boil and then let it cool before setting out. Leftover sugar water can be refrigerated for up to a week.

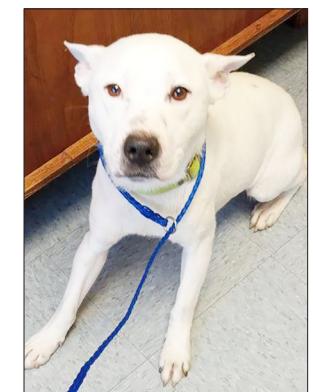
-Dirty feeders can develop a fungus that causes a hummingbird's tongue to swell which prevents them from being able to withdraw their tongue. This condition called, Hummers Candidiasis, means they can't eat, and they will slowly starve to death.

-DO NOT use dyes, honey, molasses, or raw sugar. If the syrup looks cloudy after being stored for a long time, do not use it.

-Avoid placing the feeder in direct sunlight as this will make the water go bad even faster.

The center is a non-profit which relies on donations to continue our mission. In 2023, it admitted 2,752 wildlife patients and has seen more than 260 species in our 20 year history. To donate, visit <https://swvawildlifecenter.org/make-a-donation/>.

Pets of the Week



This husky mix was found on Squirrel Spur Road in Meadows of Dan. He would love to go home. If you recognize him, please contact the shelter.

This sweet hound mix is looking a little sad while he waits for his new family. He is already neutered and ready for a 'forever' home. He just needs a few good meals.

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.

Celebrity Scams in the Age of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the new shiny object that has captured the world's attention. It's also captured the attention of criminal scammers who are using it to make their fraudulent schemes more realistic than ever. One area where AI scams are particularly dangerous is celebrity impostor scams.

For many years criminals have been impersonating celebrities online to steal from fans. Fake celebrity profiles offer fans personal connection, VIP access, investment opportunities or the chance to support favorite charities. These criminals attempt to create a bond through messaging or even a phone call from their "rep." With the power of AI, these scams can

move from messaging to deepfake videos. Recent fake celebrity product endorsements impersonating Dolly Parton, Elon Musk and Tom Hanks demonstrate just how convincing these schemes can be.

Posting on a celebrity's social media account might be exciting, but it could put you at risk of this impostor scam. In whatever way you choose to enjoy your favorite celebs, do so recognizing that an opportunity to personally connect with them is likely a scam.

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.

County among handful of localities to participate in initiative



Patrick County was one of seven community teams selected to participate in this year's Appalachian Gateway Communities Initiative (AGCI).

Those attending the training include Rebecca Adcock, director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce; Sissily Harrell, architect; James Houchins, Tourism director; Wayne Kirkpatrick, member of the Dan River Basin Association; Lora Mahaffey, president of Bull Mountain Arts; Travis Murphy, director of the county's Parks & Recreation department; Bryce Simmons, Stuart Town Manager; Sarah Wray, Reynolds Homestead's Community Engagement, Partnership

& Program coordinator.

The group will head to Decatur, Ala., along with counterparts from Buckeye Hills and Waverly-Pike-ton, Ohio; I-22 Region and Little River, Alabama; Deep Gap, North Carolina and Murray County, Georgia, to create plans around local assets to attract more visitors, bolster downtowns, expand events, enhance visitor services, and more.

Launched by the Conservation Fund in 2007, with support from ARC and the National Endowment for the Arts, the initiative is designed to help communities bordering national and state parks, forests, and other public lands develop thoughtful tourism strategies.

Appalachian Power seeks rate increase in rate review application

If approved, the estimated \$10 per month rate increase would take effect in January

Appalachian Power's biennial rate review application filed last week with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) includes the base rates necessary for the utility to continue to provide safe and reliable electricity for its customers.

The company must file every two years for a base rate review under state law enacted last year. This is the utility's first application under the new state law, which required the company to make its initial filing in 2024.

Reviews are an opportunity for the SCC to examine the company's financial and operational performance, and any request to modify base rates for service.

The SCC conducted its last review of Appalachian Power's rates and earnings in 2023. In the application filed last week, the company requests to increase revenues by approximately \$95 million, or 5.1 percent.

"We recognize these are challenging financial times and no one wants to experience rising electric bills," said Aaron Walker, president and chief operating officer of Appalachian Power. "Our customers need safe and reliable service, and we work hard to meet those expectations while keeping costs as low as possible."

Appalachian Power's rates are regulated by the Virginia SCC. In its application, the company outlined the factors that contributed to its request to modify rates. These include cost recovery for restoring service during major storms, increases in capital, material and labor costs, and rising interest rates. The application also fully incorporates the costs associated with the company's SCC-approved vegetation manage-

ment program to improve service reliability for customers in areas prone to tree-related outages.

"As demand for electricity increases, we owe it to our customers to make our energy supply more reliable," said Walker. "We know trees are the number one cause of outages. With our newly approved program, we'll be able to enhance our efforts to prevent and reduce the duration of outages in areas that have experienced the most service interruptions."

Appalachian Power has approximately 540,000 customers in southwest, central and southside Virginia. The proposed increase will vary depending on customer class and usage. If approved as requested, residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) a month will see a net increase in their monthly bill of approximately \$10.

Any increase approved by the SCC will not take effect until January 2025.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP's approximately 17,000 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 225,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.6 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation's largest electricity producers with nearly 29,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including approximately 6,100 megawatts of renewable energy.

Apex Mills

(cont. from page 1)



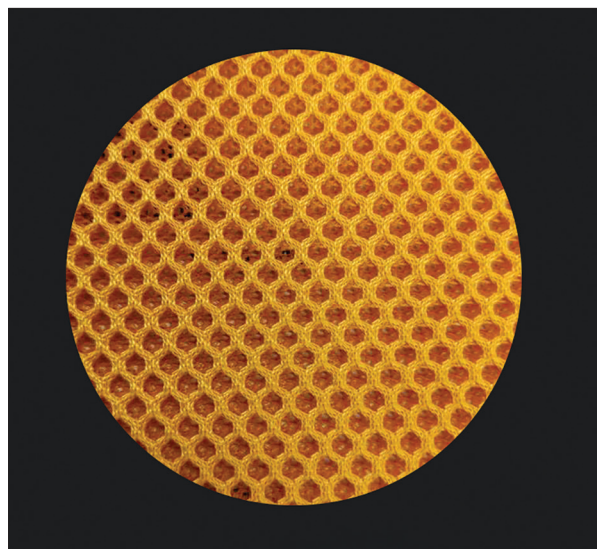
The clean room.



Knee brace.



Footwear.



A 3D Spacer Fabric (close-up image).



Apex Mills is a trusted partner for businesses and organizations in the military, public service, healthcare, and aerospace offering innovative solutions that meet the unique demands of these critical sectors.

with financial incentives may be offered when localities or the state are trying to recruit, keep, or expand a business.

“The state has kind of offered incentives based on job numbers, and then our locality’s incentives are based on machinery and tools tax rebate,” she said.

The county also has performance agreements with Ten Oaks, LLC/Prolam, LLC, and others.

She added the funds are post-performance incentives, which means companies are required “to meet the criteria” before receipt of any state or local money.

Apex Mills/Insight Textiles

In January 2023 Apex Mills Corporation acquired the former HanesBrands fabric manufacturing facility in Woolwine to house Insight Textiles, LLC, which is part of the Apex Mills companies. Apex Mills is a family-owned, leading United States manufacturer of specialty industrial fabrics.

Jonathan Kurz, president and CEO, said the Apex Mills family of companies has been manufacturing American-made textiles for 80 years.

“We are confident that our investments and the skilled professionals we employ will drive our company’s success to new heights. A large part of our decision to locate our innovative fabric facility in Woolwine, Virginia was driven by the work ethic and skill of the workforce in the surrounding communities which we so greatly value. We are committed to our customers, our community, and the support of the domestic textile industry,” he said.

Combined with the nearby warping and knitting facility in Graham, N.C., and the corporate and sales headquarters in Inwood, NY, Kurz said Insight Textiles enables the company to deliver application-driven solutions to its customers and a broader range of new markets with greater speed and manufacturing flexibility.

The acquisition also helped extend the scope of the company’s product lines to include elastomeric fabrics in the orthopedic, medical, hospitality, and home furnishings industries as the facility houses warp-knit tricot, raschel, and Rascheltronic equipment, an automated dye lab, and offers a wide range of fabric finishing and treatments.

“By investing in our people and facilities, we can continually hone our expertise and cultivate relationships with customers, suppliers, and vendors to consistently deliver advanced textiles that meet the evolving needs of the market,” Kurz said.

Senior Marketing Manager Joan Izzo said Apex Mills manufactures American-made high-performance specialty industrial fabrics that solve busi-

ness-critical problems from an engineering, innovative, and performance perspective.

“Our fabrics are sought by Fortune 100 companies across industries serving aerospace and defense, NASA, active sport, apparel, automotive, construction, contract furniture, environmental, filtration, government, healthcare, intimate apparel, medical/rehabilitation, military, orthopedic, safety & protection, transportation, and wastewater,” she said.

Izzo said the company uses an Application Driven Design methodology, which means the specific demands of its application drive each project.

“Through in-person collaboration, on-site development, and quick response, Apex Mills employees work with product engineers and designers to develop technical textiles and revolutionary designs that meet customers’ product goals,” she said, adding the company can accelerate the development process, reduce costs, and adjust fabric structures in real-time by utilizing advanced prototyping capabilities.

For example, Izzo said the facility’s 3D spacer fabrics feature two fabric surfaces with an entanglement of yarns in between that provides varying levels of cushioning for body-support furniture like office chairs and cushion pads.

“Our Berry-compliant fabric solutions manage moisture and odors to make high-performance end-use garments comfortable and lightweight” for military physical training uniforms, Izzo said.

Izzo said fabrics are also used to make backpack linings, and interior and exterior components for use in tactical gear, headgear linings, sports gear, outer garments, hospital cubical curtains, simulated golf screens, apparel, and hospitality applications.

Specialty products include soft and durable three-dimensional (3D) spacer fabrics, solid knit fabrics, mesh netting fabrics, high stretch, and recovery elastomeric fabrics, in addition to fabric dyeing, finishing, and surface treatments that are sustainable, fire retardant, moisture wicking, antimicrobial, and abrasion resistant.

Izzo said once yarn is secured from a vendor/supplier to fit the customer’s needs, individual bobbins of yarn are put on a creel which is then pulled through a machine and put onto a beam cylinder in a process called warping.

“All our yarn that is knit at Apex Aridyne or Insight Textiles has to be beamed because our company only uses warp knitting machines. Greige or ‘unfinished’ fabric is produced from knitting,” she said. “Sometimes we purchase greige fabric if it is circular knit or lace because we don’t knit these fabrics internally. In addition, some customers may supply us with greige fabric to be dyed if it is something that they knit or weave.”

Izzo said Insight then dyes the fabric within its automated color lab before it is finished through a tenter frame. Employees then inspect the fabric and test it before shipping it to the customer.

Insight uses four different machines with a variety of knitting capabilities to make its variety of products. Its tricot machines produce solid and micro-opening mesh knit fabrics in both elastomeric and rigid qualities used as substrates in form, tape, adhesives, and apparel markets.

The raschel machines produce large holes and fine mesh constructions (elastomeric and rigid qualities). Compression/medical, netting engineered to specification for military, outdoors, food, filtration, geo, and aqua applications,” she said.

Double-needle bar machines are used to create 3D spacer fabrics, with two surfaces and a cushioned inner layer, used in footwear, bedding, furniture, safety, and consumer products.

Izzo said the jacquard raschel produces solid and localized patterned performance knits used in medical, body-mapped, premium athletics, intimate apparel, and conductive textiles.

Insight currently employs 108 people in full-time positions at its Woolwine facility and is actively seeking individuals to join its inspections and quality control, finishing, and shipping departments.

“We look forward to welcoming new talent,” Jimmy Dollarhite, plant manager, said.

Those interested in applying should visit www.apexmills.com/careers. For hiring information, individuals should contact Gina Gunter at ggunter@insighttextiles.com or (276) 930 2323 or stop by the facility.

Council

(cont. from page 1)

ing stereo too loud while riding up and down roadways.

“In general, it has been based on complaints from the citizen,” he said. “We probably get, I would say two complaints, maybe three complaints, in a month regarding sound generating from a private residence,” he said, adding these complaints include people yelling, playing a radio, vehicles, and other issues.

Simmons said Town Attorney Chris Corbett did most of the research on the proposed noise ordinance to craft a model for the town that would suit its needs.

The ordinance includes six sections and begins with a declaration of policy, which “is the town saying what we believe that this noise ordinance is meant to accomplish,” Simmons said.

Section 2 includes the definitions of various terms, such as excessive noise, plainly audible, public right-of-way, sound, and sound amplifying equipment, and other words and phrases.

“Section 3 goes through the punishment,” Simmons said, adding violators could be found guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor, and sentenced to a fine of not more than \$500.

The fourth section of the “has a lot of the definitions regarding radios, televisions, stereos, loudspeakers, and anything that would generate noise that would disrupt or disturb the peace. So, that’s really where the description of the types of noise that that town would like to restrict,” Simmons said.

Noise is primarily restricted from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.,

“when people should be at night sleeping, and you don’t want it to be loud at that time anyway,” Simmons said. “That’s part of the reason that people like moving to the Town of Stuart. It’s peaceful at night you don’t have to worry about trains, automobiles, motorcycles, and any of that nature in the middle of the night.”

The proposed ordinance includes some exceptions, as outlined in the fifth section, Simmons said, and explained “You have to have exceptions to every ordinance because you don’t want to start policing things like emergency vehicles that are running through town.”

Other exceptions are the annual Strawberry and Apple Dumpling Festivals, “because we have live music that happens, which could then potentially be in conflict with the noise ordinance. Section 5 has all of those exceptions and the exemptions from the noise ordinances,” he said.

Specifically, Simmons said the town wanted to make sure its musical events, like the First Friday at the Stuart Farmers’ Market, were exempted from the ordinance.

