



# THE ENTERPRISE

Calendar	12
Church	9
Classified	10
Family Album	5
Obituaries	8
Sports	6
Viewpoints	4

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## Inmate labor force results in big savings to localities

By Taylor Boyd

Patrick County and other localities use inmate labor to help save tax dollars, encourage inmates to remain productive and ensure work in the area is completed on a timely basis, authorities said of their inmate labor forces.

### Patrick County

Trustee inmates at the Patrick County Jail save the county an estimated \$180,000 annually by performing work with the Animal Control Shelter, Maintenance, and Parks and Recreation departments and within the jail.

Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith said trustees are inmates who are not convicted of violent crimes.

"They go through a screening process and are considered low risk inmates and are not consid-

ered dangerous," he said.

While the exact number of trustees fluctuates depending on who's eligible, Smith said the number averages around 12.

"Most of them are in charge of maintaining, cleaning, preparing food, doing laundry inside the jail in the sheriff's office," he said.

Four trustees are allowed to leave the facility and work with the county departments.

"Typically, every day Monday through Friday, they are used at the Animal Control Shelter, county maintenance, and county rec department," Smith said. Crews perform "maintenance, mowing, weed eating, cleaning, and cleaning the dog kennels. They assist those departments that they're working with."

Some trustees also work at the Transfer Sta-

tion and with the Patrick County Alzheimer's Association, LLC, he said, and added that depending on the inmates' skills, they also do carpentry, plumbing, and other general maintenance work.

When trustees are working at county departments, Smith said the departments are responsible for feeding the trustees.

"During the summer, SRO deputies (School Resource Officers) will take inmates to specific schools to assist in maintenance at the school when the school is out of session," he said.

Smith said trustees also built the mountain bike trail system at I.C. DeHart Memorial Park in Woolwine. The more than 20-mile trail system was started in 2008 and completed in 2016.

(See Inmate Labor p.3)

## Council approves noise ordinance



Members of Stuart Town Council heard concerns from several of those attending last week's meeting. Council members, (pictured left to right) are Dave Hoback, Mayor Ray Weiland, Erica Cipko Wade and Town Attorney Chris Corbett.

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council approved a noise ordinance at its meeting held Wednesday, April 17. It went into effect immediately.

There was a lengthy discussion before the vote.

Mayor Ray Weiland said he had talked to several residents who believed the ordinance should include jake braking (compression release engine brakes) on semi-trucks going through town.

He said that idea was presented as "engine braking systems that exceed 50 decibels or within 10 feet of the offending vehicle will be fined no less than \$100 and no more than \$500 per infraction. Money from this ordinance would be contributed to the sheriff's office for safety equipment."

"That was what some folks seem to feel that we should include in the noise ordinance," Weiland said.

Council member Erica Wade asked if the brakes were necessary or helpful for a vehicle to have.

"They're loud, but they're not necessary in the town," Weiland said. "There are no real steep areas in the town. I mean they are used for braking, but they're loud and pretty obnoxious. Some of them are very loud if they don't have proper muffle systems to keep it" controlled.

Town Attorney Chris Corbett said he generally hears the jet brakes on big trucks coming off the bypass, down Wood Brothers Drive.

"I can hear them inside the fire department," he said.

Weiland said he's been stopped in Walmart by those who expressed concerns, and he has received calls about the issue.

"Apparently, it's bothering folks. They don't necessarily need to use that braking system. They can turn them off, it's not necessary," Weiland said. "If we were in Meadows of Dan or something, I could understand. I wouldn't want" to have the system turned off "there be-

(See Noise Ordinance p. 3)

## Bowling ride Saturday will mark the last scholarship event

*"Give us a wave as we go by one last time," Darrell Bowling.*

By Debbie Hall

This is the last year of the Cpl. Jonathan W. Bowling Memorial-Scholarship Motorcycle Ride, according to Darrell Bowling.

This year's event will be held Saturday, April 27. Registration and other events begin at 10 a.m. at the Patrick County High School, 215 Cougar Lane, Stuart. The event will include live music, food, and door prizes.

Registration is \$15 per vehicle, and those who enter have a chance to win prizes. Trophies are awarded for the bike traveling the farthest to participate in the ride.

Kickstands go up, and the ride gets underway at noon.

The ride began as a way to honor the life and service of Marine Cpl. Jonathan "Jon" W. Bowling, and to allow his legacy of giving back to continue by raising funds to provide scholarships that are administered by Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

Jon Bowling died on Jan. 26, 2005, while serving his country in Iraq.

"We set out 20 years ago to do something in Jon's memory that would allow him to continue to do something for the county," Bowl-



Marine Cpl. Jonathan W. Bowling

ing's father, Darrell Bowling, recalled.

"We did not know how the event would go," he said, adding "we have been fortunate the county and the community have continued to support it."

Due in large part to that support, "we have met our goal of having the scholarship become perpetual," said the senior Bowling, a retired Master Trooper with the Virginia State Police.

To date, the ride has collected a total of \$89,000.

Jon Bowling was a Martinsville Police Officer, a volunteer firefighter, an elder at his church, and an avid motorcycle rider. The Chapter

(See Bowling Ride p.7)



All five courts were active in the Cougars first home match in years.

## Tennis courts project allows Cougars to play first home match in years

By Pat Delaney

For the first time in years, the Patrick County High School (PCHS) tennis teams played a home match, thanks to the brand new courts recently completed at the school. The April 15 match against Martinsville was an unfamiliar experience for the boys' and girls' teams after playing all their matches on the road.

The five new courts, painted in Cougar green and gold, "turned out better than we could have imagined," said athletic director Terry Harris.

PCHS needed new courts, with the old courts becoming increasingly unplayable because of age. "The last time we played on the courts was about six years ago," said girls' coach Ashley Nowlin, "and we only had three courts at the time, and they were pretty cracked and had grass growing in the cracks."

Of the new court project, she added, "it's a pretty big deal."

"The previous school board got the ball rolling. They and Mr. Wood, our superintendent, were instrumental

in getting the project started," Harris said when recounting how the process to build new courts began. With funding approved, C.W. Cauley & Son won the bid to build the courts and had a huge role in the final product.

"They probably saved us thousands and thousands of dollars because they're a local company and they donated portions of their work and their time," said Harris. "We probably couldn't have gotten it done the way we got it done without them and their support and their help," enabled the school to afford to build the courts.

"Personally, I was happy to just get the three that we had replaced," said Harris. "When it came down to it, the school board and Mr. Wood all worked together." With C.W. Cauley & Son's help, the school could build five courts, which will be a huge plus for the Cougar tennis program.

The benefits of the new courts are many.

Having five courts will allow the

(See Tennis Courts p.7)

## Disaster ministry partners with others to fill mission



Jimmy Willard said food boxes include cereal, pasta, shelf-stable milk, canned vegetables, and other items.



Volunteers load food boxes in the waiting vehicles of the drive-thru line on distribution days.

By Taylor Boyd

The Disaster Relief Food Ministry, a local nonprofit organization, works to distribute food boxes to those in need in Patrick and Henry counties.

Founder Jimmy Willard said he started the food ministry in 2011 after he started driving a school bus.

"I see where the kids were getting off the buses, you know, people were just in need. I'd been addicted to crystal meth for about 20 years,

and this year makes 23 years I've been clean, so when I got clean, I wanted to do something to give back," he said.

When he first started out, Willard said he would give two boxes to a family that lived on Bull Mountain. "We're up to now, it's probably 1,500-1,600 families every month," he said.

In addition to dates where anybody who signs up can get a box,

(See Disaster Ministry p. 7)





## Tourism Talks

Hello Patrick,

The trees are budding, the daffodils are showing strength, and my allergies are in full swing. The beauty of spring is rolling through our community, and you can feel the excitement in the air. This is the time of the year that you should put a little "spring in your step," as the older folks would say.

Speaking of steps, Tourism applied for a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, and we were chosen to be a part of the Appalachian Gateway Community Initiative. We had a team of eight members that went down to Decatur, Alabama, for a three-day workshop of intense training in community development focusing on tourism. During the three-day workshop, participating teams heard from national and regional experts exchanged ideas with other teams and ultimately developed action plans for their communities.

Our team received targeted technical assistance and a community tourism assessment during the workshops. Our team members were Rebecca Adcock (director of PC Chamber of Commerce), Sissily Harrell (architect), Wayne Kirkpatrick (Dan River Basin Association member), Lora Mahaffey (president of Bull Mountain Arts), Travis Murphy (director of PC Parks &

Rec), Bryce Simmons (Stuart Town Manager), Sarah Wray (Reynolds Homestead Community Engagement, Partnership & Program coordinator) and James Houchins (director of PC Tourism).

Patrick, we are one of Appalachia's gateway communities, towns bordering on publicly owned lands and state parks. Our goal was to learn more ways to preserve our spaces while promoting their nature and culture, which is critical to economic growth, especially for areas experiencing economic distress and transition. The workshops informed us on developing thoughtful strategies to grow our economy and protect our natural treasures. We represented you well, Patrick. Our team has come back with an awesome plan, and we look forward to meeting with all our stakeholders as we progress with our community growth project.

You can learn more at <https://www.arc.gov/investment/appalachian-gateway-communities-initiative-providing-tools-for-tourism/>

FYI! We let the other teams know they should come and get lost and find themselves in Patrick County. The one and only PATRICK COUNTY! Talk to you soon, love you!

James Houchins  
jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us  
Director of Tourism

## Deadline nears for personal property returns

Personal property tax returns were mailed to all residents of the county back in February. Ownership of personal property and business equipment owned on January 1, should be verified and returned to the Commissioner of the Revenue office by May 1.

Please review all vehicles and mark personal or business use. To qualify for business use, a vehicle must be used more than 50% in a business. Any vehicles, utility

trailers, boats, campers or mobile homes not listed need to be noted on the form.

Business owners must attach a depreciation schedule or itemized listing of property owned on January 1.

Please contact the Commissioner of the Revenue office located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building, Room 106 Rucker St., Room 220 or call (276) 694-7131.

## Social Security Scams

One of the most popular ways for criminals to steal money and sensitive information is by impersonating a trusted source — often a government agency. According to the Federal Trade Commission, victims of government impostor scams reported theft of nearly \$617 million in 2023.

A frequently impersonated agency is the Social Security Administration. Here's what you need to know to spot and stop a Social Security impostor scam.

Criminals rely on getting their target into a heightened emotional state, such as fear, panic or excitement. They know high emotions can block access to logical think-

ing. Social Security impostors tend to use fear (your number has been suspended, call immediately) or excitement (you are eligible for a higher monthly benefit).

If you get a call claiming to be from Social Security and you are not already engaged with them on a specific matter, hang up. Concerned? Look up the number to your local office at [ssa.gov/locator](https://ssa.gov/locator) and find out if the agency has been trying to reach you.

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](https://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork).

# email us

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

## Pets of the Week



Fitzpatrick Male



Fitzgibbons Male

Clover Cat has a litter of adorable kittens. See them all on their Facebook page. Call (276) 694-3598 for more information or to make an appointment to meet them.

## FISH DAY!

IT'S TIME TO STOCK YOUR POND!

Delivery Will Be:  
**Thurs., May 2**  
Stuart 12:15 - 1:00  
@ Wood's Cold Storage

Martinsville 2:00 - 2:45  
@ Southern States

"LIKE" us on Facebook!



To Place an Order Call  
1-800-643-8439  
[www.fishwagon.com](https://www.fishwagon.com)

## New Trail Opening in the Town of Stuart



JOIN US FRIDAY, MAY 3 AT 4PM

- Refreshments by Pickle & Ash
- Drawings for prizes
- Optional group hike
- Networking

STUART ROTARY FIELD

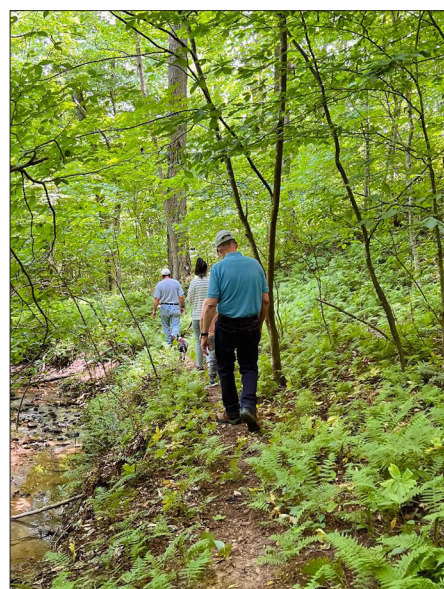
420 Woodland Dr.  
Stuart, VA 24171

Parking in upper lot  
Trailhead on edge of soccer field



The Rotary Club of Stuart is pleased to announce the grand opening of new hiking and biking trails in the heart of the county seat. The grand opening trail celebration will take place at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 3 at Rotary Field, 420 Woodland Drive. It will feature a ribbon-cutting, guided hike, drawings for prizes, refreshments from Pickle & Ash, and networking opportunities for attendees to connect with fellow community members who share a passion for nature and an active lifestyle.

This exciting development offers residents and visitors alike an opportunity to explore the natural beauty our county has to offer while getting exercise. The Rotary Club of Stuart, along with project partners Dan River Basin Association and Patrick County Tourism, invite you to join the celebration and experi-



ence the trails first-hand.

For more information about the event and the new trails, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/745218437748518>.

## Celebrate Earth Week with DRBA

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) is offering events to celebrate Earth Week.

On Wednesday, April 24, you're invited to a free webinar, Lunch with DRBA: Hidden Gems of the Dan River Basin, noon – 1 p.m.

The Dan River Basin is packed with "Hidden Gems." Many of these sites are well known and loved by locals and visitors. But there are some hidden secrets you may not know about. Join us while you are eating lunch as we explore a few of these hidden gems and learn about some unique characteristics you may not have noticed at your favorite destinations in our watershed.