“We didn’t want to be hamstrung by a noise ordinance for having and wanting to produce live music for the sake of tourism in town,” he said.

Also among the listed exceptions are sound which is necessary for the protection or preservation of property or the health, safety, life, or limb; public speaking and public assembly activities, peaceably

assembled on any public right-of-way or public property; religious services, religious events, or religious activities or expressions - including, but not limited to music, singing, bells, chimes, and organs which are a part of such service, event, activity, or expression; the striking of clocks, and lawful discharge of firearms.

Simmons said the final part of the ordinance, Section 6, is dedicated to other enforcement of the noise ordinance.

“Basically, that gives the sheriff’s office the authority to enforce the noise ordinance on behalf of the town,” Simmons said, adding that in a perfect world, he would like to believe the town does not need a noise ordinance.

“I think that anytime you can get by without having to increase the authority of the town is preferable, but it’s one of those situations that if there is no civil recourse between neighbors, then that is certainly a job that the town needs to perform,” Simmons said.

So far, Simmons said there has been little feedback about the proposed ordinance.

“There have been maybe a handful for, and maybe a handful against, combined. So, there’s been very little reaction, except for the individuals that have spoke out at the town council meetings,” he said.

Copies of the proposed noise ordinance are available for viewing at the Town Office or the town’s website at www.townofstuartva.com under the ‘News’ tab.

A New Evil Empire

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States has enjoyed status as the sole world superpower.

The defeat of the Evil Empire, coined by President Ronald Reagan, meant freedom could sound across the globe.

In 2024, those gains of freedom are under siege.

Challenging those freedoms as well as the leadership of the United States are a set of bad actors across the globe. While their motives vary, those actors share the common goal of thwarting freedom and the best interests of the United States.

Among them is the Communist People's Republic of China (China).

China persists in its desire to supplant the United States as the world's main superpower. President Xi Jinping has gone great lengths to consolidate his power. Xi secured an unprecedented third term as China's leader, making him China's longest serving head of state since 1949, longer than Mao Tse-tung, the first Communist leader of China.

President Xi wields the world's second-strongest economy, with attempts to use his Belt and Road initiative to expand Chinese influence throughout the globe.

China's territorial claims in the South China Sea, as well as its escalating efforts to control Taiwan, positions itself as a dangerous, power-hungry actor.

China has projected its military capabilities by participating in joint drills with numerous countries, most recently a five-day exercise with the navies of Russia and Iran.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has shocked the West. As I have discussed in an earlier column, we have witnessed Finland and Sweden join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) within the last year to signal Western unity in the face of Russian aggression.

Many Western leaders do not see Putin's encroachment stopping with Ukraine.

In that previous column, I mentioned the potential threat to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Also threatened could be the Republic of Moldova.

Moldova is situated east of Romania and to the southwest of Ukraine.

The Dniester River, which runs through Ukraine and Moldova, splits Moldova. The region east of the Dniester is known as Transnistria.

In Transnistria, the people have much closer ties to Russia than Europe. Many Russians settled there during the Soviet Union era. Russian is the predominant language. Their flag maintains the old Soviet hammer and sickle. Russia reportedly maintains a military garrison, albeit small, of roughly 1,500 troops in Transnistria. All of these ties contribute to Transnistria's classification as a breakaway republic.

Also within Moldova, but separate



Morgan Griffith

Representative

from Transnistria, lies an autonomous region known as Gagauzia. Home to a populace of mainly ethnic Turks, Gagauzia holds Russia-friendly, anti-European sentiments. Their governor met this month with Putin despite Moldovan objections. Putin has promised to extend his support to Gagauzia and its people.

Moldova's concerns are legitimate.

Russia's activity in other parts of the world is also concerning, particularly their close relationship and their arms deals with Iran.

Iran is a major instigator in the Middle East, contributing further to the destabilization of the region.

On October 7 of last year, Iran-backed Hamas executed a terrorist attack of grotesque proportions, igniting a deadly war with Israel. Iran continues its threats of escalation with Israel as Israel fights in self-defense.

Further, the Red Sea, an important trade route for the global economy, is under siege from Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, who are supported with weapons and ammunition by Iran. The Houthis have upended the world supply chain with their attacks on cargo ships, supposedly targeting any vessel that is linked to Israel.

It should come as no surprise that in March, the Houthis came to an agreement with China and Russia, assuring the two powers that their ships will have safe passage through the Red Sea.

But that is not true for Western shipping, particularly US and British ships. The Houthis have fired on US and allied shipping on a fairly regular basis.

Also earlier this year, three U.S. service members in Jordan were killed by a drone strike led by Iranian-backed militants. This outpost is just one of many that have taken fire from Iranian drones and missiles.

Also Syria and Hezbollah in Lebanon are backed by the Iranians.

We are living through a remarkable flashpoint in world affairs. Our foreign adversaries grow more emboldened every day, jeopardizing the long-term best interests of freedom and the United States.

We should show resolve by defending our own borders, and not coddling our adversaries with favorable trade deals and sanction relief.

If not, freedom may no longer ring from sea to shining sea or around the globe.

Call my offices with questions, concerns, or comments: Abingdon, (276) 525-1405; Christiansburg, (540) 381-5671, or via email at <https://morgan-griffith.house.gov/>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Require Tugboats For Transiting Ships

The recent crash of the ship Dali into the Francis Scott Key bridge in Baltimore harbor, and the attendant loss of life, the destruction of the bridge, and the economic impact reminded me of mariner concerns for the lurking dangers to ships entering and leaving ports.

I served on 13 Navy ships that made many ports of call in the U.S. and foreign countries. As a conning officer and navigator, I remember being on total alert as we transited harbors through designated channels. We typically maintained enough speed at about five knots to provide headway for steering, and

we always had two to four tugboats assisting our transits.

The Dali was transiting at around eight or nine knots, which is too fast, and it did not utilize any tugboats. Its speed was excessive, but the absence of tugboats was the critical mistake. The tugs could have prevented the collision.

All port authorities should review their ship transit policies and procedures and require all major sea going vessels to utilize tugboats when entering and leaving ports.

Donald Moskowitz,
Londonderry NH

EV and Ignorance

(Daily Signal, Fox, The Federalist, CNBC, Newsmax, Bloomberg, BBC, New York Post)

The EPA recently released its final emissions standards rule, requiring that 70% of new vehicle sales be pure battery-powered electric or hybrids and requiring a 56% reduction in tailpipe emissions for light- and medium-duty vehicles by 2032.

This new rule comes at a time when almost all auto manufacturers are dialing back on EV investments because EVs are left unsold on dealers' lots. Ford is considering moving some of their plants to Mexico because of Bidens overregulation.

Transitioning to clean energy is a ruse; the manufacturing of EVs produces 60 percent more carbon emissions than that of gas-powered cars. Blame the raw materials needed for the lithium battery, the EV's most energy-intensive aspect produced in China using energy from coal-fired plants. Mining battery ingredients causes environmental damage. About 100,000 pounds of ore are needed to get the lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, and copper to make the batteries function. To get the 100,000 pounds of ore, it's necessary to move 500,000 pounds of earth. Electricity for the mining comes from coal and natural gas not renewables.

And then there is the price tag. The average price of the top 10 electric vehicles in the US as of January 2024 is \$64,936. For electric sedans, hatchbacks and sport models is an average of \$72,000, and electric trucks average \$75,882.

There are other costs to consider. EVs cost more to insure due to more expensive parts, pricey batteries that may need to be replaced, and the specialization required to

service them. A Consumer Reports survey found that new EVs have 79 percent more problems than internal-combustion cars. Charging batteries will require installation of home charging stations. The EV will also go through more tires since they wear out faster. EVs take a long time to recharge and lose battery range in cold and hot weather.

EVs are much heavier than gas-powered cars because of the batteries. Being hit by a car that weighs 1,000 pounds to 3,000 pounds more than your own increases your odds of being killed by 47 percent!

When the battery is worn out, it must be disposed of. Some items can be recycled. The remainder is disposed of in landfills, using a very expensive method to ensure that the lithium-ion batteries do not catch fire or leak into the ground water.

Where does the electricity come from to charge these cars? Fossil fuels. According to the US Energy Administration, renewables generate 14% (wind/solar) nuclear generates 18%, coal generates 20%, natural gas generates 40%, and 8% (hydro/biomass/geothermal) currently accounts for our electric needs in the country. Our production of electricity would need to substantially increase and requires a stellar power grid the very thing the United States lacks.

The 63% of Americans living paycheck to paycheck are more worried about getting the kids to the doctor, putting food on the table, and paying the electric bill. They are not concerned about retrofitting their homes and automobiles for climate change.

Pray for our country.
William Salser,
Stuart

Differing memories

I've been thinking about the letter in the March 27 edition. It was titled "Changes in the 1960s."

I graduated from high school in 1961, so I lived through those years as I went on to college. I certainly have no memory of the things cited in that letter.

Maybe such letters should have

a different closing. Instead of "Pray for our country," I would suggest that it be "Pray for those of the MAGA cult who are unable to distinguish facts from the fictions propounded by Donald Trump and his cult."

William S. "Sandy" Rodgers,
Brentwood, Tenn.

Gardening For Boosting Your Brainpower

People who love to garden will tell you that it becomes not only a passion, but a great way to improve both your mental and physical health. Gardening is a wonderful form of exercise, and it can help to reduce stress and depression as well. However, gardening also provides great stimulation for the brain, and this comes as yet another significant benefit to embracing this hobby.

Staying Sharp details that gardening can help to decrease depression and sadness in people, and these benefits to one's mental health that come from gardening are well documented. However, it is important to note that these issues that negatively impact one's mental health can also cause a decline in one's cognitive skills. Any activity that can counter the loss of cognitive skills is a valuable one in terms of boosting one's brain power.

While it is not entirely clear why gardening helps brain stimulation so much, some experts believe that, in part, the repetitive actions

that come from some gardening tasks like weeding help the brain by developing a sense of control that might be missing elsewhere in one's life. Gardening can also help to alleviate issues of brain fatigue that come from the hectic nature of everybody's everyday lives, and this type of activity can help to clear people's minds and boost their problem-solving and reasoning abilities.

Earth Easy notes that researchers have found signs that gardening can help with issues of dementia and Alzheimer's in older adults. In fact, some studies have shown that gardening may provide the single biggest opportunity to reduce the risk for dementia in aging adults. The reason for this is not entirely clear, but it likely comes as a result of the multiple ways that gardening stimulates the brain such as with sensory awareness and perception, learning, and problem solving. Gardening also sparks one's creativity, which provides another boost to the brain.

The Michigan State University

Extension indicates that gardening is linked to mental clarity. In addition, research has shown that getting plenty of fresh air, as those who garden get, can improve student test scores and even help in preventing (ADHD) Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Gardening helps to develop organizational and spatial skills and to be successful in gardening, you also have to pay attention to scheduling and avoid procrastination, all of which engage the brain in various ways.

Gardening can boost feelings of success and purpose in people of all ages, which can boost one's brain strength. ILS Rehabilitation Solutions notes that gardening also can help patients with brain injuries, a connection that further emphasizes the strong connection between brain health and gardening.

It is common to use pesticides and herbicides while gardening, but some believe that there are reasons to pause on this front. Many gardeners are growing increasingly concerned about the impact that

herbicides and other similar substances have on one's health. Toxics Action Center notes that there have been multiple documented issues with herbicides when it comes to headaches, dizziness, and far more serious medical issues, and this leaves a fair number of gardeners committed to the idea that they don't use herbicides at all just to be safe.

There is no shortage of reasons to take up gardening as a hobby, as it provides wonderful opportunities for physical activity and improvements to one's mental health. In addition, gardening also provides solid brain stimulation that can improve brain function in gardeners of all ages. Few other activities can benefit a person in so many ways and with the variety of gardening styles available, there is a type of garden to fit every age and ability.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Maria Cannon. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

Patrick Pioneers

Charlie and Cora Hylton West Family

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, I wrote about Leathia Pearl Moore Boyd and one of her sons, William "Bill" Boyd who was killed by lightning on June 22, 1910. Sadly, this was not the only tragedy that occurred that hot summer day.

The following is an excerpt of an account that was published in the Mountain Laurel in June of 1985; the author signed his recollection YKW (You Know Who). "On the hot muggy morning of June 22, 1910, my father rose early and prepared to make his rounds of delivering the mail on what was then Route 2 in Floyd County. Dad had completed the first half of his route and was only a few hundred yards beyond the Bill Boyd place [located on what is now state road 609 in Patrick County], when he saw a huge streak of lightning come down to earth and felt the stinging sensation its nearness brought. His horse was visibly frightened and nickered excitedly but kept going. A few hundred yards further on, he came upon the Boyd family gathered around the body of Bill Boyd. It seems they had all been hoeing corn and while all the others made it to the house, Bill himself sought shelter from the rain under a big tree between the road and the house. The bolt of lightning was drawn to the tree and killed Bill Boyd instantly. Dad did what little he could to console the family and get the body indoors and then continued sorrowfully on his appointed round. As he neared the post office at Meadows of Dan, he overtook a small group of men carrying the body of young Eric West, a fine young lad of only 17 who had also been struck while hoeing corn and killed by lightning from those same clouds. Dad was deeply shocked by this double tragedy occurring so close together right on his mail route. It must have been an ordeal for him to make that same round again with summer storms occurring frequently, but if he was scared, he never mentioned it. Dad had hired Charlie West, Eric's father, along with some other "hands" to put a new roof on our house. I was not quite six years old at the time, but I can still recall with sadness that some men came to tell Charlie West that his son had been killed and how shocked he looked as he scrambled down the ladder to hurry home to his family."

Charlie William West was born on the 27th of February 1869 to Wilson Jackson West and Susan Ann Massey of the Meadows of Dan area. Charlie married Miss Cora

Dell Hylton on March 12, 1891, in Patrick County. Cora was the daughter of Levi Hylton and Lou Anna Pratt of Floyd County, Virginia. Charlie and Cora set up housekeeping in Meadows of Dan and in December of 1891, their first child, Zebrum Claude West was born.