Registration is required. This webinar is online and free.

Register at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2ScG1E9dSw-EFE8c\\_tHdUA#registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2ScG1E9dSw-EFE8c_tHdUA#registration).

Eyes on a Waterway Day is Thursday, April 25. Be a River Watch Monitor and walk along a river or stream and send us a report about what you see.

- Help identify negative impacts to our waterways through visual assessment near a waterway or boating down a river.

- Conduct a visual assessment or

"stream walk" to evaluate a waterway's health by assessing the physical habitat and potential impacts.

- Report any unusual river conditions such as foamy or unusual colored waste, unusual or bad smells, dead fish or aquatic life, litter or illegal dumps, discharges from pipes or drains that are not normal, etc.

- Volunteers are expected to complete their visual assessments on a regular basis, preferably monthly.

To learn more, visit [https://www.danriver.org/content/danriver/uploads/cwqm/river\\_watch\\_monitor.pdf](https://www.danriver.org/content/danriver/uploads/cwqm/river_watch_monitor.pdf).

On Friday, April 26, DRBA will offer the Tails on Trails Sunset Hike at Lake Reidsville, 630 Water Works Road, Reidsville, N.C. at 6 p.m.

The first Tails on Trails Hike this year is sponsored by Purina. Bring your hiking shoes and your furry friend for some paw-tastic smells and views. All dogs need to be leashed for the hike.

Light refreshments will be provided for both people and pets and some free trail pet accessory giveaways.

You don't need a have a pup to come out for the sunset hike, but will need to feel comfortable around a lot of furry kids.

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# Inmate Labor

(cont. from page 1)

“That draws lots of visitors to the county every weekend, it’s a regional attraction. It’s a huge deal for people in the mountain biking circuit,” Smith said.

The trustee work program has been going on for decades, “long before I was a sheriff,” Smith said, adding the trustees basically work 40 hours a week, or the equivalent of full-time jobs, while in jail.

“They leave around 8:30 in the morning and they come back around 4:30 in the afternoon,” he said.

The hours translate into an average of at least four full-time positions that the county does not have to fill or provide salaries, benefits and the like.

Smith said four trustees typically go out each day, though sometimes more go out depending on the need. Trustees are not paid for doing the work program.

The county does not pay for the program, and participating inmates are not charged the daily fee allowed by the state, Smith said.

“There is no cost to the program,” Smith said, and he believes the trustee program is a win-win for residents, inmates and the county.

The program “provides valuable resources for the county, and it’s an efficient use of inmate labor,” he said. “In my opinion, it assists in the rehabilitation of the inmates because they’re basically” working “as part of the repayment of their debt to society,” Smith said. “I do believe it plays a significant role in their reintegration back into society once they’re released.”

## Henry County

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis estimated 40 inmates are a part of the trustee work program in his office. Participating trustees average 7 to 8 hours of work a day, seven days a week.

“You would be looking at roughly about 320-340 hours of inmate labor a day,” Davis said. That’s about 2,200 hours of inmate labor a week for “at least 30 full-time employees.”

Davis said about \$3,800 per day is performed in inmate labor, which is “approximately \$1 million in inmate labor” annually “if that labor was performed at a minimum wage rate.”

When determining who can be a trustee, Davis said the office first looks at what the inmate is currently charged with, previous criminal history, and previous behavioral history if they’ve been incarcerated before.

“We make a determination based on those factors - whether they would make a good fit as trustee or not. Obviously, we don’t want someone who’s dangerous and/or any potential risk for escape,” he said.

While trustees work both outside and inside the jail, Davis said the majority work inside the facility.

“They assist with cleaning the facility, they assist with preparing all the meals for the inmates,

kitchen work, they assist with serving those meals to the inmates, cleaning up the kitchen,” he said.

Working in the facility’s kitchen is a big task because it has a daily population of more than 250 inmates, Davis said. Thirteen trustees work in the kitchen, and their work days are 10-hours long.

“They get three meals a day, it takes a tremendous amount of labor to ensure that they’re all fed, and the vast majority of labor comes to trustee work,” he said.

Outside the facility, Davis said a four-man trustee trash crew is out and about picking up trash on the streets and/or roads nearly every day.

“They pick up hundreds of bags of waste a week along our highways,” he said.

Another four inmates help to maintain and take care of the Dick & Willie Trail, and two inmates maintain the grass and outdoor landscaping around the Adult Detention Center and the Public Safety compounds, the sheriff said.

Two trustees are assigned to the county maintenance department, where they’re responsible for assisting in mowing the grounds around the Henry County Courthouse and Administration Building, and keeping up with landscaping duties.

Those crews recently participated in putting in all the mulch around the Henry County Administration Building, Davis said, and added that one trustee goes out daily with the Gateway Streetscape Foundation to help with beautification projects around Henry County.

“We have inmate labor who takes care of all the custodial needs in the sheriff’s office, as far as cleaning the sheriff’s office, keeping it maintained as well. There also is inmate labor washing our patrol vehicles and keeping those looking nice,” he said.

Davis said trustees are not paid for their work. “Anyone who is incarcerated in the Adult Detention Center has a daily rate that they have to pay back to help cover the cost of their incarceration. Those who are trustees are obviously afforded additional freedoms and opportunities, and they are not required to pay their daily rate back to the county. The daily rate is waived for all trustees,” he said.

When trustees work for county departments during the work program, Davis said his office is responsible for feeding them, and they leave the center with a prepared meal each work day.

“They only eat one meal outside the detention center,” he said. “Obviously, they eat breakfast before they leave, they take a prepared meal with them, and then they eat another meal once they get back in the evening.”

## City of Martinsville Sheriff’s Office

Martinsville Sheriff’s Maj. Laura Hopkins said there are 29 trustees in the city’s program.

In February, Hopkins said trustees completed 4,448 hours of work. In 2021-2023, trustees averaged 34,000 hours a year.

If the city didn’t do the trustee work program, 17 employees would need to be hired full-time to fulfill the 34,000 hours worked a year.

Hopkins said at the minimum wage of \$12 an hour and without benefits, the cost to hire those employees would be \$408,000 a year.

Hopkins said trustees are inmates who don’t have violent charges, are not a flight risk, and have usually been sentenced.

“We have some who qualify to go out only under the gun, which means they have to be with an officer, and then we have a few that qualify to go that aren’t under the gun,” she said.

Ten of the trustees are at the main jail and only work inside the facility. At the Martinsville City Jail Annex, Hopkins said two trustees only work inside while 17 can work inside or outside the Annex.

“Our primary works crews come out of our Annex. They’re the ones who go out and mow and do things like that,” she said.

Hopkins said the work trustees do depends on the department requests they get.

“They’ve done work for the police department, they’ve done work in our office buildings over the years. They’ve torn down walls, put up walls, they’ve put windows in the building years ago,” she said.

Hopkins said trustees also mow and landscape, help clean up city lots, help with bulk trash, work at Hooker Field, and help board up properties.

“They do work for the city as far as painting offices, building shelves, a couple of years ago they actually rebuilt the judges’ bench in General District Court. They help the health department move things when they need to be moved, they will cut trees that have fallen for our wood program,” she said. “I mean it’s just a large list of things that they’ve done.”

Trustees also do work for 11 non-profit organizations including the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA), Christmas Cheer, and ANCHOR House.

For their work, trustees are paid \$2 per day.

Hopkins said the only cost for the work program is the cost of housing inmates in the facility.

“There’s costs associated with the fact that they’re in jail, and then there’s food, medical, clothing, hygiene, and all the supplies that they need to do the various jobs that they do,” she said.

When trustees do work outside of the facility, for the work program, Hopkins said the Sheriff’s Office is still responsible for feeding them.

“We have to feed all of the inmates. Depending on what they’re doing sometimes they take their lunch with them,” she said. “Our menus have to be approved by a dietician, but they probably get sandwiches at lunchtime if they’re not coming back to the building to eat. They pack a lunch.”

# Noise Ordinance

(cont. from page 1)

cause it’s more of a safety concern. Once you’re down here, not quite. It’s not quite as important.”

Councilman Terry Dalton said the areas he notices the most are between Hardee’s and his home.

“You’ve got to have that (brake) to make that turn. They wake me up at 6 in the morning, so I know how loud they are,” Dalton said.

While he’s sympathetic to the issue, council member Dave Hoback said he leaned towards moving forward with approval of the ordinance.

“We’ve been (working) on this ordinance for three months now, and I think the brake issues are going to take a little time to work through. We need to know if there’s other localities that have anything like this in place,” he said.

Hoback said he believes the biggest issue is how that portion would be enforced if it was included in the ordinance.

Wade said the town would need partnerships with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Virginia State Police.

“I think that’s something that would be great because there’s been some significant feedback from the public and we need to be attuned to that. but I think it’s going to take a little while to get there,” Hoback said.

Weiland said the ordinance can be revised in the future.

In its current form, “it’s a good start, I suppose. It’s always something that we can revise in the future if the need arises,” he said.

Town resident Alpha Hiatt spoke against the proposed noise ordinance.

“Here’s my dilemma with it, and I think it’s a simple thing that can be clarified on page one. This ordinance, is it supposed to cover the hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., or are you trying to do something 24/7 and only say that certain parts of this apply between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.,” she asked.

Weiland said the way it’s written and how he reads it, he believes some of it would be applicable all the time with other portions enforced during specific times.

“Loudspeakers, public address things, nomadic cameras, chainsaws, yelling, shouting, these are all between 10 p.m.



Several Stuart residents attended the April 17 Stuart Town Council meeting, with some raising concerns about a proposed Noise Ordinance.

and 7 a.m. Everything else is constant,” Corbett said.

Hiatt said she asked this question because she had talked with council member Rebecca Adcock who asked about the timing of the parade.

“Because that wasn’t spelled out,” Hiatt said.

Weiland said town functions and music venues are exempt from the ordinance.

“I think it is stated in there that it does exempt those type of activities. So, for things like that during the day, if it’s a festival or whatever, there’s going to be some noise here and there. Those things are exempt, but those things usually stop by 10 p.m. in the town,” he said.

Hiatt asked if that portion of the ordinance could be deleted, “because that is part of the town, the First Fridays’, the Star Theatre, and of course the fair is done by Rotary. But I know where we live on Woodland (Drive), we can hear First Fridays’, I don’t want to hear that at 10 p.m. at night,” she said.

Hiatt said if the council was going to make this ordinance because of a specific incident, it needs to consider everyone else in town.

Weiland said he believes part of the ordinance addresses Hiatt’s concern.

Hiatt disagreed and said she believes the town should not be exempt.

“I said the town shouldn’t constrain itself. The town is responsible to its citizens, the town’s going to get grief if it has late parties. I mean, I would oppose changing this text in the ordinance,”

Corbett said.

“It should apply to all; it shouldn’t be exempt because you’re looking at tourism dollars and business dollars. It all applies one and the same,” Hiatt said. “For goodness sakes, my dad ran a business here for 35 years of his life. He tried to work with people, and work with this community.”

Corbett asked why she assumes the town isn’t.

“Because if you’re going to exempt out, you’re saying it’s fair for one and not fair for the other,” Hiatt said.

Corbett said the town is different. “No, it’s not different, it’s a governmental contact,” Hiatt said.

“We make the rules that we have to live by and we’re responsive. You don’t have to be responsive to any other person in the world. You choose to be, but you don’t have to be. The town has to be,” Corbett said.

Hiatt said the council members, who are being paid by tax dollars, were elected by town residents to serve them.

“And if you don’t like their sense of responsibility, then vote against them,” Corbett said.

Weiland said after 10 p.m. everything has to be quiet including town events.

“We expect that there’s going to be” music and noise “at the Star Theater, on stage at the Farmers’ Market, First Fridays’, whatever. There’s going to be music, it’s going to be played, you’re going to hear it around town until about 10 p.m., and that’s when it stops,” he said.

Hiatt said another issue not covered

in the future solar park on Commerce Street.

“How do we address the noise from those solar panels,” she said.

Weiland said the Fairystone solar project is outside of town limits, and will not be subject to the ordinance.

Another conflict in the proposed ordinance was the use of the phrase ‘plainly audible,’ Hiatt said, noting the phrase was used in one section, but not in subsequent sections.

Weiland said Town Manager Bryce Simmons went through the ordinance to clean up its language and get rid of any redundancy, while clarifying some items that weren’t clear.

“He was trying to eliminate those items that were not clear. That was his motivation for eliminating some of that language,” Weiland said.

Hiatt asked if it could be removed from the ordinance to make it one and the same.

Corbett said he failed to see the problem.

“We’re saying one thing in one place and one thing in another, but they’re not contradictory Alpha. They’re put together because ordinances are read that way. They’re read to be congruent,” Corbett said.

The council approved the ordinance. It can be viewed on the town’s website at [www.townofstuartva.com](http://www.townofstuartva.com) under the ‘News’ tab.

In other matters, the council:

- \*Scheduled a public hearing for the proposed fiscal year 2024-2025 budget for the Wednesday, May 15 meeting.

- \*Paid the bills.

- \*Heard an update on public works projects.

- \*Discussed Downtown Revitalization.

- \*Discussed the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).

- \*Heard from Matilda Hunsicker, of Matti B’s, and Amber Huffman, of The Hatteras Pearl, about the need for the council to continue to support Uptown Stuart businesses throughout Downtown Revitalization.

Council members Jeff Houchins and Rebecca Adcock, and Town Manager Bryce Simmons, did not attend the meeting. The trio were attending the Appalachian Gateway Communities Initiative in AL.



# Academy Day

Last weekend, I hosted my annual Service Academy Day at the New River Community College in Dublin.