Zebrum married Miss Lillie Effie Keith of Floyd County on the 27th of January 1915. Zebrum and Lillie raised at least seven children in the Willis community of Floyd; the couple are buried at the Topeco Church Cemetery.

James Eric West was the next child born to Charlie and Cora on the 2nd of March 1893. After his tragic death, James was buried at the Meadows of Dan Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mary Ticia was the third child born to Charlie and Cora; "Ticie" arrived on the 25th of April 1894. Ticie married recently widowed Joseph Franklin Hall in 1928. Joseph had lost his first wife, Nora Cruise in the previous year of 1927. Ticie helped raise Joseph and Nora's three surviving daughters, Edna, Myrtle, and Claudine. Little Irene had passed away from diphtheria in 1922 when she was 18 months old. Ticie and Joseph had one son, Buren. Joseph and Ticie are buried at Mountain View Methodist Church Cemetery.

Charlie and Cora's fourth child, Solomon Nicholas West was born on the 2nd of December 1895. Solomon fought with the 329th Infantry Division during World War I. Upon his return, Solomon married Miss Lena Gray Withrow on the 4th of June 1919 in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. Solomon passed away in April of 1955 and was buried at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church Cemetery.

Retta Mae West was the next child born to Charlie and Cora; "Retty" was born on the 17th of January 1897. Retty married Joseph Green Cochran on the 15th of November 1916 and the couple had at least six children. Retty and Joseph were also buried at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church Cemetery.

Charlie and Cora's sixth child was Andrew Bennett West, born on the 11th of November 1898. Andrew married Miss Lizzie Emma Hall in 1919 and they also had at least six children. Tragically, Lizzie was lost to cancer at the age of 39 and was buried at the Paul DeHart Cemetery. Andrew passed away 27 years later and was buried at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church Cemetery.

Susan Ruth West was born to Charlie and Cora on the 10th of April 1900. "Ruth" married Frank Dewey Walker, Sr. from the Lone



Joseph and Ticie West Hall



James Eric West

Ivy community on the 27th of October 1920. Ruth and Frank raised four children in Woolwine; the couple were buried at Sycamore Baptist Church Cemetery.

Bertie Ann West was born on the 21st of November 1901; she was the eighth child of Charlie and Cora. Bertie married George McKinley Hubbard on the 29th of December 1920. The couple raised ten children in the Mountain View community and at their passing, Bertie and George were buried at the Henry Hubbard Cemetery.

Wilson Cline West, Charlie and Cora's ninth child was born on the 9th of November 1903. Wilson married Miss Ora Jett of the Slate Mountain community of Floyd on the 30th of June 1926. Wilson and Ora raised two children in Cave Spring where Wilson worked in a silk mill. Wilson passed away of a heart attack in 1954 and Ora passed away 41 years later in 1995; they were buried at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church Cemetery.

Flossie Cora, child #10 was born on the 25th of June 1905. Flossie married Alvin Carmel Hylton from the Burks Fork district of Floyd on the 30th of March 1929. Flossie and Alvin raised their four sons in Page County, Virginia.

Charlie and Cora's eleventh child, Levi Charles West, was born on the 2nd of June 1907. Levi married widow Nova Belle Underwood Thomas from Willis on the 3rd of December 1948. Nova's first husband, Elmer Worth Thomas, Sr. had been wounded in battle in Belgium and succumbed to his injuries on the 18th of December 1944. Technician 5th grade Elmer Thomas was buried in the American cemetery at Henri-Chapelle, Arrondissement de Verviers, Liège, Belgium. Elmer and Nova's son, Elmer, Jr. was

only 9 months old when his father passed away. Levi and Nova Belle are buried at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church Cemetery.

Joseph Vernon West was born to Charlie and Cora on the 15th of December 1909. Twelve-year-old Joseph died of diphtheria on the 20th of October 1921. According to his death certificate, Joseph was buried in the Lawson Cemetery, but I believe that Joseph was actually buried at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church Cemetery with so many of his family members.

Virginia Eloise West was born the 26th of October 1911, sixteenth months after 17-year-old brother, James Eric West was killed by lightning. In the 1940 census, Virginia's occupation was listed as a "yokeing" at a shirt factory. I am guessing it was the shirt factory at Floyd, but I am not for certain. On the 6th of July 1947, Virginia married widower Gerald Randolph Reynolds, an electrician and power plant operator for the City of Danville (Kibler Valley) and helped him raise his three little boys. Virginia and Gerald were also buried at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church Cemetery.

Charlie and Cora's 14th and last child was Eva Lea West, born on the 23rd of August 1914. Eva married Thomas Pinkney "Cap" Ayers on the 23rd of December 1937. Eva and Cap raised their children in Meadows of Dan and were buried at the cemetery there too.

Charlie West passed away on the first of January 1952 at the age of 82 and Cora Dell passed away eleven years later, at the age of 89, on the 23rd of January 1963; both were laid to rest at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church Cemetery.

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 - When Should We Claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I am almost 63 and my husband will be 61 soon, and we are looking to see when our best time would be to start our Social Security benefits. We would like to know if one of us qualifies for benefits from a previous marriage from 1984 to 1995. And we are wondering if I can start drawing at age 65, in two years, or if it is better that I wait until 67 because my spouse is 2 years younger than me. Also, if I were to continue working limited hours after 65, what would my earning limit be? Signed: Almost Ready

Dear Almost Ready: The first thing to understand is that full retirement age (FRA) for both of you is 67. If either of you claim before that, your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced and, because you are working, you will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

If you claim your benefit at age 65 your monthly payment will be

about 87% of what you would get if you claimed at age 67. If your husband claims at age 62, his benefit will be about 70% of his FRA amount. The only way to get 100% of the benefit you've each earned from a lifetime of working is to claim at your FRA. You can choose to claim at age 65 as long as you're comfortable with the benefit reduction which will occur, and as long as your annual work earnings do not significantly exceed the earnings limit for that year. In any case, when each of you claims will not affect the other's retirement benefit amount.

Social Security's "earnings test" for those claiming before FRA sets a limit for how much can be earned before some (or all) benefits are taken away. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320, but it changes yearly. If you claim early benefits and your work earnings exceed that year's limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They take away by withholding future benefits long enough to recover what you owe for exceeding the limit. If you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may be temporarily ineligible

to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your FRA (the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA). I cannot predict what the earnings limit will be two years from now, but it will be more than the 2024 limit and published at that time. FYI, in the year you turn 67 your pre-FRA earnings limit will be much higher, and when you reach your FRA the earnings test no longer applies.

Regarding your previous marriage, you cannot receive spousal benefits from an ex-spouse while you are currently married. But when to claim may also be influenced by whether either you or your current spouse will get a spousal benefit from the other. If the FRA (age 67) benefit amount for one of you is more than twice the other's FRA entitlement, the one with the lower FRA amount will get a "spousal boost" to their own amount when both of you are collecting.

Spouse benefits reach maximum at one's FRA, but each person's personal SS retirement amount will continue to grow if not claimed at FRA. Waiting past FRA to claim allows the SS retirement benefit to

grow by 8% per year, up to age 70. So, with an FRA of 67, claiming at age 70 will yield a payment 24% higher than the FRA amount, 76% more than the age 62 amount, and about 37% more than the age 65 amount. But waiting beyond FRA is only smart if financially feasible and life expectancy is at least average (about 84 and 87 respectively for a man and woman your current ages). And, as a general rule, if one's spousal benefit at FRA (50% of their partner's FRA entitlement) is highest, then that spouse should claim at FRA to get their maximum benefit.

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**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET**

Fishing Team to compete in 2 qualifiers

Best of luck to members of the Patrick County High School Fishing Team as they compete against other high school teams in two B.A.S.S. Nation of Virginia State Qualifier tournaments at Philpott Lake this upcoming weekend. Thank you to all the boat captains and sponsors who make this possible for the students. Good luck to all the youth anglers.

Lady Cougar Softball Defeats Bassett

By Ashlee Mullis
The Lady Cougars Softball Team defeated Bassett 22-7 on Monday, March 25. Journey Moore pitched 2 innings, striking out 3. Hayden Lawless pitched the final 3 innings. McKenzie Holt led the Cougars with 4 hits, and Moore added 3 hits. Lauren Fulcher, Lauren Hazelwood and Kyleigh Gusler had 2 hits each, and Gusler had 5 RBIs as well. Bryley Pike, Moore, and Fulcher all scored 4 times.



Hayden Lawless pitches for the win against Bassett.

PCHS Baseball Team Gets Two Wins, One Loss

By Ashlee Mullis
The PC Varsity Baseball Team lost 4-13 to Glenvar on Wednesday, March 20. According to Coach Tal Swails, "Pitchers struggled with command, offense didn't swing it well, and defense kicked it around a little. Just didn't play well across the board. We probably needed a little wake up call." On Thursday, March 21, the Cougars beat Martinsville, 16-0. PC defeated Bassett, 6-0, on the road Monday, March 25. Tucker Swails got the win on



Tucker Swails pitches for the win at Bassett.

the mound with a complete game, 2 hit shut-out. Swails struck out 12 batters and walked 1. The Cougars were led at the plate by Noah Jessup and Jackson Horton, both with 2 hits. Calvin Lancaster had 2 RBIs.

Softball Team Competes in Franklin County

By Ashlee Mullis
On Saturday, March 30, the Lady Cougars Varsity Softball Team traveled to Franklin County to play in the Battle of the Bases. The Cougars lost to Staunton River 0-5. McKenzie Holt pitched a strong 7 innings, giving up 4 earned runs on 4 strikeouts. Holt also led the way at the plate with 2 hits for the Cougars. Lauren Hazelwood added a hit. PC defeated Bassett 15-5 Saturday morning. Journey Moore went the distance in the circle, giving up 4 earned



Bryley Pike waits for the pitch.

runs and striking out Moore had 3 RBIs on 6. Lauren Hazelwood, Lilly Hazelwood, and Holt had 3 hits each. Moore had 3 RBIs on 2 hits. Hayden Lawless had 2 RBIs in the win.

Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis
JV Cougars Get Two Wins
The JV Baseball Team got a 13-0 in a 5-inning run rule win over Bassett, on Monday, March 25. Will Heath had a big night with a homerun and 2 RBIs. Jackson Callahan, Christian Hylton, Mason Cassell, Ethan Errichetti, and Greely Terry had an RBI each. Hylton went 2 innings on the mound allowing 0 runs and striking out 2. Terry threw 2 innings allowing 0 runs and striking out 3. Mark

Register went 1 inning, allowing 0 runs. Thursday, March 28, PC beat Floyd County 4-0 in a 5-inning game. David Lawson had a double and an RBI. Callahan had 1 hit, 1 run, and 1 RBI. Hylton had 1 hit and 1 RBI. Maddox Taylor had 1 hit and 1 run. Lawson had 4 innings, 1 hit, 0 runs and 3 strikeouts. Hylton went 1 inning allowing 0 hits, 0 runs and striking out 2. The Cougars are 7-0 on the season.



Hamlin holds off Truex in overtime to win at Richmond Raceway

By Holly Cain
NASCAR Wire Service
Denny Hamlin's No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing team gave him a clutch pit stop to emerge with the lead out of the pits and then he was able to hold the advantage on a two-lap overtime shootout to claim the Toyota Owners 400 victory Saturday night at his home track, Richmond (Va.) Raceway.

It was Hamlin's 53rd career NASCAR Cup Series win, second of the season and his fifth victory at the three-quarter mile Richmond oval – a .269-second margin of victory over Team Penske's Joey Logano. And it came at the expense of his JGR teammate Martin Truex Jr. who finished fourth despite leading a dominant 228 of the race's 407 laps. "This was a team win for sure," said Hamlin, who led 17 laps on the night. "Each one of these pit crew members just did an amazing job, they've been killing it all year. "Such a great feeling when you can come in and have a pit crew like that."

It was a certainly a frustrating ending for Truex, who had been out front 54 consecutive laps in his No. 19 JGR Toyota when a caution flag flew with only two laps of regulation remaining. On the ensuing pit stop, Hamlin beat him off pit road and Truex was unable to take the lead back in that final two lap run, ultimately getting passed by Logano for second and polesitter Kyle Larson for third.

"It's unfortunate, but it's happened a few times over the years," Truex said. "We were in a great spot and had a great Auto Owners Camry all night long and the guys did a really good job. Just got beat out of the pits and then he [Hamlin] jumped the start and just used me up in Turn 1.

"Definitely sucks. Another car capable of winning, we'll just have to come back next week and try to get one."

The silver lining for Truex, is that he still holds the championship lead by 14 points over Larson, who had a busy ending to the race. Contact between Hendrick Motorsports' Larson and 23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace brought out the final yellow flag to force the first overtime period for a NASCAR Cup Series

race this season. Larson was still able to come out fourth place on the pit stop and challenge for the win, although he and Truex banged doors in the closing laps fighting for position.

"My pit crew did a really good job to get us off pit road and get us those spots to restart fourth and gain one more," Larson said. "I'll take third after what could have been a lot worse there on the front stretch. Proud of the HendrickCars.com team.

"It was a good weekend for us, winning the pole, winning a stage and getting back to third. Happy about that."

As for the late race contact between him and a frustrated Truex, Larson said. "I think he was just mad. He was mad the 11 [Hamlin] used him up on the restart and that's probably where it really started from.

"I think he was more mad at Denny but I was the closest one for him to take his anger out on," Larson added with a smile.

Larson's Hendrick teammate – and fellow front-row starter – Chase Elliott finished fifth.

Joe Gibbs Racing's Christopher Bell, Hendrick's William Byron, RFK Racing teammates Brad Keselowski and Chris Buescher and 23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick rounded out the top-10. Stewart-Haas Racing's Josh Berry finished 11th, having run in the top-10 most of the night and Wallace, who also ran top-10 most of the race finished 13th after that late race contact with Larson.

Of note, with the track still damp from afternoon showers, the field started the race on wet weather tires. NASCAR threw a competition caution at Lap 30, bringing the cars down pit road for a mandatory change to racing slicks. And cars returned to the track in the order they were running at the time of caution. The move to use the wet weather tires allowed the race to start only a few minutes late and was widely praised.

The NASCAR Cup Series moves to another short track challenge next Sunday with the Cook Out 400 (3 p.m. ET, FS1, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway. Larson is the defending race winner.

Varsity Girls Soccer Team Keeps up Winning Season

By Ashlee Mullis
The Patrick County Girls Varsity Soccer Team got a 3-2 road win at Dan River on March 18.

Kyra Titular had a hat trick for the Lady Cougars. Jewel Iacovone had 1 assist, and Skye Ayers had 6 saves in goal.

The ladies lost 1-8 to Glenvar Wednesday, March 20. Titular scored the only goal for the Cougars. Ayers had 13 saves in goal.



Skye Ayers prepares to kick the ball after a save in the goal.

On Friday, March 22, the Cougars traveled to Martinsville, beating the Bulldogs, Ayers had 3 saves in goal. The Lady Cougars got a huge 3-2 win over Bassett on

March 25. Raeli Moran had 2 Goals, and Williams had 1 goal off a penalty kick. Gonzalez had 2 assists, and Ayers had 11 saves in goal.

Williamsburg

(cont. from page 1)



National VA250 Chair Carly Fiorina spoke to planners from all over Virginia.



Williamsburg hosted 450 people from all over the U.S. and Virginia to plan America's 250th birthday celebrations.

said the commemoration will be "an extraordinary celebration," and expressed his personal feelings about commemorating "the most important day in the history of this great country and possibly the world. My heart swells with pride."

He also talked of the investment Virginia is making in the 250th commemorations. Leading up to July 4, 2026, Youngkin said he expects to see an economic and tourism boost from those coming to Virginia for Semiquincentennial events.

Longtime television journalist Harry Smith offered stories from his travels across America, where he saw firsthand how much average Americans have in common, even in divisive times such as these.

Tuesday morning began with a powerful speech from Virginia Supreme Court Justice John Charles Thomas, the first African American and youngest appointed to the post. Thomas said he views America not as a melting pot, but as a tapestry made of many parts showing America's history, good and bad.

Attendees also heard from Carly Fiorina, the National Honorary Chairman of VA250, Rosie Rios, the 43rd Treasurer of the United States,

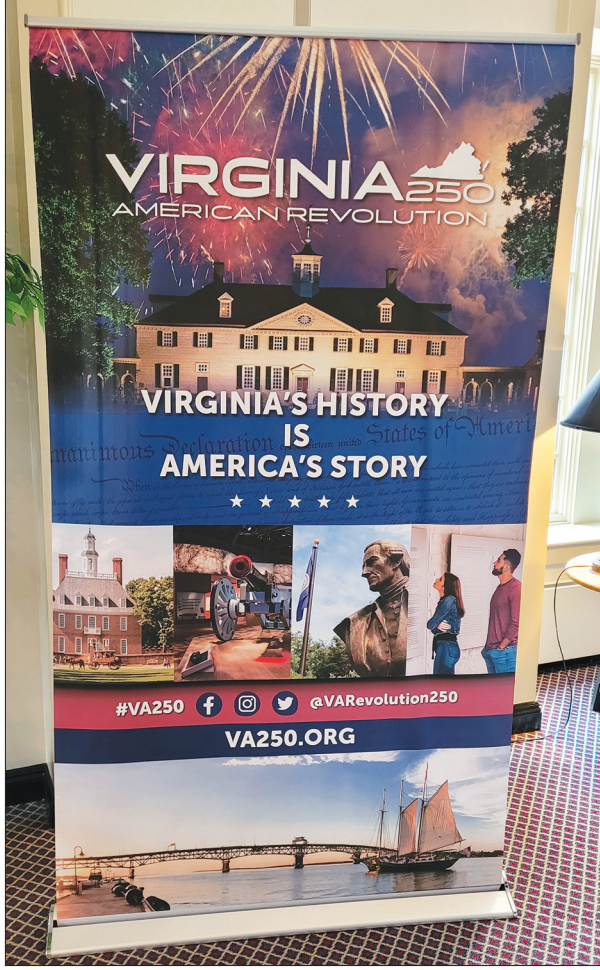


Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin addressed those gathered for "A Common Cause to All."

and Chairman of the America 250, as well as nationally known historians. Attendees also got a sneak peek of the upcoming documentary from Ken Burns, 'The American Revolution', which will air in 2025.

The conference closed with a reenactment of the Virginia House of Burgesses call for a day of 'Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer,' in support of the people of Boston, following England's closing of their port in response to the Boston Tea Party.

In Patrick County, the local VA250 committee



"Virginia's History is America's Story" is the tagline for VA250.

meets regularly, forming plans for events leading up to and including America's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. The local committee will be at the upcoming Strawberry Festival in Stuart on May 18, where those interested can get information on the Semiquincentennial preparations in Patrick County.

The Patrick County VA250 Committee is actively working on future events and will add scheduled events to their Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/PatrickCountyVA250.



The three finalists in WES' Spelling Bee are (left to right), Paisley Shuff, who won 1st place; Conner King in 2nd place, and Corrynn McAlexander in 3rd place.

7th graders sweep WES' Spelling Bee

Paisley Shuff, Conner King and Corrynn McAlexander were the final three participants in Woolwine Elementary School's Spelling Bee. Fifteen students, in grades 4-7, participated in the March 28 contest that included many competitive rounds of spelling.

Affordable Health Screenings Coming to Stuart, Virginia

Residents living in and around Stuart, Virginia can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. John D Hooker Memorial Building will host this community event on 4/18/2024. The site is located at 420 Woodland Drive in Stuart.

Screenings can check for:
The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health.

HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
Diabetes risk
Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Crooked Road director to visit Ararat center on April 26

By Mary Delenback Hill
Tyler Hughes, the new executive director of The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail will visit the Willis Gap Community Center Open Jam on Friday, April 26.

The Willis Gap Community Center Open Jam is an Affiliated Partner of The Crooked Road.

award-winning musician, performing and preserving the musical traditions of Central Appalachia, Virginia since his teenage years. He is grounded in the rich musical culture and the people, and has played professionally at large venues such as Grand Ole Opry, and The Carter Fold. Hughes is a multi-instrumentalist and square dance caller.

Located at 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat, the center's doors open at 6 p.m., with concessions that include hotdogs, slaw, chili, chips, candies, popcorn, assorted sodas, coffee, and bottled water.

Music and dancing are enjoyed from 7-10 p.m., with a 50/50 drawing at about 8:15 p.m.

The jam is a special night of old-time, bluegrass, gospel, and country music – the musical heritage of Southwest Virginia and southern hospitality at its best.



Tyler Hughes

PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of April 8-13:

- 4/8** 4:30p Boys Tennis vs Magna Vista & Alleghany (at Magna Vista)
- 4:30p Girls Tennis at Alleghany
- 6pm Girls Soccer at Alleghany
- 7pm Boys Soccer vs Alleghany
- 4/9** 5pm Baseball at Alleghany
- 5pm Softball at Alleghany
- 4/10** 6pm Girls Soccer at Carroll County
- 4/11** 4:30p Boys Tennis at Carroll County
- 4:30p Girls Tennis vs Carroll County
- 5pm Softball vs Floyd County
- 7pm Boys Soccer at Carroll County
- 4/12** 4:30p Boys Tennis at Magna Vista
- 4:30p Girls Tennis vs Magna Vista
- 7pm Baseball vs Carroll County
- 7pm Softball vs Carroll County
- 4/13** TBA Track Meet at Blacksburg H.S.

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FRIDAY
PIANO MUSIC LIVE

Betty Gayle Amburn Pilson



Betty Gayle Amburn Pilson, age 83 of Stuart, passed away Saturday, March 30, 2024, at the home of her daughter. Betty was born on March 11, 1941, in Galax, in Carroll County, Virginia to the late Elwood and Flora Amburn. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Thomas Amburn; her grandparents; and various aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Betty graduated from Carroll County High School in 1960. Her first job was at Bolen's Drug Store in Galax. She spent the majority of her professional life as a legal secretary for various law firms. She was an avid reader and an expert genealogist who loved to complete research and family histories for others. She

also published books on the subject. She enjoyed organizing bus tours and taking people to various places such as Canada, Vermont, and Branson, Missouri. She was a member of the Patrick County Music Association and a volunteer at the Patrick County Historical Museum. She was a member of Sycamore Baptist Church in Stuart.

Betty is survived by one daughter, Marcie Mabe, of Bassett;

nephew, Chris Amburn (Suzie) of Galax; niece, Kelly Amburn of Galax; special friends, Ilene Bolt, Linda Roberson, and Anne Pilson, all of Stuart, Teresa Bragg of Bassett; various cousins, friends; beloved cat, Junebug; and grand dog, Oreo.

Funeral services will be held Friday, April 5, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at Sycamore Baptist Church with Pastor Shaun Draughn officiating. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the church. A private burial will be held in Blue Ridge Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery in Galax. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is in charge of the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Daniel Camillus "Dan" Conway

Daniel Camillus (Dan) Conway passed away in Sarasota, Florida on Tuesday, 26 December 2023 with his wife at his side. He was 86 years old. Born in Muskogee, Oklahoma on 24 March 1937 to Camillus Anthony and Frances Elizabeth (Morrow) Conway. He grew up a devout Catholic in the North Shore suburbs of Chicago, attending St. Mary's School in Evanston before attending High School and graduating from Loyola Academy in Chicago in 1955, where he was also an Eagle Scout. He was a proud alumnus of The University of Notre Dame, graduating with a degree in Business Administration in 1959, and completing a Graduate Certificate Program in Transportation at Yale in 1960. Dan married Joan Kathryn (Thompson), 23 August 1963 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Martinsville, Virginia. He served in the United States Army Transportation Corps until his Honorable Discharge as a Captain in 1969. His professional years were spent in the rail transportation industry, spending most of his working years with the Missouri Pacific Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad. After retirement, he and Joan

moved to Florida, settling in Venice for many years, and then Sarasota, places that served as a base for many international and domestic travel experiences. After retiring to Florida, he became active in the Suncoast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, the Notre Dame Club of Sarasota, the Yale Club of Sarasota, Newcomers of Venice, and other organizations, through which he and Joan became friends with many wonderful people. He volunteered in service roles in many of the organizations of which he was a member.

Dan is preceded in death by his parents, Camillus and Frances Conway and his sister Teresa Conway, and is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Joan, sons, Stuart and Patrick (Karen), 7 Grandchildren, 5 Great-Grandchildren, 2 brothers-in-law, a sister-in-law, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He showed his love for his family by spending time with his children and grandchildren, attending important events in their lives, and always being available for advice or a conversation.

Throughout his life, service to his community and fellow man was of utmost impor-

tance to Dan. Some of his service included serving youth as a Troop committee member and commissioner for various Boy Scout Troops, regularly donating platelets at the American Red Cross, serving the Yale Club of Sarasota, for which service he received an outstanding service award from the Yale Alumni Association. He also held various service/leadership positions with the Suncoast Chapter of the National Railroad Historic Society, and was frequently seen helping his neighbors, wherever he was.

Funeral services will be held at noon on April 10, 2024 at Risen Lord Catholic Church, 59 Mountain View Park, Stuart, VA. Interment will follow with a brief graveside service at Stuart Cemetery with military rites by the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that he be remembered through donations to Tidewell Hospice in Sarasota, Florida, or that you find a way to serve your community as he did, through donations of time through volunteer service. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

David "Bubba" Nelson Gwaltney, Sr.



Mr. David "Bubba" Nelson Gwaltney, Sr., age 79 of Stuart, Virginia passed away on March 26, 2024, at Sovah Hospital of Martinsville. He was born in Petersburg, Virginia on August 6, 1944, to the late Wilfred William Gwaltney and Madeline Virginia Bush Gwaltney. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Russell Gwaltney; and two sisters, Jean Belcher and Maxine Harrup. David aka "Bubba" was a member of the Eagles Club. After retirement from International Paper, he was known by many as a great handyman. His hobbies were hunting, fishing, auto racing, and just having a good time. "Bubba" will be dearly missed by his family and all who knew and loved

him.

"Bubba" is survived by two children, Paula G. Darden and husband, Karl of Suffolk, VA and David Nelson Gwaltney, Jr. "Neal" and fiancé, Dana Walker of Richmond; two step-children, Mike Drewery of Stuart, and Stacey Cockram and husband, Jimmy of Stuart; seven grandchildren, Aaron Darden and wife, Ashley, Kendall Darden and wife, Nicole, Donna Hill, Brian Drewery, Chris Drew-

ery, Tyler Hughes, and Savannah Cockram; eight great-grandchildren; twin sister, Donna Grinnell of Stuarts Draft; brother, Henry Gwaltney and wife, Linda of Washington; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life service will be held on Friday, March 29, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Stuart. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services at the funeral home on Friday morning. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

The family would like to acknowledge and send a heartfelt thanks to Amanda and Milton Foley for their unselfish love and care extended to our loved one.

Pauline H. Waldman



Pauline H. Waldman (nee Dorman), born on September 8, 1938, in Brooklyn, NY, passed away peacefully on March 27, 2024, in Martinsville, VA, at the age of 85. She was a strong-willed woman known for her love and devotion to her family.

Pauline dedicated her career to serving as a Juvenile Detention Officer for the State of NJ. Outside of work, she found joy in her hobbies, particularly excelling at Mahjong and sharing her passion by teaching others how to play. She also enjoyed playing Scat card games with friends and family.

She is survived by her loving children:

son George Waldman, daughters Margaret Rocca (Frank), and Rachel Barry (Donald). Pauline was a cherished sister to Frank, Nick, Patricia, Mary, Lorraine, Margaret, Flo (John), Josephine (Steve), and Susan. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Arthur

Waldman, brother Eddie Dorman, and sister June Nicotra.