I enjoy these events as they provide great opportunities for high school students, parents and educators to learn about Service Academies, Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), and other programs.

I take pride in allowing students in Southwest Virginia to have access to opportunities to admirably pursue a career in military service.

The Ninth District is home to many patriotic men and women, and we also have a rich tradition of service.

A major piece of our history involves the D-Day invasion of Normandy during World War II. When Company A stormed Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, there were 35 soldiers from Bedford. By the end of the campaign, 23 would be dead, making Bedford, Virginia, the town with the highest per capita deaths.

Bedford commemorates this sacrifice by true Virginia heroes with its National D-Day Memorial.

Bedford is Virginia's only WWII Heritage City.

I am honored that it is in the Ninth District.

Given our rich heritage, I host Service Academy Days to tap into the patriotic spirit of our youth. Families and children travel from across the Ninth District to attend and get more information. Some even attend from other states.

Invited guests typically include representatives from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, Virginia Tech ROTC, and Emory & Henry ROTC.

The representatives from these programs consist of current and former cadets, admissions officers and ROTC directors and students who actively engage with interested individuals and discuss their options for a college military experience.

As a Congressman, I am permitted to fill five vacancies over a four-year period at each Academy, with the exception of U.S. Merchant Marine.

While U.S. Merchant Marine is not a popular selection for many in Southwest Virginia, I can fill ten vacancies each year there.

Once the U.S. Merchant Marine program is completed, the participant becomes eligible for commission into any branch of the U.S. military, provided that they are in good standing.

ROTC programs are another option. They are great at providing leadership and physical training exercises for students while they continue their academic studies at their university or college.

Some historians trace the roots of



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

ROTC programs to the Morrill Act of 1862, also known as the Land Grant Act of 1862. This was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln.

At the time, there was a stark decline in the numbers of trained engineers present in American colleges and universities.

The Land Grant Act laid the groundwork for a national system of state universities. The bill granted 30,000 acres of public land to each state for the establishment of institutions of scientific learning. The land grant institutions reciprocated by offering military tactics courses.

Virginia Tech maintains a strong record in this space. Their campus features a War Memorial Court, dedicated to the eight VT alumni who are medal of honor recipients. Close to the War Memorial Chapel is a marble cenotaph with their names etched into it.

VT sponsors a ROTC program, as well as VT Corps of Cadets.

The mission of the VT Corps of Cadets program is to nurture and create great leaders. The four-year program draws upon exercises that target teamwork, character and problem-solving skills. This is designed to develop leadership qualities among our brave servicemen and women and shape future leaders within our military.

The VT Corps of Cadets prides itself in giving back to the community. In the 2022-2023 academic school year, cadets collected over 2,000 hours of community service.

I was proud to hear that my alma mater, Emory & Henry College, re-launched their own Army ROTC program in 2018 after nearly a century.

As of 2018, Emory & Henry became one of only five private institutions in Virginia to offer an ROTC program.

Another Virginia private institution that comes to my event is VMI.

VMI has an extensive recruitment network. VMI excels in showcasing their opportunities and highlighting their illustrious history of producing exceptional military talents, the likes of whom include former U.S. Secretary of Defense, George C. Marshall, Jr.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to attend one of our academies, please contact Josh Hess at [josh.hess@mail.house.gov](mailto:josh.hess@mail.house.gov) or (540) 381-5671.

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

### \$1.2 trillion Budget Bill for 2024

(Fox, Heritage Foundation, NBC, Daily Signal, Todd Starnes, Newsmax)

A \$1.2 trillion spending bill was released on March 21, 2024, by spinless House Speaker Mike Johnson and Republican leaders in the wee hours of the morning. The bill is more than 1,000 pages and House members were told to prepare for a vote on Friday morning, March 22, 2024, which was a direct violation of the 72-hour rule.

The bill funded the following appropriations:

- Defense
- Financial Services and General Government
- Homeland Security
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
- Legislative Branch
- State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The bill also funded the following: \$400,000 for Briarpatch Youth Services, an organization that gives gender confused 13-year-old children "binding and tucking" clothing — without parental permission.

\$845,000 to host gay-themed garden parties and art shows.

\$156,000 for the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective in Connecticut.

\$1.8 million for a Women and Infants Hospital that performs late-term surgical and chemical abortions.

\$1 million for "Amplify Latinx" business groups in Massachusetts.

\$850,000 for LGBTQ Senior Housing services and programming in Massachusetts

\$740,000 to "increase diversity" in state contracts in Maryland.

\$2 million+ for equipment at facilities performing abortions.

\$10 million for an Alaska Leaders Archive

additional funding for sanctuary cities

additional funding for benefits for illegal immigrants

additional funding for DEI initia-

tives across the nation funded corrupt Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

What the bill did not do: made no attempt to address the administration's pro-abortion agenda.

did nothing to address Biden's open door policies and the funding used for processing illegal immigration.

did nothing to rein in the size and scope of government spending and cut spending.

did nothing to stop the flow of illegal immigrants, drugs, and crime into cities across America.

did not provide funding to thoroughly vet illegal immigrants for fraud and safety.

did not provide funding for more agents to process illegal immigrants.

The legislation passed the House on Friday morning by a vote of 74-24 and the Senate on Saturday morning by a vote of 268-134. President Joe Biden signed the bill on Saturday. The full government is now funded through the end of September, after Congress passed \$459 billion tranche money earlier this month. The total spending level for the fiscal year is \$1.659 trillion.

Together, these bills fuel radical policies by robustly funding the federal agencies responsible for a variety of the Biden administration's instances of overreach without doing anything to address them.

With more than \$34 trillion in national debt, the federal government's fiscal situation sits at a pivotal point. The interest on our national debt will surpass the amount Congress spends on annual defense.

The House should have shut down the government. As a kid I used to watch the Wizard of Oz and wonder how someone could talk without a brain. Now all I have to do is watch the Republicans in Congress.

Pray for our country.  
William Salser,  
Stuart

## PS club supports 'Cubs to Cougars' project



From top left: Mrs. Foley (kindergarten teacher), David Clement (Ruritan President) present a donation to Mrs. Whitlow, principal, Kenneth Reynolds and Billy Corns (Ruritan members) and Mrs. Foley's kindergarten class.



From top left: Ruritan members Billy Corns, Kenneth Reynolds and David Clement present a donation to Mrs. Whitlow, principal, Mrs. Barnhart and her kindergarten class.

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club presented a donation to Patrick Springs Primary School — Home of the Pandas - to purchase T-shirts for the kindergarten students. The \$500 donation will pay for the shirts students wear when the kindergarten classes walk with seniors at the Cougar Cubs event day, held at the end of the school year.

The T-shirts will feature mas-

cots of county elementary schools, along with the year (2024) of this year's kindergarten class, as well as the year they graduate as seniors at Patrick County High School (2036).

There are two kindergarten classes at Patrick Springs Primary School. The Ruritan Club has had the pleasure of helping in several activities at Patrick Springs Primary School this school year.

If you enjoyed the recent columns by Ben Williams and Holly Kozelsky, they are available weekly in the Henry County Enterprise

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## Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy

The Enterprise welcomes letters to the editor and/or reader viewpoints of 500 words or less. Submissions may be edited for clarity, length, legal ramifications or general taste at the editor's discretion. We reserve the right to refuse to publish submitted letters for the same reasons. All letters must be signed by an individual and include community. Verifiable sources for information cited must be forwarded to the editor. Letters that do not meet these guidelines will not be considered for publication.

Disclaimer: Viewpoints and opinions expressed in letters selected for publication are the opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Enterprise.



## Patrick Pioneers

Rocky Knob Housekeeping Cabins & CCC Camp 363

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, I attended the Patrick County Tourism Summit, which was held in Fayerdale Hall at Fairy Stone State Park. By the way, James Houchins, the Director of Tourism and Marketing is doing a terrific job for Patrick County, as is Rebecca Jackson Adcock, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce.

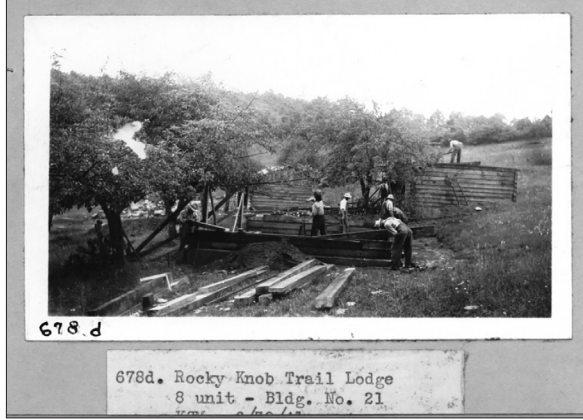
One of the presenters was Leesa Sutton Brandon, External Affairs Specialist for the National Park Service and the Blue Ridge Parkway. I am still terribly concerned about the fate of the Rocky Knob Housekeeping Cabins and asked Ms. Brandon what could be done to save the cabins.

Ms. Brandon stated that there is just not enough money in the National Park Service (NPS) budget to maintain the parks as they have looked in the past. The NPS depends on the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, other donors, and volunteers to help with maintenance and historic preservation. Ms. Brandon stated that the following news release was published on February 6, 2024.

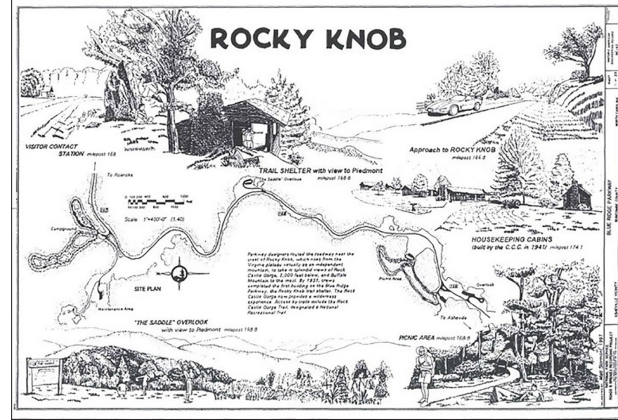
Contact: BLRI Public Affairs

NC/VA –The National Park Service announces a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) seeking responses from individuals, educational institutions, government agencies or entities, and non-profit or for-profit organizations, interested in the preservation and re-use of one or more historic facilities on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The facilities in this RFEI are all former concession operations, and include:

The RFEI process encourages individuals and/or organizations to submit business concepts regarding the future use of these facilities, considering the park's purpose. This RFEI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future.



Rocky Knob Housekeeping Cabins from NPS archives.



Rocky Knob Map from NPS archives.

The locations offered in this RFEI are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. All have been unoccupied for some time and will require maintenance and repair to varying degrees.

The National Park Service will evaluate responses to the RFEI to inform the next stage in planning for these business opportunities. Interested commercial entities can e-mail us to request a full copy of the RFEI, including submission criteria. The RFEI is also available on the "Doing Business With Us" page of the Parkway's website. Responses to the RFEI are due by April 30. Blue Ridge Parkway (VA/NC), 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803, or call the office at (828) 348-3420

I asked Ms. Brandon if it was possible for the Commonwealth of Virginia to take over the part of Rocky Knob NPS park where the housekeeping cabins were located, and she stated that could be a possibility. A quick Google search shows that twenty-six national parks have been turned over to the state where they are located or to the National Forest Service. I have written about the cabins before and suggested contacting the NPS Blue Ridge Parkway headquarters in Asheville to see what can be done, but I myself received no response. I think the next best option is contacting our state delegate, senator, and the governor or commercial entities that might be willing to take over the cabins.

When you look at the recently restored Fairy Stone cabins, built by the CCC boys and managed by the Virginia State Park system, and then look at the Rocky Knob cabins built by the CCC boys and managed by the National Park Service, the difference is glaringly obvious. It is heartbreaking to think that those historic cabins are going to be lost to the ages, due to lack of funding.

While the CCC boys did not build the Blue Ridge Parkway, they did a huge amount of support work. At Rocky Knob, the CCC boys built the picnic area, the Appalachian Trail shelter, (remember, at this time, the AT crossed Rocky Knob) and at least ten miles of trails. And trees! The CCC boys planted hundreds of trees to replace the American chestnut that had been lost to blight in the previous decades.

Before Camp 363's dissolution in 1941, CCC workers constructed special trail lodges as part of a "rough it" camp designed for Boy Scouts. In 1950, the NPS converted these cabins into the Rocky Knob Housekeeping Cabins.

I have written to my delegate, my state senator, and the governor, and challenge you to do the same; these historical cabins built by these young men are too precious to lose. Next week, we will take a more in-depth look at the young men of CCC Camp 363 in Rock Castle Gorge.

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 – Older Husband and Working Wife Seek Guidance

**Dear Rusty:** I am 74 years old, retired and receiving Social Security. My wife will be 65 in January of 2025. Our hope was to start paying off some credit card expense by her receiving SS when she turns 65, however it appears there would be a substantial reduction to her benefits. Her work income is \$37,500 a year, and she wasn't planning on retiring from work at age 65. Because I am 11 years older, we felt it makes sense to use her Social Security as a means to lower our debt. We have \$27,000 in credit card debt, and I don't really want to use my 401(k) funds due to taxes. We pretty much live on my Social Security and pension. Signed: Seeking Suggestions

**Dear Seeking:** Your wife's full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is age 67. Because she will not yet have reached her FRA in January 2025 (when she is 65), if she claims SS to start at that time, not only will her monthly amount be reduced, but she will be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test. The earnings test sets a limit for how much can be earned by beneficiaries who claim SS before FRA.

The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320. The limit for next year is not yet published (it's based on

changes to the national wage index) but will be a bit higher – likely about \$23,500. Thus, I can't provide the exact impact, but if your wife's 2025 earnings exceed next year's limit, Social Security will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of the amount over the limit). So, if your wife earns \$37,500 per year, that will likely be about \$14,000 over the limit and Social Security will take back half of that (\$7,000). They "take back" by withholding future benefits, or you can repay them in a lump sum. So, you will have a choice – repay Social Security from your other assets, or they will withhold your wife's SS benefits for the number of months needed to offset her penalty for exceeding the earnings limit. The number of months they will withhold depends on how much is owed and what your wife's monthly SS benefit is. For example, if your wife's age-65 SS benefit is about average (\$1,900) and her penalty for exceeding the limit is \$7,000, Social Security would withhold your wife's benefit for 4 months to recover the penalty, but she would receive her full benefit for the remaining 8 months of the year.

Unless your wife tells them in advance that she will exceed the limit, Social Security will find out the following year (after you file your income taxes). But, in any case, your wife cannot avoid the annual earnings test for working before reaching her full retirement age. The earnings test goes away when your wife reaches her FRA of 67. Until that time, if she continues working she will

have a choice to have her benefits withheld for a portion of the year, or simply repay Social Security in a lump sum (in which case her benefits would continue uninterrupted).

FYI, there is a silver lining in this, because if your wife has benefits withheld because she exceeds the earnings limit before her FRA, after she reaches her full retirement age Social Security will give her time credit for the months when benefits were withheld, which will result in her monthly Social Security payment amount increasing somewhat at her full retirement age. Thus, over time, your wife may recover the benefits which were withheld for exceeding the annual earnings limit. But to get 100% of the benefit she's earned from a lifetime of working, and be exempt from Social Security's earnings limit, she would need to wait until she reaches her FRA to claim.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

## Popular Spices Reduce Cancerous Tumors

Two popular spices appear to be excellent at reducing the size of cancerous tumors. Rosemary and thyme are among those herbs and spices (like basil, mint, sage, savory, marjoram, and oregano) which are rich in antioxidants but also popular in many dishes.

In 2019, the International Journal of Molecular Science published a study on the anti-tumor effects of thyme. The study found that in mice, two different concentrations of thyme reduced the volume of tumors by 85 percent in one concentration and 84 percent in another. In rats, researchers found reductions in the frequency of tumors by approximately 53 percent compared to a control group.

Why does thyme have anti-tumor effects? Scientists think terpenoids, a group of phytochemicals found in thyme, work as antioxidants and may be the key component that protects cells from cancer.

The study author stated, "It is well known that phytochemicals with antioxidants, anti-inflammatory and immuno-modulatory activity can reduce the growth and spread of cancer."

Rosemary is another aromatic herb that is rich in phytochemicals and has demonstrated anti-cancer properties. Several studies have shown that rosemary inhibits the growth of tumors by preventing cancerous cells from replicating.

Rosemary is rich in carnosol, a phytochemi-

cal that can slow cancer cell growth, strengthen immune functions, reduce the production of cancer-related hormones and is an antioxidant. Aside from carnosol, other compounds like carnosic acids, rustic acids and rosmarinic acid, have all proven effective in the fight against cancer.

In 2011, a meta-analysis published in the Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition examined the protective effects of rosemary on colorectal cancer and other types of cancer. Turns out there's extensive literature from animal and cell studies demonstrating the anticancer potential of rosemary extract.

Another study suggests that rosemary extract may inhibit tumor growth by preventing cancerous cells from replicating. One study found that rosemary, on its own and in combination with curcumin, helped prevent breast cancer.

One researcher, J. Scott Smith, was working on a research project at the University of Kansas when he discovered the anticancer effects of rosemary. His research suggested that adding rosemary extracts to beef patties reduced the levels of carcinogenic compounds like HCAs by 30 to 100 percent. HCA's are produced when grilling meat when it reaches a high temperature and chars. HCA's have been found to cause cancer. Since straight dried rosemary would not taste good on a burger or steak, he recommends using rose-

mary extracts.

In 2014, research published in the PLOS One reinforced rosemary's anticancer qualities after showing that rosemary extract given orally significantly suppressed tumor growth by 46 percent in mice.

As food, thyme and rosemary are typically used as flavor enhancers. Thyme is used more in Mediterranean cooking while rosemary is more common in Italian and French cuisine. Rosemary and thyme both go great in any kind of sauce or soup that uses tomatoes. Rosemary and garlic go great in mashed potatoes. Thyme is lovely in any kind of vegetable. However you use it, using either means you're probably cooking and not eating out — which is always a good thing!

While the research is intriguing, it's essential to approach these findings with caution. Cancer cells in a laboratory or in mice may not react the same as cancer cells in humans. Incorporating rosemary and thyme into a well-balanced diet can be part of a healthy lifestyle, but relying on them alone for cancer prevention is not recommended. A balanced diet, regular exercise, and other healthy lifestyle choices are crucial components of overall cancer prevention.

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



## JV Baseball Beats James River

By Ashlee Mullis

The JV Baseball team hosted James River, Monday, April 15, getting an 11-1 at PC in a 6-inning run rule game. Zack Holt had 2 hits, 3 runs, and 1 RBI, David Lawson had 2 hits. Christian Hylton had 2 hits and 2 runs. Will Heath got 1 hit and 1 RBI. Noah Caine had 1 hit and 2 runs, and Jayden Corns had 1 hit and 1 run. Lawson pitched 5 innings, allowing 2 hits, 1 run, and struck out 5.

Mark Register pitched 1 inning, allowing 0 runs, and striking out 3. Wednesday, April 17, PC beat Radford 20-0 in a 4-inning run rule.

Eli Bogle had 2 hits, 3 runs, and 1 RBI, Holt had 1 hit and 3 RBIs. Noah Caine had 1 hit, 3 runs, and 2 RBIs. Heath had 1 hit and 2 RBIs. Hylton had 1 hit and 2 RBIs, and Jackson Callahan had 1 hit and 3 runs. Register started on the mound, going 2 innings, allowing 1 hit, walking 0, allowing 0 runs, and striking out 5. Greely Terry pitched 2 innings, allowing 1 hit, walking 0, allowing 0 runs, and striking out 2.

The Cougars are 10-1 on the season.

## Girls Varsity Soccer Drops Three



Kyra Titular goes for the ball at James River.

By Ashlee Mullis

The Girls Varsity Soccer Team lost to Carroll County 2-4, on Wednesday, April 10.

Kyra Titular and Camille Gonzalez had 1 goal each. Raeli Moran had 1 assist. Skye Ayers made 6 saves in goal.

On Monday, April 15, the Lady Cougars

lost 3-5 on the road at James River. Titular, Moran, and Jayden Diehl had 1 goal each. Madi Heath, Titular, and Kendall Williams had one assist each. Ayers had 9 saves.

The team traveled to Radford on Wednesday, April 17, losing 0-1. Ayers had 14 saves in goal.

## New Gift Shop opens at Philpott Lake



This is just one of the souvenirs now available at Philpott Lake.

The first Gift Shop opened on Earth Day, April 22, at the Visitor Center at Philpott Lake. The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and Army Corps of Engineers announced the opening. The Gift Shop will sell Philpott Lake souvenir items and profits from sales will support DRBA's environmental education programs for youth and adults. The starting capital for the Gift Shop was funded by the Eco Ambassador Council (EAC).

"The EAC was thrilled to provide start-up funding to start the first Gift Shop at Philpott Lake that will multiply our impact over time," said Heather Francis, Marketing Manager, Hooker Furnishings and EAC chairman. "This project is just one of more than a dozen projects the EAC has supported in the region."

The EAC is a coalition of regional businesses that combine their investment to protect, promote and preserve the environment in the Dan River Basin. Current EAC members include Blair Construction, Carter Bank & Trust, Clark Gas & Oil, Frith Construction, The Lester Group, Hooker Furnishings, Jones & DeShon Orthodontics and Pickle & Ash. Each business pledges an annual donation and a commitment to encourage their employees to participate in EAC projects. The EAC started in 2020 and is open to all businesses in the Dan River Basin that want to make a visible impact in the region.

"Visitors to Philpott Lake can now take home a souvenir commemorating their visit," said Dillon Brown, Interpretive Ranger at Philpott Lake. "There's something for every age and budget - stuffed animal, key-chain, water bottle, dry bag and more. We are so pleased to be able to support environmental education programming in the region with this retail enterprise."

The Gift Shop was conceived as a solution to DRBA's challenge of having a waiting-list of teachers wanting DRBA's environmental education programs, but not having funding to provide them. With over 500,000 visitors annually to Philpott Lake, the Gift Shop has potential to support educational programs for thousands of youngsters.

"I get several calls and emails weekly from teachers asking for DRBA programs in their classrooms, but I have to turn down more than half of them because there isn't enough funding," said Krista Hodges, DRBA's Environmental Education Outreach Manager. "It's difficult to find funding for programs that reach students of all ages and can be flexible about when and how it's used. My hope is that this Gift Shop will provide a dependable and consistent funding stream to support educational programs in the region."

The Philpott Lake Visitor Center is located at Philpott Dam Road, Bassett, and will be open during Visitor Center hours.

The Dan River Basin Association is an environmental non-profit that protects the region's natural assets such as the Dan River and its tributaries. DRBA is working to promote tourism as well as healthy lifestyles. DRBA assists localities in creating community parks, trails and access to local rivers and streams. Our mission is to protect and promote the Dan River Basin through recreation, education and stewardship. Visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org) to learn more about protecting and conserving our local natural resources and how you can get involved in your community.

## Lady Cougars Get Win Over Radford



Lilly Hazelwood catches the ball for an out at second base.

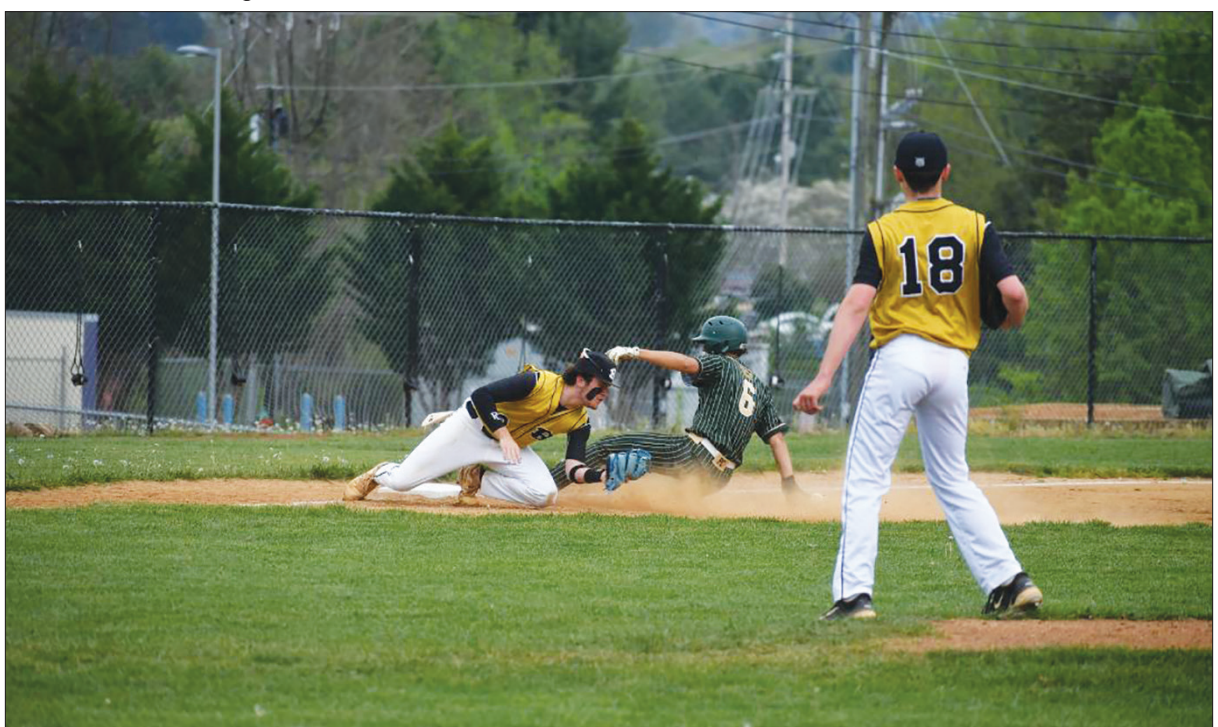
By Ashlee Mullis

The Lady Cougars had 17 runs on 16 hits in a 17-8 win over Radford, Wednesday, April 17. Journey Moore got the win on the mound, and Mckenzie Holt pitched the final 3 innings, strik-

ing out a combined 10 batters.

Moore got on base all 5 at bats with 2 hits. Bryley Pike had 3 hits with a double, and Lilly Hazelwood also had 3 hits with a double. Holt and Lauren Fulcher each had 2 hits on the night.

## Varsity Baseball Gets Road Win



Stuart Callahan slide into 3rd.

By Ashlee Mullis

The Patrick County Varsity Baseball Team got a 19-0 combined no-hitter at Radford, Wednesday, April 17. Tucker Swails got the win on the mound going 4 innings, allowing 0 runs or hits, striking out 11, and walking 1.

Jackson Horton threw one inning allowing 0 hits or runs, striking out 2, and walking 0. The Cougars pounded out 15 hits on the night. Stuart Callahan was 3 for 3 with 3 RBIs. Swails went 3 for 3, and Horton was 2 for 4 with 7 RBIs.

## PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of April 29-May 4:			
4/29	4:30p	Girls Tennis at Floyd County	5/2
	4:30p	Boys Tennis vs Floyd County	
	7pm	Girls Soccer at Bassett	
	7pm	Boys Soccer vs Bassett	
4/30	TBA	Track at Floyd County	
	5pm	Baseball at Floyd County	
	5pm	Softball at Floyd County	5/3
	6pm	Girls Soccer at Allegheny (Jackson River Sports Complex)	
	TBA	Track at James River	
	5pm	Baseball vs Bassett	
	4:30p	Girls Tennis vs Allegheny	
	4:30p	Boys Tennis at Allegheny (Clifton Academy)	
	6pm	Girls Soccer vs Allegheny	
	7pm	Boys Soccer at Allegheny (Clifton Academy)	
	5pm	Baseball vs Allegheny	
	5pm	Softball vs Allegheny	

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## Tennis Courts

(cont. from page 1)



With five courts, PCHS was able to host boys and girls matches at the same time.



Parents and other spectators watch the Cougars on their new home courts.

tennis teams to have more matches on the court at the same time. "Three courts take an eternity to hold a match. Now we can get our matches done in a timely fashion. It's just better for everybody," said Harris.

Boys coach, Andrew Terry agreed. "Both teams (boys and girls) can get out here and get after it. It saves a lot of time for practice."

Speaking of practice, Terry added, "ever since we got them done, the kids have been out here on the weekends or stay after we get done. They've really been enjoying it. They've been getting a ton of use."

Having a true home court for the Cougars will help the teams in other ways, including reducing the travel time spent getting to away matches. "We had to travel, not only for our away matches but also for our home matches," said Nowlin. "You've got this mindset, you've got to travel."

The hope is the first rate facilities will encourage future Cougars to take up tennis and tryout for the team. Terry believes the courts "create interest," which will help his team in future seasons. "I've got five seniors, so we're going to look to get new players for next year," he said, adding the courts will help "recruiting wise and keeping the kids interested throughout the year."

"It's hard to recruit kids to come out and play tennis when our tennis courts were in such bad shape," said Harris. "Now that they're done, and the community sees the courts, and the students see the courts, we believe we're going to have more kids interested. Hopefully, the community will get more involved and we'll have more kids coming out to play tennis for the high school when they get there."

Harris also believes the visibility of the new courts, near the school's entrance, will increase interest in

Cougar tennis, and attendance at home matches.

"There's always a good group of parents that come out, and now with the new courts, I think we'll see more people coming. They're going to see them and hear about them, and people are going to want to see what a wonderful job was done. The more people that will come to look, maybe it will spark more interest in the community."

Nowlin said she sees the benefit beyond the school and the teams. The courts are "not only great for athletics here at Patrick County High School, but for the community. It's a place they can come and learn tennis."

The Cougar boys tennis team will host Floyd County on April 29 at 4:30 p.m., and the girls will next play at home on May 2 at 4:30 p.m. when they take on Allegheny.

## Bowling Ride

(cont. from page 1)

11 Red Knights Motorcycle Club instituted an annual bike ride to honor his memory.

Each year, "we've got riders coming from as far away as Canada to participate in the ride," Darrell Bowling said. "And they will continue to come," to honor Jon Bowling and also due to the local support.

"Every person that comes to the ride" notices and comments about the support, both in

Patrick and Henry counties and in the City of Martinsville, Darrell Bowling said of the many people who line the road at various places of the route from Patrick County High School down U.S. 58 to Martinsville, Bassett and back to Jon Bowling's grave in Woolwine.

"That's the thing that keeps them coming," Darrell Bowling said of many participants. "They are amazed at how the communities sup-

port the ride."

Since this event marks the final year, "we'd like to ask, as the people are standing along the road, to give us a wave as we go by one last time," Darrell Bowling said.

All proceeds will go to the scholarship, which provides a Patrick County student with funding to attend Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

## Disaster Ministry

(cont. from page 1)

Willard said the non-profit also recently started a senior citizen program for those 60-years-old or older that meet the income guidelines.

"It's fixed where you and your spouse can get a box, and we're giving out 650 of them," he said.

The senior distribution in Patrick County is the second Thursday every month from 3:30-5 p.m., and the regular distribution is the third Thursday every month from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

The Bassett senior distribution is the second Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The regular Bassett distribution is the fourth Tuesday of every month from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Despite the multiple distribution days, Willard wants to do more to help the community.

As a result, he partnered with Feeding America, which helped facilitate applying for a grant to get a food distribution truck for a mobile food pantry.

Starting on December 30, he said the organization began going into Ararat and Meadows of Dan "to cover that end of the county, too."

The mobile food pantry will be set up at the Ararat Ruritan Building from 10-11:30 a.m. and at the Meadows of Dan Community Center from 1-2:30 p.m. on the fourth Saturday of every month.

"Ararat will cover Ararat and Claudville, and then the Meadows of Dan Community Center will cover Meadows of Dan and part of Woolwine," he said.

Willard said those in need can sign up to get

boxes in the drive thru.

"They sign up, and then once you get signed in the system, it's all handled" electronically. "Then when you come through the next time someone will check your name off of the list," he said.

"There's no requirements other than the senior boxes, you got to be over 60 and meet the income guidelines," he said. "For the regular box, that's an income guideline, but nobody never is close to it. We can't ask for any proof, any ID, or anything like that," he said.

In total, Willard estimates the agency distributes more than 1,000 food boxes in Patrick County each month. During the regular distribution days, Feeding Southwest Virginia also will be set up.

Feeding Southwest Virginia is a food bank that offers subsidized food for people to purchase. It works with grocery stores and others to offer self-stable food at a reduced cost to those in need.

Willard said he will sometimes leave his debit card with Feeding Southwest Virginia when they set up to ensure customers are able to purchase the food they need regardless of their financial situation.

"I don't want anybody to leave without any food," he said.

Willard added the organization also helps with natural disasters in other areas, but "home is taken care of first."

The organization is based in a warehouse in Bassett.

"I've always trucked this stuff here (Patrick County) and delivered it, and it got so big that I couldn't deliver it anymore," he said.

Willard said now the boxes are put together



The Disaster Relief Food Ministry partnered with Feeding America to get a truck to transport food boxes during distribution days.

and stored in the warehouse before they are loaded into the truck for transport. Boxes include everything a person needs from the five food groups - cereal, pasta, shelf-stable milk, raisins, green beans, cheese, a frozen food item, and other types of food.

Each box "can sustain a family of four for about two weeks. We try to stay away from the days that the" Patrick County Food Bank "gives out" its boxes," he said.

Those wishing to volunteer should contact Willard at (276) 229-6272 or email him at drfm.inc@gmail.com. To donate, go to www.drfminc.com and click on the donate tab, or mail a check to P.O. Box 993 Stuart, VA, 24171.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/DisasterReliefFoodMinistryInc.

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**Arrests Reported**

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

\*Denise Renee Livengood, 57, of Martinsville, was charged April 5 with warrant of extradition. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

\*Cassandra Hope Cole, 34, of Critz, was charged April 5 with obtain money by false pretense. Senior Deputy I. R. Wood was the arresting officer.

\*Zachary James Denny, 28, of Bassett, was charged April 5 with two counts of fail to appear. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Fernando Alexis Sanchez, 23, of Ararat, was charged April 8 with warrant of extradition. Senior Deputy C.M. Gilbert was the arresting officer.

\*Taylor Renee Rorrer-Haynes, 24, of Stuart, was charged April 9 with one count each grand larceny, possess controlled paraphernalia, and fail to appear. Sgt. L.K. Carroll, Jr., was the arresting officer and made the arrest for Henry County.

\*Joshua Wayne Justice, 35, of Stuart, was charged April 9 with aggravated sexual battery. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Christopher Dwayne Hylton, 33, of Bassett, was charged April 10 with probation violation. Senior Deputy I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

\*Lindsey Faith Harris, 23, of Stuart, was charged April 12 with one count each drive while intoxicated - 1st offense, and abuse/neglect child. Senior Trooper R.S. Lawson was the arresting officer.

\*John Ari Argue, 30, of Richmond, was charged April 12 with two counts distribute Sch. I or II drug and one count possess with intent to distribute Sch. I or II drug. Virginia State Police Senior Trooper Short made the arrest.

\*Jeremy Shane Bennett, 41, of Ararat, was charged April 14 with fail to appear. Pulaski County made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Dale Ray Tatum, 54, of Ararat, was charged April 14 with fail to comply with terms of bond. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

\*Joshua Dale Logan, 41,

address unavailable, was charged April 15 with fail to appear. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

\*Christopher Kirk Gray, 53, of Ararat, was charged April 15 with fail to appear. Deputy C. A. Strother was the arresting officer.

\*Gregory Sanders Penn, 49, of Stuart, was charged April 15 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges made the arrest for Henry County.

\*Trey Austin Morgan, 29, of Mallory, WV, was charged April 16 with probation violation. Deputy C. A. Strother was the arresting officer.

\*Andrew Bailey Staples, 38, of Mt. Airy, NC, was charged April 16 with fail to appear. Deputy C. A. Strother was the arresting officer.

\*Shane Alan Lewis, 35, of Patrick Springs, was charged April 16 with DWI: 1st offense, drugs. Inv. O. Tejada was the arresting officer.

\*Jose Manual Monuz Avelar, 31, of Galax, was charged April 16 with interfere with property rights of another. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

\*Ashley Nicole Wyatt, 36, of Patrick Springs, was charged April 16 with disobeying judgment, contempt. Senior Deputy A. Kinney made the arrest for Martinsville.

\*Christopher John May, 37, of Patrick Springs, was charged April 17 with unauthorized use of vehicle. Roanoke City made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Nathan Eugene Bedsaul, 39, address unavailable, was charged April 18 with probation violation. Deputy Brian Fields was the arresting officer.

\*Tyler James Anderson, 26, of Claudville, was charged April 18 with probation violation. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

\*James Nelson Thompson, 24, of Patrick County Jail, was charged April 18 with probation violation. Deputy Brian Fields was the arresting officer.

\*Christina Ann Goins, 47, of Stuart, was charged April 18 with two counts fail to appear, and one count each violate conditions of release/pretrial and probation violation. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel made the arrest for Franklin and Henry counties.

Helen McKamey Taylor, age 98 of Stuart, passed away Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at Martinsville Hospital. She was born February 18, 1926, to the late Samuel H. McKamey and Rhoda Frazier McKamey. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Marshall A. Taylor. Also preceding her in death are three brothers, Richard McKamey, Edgar McKamey, and her twin brother, Earl McKamey; and two sisters Edith Craddock and Mary Rorer.

Surviving are a daughter and a son, Dianne Thompson (Murray) of Elkton, MD and Barry Taylor (Cathy Turner) of Stuart; four grandchildren Lori Beard (Monty), John N. Thompson (Kelly), John Taylor (Nicole), Sarah Brown (Jon); six great-grandchildren James Beard, Brantley Taylor, Sammy Taylor, Lulu



Taylor, Marshall Brown and Jack Brown, and many nieces and nephews.

Helen graduated from Hardin Reynolds Memorial High School. She lived and worked in Baltimore, MD after high school before moving back to Patrick County where she briefly worked at DuPont in Martinsville. She and Marshall married July 13, 1946, and they started their family in Stuart. Helen worked at the United Elastic plant for many years and was also manager of the J P Stevens store at the time of her retirement. She spent many hours over the years vol-

unteering at the hospital, the nursing home, and the blood bank in Patrick County. She was a life-long member of the Stuart United Methodist Church.

She loved all flowers, and with her green thumb she grew many flowers, most exceptionally Christmas cactus and amaryllis. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Tommy Shepherd officiating. Burial will follow in Patrick Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Stuart Church of Living Water, P.O. Box 946, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent to [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Walter "Shorty" Mitchell**

Mr. Walter "Shorty" Mitchell, 94, of Claudville, VA, passed away Sunday afternoon, April 21, 2024, at his home. Mr. Mitchell was born August 30, 1929, in Patrick County, VA, one of five children born to the late Bob and Lucy Chaney Mitchell. Shorty worked as a machinist in the textile industry for many years. In 1975, he opened the family gristmill, Mitchell's Mill, in Claudville, VA. His work in the gristmill brought true joy to him until its closing in 2020. As a young person, he made a profession of Christian faith and was active in the local church. With a servant's heart, he served as a member and Sunday school teacher at Grace Moravian Church. He also served the church on numerous committees, as well as making multiple mission trips. Shorty shared his gifts and talents as a volunteer and staff member at Yokefellow Ministry. He picked up grocery do-



nations from the local grocery stores to stock the shelves in the food pantry, which allowed Yokefellow to feed the hungry. Additionally, he drove disabled veterans to their appointments through his volunteer work with the Disabled American Veterans. In all, he was a selfless man whose passing left an unfillable gap in the hearts of his loved ones. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Cheryle and Grady Carroll, III; a son, Gary Mitchell; his grandchildren, Mendy and Scotty Donnelly, Summer and Jeffrey Stephens, and Grady Carroll, IV and Ashley Carroll; his great-grandchildren, Madison Barlow, Re-

ese Cline, Trey Stephens, Gabriel Cline, Emily Carroll, and Maggie Carroll; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Mr. Mitchell was preceded in death by his wife, Faith Boyd Mitchell; a sister, Nonnie Mitchell; and three brothers, Murray Mitchell, Tommy Mitchell, and George Mitchell. A service of worship and celebration of Shorty's life will be held Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 4:00 PM at Grace Moravian Church, with the Rev. Andrew Heil and Pastor Chad Harrison officiating. The family will receive friends Sunday from 3:00 until 4:00 PM at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Yokefellow Ministry, 461 North South Street, Mount Airy, NC 27030. Moody Funeral Services in Mount Airy is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

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**Weekly Sudoku Answers**

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



# PATRICK PULPITS

## Failure to teach respect teaches disrespect

By Van Yandell

Matthew 7: 12 "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

Watching an interview recently, I was appalled by a response from the interviewer to the teenager he was questioning.