A funeral service to honor Pauline's life will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The burial will take place on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ. The Carmen-Spezzi Funeral Home in New Jersey is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Pauline will be remembered for her strength, love, and the impact she had on those around her. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Clinton Donald "Don" Hylton

Mr. Clinton Donald "Don" Hylton, age 87, of Meadows of Dan, VA, passed away on March 29, 2024, in Laurel Fork, VA. He was born in Floyd County on July 10, 1936, to the late Quince Adams Hylton and Emma Susan Higgs Hylton. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Loveda Helms Hylton; two brothers, Everett Lee Hylton, Kenneth Arbie Hylton; and three sisters, Mamie Pearl Hylton, Retta Geraldine H. Carroll, and Opal Virginia H. Worrell.

Don was an Army Veteran and loved serving his country. He also pursued a career at Primland Resort where he worked for many years. Don found joy in listening to Blue Grass music and spending time with friends who shared his passion for the genre. He spent most of his

spare time attending Blue Grass events in the area.

A very outgoing and social individual, Don never met a stranger. His great sense of humor and playful teasing endeared him to many. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. He will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of his company.

Left to cherish the memory of Don Hylton are two daughters, daughters Crista Walker (Mark) of Stuart and Susan Hylton of Martinsville; one sister Nadine Quesenberry of Vesta, VA; one brother-in-law, Lois Belcher and wife, Dorothy of Meadows of Dan; nephew, Steve Helms and wife, Angie of Meadows of Dan; numerous nieces and nephews; extended family; and friends from all over the country.

A funeral service for

Mr. Hylton will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Conners View Primitive Baptist Church with Charles Hubbard officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services on Tuesday morning at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Residents Aid Fund at Heritage Hall-Laurel Meadows (The fund supports resident activities which Don truly enjoyed and participated in on numerous occasions). Checks can be sent to Heritage Hall-Laurel Meadows, 16600 Danville Pike, Laurel Fork, VA 23352. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

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**Weekly Sudoku
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5	6	1	7	3	2	8	9	4
8	9	2	6	1	4	7	3	5
7	3	4	5	9	8	1	2	6
3	1	8	2	6	9	4	5	7
2	4	7	1	5	3	6	8	9
6	5	9	4	8	7	2	1	3
9	7	5	8	4	1	3	6	2
4	8	6	3	2	5	9	7	1
1	2	3	9	7	6	5	4	8

PATRICK PULPITS

Bread of Heaven

Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

Psalms 78: 23,24 describes how God rained down manna from heaven to feed the Israelites during their 40 years in the wilderness, a miracle that fed over 2 million people daily.

A similar "rain" fell in north China back in 1931. A mission station had been established there and that year they experienced a severe drought resulting in extensive famine. The missionaries had fed many of the destitute Chinese from their own food supplies. But the time came when they had nothing left for themselves.

In the crisis that followed the missionaries tried to assure their Chinese friends that the God of heaven was a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. But they did more than merely assure the people. They invited the Chinese to join them in prayer each afternoon. The missionaries knew the promise in Matthew 6:33: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (earthly needs) shall be added to you."

On the 4th day of their seasons of prayer someone interrupted the meeting by calling attention to something unusual going on outside. When the people went out, they saw a very dark cloud far to the north. It was coming their way. As it passed overhead, it began to

rain heavily, but not ordinary rain. What fell were millions upon millions of dark seeds, a kind of grain. These proved to be edible, and the supply that fell was sufficient to tide the people over until the next harvest.

Later the missionaries learned that a violent storm in Mongolia had wrecked some granaries where such seeds were stored. These seeds had been carried some 1500 miles and dropped in the very district where prayer was being offered.

Was this a miracle or just a coincidence? Obviously, it was not a coincidence. It was an answer to prayer even though it had a natural explanation. God is sovereign. He is not bound to work His wonders in ways that man would prescribe. God says in Isaiah 55:9 that "as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

So, we need to pray with confidence that God hears and answers prayer in His way and in His timing. But we need to be consistent in prayer to show that we are earnest.

Speaking of miracles, the greatest of all miracles is the transformation that takes place when God turns a hardened sinner into a living saint. And this is a miracle you and I can let happen. We need only to choose to allow God to make that miraculous change in us.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Joshua Lee Bowman, 40, of Patrick County Jail, was charged March 22 with two counts each assault and battery, and one count stalking. Inv. T. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Joshua Lee Bowman, 40, of Patrick County Jail, was charged March 22 with obstruct justice. Inv. T. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Jon Roger Lee, 64, of Stuart, was charged March 22 with assault. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*David Clyde Fain, 51, of Stuart, was charged March 24 with possess Sch. I or II drugs. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Elijah Christian Lizana, 23, of Patrick County Jail, was charged March 25 with three counts contribute to delinquency of a minor and one count abuse/neglect child. Inv.

T. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Aubrey Adam Gibson, 31, of Woolwine, was charged March 26 with bomb/burn threat. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*James Michael Terry, 38, address unavailable, was charged March 27 with one count each fail to appear, fail to obey law enforcement command. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*James Michael Terry, 48, no address available, was charged March 28 with probation violation. Deputy C.A. Frick made the arrest for Henry County.

*Antwan Dominique Thomas, 40, of Martinsville, was charged March 28 with probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Jessica Sutphin Smith, 41, of Madison, NC, was charged March 28 with probation violation. Deputy C.A. Frick was the arresting officer.

Former Employee Pleads Guilty to Robbing Danville Food Lion

A former Danville Food Lion employee, who pulled a gun on a Food Lion cashier and robbed the store of more than \$1,200 in cash, pled guilty yesterday to federal charges.

Christopher Rashard Harris, 30, pleaded guilty to one count of Hobbs Act Robbery.

According to court documents, on June 28, 2023, Harris entered the Food Lion grocery store where he used to be employed, placed two bags of Cheetos on the counter, and gave the cashier a \$1 bill and some change. When the cashier opened the register, Harris pulled out a firearm, pointed it at the cashier, and said, "back the fu*k up." The cashier put his hands up and backed away from the register while Harris grabbed the entire cash drawer and ran out with the contents, approximately \$1,217.

On July 6, 2023, law enforcement arrested Harris who confessed to robbing the store and described where he had abandoned the cash drawer, which was later recovered.

United States Attorney Christo-

pher 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.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason M. Scheff is prosecuting the case.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. On May 26, 2021, the Department launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Iscariot (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Matthew 28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb and sat upon it? Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples
3. When Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers
4. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus

5. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days

6. According to the apostle Paul, more than what number of people saw the risen Christ at one time? 100, 300, 500, 1,000

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) An angel, 3) Disciples, 3) Thomas (called Didymus), 4) 40 days (Acts 1:3), 5) 500 (1 Cor 15:3-8)

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.pat-reon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

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Worship Services 11 am

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276-694-3440 11:00 Worship Service
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| ACROSS | 1 Very little bit | 51 "Viva — Vegas" | 95 Mem. of the family | DOWN | 1 Not definite | 38 Dryer fluff | 82 — -chic | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 Large Indian city | 10 Discover by chance | 15 Elegant | 19 Liposuction target | 20 Take out — (borrow cash) | 21 Journalist — Rogers St. Johns | 22 Actor Cronyn | 23 Initial impression | 25 Printer cartridge contents | 27 Still in the future | 28 Harsh review | 30 Admit defeat | 31 Wonder | 32 Like bedroom communities | 35 Partners of 84-Down | 36 Metal sleeve in an engine's piston | 40 Slide down a slope | 41 Cuts of pork | 42 Disney who drew | 43 Toot one's own horn | 46 Gaius' garb | 50 Rand of objectivism | 52 Base coat on a wall, maybe | 54 Is a little too fond of | 57 Rest on top of | 59 Writer Nin | 60 Prefix with conscious | 61 Dock | 62 Honey liquor | 64 Cpl., e.g. | 65 Big grant-giving group | 72 Totally | 73 Granny | 74 Dog food brand | 75 Places with lots of IVs | 76 Mental picture | 78 Dictators | 81 Row of PC-screen buttons | 85 Cabaret where the cancan originated | 87 Kilmer of "Tombstone" | 88 Kitchen utensil brand | 89 "Little" actress Rae | 90 Decorative tattoo dye | 91 Very little | 93 Garden pest | 97 Annotation in the text of Christian scripture | 100 Server overseer, informally | 103 Convention speeches | 105 "... flaw — feature?" | 106 Mixed with cognac, e.g. | 108 Flip (out) | 109 Clip out | 113 Something cast at sunset | 116 What you have passed when you figure out this puzzle's theme? | 118 Hydroxyl compound | 119 Cooling, as champagne | 120 French gal pals | 121 To be, to Livy | 122 Really resist | 123 Former quarterback | 124 French governing body | 125 Letters after pis | 2 "Rolie Polie —" (kids' book) | 3 Sour | 4 Refrain from drinking | 5 Patted lightly | 6 Fanning of "Teen Spirit" | 7 Baseball's Gehrig | 8 Welds influence | 9 Occupy | 10 TV's Linden | 11 Lupino or Tarbell | 12 Actress Thompson of "Creed" | 13 Brand of fake 69-Down | 14 — a one (zero) | 15 Go through the motions | 16 1/16 pound | 17 Aroma | 18 "— Johnny!" | 24 Small cities | 26 Ankara native | 29 Convent sister | 32 Span. women | 33 Steel support for concrete | 34 Grill | 36 Dressed (in) | 37 "Around-the-world" toy | 39 Actor McGregor | 40 Fuel additive brand | 44 Strong ill will | 45 Dutch artist Jan | 47 Certain Arab | 48 State Farm alternative | 49 Fiery crime | 51 Spa sponge | 52 Actress Valerie of "Lenny" | 53 Storm-finding systems | 55 Cartoon cry | 56 Act starter | 57 Qatar export | 58 Letter #22 | 61 Take selfish advantage of | 63 "It's —" ("You're on!") | 65 "Darkman" director Sam | 66 Actor Edward James — | 67 Santa — | 68 — nous | 69 Liposuction target | 70 Mantra words | 71 "For shame!" | 77 In a harshly bright way | 79 Pass quickly on foot | 80 "To repeat ..." | 81 Unveiling cry | 83 Pivot point | 84 Fishing sticks | 86 Devils' org. | 87 Dirt Devils, e.g., in brief | 91 Nissan car models | 92 Reason for extra innings | 93 Get — on reality | 94 Ceiling coat | 96 Terminates | 98 Arrow shooter | 99 Short-horned grasshopper | 100 Differently — (other-skilled) | 101 Pilotless craft | 102 Lead-in to "the cloth" or "the hour" | 103 Cartoonist Bill | 104 Comic and actor Murphy | 107 Breakfast chain, in brief | 109 "I — bad moon rising" | 110 Meeting period, slangily | 111 — buco (veal dish) | 112 Map nos. | 114 Tenth mo. | 115 Very little | 117 Cousins, e.g. |

THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

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Positions open until filled.

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The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for a Maintenance Worker. Course work, training, and/or work experience in at least one of the following is preferred: HVAC, electrical, auto mechanics, plumbing, or carpentry. Skill in operating light equipment is also preferred. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. and perform physical labor. A high school diploma or GED is required.

Salary range is \$28,000 - \$35,000. This is a full-time position with benefits in excess of \$15,000 annually, which include vacation and sick leave, life insurance, retirement, and health insurance. Hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Overtime, weekend, and holiday work may be required.

A complete job description and employment application are available on the Patrick County website at <https://www.co.patrick.va.us/Jobs.aspx>.

Applications are also available from the Patrick County Administration Office, Room 218, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application to be considered for the position. Applications and resumes may be emailed to Donna Shough, HR Director, at dshough@co.patrick.va.us, with a copy to Melissa Taylor at mtaylor@co.patrick.va.us. Faxed applications will not be accepted. The position will remain open until filled.

The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

YARD SALE

Yard Sale

Six person, maybe more. Mini Flea Market. Thursday April 11th, Friday April 12th & Saturday April 13th 8am-4pm each day. 661 Collinstown Road, Stuart, Virginia (Dry Pond area)



AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

Marina Auction. 5.29 AC - Deepwater Access - Income Producing. On-line Auction April 25th @ 2:00 PM. 107 Dockside Dr, Deltaville, VA 23043. DudleyResources.com for info

Commercial Foreclosure Auction. 341 E. Market St. Leesburg, VA 20176. 2,719 sq ft Income Producing, Long Term Tenant. Live Auction April 11th 11:00 AM at Loudoun Co Courthouse. DudleyResources.com for info

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age and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

LIVESTOCK SALE

Knoll Crest Farm Sale, Saturday, April 13, 2024 @Noon. 100+ Angus, Polled Hereford, Gelbvieh & Balancer Bulls. 70+ Elite Registered Angus, Hereford & Balancer Bred Heifers. Red House, VA (434) 376-3567

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

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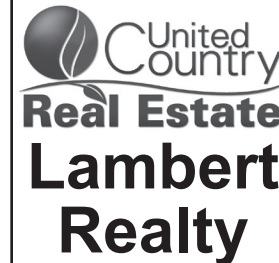
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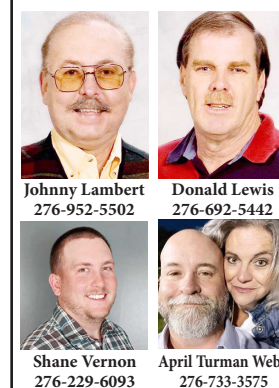
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Liberty opens the door for patients to recover from injury, illness or accident, in the comfort of their home. Treatment at home supports improved results for patients, while creating peace of mind for caregivers. Our Staff, compassionate with their care, matched by experience and training, help patients and their caregivers with approaches that avoid a return to the hospital.



797 Woodland Drive, Suite 103
Stuart, VA 24171

(276) 694-4424

Manager of local eatery wins top award

Reyo Hodges of the Hardee's® located at 314 S. Main St., Stuart, has won the Founders Award, which is the top award given out by the largest Hardee's franchisee in the country, Boddie-Noell Enterprises. The Founders Award is presented annually to the company's top restaurant general managers.