The young man responded with a "Yes, sir" to a question and the adult said, "Just 'yes' is enough." The teenager answered, "Yes, sir." That young man had apparently been raised in a home that taught him to respect others especially those older than himself.

The adult by answering the way he did was inadvertently teaching disrespect. Was that intentional? Probably not! Some simply see respect as unnecessary. I just happen not to be one of them.

A large part of the problems in our world is a lack of mutual respect. It seems a state of peaceful co-existence for humanity regardless of skin, national origin or ethnicity is over forever unless we learn to respect one another.

Romans 12: 10 "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." While this verse goes beyond what would be considered to be human nature, it is possible to acquire and sustain this level of thought.

Many in today's world have been conditioned to have the "It's all about me" attitude. This is an arrogant and selfish way of thinking. "I" am not the only person on the planet.

Disrespect is not realized by the offenders in many cases. Such an action as driving in the left lane on an interstate highway is disrespectful. Walking on a busy sidewalk looking down at one's cell phone is disrespectful. These loudly scream "It all about me and I do not care about you."

"Show respect to people who don't even deserve it; not as a reflection of their character, but as a reflection of yours." Dace Willis.

Respect is defined as "A feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements. Due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others" is included in the meaning.

Philippians 3: 2-5 "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

It is probably expedient for most of us to keep up with the political environment in our country. It is however, depressing to observe the disrespect our leaders, news people, commentators and even bystanders are treating each other. The statements and attitudes of disrespect are appalling and disheartening.

We treat each other horribly. Often, we see programs in schools to counter bullying while in reality, we see bullying by adults as rampant as by children. Where did the children learn to be bullies?

Obviously, the adults taught them! The late night comedians, the sitcoms and documentaries show us a level of disrespect we'd rather not see in our society. To use the word "civil" mostly does not apply in this day-and-age.

The arrest, trial and resulting crucifixion of our Jesus is regarded by many of us as being the

ultimate in disrespect. While in America we cling to the right of freedom of religion, it is difficult for us to fathom the disrespect shown to Jesus by the people of Israel, the Roman governor Pilate and the Sanhedrin.

To be over-zealous in some cases may be a positive trait. In the case of Jesus' death, the dedication of the Jews to their way of believing and not willing to listen to reason regarding His teaching of forgiveness of sin by grace and mercy is beyond comprehension.

While Christians today highly treasure the teachings of Jesus, the Jewish hierarchy of the first century did not. They had lived for over 1500 years by the Laws of Moses. Those Mosaic laws dictated their entire way of worship and obedience to the law. Changing that was sacrilege and their disrespect resulted in hatred and a desire to kill Jesus.

Thomas Paine said, "You can't reason with the unreasonable." This is actually a shortened version of "To argue with a person who has renounced the use of reason is like administering medicine to the dead."

To disagree is natural but to be argumentative and not listening to reason is foolish. At times we all have to admit, we do not know everything. The disrespect shown by many when disagreed with is not necessary and speaks volumes about a person.

John 13: 34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

This may be the most difficult of Jesus' admonitions for us to accomplish. We all know people that are simply not lovable. A friend once told me, "I love you brother but it's just because Jesus said I have to." I knew he was joking (I hope), but his statement certainly made a point.

When our children see us interrupting others in conversation or not giving attention to people talking, is setting an example we really do not want to convey. To regard the commands of Jesus is significant and important. We must strive to accomplish them.

Every day observations show us unequivocally, disrespect is rampant in our world. The only solution is to address this as a problem and counter it by displaying respectful attitudes.

I really appreciate younger people addressing me as "Sir." Two (much younger) neighbors always address me as "Sir" or "Mr. Van." That not only tells me a lot about them but also about the parents that raised them.

Too many parents in today's world are not finding the time to discipline their offspring and the results are alarming. If we do not teach our children to be respectful, no one else will.

Children that are argumentative with their parents will be that way in life. Parents are not showing love for their children by allowing them to argue. That attitude certainly will not work for them with the guards on their cell block.

Leviticus 19:32 "You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God."

Yandell is a retired industrial arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and former commissioned missionary.

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of 2 Kings (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Acts 6, which one of the seven "deacons" did great wonders and miracles among the people? Nicanor, Philip, Timon, Stephen
3. What apostle was a disciple of John the Baptist when Jesus recruited him? Andrew, Simon Peter, Thomas, James
4. From Revelation 6, what color was the sun when it became like a sackcloth of hair? Red, Black, White, Green

5. Who was Saul of Tarsus waiting for while he fasted three days in Damascus? Dar-  
 ius, Zenas, Ananias, Apollo  
 6. From Isaiah 63:2, what color garments does the Lord wear? Purple, Red, White, Gold

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Stephen, 3) Andrew, 4) Black, 5) Ananias, 6) Red  
 Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).  
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| <b>ACROSS</b> | 1 Theater district | 7 Butcher's cleaver | 14 Winter melon variety | 20 Replacing, with "of" | 21 Privy person | 22 Ill-willed sorts | 23 Arranged cheddar brands in order of sharpness? | 25 Arctic jacket | 26 Capitol fig. | 27 Collectible toon frame | 28 Per each unit | 29 Set to move forward, as a car | 30 Boldly courageous after January 1? | 34 Second shoot of a scene | 37 Nevertheless | 38 "— daisy!" | 39 Paleolithic period | 41 Letter-shaped track in metalworking | 43 Attach, as to a lapel | 48 Pre-TiVo machine | 49 — Lanka | 50 Comparable in humility to one particular sorority member? | 53 Quick glance | 55 Not durable | 57 Groups of four | 58 Underscore | 61 Law school beginner | 62 Think up | 64 Big Steinway played by your father's father? | 69 Condo policy about animals | 70 Dime, e.g. | 71 Passover feasts | 73 Canonized seventh-cen. pope | 76 Hotel bar | 78 Tug sharply | 79 Wrapping a wound on the noggin? | 82 Sit-up targets | 85 Chou En- — | 86 2003 #1 hit for OutKast | 87 Artist's stand | 88 Raconteur's offering | 90 "... and — it all over again!" | 91 Young boy | 93 Complained petulantly | 94 Lion's hunting recollections? | 102 River in central Jersey | 103 Certain shade provider | 104 Certain shade provider | 105 Chinese chairman | 108 More asinine | 109 Reversible fabric used during operations? | 113 Rich, filled pastry | 114 Daughter on "Bewitched" | 115 And others, to Caesar | 116 Rages | 117 — & Gamble | 118 Confirm officially | <b>DOWN</b> | 1 Large trucks | 2 Apropos of | 3 Ladd or Alda | 4 Pot cover | 5 Petit four and Sally Lunn | 6 Piercing spot, often | 7 Prefix with air | 8 Coop up | 9 Fireplace receptacle | 10 Secure with string, say | 11 Skilled | 12 Ballot marks | 13 Afore | 14 Lon of old horror films | 15 Classic root beer brand | 16 Raconteur's offering | 17 Eagle's nest | 18 Cry to a prima donna | 19 Interrogator | 24 Part of REO | 29 Put into office | 30 Ex-veep Quayle | 31 "Science Guy" Bill | 32 Island dance | 33 Heroic poetry | 34 Answers an evite, e.g. | 35 "And so on and so on": Abbr. | 36 Bullfight hero | 40 PC image file | 41 High-voltage transformer | 42 Cloudland | 43 Peppermint | — (York treat) | 44 "Bring it on!" | 45 Nuggets' org. | 46 Unusual | 47 "Stillmatic" rapper | 50 Prized Chinese vases | 51 The "E" of FEMA: Abbr. | 52 Big jumps | 54 Eisenhower's successor | 56 Politico Trent | 59 Floor-scrubbing robot brand | 60 Old photo tint | 62 Carding at a club, e.g. | 63 "Well, shoot!" | 65 Held back | 66 Adjective follower, often | 67 Comedian Kevin | 68 Very fancy slopes | 73 "Quit talking!" shirt | 74 No-frills | 75 Set (down) | 76 Bigger than med. | 77 Suffix with Ecuador | 80 Groove for receiving the end of a board | 81 Not worth — (valueless) | 83 Perplex | 84 Structured frameworks | 88 Big fuss | 89 Belittle, informally | 90 Ill-fated flier of myth | 91 Actor Joseph Gordon- — | 92 "Cocoon" co-star Don | 94 Bluenoses | 95 Charged toward | 96 Poet's Muse | 97 Casual eatery | 98 Best players | 99 — Croatian | 100 Sorcery | 101 Family mem. | 105 African nation | 106 "Not likely!" | 107 Thumbs-up | 109 Motor oil additive brand | 110 Nasser's fed. | 111 River of Bern | 112 Yoga surface |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------|------------|--|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|

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# Ag in schools promoted by local Patrick County agency



For the 14th year, Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom celebrated Agriculture Literacy Week. AITC's 2024 Book of the Year is "Logan's Greenhouse," by JaNay Brown-Wood, author and educator.

Patrick County Farm Bureau donated the Book of the Year to county wide schools and the Patrick County Public Library.

"Our wonderful volunteers also traveled county wide to area schools to promote the importance of agriculture," said Sandra Heath, Patrick County Farm Bureau Volunteer Board Member.

Agriculture Literacy Week is Virginia AITC's largest educational event, with more than 22,000 agriculture-related books placed in classrooms. The event is one of numerous initiatives Virginia AITC

utilizes to help students and educators gain a greater awareness and understanding of agriculture.

Special thanks to sponsors Farm Bureau Insurance Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company and Land O' Lakes Foundation. To learn more about Agriculture Literacy Week and how to support Virginia AITC, visit [virginia.agclassroom.org](http://virginia.agclassroom.org).

## Old-Time Music Camp to be held at SCC

Surry Community College will offer the 5th Annual Surry Old-Time Music Camp July 8 through July 12, on the Dobson campus.

Surry County has an intact music culture that is passed down from generation to generation. The "old-time" music style of the Appalachian Mountains uses fiddle, banjo, and guitar as core instruments to create a unique folk music. Old-time music of the North Carolina and Virginia mountains date back to before the invention of sound recordings.

The camp features a week of music and fun led by the area's finest old-time and bluegrass musicians in-



Chester McMillian is holding a guitar lesson with students at a previous Surry Old-Time Music Camp. Students may choose a primary instrument and skill level to study for the week. There will be beginner through advanced levels of lessons for the banjo, fiddle, and guitar. Additional sessions will be offered in singing, bass, mandolin, banjo styles, and advanced jam. Surry Community College will offer the 5th Annual Surry Old-Time Music Camp July 8 through July 12, 2024, on SCC's campus in Dobson. Go to [surry.edu/music-camp](http://surry.edu/music-camp) to register.

mentals, singing, and dance workshops. Students will also have the opportunity to join in on jam sessions during the week. Additional sessions will be offered in singing, bass, mandolin, banjo styles, and advanced jam.

The cost for the week is \$100 for youth ages 8-17 and \$150 for adults 18 and up. Additional children will receive a \$25 discount off the ticket price.

Youth scholarships may be available on a sliding scale. If needed, please inquire before you register.

Loaner instruments are available upon request. Please indicate this at the time of registration.

If you are interested in helping a youth attend camp this summer, you can contribute to the camp scholarship. To make your contribution online, visit [surry.edu/music-camp](http://surry.edu/music-camp). Choose the donation option on the ticket to give any amount you choose.

You may also call (336) 386-3206 to make your payment over the phone. One hundred percent of your gift will fund youth scholarships for the Surry Old-Time Music Camp.

Light snacks are provided daily. Monday through Thursday, students can bring a packed lunch or bring money to purchase something at the Knights Grill. On Friday, camp students will be provided a pizza lunch before their concert.

Students with certain food allergies and dietary restrictions may need to bring their own food. Please inquire about lunch options if more information is needed.

To register, visit [surry.edu/music-camp](http://surry.edu/music-camp). You may also register in person by contacting Sherry White through email [whites@surry.edu](mailto:whites@surry.edu) or by phone (336) 386-3399.

### LEGAL

#### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF

2559 EGG FARM RD, PATRICK SPRINGS, VA 24133

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$52,040.00, with an annual interest rate of 4.250000% dated July 30, 2014, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Patrick as Deed Instrument Number 140001099, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Patrick, at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Patrick located on the corner of Blue Ridge and Main Streets, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia on May 29, 2024 at 11:00 AM, the property with improvements to wit:

N MAYO R

I#14-1098

Tax Map No. 5314-4, 5214-23

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: USDA. Reference Number 24-296109.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 (703) 449-5800.

### LEGAL

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No. CL24000203-00

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Patrick Circuit Court, 101 West Blue Ridge Street/PO Box 148, Stuart, VA 24171  
PATRICIA ANN CASSELL v. IN RE: TREVOR KYLE DAVENPORT  
RONALD LEE CASSELL

The object of this suit is to:

CHANGE THE NAME OF TREVOR KYLE DAVENPORT, A MINOR  
It is ORDERED that THE NATURAL FATHER OF TREVOR KYLE DAVENPORT appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before MAY 8, 2024.

APRIL 9, 2024

*[Signature]*  
Clerk

### LEGAL

#### REQUEST FOR QUOTE (AMENDED) 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. These services include, but are not limited to, 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. Any additional questions can be emailed to [information@stuartva.org](mailto:information@stuartva.org) or can be submitted at the Town of Stuart Office.

The Town of Stuart HAS EXTENDED THE DEADLINE AND will accept Quotes until 2:00 p.m. Eastern Local Time, on Tuesday, May 7, 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, May 2, 2024 to Bryce Simmons, Town Manager at [bryce.simmons@stuartva.org](mailto:bryce.simmons@stuartva.org) or (276) 694-3811. Request for Quotes will be considered based on:

Quotes will be considered based on the following criteria:

- **Relative Experience Providing Similar Services**, including general construction (with a primary focus on excavation services), construction administration, inspection and reporting compliance, and basic computer data entry skills. In addition, services may include assisting the Town with the development of a lead service line inventory for local, state, and/or federal agencies. Any lists of similar projects that may be provided shall include the name, position, and phone number of a reference for contact by the Town.
- **Unit Pricing for Inspection & Reporting**, including a base price for locating, excavating, identifying, recording of all required information, and backfilling at each water meter designated as part of the Inventory Project.