The individuals and restaurants represent the best among the 330 Hardee's restaurants operated by the company across four states. The winners were selected on an established set of criteria for operational excellence in 2023. The annual award is given in honor of the company's three founders, the late Mayo Boddie, Sr., the late Nicholas Boddie, Jr. and the late W. Carleton Noell, who opened Boddie-Noell's first Hardee's in 1962.

The annual recognition and celebration of the winners was held at the company's Rose Hill Conference Center near Nashville, N.C. Winning general managers received a cash award and a plaque. Gifts were also awarded earlier to their restaurant teams for their 2023 performance.

In her spare time, Hodges enjoys hiking with her dogs and going on road trips. Her favorite item on the menu is the Famous Star Burger.

The other Founders Award winners are: general manager Linda Watkins with the Hardee's in Madison, N.C., general manager Jamie Hedrick with the Hardee's in Gran-



Reyo Hodges

dy, N.C., general manager Angela Harris with the Hardee's in Marion, general manager Arlene Hutchinson with the Hardee's in Chilhowie, general manager Latonya Dungee with the Hardee's in Farmville, general manager Jasmane Alston with the Hardee's in Amelia, general manager Renee Parker with the Hardee's on Tidewater Drive in Norfolk, general manager Bobbi Jarrell with the Hardee's in Prestonsburg, KY and Casey Burgess with the Hardee's in Conover, N.C.

Initial unemployment claims rise 10.2 percent

The number of initial unemployment insurance weekly claims filed during the week ending March 23 was 2,098, which is 10.2 percent higher than last week's 1,904 claims and 11.8 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (1,876), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 84 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (275); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (229); Health Care and Social Assis-

tance (183); Manufacturing (167); and Retail Trade (152).

Continued weeks claims (15,497) were 0.7 percent lower than last week (15,612) and were 31.8 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (11,758). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (56 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,227); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,084); Manufacturing (1,297); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,290); and Construction (1,226).



Pictured left to right is Kris Peters, associate professor of nursing, and Chairman of Nursing, Dr. Melody Sharp.

Master of Science Clinical Nurse Leader grad program now offered

Ferrum College announced the Master of Science Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) as the fifth graduate program for the School of Graduate and Online Studies.

The CNL was developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in collaboration with leaders from healthcare practice and education to address the critical need to improve the quality of patient care outcomes. Clinical Nurse Leaders are master's educated nurses prepared for practice across the continuum of care within any healthcare setting focused on roles such as risk management, care coordination, inter-professional communication, and team leadership.

The Ferrum MSN CNL is a fast-paced online curriculum that can be completed in twelve months and graduates are prepared to take the national Clinical Nurse Leader credentialing exam. Dr. Melody Sharp, chairman of Nursing, said that the curriculum is designed to prepare nurses to be leaders in their profession as expert clinicians, educators, and advocates as well as outcome and information managers.

"Opportunities and changes in the nursing profession have increased focus on developing nurse leaders in the clinical arena. Employment of Registered Nurses is projected to grow 6% yearly over the next 10 years with an average of approximately 190,000 openings for RNs. This will inherently impact the number of RN leadership roles needed. By implementing an MSN program with an emphasis on Clinical Nurse Leader, Ferrum College will have a positive impact on the nursing leadership workforce," Sharp explains.

"We believe the MSN CNL prepares graduates to assume advanced roles in nursing to improve healthcare outcomes. In alignment with the College's mission and strategic goals, the program is designed to meet the workforce need of nurses with a higher level of education for leadership positions."

Ferrum CNL graduates will be equipped to apply their knowledge of leadership skills in both organizational and practice settings. Unlike many online programs, the Ferrum CNL also benefits from

the supportive learning community of a College with over one hundred years of success in lifelong learning and accessibility.

Dr. Mirta Martin, college president, explained how the CNL affirms the College's commitment to meeting the workforce needs of the rural College's community and beyond.

"The launch of the Ferrum College Master of Science Clinical Nurse Leader program is a prodigious stride towards shaping the future of nursing leadership. Designed to empower graduates with advanced skills in quality management and evidence-based practice, this program is a testament to Ferrum College's commitment to excellence in healthcare education," said Martin.

"As champions of our rural community, we recognize the critical need for highly educated nurses in leadership roles. Through strategic partnerships and outreach initiatives, our program not only addresses this pressing workforce need, but also strengthens our ties to the community we proudly serve. Graduates of the Ferrum College CNL program will be dynamic leaders poised to make a lasting impact as expert clinicians, educators, advocates, and managers of healthcare outcomes. On behalf of the College, I would like to thank Dr. Melody Sharp, chair of Nursing, and all of the faculty and staff who had the vision and tenacity to bring this program to fruition."

"Nurses, please join us in shaping the future of nursing leadership and transforming healthcare outcomes for generations to come. Apply today! Together, we will pave the way for a brighter, healthier tomorrow."

Nurses can apply now to enroll for Fall 2024, and the program will offer rolling admission for students to begin the curriculum at the beginning of any seven-week cycle. The CNL is offered by the College along with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and RN to BSN program. The CNL and all of the School of Graduate and Online Studies programs are flexible and tailored to meet the needs of working professionals.

For more information, visit <http://www.ferrum.edu>.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
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). 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

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



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

REQUEST FOR QUOTE TOWN OF STUART, VIRGINIA
The Town of Stuart, Virginia is soliciting a Request for Quote from qualified Contractors or Individuals to provide Inspection and Inventory Services for a Lead Service Line Inventory Project. These services include excavation or potholing, identifying water service lines, and recording the existing material of the water service lines entering the water meter box from the Town's service tap and the type of material leaving the meter box, supplying the customer. An electronic recording file, or inventory form, will be provided to enter all data required. For reference, the Town of Stuart has 617 metered water accounts, which must be inventoried before October 1, 2024. The proposed inventory project is being funded by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). All state and federal requirements by this agency must be met. All guidelines for the Request for Quote will be available for review on the Town of Stuart website (www.stuartva.org). Any additional questions can be emailed to information@stuartva.org or can be submitted to the Stuart Town Office at 100 Patrick Avenue, Stuart, VA, 24147.

The Town of Stuart will accept Quotes until 2:00 p.m. Eastern Local Time, on Thursday, April 25, 2024. Two (2) hard copies of the Quote shall be mailed or hand-delivered to Bryce Simmons, Town Manager at PO Box 422, 100 Patrick Avenue, Stuart, VA 24171. Questions regarding this solicitation should be made prior to Thursday, April 18, 2024.

This request is extended without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, age or physical or mental handicap. The selected Firm or Individual will be required to comply with all the State and Federal guidelines or requirements, including, but not limited to:

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- The Americans with Disabilities Act
- Age Discrimination Act
- MBE/WBE Solicitation Guidelines

The Town of Stuart will reserve the rights to accept or reject any or all proposals; to waive any formalities or technicalities as it deems appropriate; and to retain multiple qualified Individuals or firms as it deems appropriate. For projects that may be successfully funded, the Town of Stuart reserves the right, if it so deems, to enter into negotiations with the selected firm for any resulting services related to the project implementation.

Minority and/or female-owned businesses or firms are encouraged to apply. The Town of Stuart is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

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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 of 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 Mortgagor, 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.bwwsales.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.bwwsales.com. VA-368816-1.

LEGAL

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.

Meetings

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.

Tuesday, April 16
The Patrick County Planning Commission's regular business meeting, 4 p.m., community room in Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Stuart site.

Wednesday, April 17
Stuart Town Council meets at 7 p.m. in the town office.

Events

Thursday, April 4
Fairy Stone Park will hold a Roving Ranger: Turtle Time starting 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.

Roving Ranger: Turtle Time, 10 a.m., Fairy Stone State Park.

Fairy Stone Hunt, 11 a.m., Visitor's Center at Fairy Stone State Park.

Fairy Stone Workshop, 1 p.m., Shelter 4, Fairy Stone State Park.

Moonshine Hollow Hike, 2 p.m., Visitor's Center, Fairy Stone Park.

Saturday, April 6
Community breakfast, JEB Stuart Rescue Squad, 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.

Bingo at the Meadows of Dan Community Center, hosted by the Meadows of Dan Women's Club. Doors open at 5 p.m. Games start at 6 p.m. Concessions available.

Whiskey Run Hike, 10 a.m., Iron Mine Park-

ing Lot, Fairy Stone State Park.

Sunday, April 7
Moonshine Hollow Hike, 10 a.m., Visitor's Center at Fairy Stone State Park.

Fairy Stone Hunt, 1: 30 p.m., Visitor's Center at Fairy Stone State Park.

Monday, April 8
Solar Eclipse Viewing, 1 p.m., Beach Parking Lot, Fairy Stone State Park.

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.

Roving Ranger: Turtle Time, 10 a.m., Fairy Stone State Park.

Friday, April 12
Moonshine Hollow Hike, 10 a.m., Visitor's Center at Fairy Stone State Park.

Fairy Stone Hunt, 11 a.m., Visitor's Center at Fairy Stone State Park.

Fairy Stone Workshop, 1 p.m., Shelter 4, Fairy Stone State Park.

ADA Trail Hike, 1:15 p.m., Fairy Stone State Park. Sign up through the park office.

Fayerdale Missing Town, 2:30 p.m., Shelter 4, Fairy Stone State Park.

Friday, April 19
Community food pantry at the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department, 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 20
The Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a country breakfast from 6:30-10 a.m.

adult plates are \$10 each and child plates are \$5 each. All take out plates are \$10 each.

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.

Live music, 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays at The Coffee Break Café.

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

Sit-N-Sew, Saturdays 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Quilted Colors. Call 276-694-3020 or email patrickcountyquilters@gmail.com.

Rook games, 6:30-8 p.m., Monday nights by the Ararat Ruritan Club.

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.

Open Jam Acoustic, Fridays at Willis Gap Community Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. for concessions, with music 7-10 p.m. 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. Trip includes 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.

New documentary to highlight the return to Vietnam 50 years later

Last November, ten Vietnam veterans embarked on a journey they never thought possible, returning to Vietnam, and exploring the locations and memories that for 50 years have held deep significance for each of them. Mission Veteran Expedition, a collaborative venture between CDLLife, FASTPORT, and nonprofits Waypoint Vets and Wreaths Across America, made this journey possible and, together, proudly announce the upcoming release of a new documentary of the trip, "Mission Veteran Expedition: Honoring Vietnam Veterans in the Transportation Industry."

The documentary, captured and produced by U.S. Army veteran Nicholas Mott, owner of Seven Five Media, was released this morning and is available for anyone to view at no cost on Wreaths Across America's YouTube channel Today - National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Link to the channel by typing this into your browser: <https://youtu.be/qi1IVNUVKvQ>. "The documentary offers an intimate and

compelling look at the journey of these veterans," said videographer Nicholas Mott. "Capturing the essence of their experiences and the profound impact of the Mission Veteran Expedition was truly an honor. I hope other Vietnam veterans will watch it and find it healing."

The trip offered the veterans, each of whom has made a living in the transportation industry, an extraordinary opportunity to revisit Vietnam and reflect on their service there. The documentary explores this impactful journey, which combines travel, camaraderie, and history. Waypoint Vets, a non-profit organization dedicated to uniting and empowering veterans through camaraderie and adventure, led the expedition, ensuring each participant experienced a meaningful and lasting journey. The itinerary included a variety of experiences, including:

- Grounds Tour of the Former Saigon Embassy
- Walking Street Food Tour through Ho Chi Minh City
- Cu Chi Tunnels & Mekong Delta Luxury Tour
- War Remnants Museum
- Halong Bay Cruise
- Defense POW / MIA Accounting Agency Tour

• A 'Welcome Home' ceremony hosted at Sirius XM studios in Hollywood, with interviews on Radio Nemo

"The Mission Veteran Expedition successfully commemorated these veterans' valiant contributions while allowing them to experience the beauty of Vietnam's landscapes and the richness of its culture," said Sarah Lee, Army combat veteran and founder of Waypoint Vets. "For many veterans, the memories associated with Vietnam are often intertwined with the challenges of war. This expedition redefined these associations and replaced them with new, healing memories. By engaging with Vietnam on a deep, personal level, the trip forged lasting connections and helped veterans find solace in the beauty of a nation at peace."

As commemorative partners of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, FASTPORT and Wreaths Across America have had the honor of "Welcoming Home" more than 7,500 Vietnam veterans. "I feel the trip's culmination was an important piece of closure for the participant's journey," said Brad Bentley, President of FASTPORT, who traveled to Vietnam with the group. "These men returned to the United States to a hero's welcome, and for millions who never received this show of gratitude for answering the call of duty, it was truly an honor to say, 'Welcome Home.'"

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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WHEO

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"Small Town Station with a BIG Town Sound"

Water features, puddlers to ponds



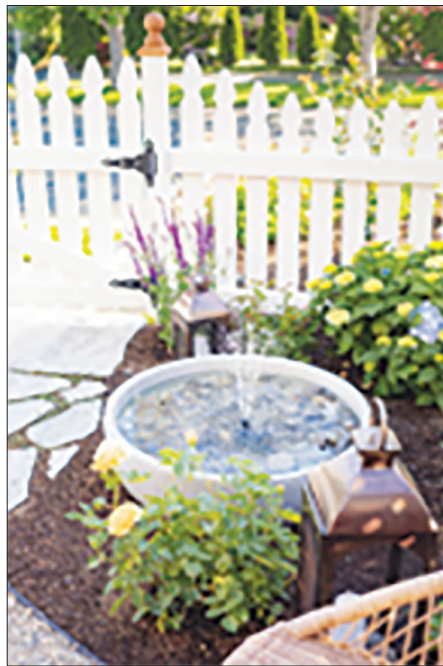
Rocks Over Hidden Reservoir



Pond with Waterfall



Pondless Waterfall Stream



Recirculating Fountain

By Ginnie Conaway, PCMG
Who doesn't enjoy the soothing sound and appearance of running water? It can be very easy to bring that into your yard, garden, or even onto your deck or patio. The sight and sound of moving water will make you feel cooler and can help block out road noise. In addition, you can attract many types of wildlife from dragonflies and frogs to birds and small mammals. Think about adding such a lovely, inexpensive element to your landscape.