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.

### LEGAL

#### SPECIAL ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET

The next meeting of the Patrick County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at the Patrick County School Board Office in the conference room, Stuart, Virginia.

This meeting is open to the public. Anyone who wishes to be placed on the agenda should contact Elizabeth Minter, Director of Special Education at 276-694-3163 by noon on April 30, 2024.

### LEGAL

#### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF

645 Martin Farm Road, Stuart, VA 24171

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$50,320.00 dated December 17, 2015 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Patrick County on December 18, 2015 as Instrument Number: 150001991, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W Blue Ridge St, Stuart, VA 24171 on June 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: All that certain tract or parcel of land lying and being on State Route #684, in the Mayo River Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Containing 0.9554 acres, as shown on Plat of Survey entitled "JAMES G. AND CONNIE M. DALTON," prepared by Larry G. Rakes, LLS, dated December 18, 1989, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, in Deed Book 274, page 607; and Tax ID: 4911.00.157.

TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$5,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(Trustee # 24-002480)

Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans pc PO Box 2548,

Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: [www.Orlans.com](http://www.Orlans.com)

The Vendor XOME.COM will be used in conjunction with this sale.

### LEGAL

#### Trustee Sale

149 Woodland Drive, Stuart, Virginia 24171

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 7, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$161,475.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Patrick, Virginia in Instrument No. 210002753, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on **May 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** in front of the building housing the **Patrick County Circuit Court**, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171, the property containing 1.2494 acres, as shown on plat of survey entitled "Patrick County Youth Builders, Inc. and Stuart Flooring Corp." prepared by Larry G. Rakes, IIS, dated February 10, 1998, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, in plat cabinet 1, slide 147-A. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$ 16,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of [www.glasserlaw.com](http://www.glasserlaw.com), outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 234272-01, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

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**Meetings**

**Wednesday, April 24**  
The Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) will meet at 6 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

**Tuesday, April 30**  
The Patrick County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will meet at 4 p.m. at the Patrick County School Board Office.

**Thursday, May 9**  
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

**Events**

**Friday, April 26**  
A Spaghetti Supper will be held from 4-7 p.m. at Dobyns Community Center

Wayside Community Church will hold a Friday Night Fellowship starting at 6:30 p.m. Music will be by the Shelton Brothers and Pastor Teddy Hiatt will deliver an encouraging message. A light meal will be served after.

**Friday, April 26 – Saturday, April 27**  
Weekend revival at High Point Baptist Church, starting at 7 p.m. with preachers Shaun Draughn and David Richardson. Mike Hall and Saun Draughn will sing. The church is located at 2381 Big A School Road, Stuart.

**Saturday, April 27**  
Cruise-In, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hunter's Chapel Assembly, Ararat Highway, Ararat. Hot dogs and BBQ will be served.

**Friday, May 3**  
Spring Bingo at Hardin Reynolds Memorial School (HRMS). Ticket, food sales, and vendor

sales start at 5:30 p.m., and bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. 20 games and 2 coverall costs \$25. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase. For more information, contact Shannon Cassell at (276) 694-3631.

**Saturday, May 4**  
The Patrick County Master Gardeners will hold its annual Spring Plant sale from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Stuart Rotary Building. All proceeds return to benefit the community through local service organizations, community projects, and scholarship awards.

The Christian Bowhunters of the Blue Ridge will host a youth archery event for ages 6 -17 at Sycamore Baptist Church, 179 Sycamore Church Road, Stuart, from 100 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bows and arrows are provided, or you can bring your own. Walk ups are welcome or pre-register by calling (276) 288-4110.

**Monday, May 6 – Monday, Sept. 2**  
The Fairy Stone State Park will hold a Monday Market every Monday from 5-7 p.m. at Fairy Stone picnic shelters 3 & 4.

**Tuesday, May 7**  
The Church of the Living Water will hold a Community Coffee event starting at 10 a.m. EMS Director Scottie Cassell will be the guest speaker.

**Thursday, May 9**  
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its May meeting at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Alan and Margaret Koegler. Beverages will be provided. The menu is potluck. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite meats, vegetables, and/or desserts to share with the group.

**Saturday, May 11**

Spring Tea hosted by the Woolwine Methodist Church from 2-4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, and those 10 and under enter for free. Tickets may be purchased by calling Margie Cockram at (276) 930-2850 or Betty Perry at (276) 930-2578. The proceeds will benefit the community mobile food pantry.

**Ongoing**

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

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month at the Alzheimer's office at 109 Buena Vista Ave in Stuart. New members or volunteers are welcome to join.

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

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

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.

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.

**Community College Participates in STEM Education Month**

Surry Community College is participating in STEM Education Month throughout April. The month-long North Carolina Science Festival is inspiring several events hosted by SCC's Science Division and by the SCC Library.

SCC's Science Division and Library partnered to host two events to help the community learn more and prepare for the best ways to view the eclipse. The first was a presentation by SCC's Science Division entitled "Moon Photobombs Sun: A Guide to Solar Eclipses." The second event was an eclipse viewing experience hosted by SCC's Library.

Surry Community College is hosting an Agriculture Day for local high school students. The event will be held on April 19, from 9 a.m. to noon in the courtyard of the Dobson campus. The event will feature an agricultural presentation for students, a petting zoo, and a cash-only

plant sale. This event is open to students and community members.

Later in April, two Surry Community College science alumni will speak on their research and careers, giving perspective to potential STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) career opportunities. On Thursday, April 18, Jayne Willard, Biologist with the National Park Service, will talk about her work on the collapse of the cottonwood tree and implications for wildlife populations in the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area in Minnesota. Winter Gary, Executive Director with the Highlands Biological Foundation, will speak on conservation work at the Highlands Biological Station in Highlands, N.C. The event, which is free and open to the public as well as students, faculty, and staff, will be held in room A-121 on SCC's Dobson campus from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Finally, Surry Community College invited homeschooling families and SCC students to join a BioBlitz on the Surry Community College campus in Dobson. A BioBlitz is an event where participants find, identify, and record as many species as possible in an area. It's an event that combines education and exploration along with an opportunity to engage with nature, learn about biodiversity, and contribute valuable data to scientific research.

Due to Surry Community College's participation in STEM Education Month, SCC's Science Division was invited to attend a reception at the Executive Mansion in Raleigh on March 6, where the governor's proclamation on STEM Education Month was read.

For more information about STEM Education Month, contact Jeff Jones, SCC Science Division Chair, at jonesjr@surry.edu or (336) 386-3391.

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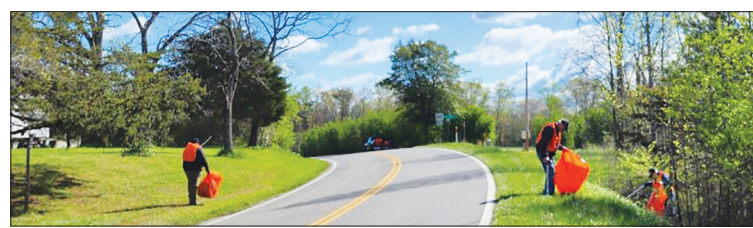
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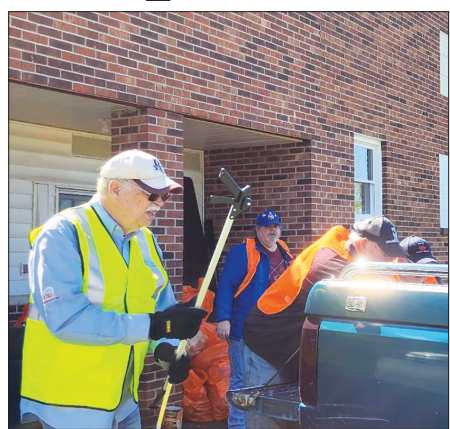
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Waymond Dawson (left to right), Mike Noonkester, and Ray Smith.



Back at the building, Mike Noonkester (left to right), Ray Smith, Waymond Dawson and Tom Perriello unloaded the bags and nine black tires. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill)



Waymond Dawson (left to right), Tom Perriello, Ray Smith, Claude Smith, Margaret Noonkester, Mike Noonkester. Not pictured are Sandra Clement, Shirley Clement Horton, Donna Farris, and Mary Dellenback Hill.

The Ararat Ruritan Club held their Pick Up-Clean Up Patrick County, on Saturday, April 13. Afterward, Margaret

Noonkester prepared hotdogs with chips and drinks for lunch.

**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  
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# Food Bank celebrates volunteers



The Patrick County Community Food Bank held a banquet to celebrate its volunteers on Sunday, April 14. Tim Warner was named the Male Volunteer of the Year. (not pictured)

Ellen Fulcher (left) was the Patrick County Community Food Bank Female Volunteer of the Year. Stuart and Cindy Hampton (left and center) were named the Powerhouse Couple of the Year.

## Honor Society and Local DAR Partner to Help SCC Alumna

Surry Community College's Alpha Xi Tau chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society partnered with the James Hunter Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) to help an SCC alumna adopt a medical alert dog.

Ten years ago, Sarah Soetermans, was diagnosed with Type I Diabetes. Complicated by other health factors, her blood sugar would swing dangerously high and low with little warning. Seeking a reliable way of detecting these swings, Soetermans contacted Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Paws (EENP), a nonprofit organization that trains Medical Alert Service Dogs.

Soetermans applied to adopt one of these dogs and was accepted. To help her offset the cost of her service dog and training, Soetermans began fundraising. SCC's Honor Society and the James Hunter Chapter of NSDAR partnered to help. Together they raffled a basket full of beauty supplies and make-

up, worth over \$50 and raised \$260 to help Soetermans reach her goal. The lucky winner of the basket was Melissa Smith of the SCC Pilot Center in Pilot Mountain. "I was thrilled to learn I won the raffle. The basket was filled with wonderful beauty products and other items. It was a great prize benefiting a worthy cause," Smith said.

On February 24, Soetermans and her new service dog, Professor, officially graduated from the EENP training program.

Soetermans states, "I am truly honored and so grateful to have received support from Surry Community College's PTK Honor Society and the James Hunter Chapter of NSDAR for my service dog fundraising campaign. Professor has already been making large impacts on my daily life. He is trained to alert me for changes in blood sugars, retrieve snacks, and get help for me if needed. Our matching would not have been possible without the generosity and support of our local communities."

PTK Advisor and DAR Chapter Regent, Dr. Kathleen D. Fowler states, "As soon as our members heard about Sarah and about the EENP, they wanted to help. The Beauty Basket Raffle was a way for everyone to work together to make this adoption possible."

Soetermans and Professor stopped by SCC's Pilot Center to say thank you. "It was wonderful to see them together. We even got a chance to see Professor in action. They truly make a great team," stated Fowler.

EENP is a non-profit organization located in Hillsborough. They teach inmates to train assistance dogs that they then partner with people who have disabilities. EENP is an accredited member of



Melissa Smith was the winner of the Beauty Basket Raffle. The raffle raised \$260 to help Soetermans with adopting Professor.



Sarah Soetermans and Professor were matched on February 14, through EENP, a nonprofit organization that trains Medical Alert Service Dogs. Professor graduated from the EENP training program on February 24, 2024.

Assistance Dogs International.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest honor society in higher education with nearly 1,300 chapters on college campuses in all 50 of the United States, plus Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, Peru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates, and U.S. territorial possessions. More than 3.8 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, with over 250,000 active members annually.

The James Hunter Chapter is part of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), one of the largest wom-

en's lineage-based, patriotic nonprofits in the world, with 185,000 members and approximately 3,000 local chapters in the United States and abroad. Since their founding in 1890, close to one million members have carried out their mission to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism.

For more information about Phi Theta Kappa and their projects, contact PTK's faculty co-advisors Dr. Kathleen Fowler at (336) 386-3560 or fowlerk@surry.edu or Kayla Forrest at (336) 386-3315 or forrestkm@surry.edu. For additional information, you may also visit [www.ptk.org](http://www.ptk.org).

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**CORRECTION**  
 A NAME IN THE APRIL 10 EDITION OF MARCH MARRIAGE LICENSES WAS MISPELLED. THE CORRECT SPELLING IS MADISON B. COLNA AND ETHAN J. MARSTON.

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# Hospital nurses encourage civility amid growing challenge of health care workplace violence incidents

Nurses from hospitals across Virginia urge people to behave respectfully during visits to health care facilities so clinicians can stay focused on providing patient care.

That message is at the heart of the ongoing “Help Us, Help You” public awareness and education campaign from the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA), which draws attention to the heightened risk of workplace violence faced by health care professionals. Workplace violence is a serious challenge in health care settings. Health care workers are five times more likely to experience a workplace violence injury compared to workers in other industries, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data also suggests instances of workplace violence against health care professionals are rising. This is a concern for the safety of clinical staff as well as patients because the disruption of workplace violence can impact patients’ ability to access timely care.

The latest VHHA videos in the “Help Us, Help You” initiative feature hospital nurses explaining why directing verbal abuse towards clinical staff doing their jobs is inappropriate because it can cause distractions that impede their ability to care for patients. The same is true of physically assaulting or threatening to harm clinical

staff providing care. Such conduct is illegal in Virginia and may carry serious criminal penalties. Nurses featured in the videos offer advice on proper conduct in health care settings – telling viewers not to bring weapons into a hospital and to refrain from verbal outbursts and improper physical contact with staff in clinical environments – and share strategies for patients and visitors to appropriately address concerns by asking questions and sharing feedback in a respectful manner.