There are many types of water features you can create yourself, sometimes simply out of objects you have around your home. You can also purchase a fully operational feature if you choose. Not all of them require digging or hiring an electrician.

Containers with still water, as in a birdbath, can be as simple as a ceramic pot, a rubber or galvanized tub, a horse trough, or an old bathtub. No need for running water or electricity. If it's small and light enough, it can sit on a deck. Heavier

containers should be placed on level ground. Add a few plants around it to make it look natural, and it can make a nice reflecting pool for a garden. Stack a few rocks to create a shallow area for birds to drink and bathe. Add a few water plants and you have a water garden. You can also add one or two goldfish for movement. Just remember with a shallow container that will freeze, to bring the fish inside for the winter. Don't dump them in a stream. Some containers will break if they freeze, so bring them inside or drain the water out for winter. Tip them upside down so they don't collect rainwater and freeze.

Many water features can have flowing water with the help of a solar or small electric pump. There are simple floating solar fountains for \$10-\$20 that can turn a bird bath or other container into a fountain. Be aware that the wind might blow the water out which can cause the pump to burn up. To prevent that from happening, lower the height of the fountain spray, or enlarge the diameter of the container. Look for a pump that automatically shuts off if it runs dry. Moving water does not allow mosquitoes to lay eggs.

Another type of small water feature utilizes a hidden reservoir where the water gathers and is pumped around

again. Bubblers and small floating fountains are frequently set over buried pot reservoirs where a pump recirculates the water. Since these don't require a lot of power to lift the water a long way, a solar pump is adequate. The hidden reservoir is usually a heavy plastic tub or bucket covered with supported hardware cloth that in turn supports the above water feature. Bubblers can be a few stacked rocks with the waterline from the pump causing water to bubble up and flow over into the reservoir. A fountain is a taller version of this idea of recirculating water. A single larger rock can have a hole drilled through it to accept the waterline and bubble out the top.

Waterfalls can be more elaborate versions of bubblers that can sit on the hidden reservoir or have a stream bed flowing downhill with the reservoir at the end. Streambeds require a waterproof liner and a stronger pump to recirculate the water. The reservoir can be hidden, as above, creating a disappearing stream, or flow into an excavated, lined pond.

Ponds can be an extension of another water feature with a recirculating pump or stand alone. They can be fairly small, only a few feet across or as large as a farm pond. Unless you have heavy clay that can be compacted to hold the water, ponds need a PVC or similar liner with edges that can be held down and covered with decorative rocks, pavers, or bricks. There are also preformed small ponds that can be left in the ground over winter. A pump sized to the pond can aerate the water.

Before you install a water feature, there are several things to consider: placement, safety, water and electricity source, lighting, having plants and fish.

Place your water feature close to the house or outside seating where you can easily enjoy it. Consider the weight of a filled tub or pot before putting it on your deck. Water is heavy. If you want to grow water plants, place your water feature in the sun. Try to avoid areas under large trees as the fall leaves will be a

problem unless you place a screen over the water. If putting in a rigid container or liner, make sure the ground it sits on is level to avoid cracking. If the area you dig out for a liner has stones or tree roots, line it with sand as cushioning to avoid punctures.

Water features that are shallow re-circulators or that have hidden reservoirs pose no hazards to children. Supervision is needed around deeper ponds.

Consider the availability of electricity and water. Plan to bury the wires and pipes and use ground fault connectors to avoid injury. You won't have to worry about either of those items if you simply use a garden hose to fill and clean, and a solar pump. Your pump can also be used to empty the water, if necessary.

If your feature is in the sun, plan to have enough floating plants such as water lettuce, water hyacinth, or waterlilies to cover 50-75% of the water surface to prevent a buildup of algae. Adding fish to your pond will prevent mosquitoes. Use common goldfish as koi get too large. If you want the fish to be able to remain in the pond over winter, the depth of at least part of it should be 48-inches. Start with only a few fish as they can deplete the oxygen in the water quickly if it gets too hot. Adding a pump to aerate the water will add more oxygen, as will live plants. There is usually no need to feed the fish and doing so can foul the water. Mechanical or biological filters shouldn't be necessary if the ratio of plants to fish is high enough. Don't feed the fish in the winter as there will be no growing plants to use the waste nutrients.

Remember, you can start with a small simple water feature very easily and inexpensively. You will enjoy anything you create that adds the soothing sight and sound of water to your landscape. Include live plants around and in it to create a true ecosystem for all to enjoy.

For more information, visit: Penn State Extension, <https://extension.psu.edu/tips-for-creating-a-water-garden>; Oklahoma State Extension, <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/water-gardens.html>;

Cornell Cooperative Extension, <https://ccenassau.org/horticulture/water-gardens>.

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VA health care enrollment increased more than 46.04 in past year

The Department of Veterans Affairs has enrolled 20,537 Virginia Veterans in VA health care over the past 365 days, which represents 46.04 percent more than it enrolled the previous year. Nationally, VA enrolled 401,006 Veterans in VA health care over the past 365 days – 30 percent more than the 307,831 it enrolled the previous year. This is the most yearly enrollees in at least five years at VA, and nearly a 50 percent increase over pandemic-level enrollment in 2020.

This historic enrollment has been made possible by the PACT Act, which has allowed VA to expand VA health care and benefits to millions of Veterans. VA is also conducting the most aggressive outreach campaign in its history, including hosting over 2,600 events since the passage of the PACT Act, launching a \$16+ million advertising campaign, using public service announcements, and – for the first time ever – sending text messages to Veterans encouraging them to enroll in VA health care. VA is continuing these aggressive outreach efforts throughout 2024, with more than 550 in-person events already scheduled for this year.

Enrolling Veterans in health care is a top priority for VA and the Biden-Harris Administration because VA has proven to be the best care in America for Veterans. Veterans who receive VA health care have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in overall quality ratings and patient satisfaction ratings. Additionally, VA health care is

often more affordable than non-VA health care for Veterans. In total, VA is currently delivering more care and more benefits to more Veterans than ever before in our nation's history, setting an all-time record for health care appointments provided in 2023.

“We want every eligible Veteran to enroll in VA health care for one simple reason: Veterans who come to VA are proven to have better health outcomes – and pay less – than Veterans who don't,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “That's why we've spent the past year meeting Veterans where they are – hosting thousands of events, sending millions of texts, advertising on every corner, and much more – to get them to come to VA. This aggressive outreach campaign has led more Veterans to enroll in VA care than during any year in at least a decade, and we're not slowing down now.”

“VA is the best, most affordable care in America for Veterans, so we want all eligible Veterans to enroll today,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, M.D. “Our clinicians know Veterans – they often are Veterans – and they know exactly how to help. Even if you don't need this care today, you might need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now. It's quick and easy to apply, and once you're in, you have access for life.”

VA recently expanded health care eligibility for millions of veterans nationwide, years earlier than called for by the PACT Act. As of March 5, all Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military and

meet certain requirements became eligible to enroll directly in VA health care. This means that all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll. VA also recently expanded health care to all World War II Veterans.

VA is able to serve these new enrollees, in part, due to last year's record hiring in VA's Veterans Health Administration. Last year, we exceeded our hiring goals in the Veterans Health Administration – growing at the fastest rate in 15 years and bringing in more than 61,000 new hires – to prepare for an increase in VA health care enrollment among Veterans under the PACT Act. In total, VHA now has more employees than ever before in its history, and retention efforts also led to a 20 percent decrease in turnover rate among VHA employees from 2022 to 2023.

Moving forward, VA will continue to aggressively reach out to veterans to encourage them to come to VA. VA encourages all Veterans, family members, caregivers, and survivors to learn more about VA and apply for their world-class health care and earned benefits today.

For more information about VA care, visit VA's health care website. For more information about the impact of the PACT Act, visit VA's PACT Act dashboard.

Va. free clinics await first funding increase in years, amid budget battle

By Taya Coates
Capital News Service

The network of Virginia free clinics may receive its largest funding increase since 2016 to help with a growing need for services, although the bump was less than originally requested.

The statewide Virginia Association of Free Clinics, or VAFCC, offers primary care health services in addition to counseling, dental care and syringe exchange. The clinics help patients with other barriers they may face, including a transportation assistance program and food bank.

The House and Senate approved earlier in March a \$1.5 million annual increase over the next two years, starting in July. That brings nearly \$16.6 million in total funding for the clinic network.

Sen. Barbara Favola, D-Arlington, and Del. Betsy Carr, D-Richmond, originally submitted requests to their respective chambers to increase annual funding by \$5 million.

Favola, who chairs a health subcommittee and sits on the Finance and Appropriations committee, said she is intent on ensuring that no Virginia is uninsured. The state has had to review Medicaid eligibility criteria and allocate required funding, she said. That can sometimes eat into funding for “discretionary programs” like the clinics.

The largest funding bump within the decade was \$3.1 million in 2016, when the VAFCC received just over \$12.4 million in the biennial budget.

There are 69 member clinics in the association, including three new clinics added this year. The clinic association reported over \$114 million of care for over 75,000 patients across the state in 2022, according to its website.

Operation costs for the clinics



Caring Hearts Free Clinic is located at 835 Woodland Drive in Stuart.

have increased by around 170% since 2016, according to CEO Rufus Phillips.

A \$5 million annual increase in state funding would help offset the cost increase, Phillips said. The majority of VAFCC funding comes from fluctuating charitable donations, grants and philanthropic support.

The association received funding through the federal COVID-19 relief CARES Act in 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021.

“Those were one-time funds and without increased year-to-year funding, the clinics are going to have a very difficult time,” Phillips said.

The association was grateful to the General Assembly, Favola and Carr for their support of free clinics, Phillips said.

“I hope the state in general continues to increase its level of support because you only get things done at a community level,” Phillips said.

Karen Legato, executive director of the Health Brigade, the first free clinic in Virginia, is concerned

clinics may decrease the breadth of services offered without further state funding.

Free clinics played a vital role in reaching underrepresented communities throughout the height of COVID-19. The pandemic led to an enrollment surge in other clinic services, according to Legato.

“The ARPA funding dried up but our services didn't,” Legato said. “We have more people now than we ever have had in terms of diverse populations that have been alienated from health care.”

Free clinics also evaluate non-medical factors that influence health outcomes, using the social determinants of health model, according to Legato. The model includes factors such as employment, housing and education, among others, that impact a person's physical health.

“I wish I could go there instead of having to go to my normal care, because people have plenty of time with their providers and we take a holistic approach, and we

know our patients,” Legato said. “We pick up things that a lot of times the traditional health care system may not pick up.”

The House and Senate budget raises tax to cover spending for programs such as free clinics, Favola said.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has publicly stated his finalized version of the budget will not include a tax increase. Youngkin expressed disapproval of the “backward budget” in a statement after the General Assembly adjourned, and in several public addresses since.

“A budget is a statement of your values,” Favola said. “Where do you think investment should be made and how do you want to grow the economy? What future do you see for Virginia? Democrats gave him a pathway forward.”

Youngkin and the first lady recently donated \$21,785 from the governor's salary toward each of two free clinics, located in the Roanoke area. One is the Christian outreach ministry Straight Street, which supports at-risk teens. The other is the Bradley Free Clinic, which helps support people battling substance use.

The General Assembly will reconvene on April 17 to review any actions or vetoes Youngkin makes to legislation.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.

Boy Scout Troop works to ‘Keep Patrick County Beautiful’



Boy Scout Troop 69 members, Patrick Springs Ruritans and other volunteers picked up litter along Spring Road, South Mayo Drive and Elk Creek Road. In addition to learning important life skills such as camping, hiking, first aid, personal management and emergency preparedness, the scouts participate in service projects each year which benefit the county. Organizers extend a ‘thank you’ to all the volunteers for making a difference and helping to beautify Patrick County. (Contributed)

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CPB unveils new location, office

CPB Behavioral Therapy and Advocacy Services cut the ribbon at their new location, at 135 N. Main Street in Stuart, across from the Patrick County Visitors Center.

The larger location will have many benefits, and means “we can serve more kids locally,” Crystal Peterson Barker, owner, said at the March 27 event.

Since the move from its previous location on E. Blue Ridge St., CPB has doubled the number of children with Autism and other developmental delays and disabilities they can serve.

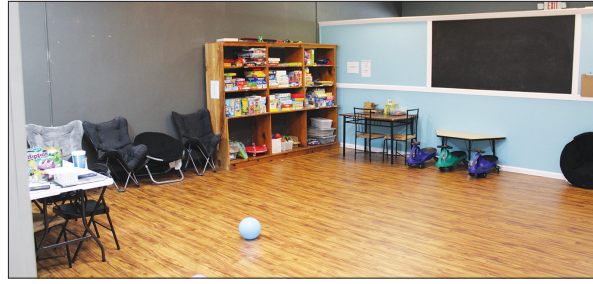
The additional space allows the agency to do more to help youngsters and increase the quality of care. But it’s more than that, said Barker.

It’s “not just the quality, but also the types of services that we can provide. Now we have enough space for social groups, individual sessions, and parent groups.” The increased space also will provide more space for parent training.

For more information, call (540) 840-9285.



CPB Behavioral Therapy and Advocacy Services staff and others cut the ribbon on their new, larger, location.



The new, larger location will allow CPB to increase the number of children it can serve.



CPB's new location is at 135 N. Main St. in Stuart.

Wage mandates among seven bills vetoed last week

Acting on 107 bills last week, Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed 100 bills, including bills that strengthen law enforcement’s ability to prosecute child predators and expand Department of Corrections inmate access to quality health services.

The Governor vetoed seven bills that would legalize the sale of drugs, weaken public safety, and arbitrarily set labor prices.

“This proposal is an arbitrary, mandatory 25% increase in the starting wages of all employees. Contrary to ensuring higher compensation, such a substantial increase will raise business operational costs. In response, businesses will raise prices, creating more inflation, and implement hiring freezes and layoffs, ultimately hurting the workers the proposal seeks to assist,” Youngkin said in his veto statement.

“This proposal also harms Virginia’s economic competitiveness. Neighboring states have reduced business costs and encouraged investment, resulting in thriving economies,” he said, adding “the net outmigration of over one hundred thousand residents from Virginia between 2012 and 2021, primarily to states like North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Georgia, none of which have wage mandates.”

He also vetoed House Bill 157, which removes the farmworker exemption from the Virginia Minimum Wage Act.

“Producers who employ H-2A workers must adhere to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR), currently set at \$15.81 per hour. Even farms that do not employ H2A workers pay the AEWR to compete with those that do,” Youngkin noted in his veto statement.

“Farmers have a unique economic environment with unpredictable weather and fluctuating production costs. Due to federal pricing systems and global market conditions, farmers often lack control over the prices they receive for their goods,” Youngkin noted. “Agricultural budgeting and operations are already challenging, and imposing a wage mandate without considering these factors could drive small and medium-sized farms into debt or closure.”

“The agricultural sector has thin margins, and this bill will significantly affect the industry. The data from the USDA Census of Agriculture and the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Policy further emphasize the importance of supporting our agriculture industry. The loss of five thousand farms and nearly five hundred thousand acres of farmland in the last five years has dramatically altered

our economy and communities,” he said, and added “The AEWR already materially determines the labor rates. A further wage mandate financially strains farmers, leading to farm closures, job losses, and increased consumer food prices.”

When vetoing the legalization of retail marijuana, Youngkin said the proposal “endangers Virginians’ health and safety. States following this path have seen adverse effects on children’s and adolescent’s health and safety, increased gang activity and violent crime, significant deterioration in mental health, decreased road safety, and significant costs associated with retail marijuana that far exceed tax revenue.

“It also does not eliminate the illegal black-market sale of cannabis, nor guarantee product safety. Addressing the inconsistencies in enforcement and regulation in Virginia’s current laws does not justify expanding access to cannabis, following the failed paths of other states and endangering Virginians’ health and safety,” he added in his veto statement.

“I am also vetoing bills that would implement drastic wage mandates, raise costs on families and small businesses, jeopardize jobs, and fail to recognize regional economic differences across Virginia,” Youngkin said.

Video series celebrates Doc Watson with stories and songs from Blue Ridge Music Center’s Doc at 100 concert



Wayne Henderson, Jack Hinshelwood, T. Michael Coleman, Jack Lawrence, Doc at 100 concert.

The Blue Ridge Music Center is celebrating a music legend with the release of a new video series titled Legacies: Doc Watson Musical Tribute highlighting performances and stories from artists who were influenced by the music of the late bluegrass pioneer Doc Watson. The series features T. Michael Coleman, Jack Lawrence, Wayne Henderson, and Jack Hinshelwood performing during the Doc at 100 tribute concert that was hosted at the venue in 2023.

The series is available at BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org and on the Music Center’s YouTube channel.

Born in 1923 near Deep Gap, N.C., Watson was blind from infancy. He learned to play guitar at the encouragement of his father and went on to develop a flat-picking style that redefined the sound of traditional music. In his more than 70-year career, Watson became one of the most influential acoustic guitar players in the world and was a noted influence on scores of



Wayne Henderson and Jack Hinshelwood, Doc at 100.

musicians from across genres.

The four artists featured in the video series have deep ties to Watson, having played, recorded, and toured with him for a combined 40-plus years.

Coleman toured with Doc and his son Merle Watson from 1974 to 1986. Several years before Watson’s death in 2012, Coleman rejoined him on the road. The pair’s many years of traveling and playing together amassed a trove of stories and music.

Lawrence began playing with Watson in 1983, filling in for Merle as he pursued other interests. After Merle’s death in 1985, Lawrence and Watson became full-time musical partners. They played side-by-side for more than 25 years in a “guitar partnership” that capitalized on both of their strengths.

Henderson is well-known for his guitar playing and instrument building. He and Watson first met in the late 1960s and went on to form a long friendship, one that was especially strong in Watson’s later years when he would make regular visits to Henderson’s luthier shop in Rugby, Va. Henderson also made instruments for Watson, including a mandolin and guitar.

Hinshelwood began playing bluegrass guitar in the early 1970s and was strongly influenced by Watson’s guitar picking and repertoire.

Ten of Watson’s most recognizable and well-loved songs are featured in the video series:

“Eight More Miles to Louisville” performed by Coleman and Lawrence
 “Sittin’ On top of the World” performed by Henderson and Hinshelwood

“Nothin’ To It (I Don’t Love Nobody)” performed by Henderson and Hinshelwood

“Old Camp Meeting Time” performed by Henderson and Hinshelwood

“Steel Guitar Rag” performed by Henderson and Hinshelwood

“Deep River Blues (I Don’t Love Nobody)” performed by Coleman, Lawrence, Henderson, and Hinshelwood

“My Creole Belle” performed by Coleman, Lawrence, Henderson, Jack Hinshelwood.

“I Know What It Means To Be Lonesome” performed by Coleman, Lawrence, Henderson, and Hinshelwood

“Windy and Warm” performed by Coleman, Lawrence, Henderson, and Hinshelwood

“Tennessee Stud” performed by Coleman, Lawrence, Henderson, and Hinshelwood

In addition to the new series, viewers can watch the Music Center’s series, Deep Roots, Many Voices: Diversity and Inclusion in American Roots Music and A Place in the Band: Women in Bluegrass and American Roots Music on the YouTube channel.

The Blue Ridge Music Center, located at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Galax, Va., operates seasonally from May through October, and kicks off its annual summer concert series on May 25. It is a national park facility, a major attraction along the Blue Ridge Parkway, and a venue partner of The Crooked Road: Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail and Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina. For more information, visit BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org.

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FURNITURE - Nice heavy bedroom suite, entertainment center, jewelry chest, lamps, small T.V., coffee table, dining room table & chairs, small storage cabinet, wood office desk, curio cabinet, china cabinet, floor lamp, framed paintings, stained glass windows, Art Nouveau floor ashray, early floor radio, mantle clock

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES - Royal Doulton figurines, Precious Moments figurines, designer handbags, Vintage Coca-Cola cooler, Currier & Ives china, crystal, cattle skull, cross cut saws, marbles, rug, advertising beer signs, lines, Tom Clark Gnomes, pottery, enamelware, brass planters, decorative bird houses, walking canes, boxed Barbie dolls, NIB Hess trucks, porcelain advertising signs, fishing lures, autographed Johnny Unitas framed picture, baseball cards

TERMS - Cash or approved check with proper ID. No warranties expressed or implied. All announcements made day of sale take precedence over all previous statements, written or verbal, concerning this auction. All items sold "as is-where is". 10% Buyer's Premium applies. Concessions available on site.

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TOO MANY ITEMS TO LIST!!

★ DIRECTIONS ★

FROM MARTINSVILLE, VA - Take Hwy 58W, go 7 miles, Horsepasture Fire Dept. on left at corner of 58W & Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road). WATCH FOR SIGNS

FROM STUART, VA - Take Hwy 58E into Henry County, turn right on Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road), 1st road to right just past Old Country Store & Hillcrest Baptist Church. LOOK FOR SIGNS

SilverLining Design earns Silver ADDY Award, moves to next level of competition

For the second consecutive year, SilverLining Design was recognized at the Western Virginia American Advertising Awards on March 2 with a Silver ADDY Award in the Print Advertising category for their design of Patrick County Tourism's advertisement in the 2023 Virginia Travel Guide.

The Western Virginia American Advertising Awards is hosted by the American Advertising Federation's Roanoke Chapter. It marks the first of three tiers of competition that end at the National American Advertising Awards.

SilverLining Design submitted one of 134 professional entries and will now be forwarded on to the District level of competition.

The gala for District 3 level is expected to be held sometime in April, according to Sarah Sheppard, project Manager for SilverLining Design.

"For a small shop like ours, it's an honor to be recognized with an award like this," David Stanley, SilverLining Design's owner and art director, said. "We are proud of the work we have done with Patrick County Tourism and all of our other partners."

Along with other strategic placements, Patrick County Tourism advertises annually in the official Virginia Travel Guide. For the 2023 Virginia Travel Guide, SilverLining Design created an ad with the phrase "Get Outta Town," which features a sweeping landscape of Patrick County's natural scenic beauty. This ad compliments the tourism department's continuing campaign to advertise Patrick County as a scenic outdoor destination.

This makes SilverLining Design's second consecutive year receiving an ADDY Award from the Western Virginia American Advertising Awards. SilverLining Design is a Patrick County-based graphic design and marketing agency specializing in creative design, social media, website design, and branding. From experience with small businesses



David Stanley, owner and art director of SilverLining Design, is pictured with a Silver ADDY Award at a March 2 awards ceremony in Roanoke.



SilverLining Design was recognized with a Silver ADDY Award in the Print Advertising category for an ad with the phrase "Get Outta Town," that was featured in the 2023 Virginia Travel Guide. Created for the Patrick County Tourism Department, the ad supports the continuing campaign to promote Patrick County as a scenic outdoor destination.

Golden Anniversary celebrated



Stuart residents George H. and Corinne (Kay) Marsh will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary April 11. They met and married in Cadillac Michigan where George was stationed at the navy base there and Kay was Society Editor at the Cadillac Evening News.

Low-Head Dams are the focus of a public safety campaign

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is supporting April Low-Head Dam Public Safety Awareness Month to encourage Virginians to protect themselves from the dangers associated with these structures.

A low-head dam is a dam that runs from bank-to-bank, typically with a low height, across a river or stream. Water pouring over the dam creates a hazardous current termed a "spin cycle" like that of a washing machine that can trap even the strongest swimmer wearing a flotation device. Once caught in a spin cycle, it is almost impossible to escape.

"Every year, these deceptively dangerous dams claim lives and pose an ongoing risk to boaters, swimmers and fishers throughout Virginia," said Mark Killgore, DCR's lead dam safety engineer. "Low-head dams are called 'drowning machines' for a reason. Over 1,000 people have died in incidents at low-head dams in the United States in the past few decades."

You can take the following steps to protect yourself:

- Know before you go: check your route, read

maps, talk to locals and obey signs.

- Watch for a smooth horizon line where the stream meets the sky and look for concrete retaining walls on either side of the water. These could be signs of a low-head dam.

- If you spot a dam, exit the river and reenter well downstream.

- Never try to dive to help someone caught in a spin cycle. Exit the river and call 911. Use a rope or throw bag to pull them to safety.

"The only escape may be crawling along the river bottom and surfacing well downstream of the dam," Killgore added.

For more information about low-head dams, visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/ds-education>.

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APRIL						PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY						2024	
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday			
	1		2		3		4		5		6		
Yoga 10:00 *		Storytime 10:30 Manners		Paint Like Vincent 10:30		Senior Chair Exercise 10:15		Sit & Stitch 11:00		Family Movie 11:00 Wish			
Senior Chair Exercise 1:30			Yoga 1:15 *		Decorate Your Own Library Bag 2:00*								
LEGO Club 4:00			Legal Aid 5:00										
	8		9		10		11		12		13		
Yoga 10:00 *		Storytime 10:30 Libraries		Book Bingo 10:30		Senior Chair Exercise 10:15				Board Game Day			
Senior Chair Exercise 1:30			Yoga 1:15 *		DIY Freezer Jam 2:30*								
LEGO Club 4:00			Intro to Zen 1:30		Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00								
	15		16		17		18		19		20		
Yoga 10:00 *		Storytime 10:30 Poetry		Library Board Meeting		Senior Chair Exercise 10:15		Sit & Stitch 11:00					
Senior Chair Exercise 1:30		Medicare 101 12:00 *		Retired Teacher's Book Club 11:00		Open Art Studio 1:00							
LEGO Club 4:00		Books & Bakes 5:00											
	22		23		24		25		26		27		
Yoga 10:00 *		Storytime 10:30 With the Master Gardeners: Trees/Earth Day		Yoga 1:15 *		Senior Chair Exercise 10:15							
Senior Chair Exercise 1:30			Intro to Zen 1:30			Rainy Daisies 2:30*							
LEGO Club 4:00													
	29		30										
Yoga 10:00 *		Storytime 10:30 Sheep		Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. * registration required.									
Senior Chair Exercise 1:30													
LEGO Club 4:00													



STUART, VA

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TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH TO FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2024

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Chamber's April Events

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All Month Long

PC TOURISM SUMMIT
April 8 at Fairy Stone State Park

"HOW TO START A BUSINESS" SEMINAR
April 23 5:30-7pm, P&HCC Stuart Site

WORK-BASED LEARNING SEMINAR FOR BUSINESSES
April 29 P&HCC Stuart Site

FOR MORE INFO
www.patrickchamber.com
276-229-9917

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.

April 5, 2024

GIFT CARD BINGO



Doors Open 6:00
Games Start 7:00 PM

Hosted By:
Patrick County Alzheimer's Group, LLC

Concessions Available
Individual Bingo Cards - \$20.00
Bingo Game Card Packs - \$25.00

Stuart Rotary - Hooker Building
264 Woodland Drive
Stuart, VA 24171



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STEPHEN M.C. ERNST, M.D.

Dr. Stephen Ernst joined the Spectrum Medical team in July 2023. After growing up in Charlottesville, he attended the University of Virginia.

Dr. Ernst specializes in surgical and non-operative management of all levels of shoulder and elbow issues. His most frequently performed surgeries include shoulder replacement, rotator cuff repairs, shoulder stabilization, minimally invasive elbow surgery, tendon repairs, nerve decompression and fracture care in the upper extremity. He looks forward to using his advanced orthopaedic training to widen the scope of orthopaedic services offered in southern Virginia.



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SAME DAY X-RAYS

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2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

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276-790-3233

MONDAY - FRIDAY 08:00 AM - 4:30 PM