“It is imperative that patients, families, and visitors conduct themselves appropriately at health care facilities. That is the best way to ensure all patients have access to timely medical care, which can be disrupted when people berate, threaten to harm, or physically assault health care providers,” said VHHA President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton.

“People pursue health care careers because they care about others and want to help. Their focus is on providing care and comfort to patients in need. Delivering clinical care is important and often time-sensitive work. So, our message to the public is clear: please behave respectfully and appropriately in the presence of health care professionals performing their jobs,” she added.

This current effort follows a previous public

awareness campaign on this subject featuring a series of videos VHHA released in June 2023 highlighting the raw, emotional stories of hospital nurses from Central Virginia, Northern Virginia, and Southwest Virginia about their firsthand experience with workplace violence in clinical settings.

In addition to advancing the “Help Us, Help You” public awareness campaign, VHHA and hospital members have worked with the Virginia General Assembly in recent years to strengthen protections for health care professionals performing their jobs. Under state law, it is a class 1 misdemeanor to threaten to kill or harm health care professionals rendering care in all health care settings. On the federal level, legislation pending in the U.S. Congress – the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act – would give hospital staff enhanced legal protection against workplace assault and intimidation if enacted into law. VHHA also has a Workplace Safety Task Force and has developed a Workplace Violence Prevention Toolkit with information about applicable state laws, background information on the topic, and detailed guidelines to support organizations in developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining workplace violence prevention programs.

## Initial unemployment claims dip slightly

The number of weekly initial unemployment insurance claims dipped more than 2 percent in the most recent filing period, according to Virginia Works. The agency reported that 2,238 were filed during the week ending April 13, which is 2.2 percent lower than last week’s 2,288 claims and 27.2 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (1,760).

Nearly 82 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Administrative and Support and Waste Management (257); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (249); Retail Trade (203); Health Care and Social Assistance (182); and Manufacturing (171).

Continued weeks claims (15,263) were 0.6 percent lower than last week (15,351) and were 30.8 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (11,672). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-re-

ported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,276); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,102); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,337); Manufacturing (1,329); and Retail Trade (1,199).

In the week ending April 13, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 212,000, unchanged from the previous week’s revised level. The previous week’s level was revised up by 1,000 from 211,000 to 212,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 208,509 in the week ending April 13, a decrease of 6,756 (or 3.1 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 6,369 (or 3.0 percent) from the previous week. There were 216,740 initial claims in the comparable week in 2023.

## March revenues remain ahead of forecast

General fund revenues for March 2024 remain slightly ahead of the revenue forecast and reinforce the Common Ground Budget forecast, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced last week. For the month of March, total general fund revenues increased 5.0 percent versus the same period last year.

“Strong employment growth continues to drive consistent outperformance versus our prudent near-term and long-term forecasts,” said Youngkin. “With a record number of Virginians working, and record state revenues, Virginia has never been financially stronger. As the majority of Virginians complete their state tax filings by May 1, we’ll have stronger confidence in the fourth quarter outlook by May 15. That being said, March’s solid results provide stable ground for us to work together to land a budget that meets our collective goals.”

“The Commonwealth’s results have consistently exceeded forecast,

which confirms that our forecast is prudent, and Virginia’s economy remains strong,” said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. “With two fewer deposit days in March compared to last year, payroll withholding declined 5.6 percent year-over-year, but this was accounted for in our monthly projections. Payroll withholding exceeded projections for March and is ahead of plan for the year driven by steady job gains.”

Through March, year-to-date collections are up 6.2 percent compared to last year and are running ahead of projections assumed in the Governor’s proposed Fiscal Year 2024 amended budget. Excluding nonwithholding and refunds, which continue to be distorted due to payments and refunds related to the recently enacted elective Pass-Through Entity Tax, year-to-date collections in core revenue sources are ahead of plan by \$399.2 million, a variance of 2.2 percent.

## Virtual voter registration training sessions scheduled

The Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) has scheduled 10 virtual training sessions for organizations planning to conduct voter registration drives.

One session will be held before the June 18, primary election. The remaining sessions will focus on the Nov. 5 general election and will include updated information on newly enacted laws that go into effect July 1, including an updated registration application.

Each session is scheduled to be held virtually for one hour and will

be led by an instructor from ELECT. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions during each live session. A link to join the virtual training sessions will be provided on the Virginia Department of Elections’ website. Department of Elections registration training.

Dates and times for the virtual training sessions are:

April 25	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
July 2	2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
July 9	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
July 11	7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Aug. 21	2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Aug. 24	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Sept. 7	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Sept. 10	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Sept. 12	7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Oct. 3	7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Virginia Department of Elections provides additional options for individuals to complete ELECT-certified voter registration drive training.


A self-paced, interactive course is available online at any time. Voter Registration Training.

For instructor-led, classroom training at local voter registration

offices, contact your local general registrar’s office.

Organizations with more than 40 confirmed participants may request large group training led by ELECT. Email Tanya.Pruett@elections.virginia.gov or call (804) 864-8931.

Any group or individual requesting 25 or more voter registration applications is required to register with ELECT and complete voter registration drive training. Certification expires each year on June 30 and can be renewed by completing training annually after July 1.



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# Revised USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map can help growers increase yields, diversify landscapes

As spring sowing gets into full swing, Virginia farmers and gardeners can utilize the U.S. Department of Agriculture's updated Plant Hardiness Zone Map to make the most out of their plantings.

Gardeners and growers have long used the PHZM to decide which perennial, woody and herbaceous plants will likely survive and thrive in their environment, explained Sanjun Gu, Virginia Cooperative Extension horticulture specialist.

"For all plant lovers, farmers and home gardeners alike, the release of the updated plant hardiness zone map is something they will find invaluable," Gu remarked.

Released in November 2023, the revised map is based on the average annual extreme minimum winter temperature. It is based on weather data from 1991 to 2020 and findings from 13,412 weather

stations across the U.S. The map provides greater accuracy than the 2012 version, which used data from 1976 to 2005 and 7,983 stations.

The 2023 map consists of 13 areas across the U.S. displayed as 10-degree zones and 5-degree half-zones. About half the country shifted to the next warmer half zone—including a majority of Virginia.

"Simply put, the higher extreme minimum temperatures allow more plant species to survive Virginia's winters and help adapted species thrive long term," Gu explained.

Gardeners and growers can incorporate more flowers, shrubs, trees and other plants that would not previously have survived winter. Additionally, annual cold-hardy vegetables have a longer harvest season, some flower bulbs may not require removal before winter,

and winter cover crops have more flexible sowing dates.

"Typically, when you have warmer temperatures, your last frost date will be advanced," Gu noted. "Assume that in most regions of Virginia, you can probably plant about 7-10 days ahead of a regular planting date."

He added that gardeners and growers should monitor regional weather forecasts about 10-15 days in advance of planting. The map is only a reference tool and can't provide a guaranteed forecast for future variations in weather.

Additionally, climate change can result in more fluctuations in temperatures that threaten plants. Because climate changes are assessed based on data from 50 to 100 years, the PHZM does not take global warming into consideration.

"Just be cautious before planting things outside," Gu warned. "If

you're not careful with looking at the long-term forecast and run into some frost issues, your plants may not survive."

Home gardeners and smaller-scale farmers can protect plants from overnight frost injury by covering them with row covers, moving pots inside or utilizing other short-term methods.

Farmers and gardeners can expect to encounter bugs, disease pathogens and weeds that typically would be killed or weakened in colder winters.

"If you run into some bugs you're not familiar with, reach out to Extension and they will find the answer for you," Gu added.

Visit [planthardiness.ars.usda.gov](http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov) to access the updated map, and enter your ZIP code into the search bar. Additional instructions on using the map and other related resources also are available.

## Virginia-grown eggs are all they're cracked up to be

*Eggs have nourished our ancestors for at least 6 million years*

Loaded with high-quality protein, fats, iron, vitamins, minerals and carotenoids, eggs present a dozen reasons to celebrate their impact, especially during National Egg Month in May.

Among almost 110 billion eggs produced in the U.S. annually, about 743 million are laid by Virginia hens, ranking the state at No. 24 in national egg production, according to the Virginia Egg Board's 2022 Annual Report. The Virginia Poultry Federation noted annual per capita egg consumption among U.S. consumers increased from about 240 eggs in 1999 to 290 in 2019.

Vast grocery store options labeled free-range, pasture-raised or cage-free may mystify consumers as they compare prices.

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation reported most laying hens in the U.S. are housed in large, environmentally controlled houses. Cage-free layers, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are housed in indoor-only, controlled environments where hens can roam within the house. Outdoor access is not required. Free-range laying hens are allowed outdoor access for 51% of their laying cycle. Pasture-raised poultry roam freely to forage the land, often in mobile structures that protect them from predators.

Mary Rapoport, consumer affairs and educational director for the Virginia Egg Council,

recently shared egg facts and preparation tips on WTVR's Virginia this Morning show.

"Leave your eggs in the carton with the date," she advised, pointing to the number 087 printed on a carton. "It's called the Julian date—the chronological day of the year. If these eggs were laid and packaged today, day 087, and they're good for five weeks after that."

Allow fresh eggs to reach room temperature before hard boiling or steaming, Rapoport said. This stops shells from cracking in hot water, makes them easier to peel and prevents a rubbery texture. Large eggs cook in about 10 minutes, and jumbos need extra time.

Immediately drop finished eggs into ice water, and let them cool for 20 minutes to stop the cooking process.

"And if you'll be peeling them right away, crack them before putting them in ice water," Rapoport noted.

Peeled eggs will last about four days in the fridge, and unpeeled eggs are good for a week.

Eggshell colors don't indicate nutritional value, but yolk qualities are correlated to a hen's diet. Darker, more deeply colored yolks often come from hens that primarily forage grasses and insects.

See egg recipes and tips at [virginiaeggcouncil.org](http://virginiaeggcouncil.org). Read more about poultry labeling at [bit.ly/3Jnm0AR](http://bit.ly/3Jnm0AR).

## Resources, tools for farmers highlighted during Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month, observed during May, marks an important opportunity to spotlight the unique struggles many farmers face, and the resources available to help them.

Whether someone is grappling with inflation, natural disasters, fluctuating commodity prices, changing regulations or financial hardship, farming can be a tough and stressful job. And that stress can have devastating consequences: Research has found farmers and other rural residents experience higher rates of depression and substance abuse disorders than their urban counterparts.

Additionally, suicide rates of people living in rural counties are up to 68% higher than those living in urban areas.

"Farmers are the backbone of our nation, but their resilience can be tested by factors beyond their control," said Matt Nuckols, Virginia Farm Bureau Safety Program coordinator. "They're typically more isolated and less likely to open up about their struggles, and that's why it's important that we take the time to check on each other, listen and provide support."

Farmers also experience an elevated risk of heart disease from chronic stress. Prolonged high stress negatively affects physical and mental health. It can impair the ability to sleep, relax, concentrate and make decisions, all of which can endanger farm health and safety on the job.

To help address the farmer mental health crisis, agricultural organizations including American Farm Bureau Feder-

ation and AgriSafe have developed programs like the Farm State of Mind platform and the AgriStress Helpline to connect farmers with mental health resources. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, financial health, improving sleep and counseling services.


Additionally, AFBF and the Farm Family Wellness Alliance recently partnered to create Togetherall.com, a new peer-to-peer online support community that's continuously moderated by licensed physicians and free to all American farm families.

VFBF's farm safety website also includes resources for Virginia producers, with links to a mental health first-aid course and mental health organizations. Virginia's community service boards also can help recommend appropriate behavioral health services based on a farmer's location.

And while many challenges faced are beyond farmers' control, healthy steps can be taken every day to cope with stress and anxiety. North Dakota State University Extension compiled a mental health wellness toolbox with 12 tools that can help farmers suffering from chronic stress symptoms reclaim control.

Choosing at least three practical strategies to begin each day—such as exercising daily, taking breaks throughout the day to relax and recharge, and staying connected with family and friends—all can go a long way to maintaining overall wellness.

To view the full list of 12 mental health tools, visit [bit.ly/4cT-MA2q](http://bit.ly/4cT-MA2q).



### Culvert Repairs on Various Routes Carroll, Giles and Patrick Counties

Find out about a project to repair drainage culverts in three Districts in the Virginia Department of Transportation's 12-county Salem District. The culverts are at the following locations:

County	Route	Road Name	Crossing
Carroll	52	Poplar Camp Road	Handy Creek
Carroll	52	Fancy Gap Highway	Branch of Pauls Creek
Giles	460	Virginia Avenue	Little Stoney Creek
Giles	460	Virginia Avenue	Little Stoney Creek
Giles	460	Virginia Avenue	Branch of New River
Patrick	8	Woolwine Highway	Branch of Sycamore Creek

Review the project information and the National Environmental Policy Act document in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem, 540-387-5353, 800-367-7623, TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Jack Bayne, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 on or prior to **May 9, 2024**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Jack Bayne at the phone numbers listed above.

State Project: BR02-962-817, P101, D655, D656, D657, D658, D659, D660, D661, D662  
Federal Project: STP-BR02(465) UPC: 121224

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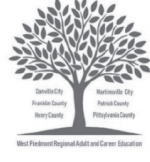
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Patrick County  
Virginia



# SCC Named a 'Military Friendly School'

Surry Community College announces it has earned the 2024-25 designation as a Military Friendly® School, as well as a Gold School distinction for the year. This is the thirteenth year the college has received the honor of being a Military Friendly School.

Gold School distinction means that SCC is rated within 10 percent of the 10th-ranked organization for the small community college category. Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School distinction were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2024-2025 survey with 537 of these schools earning special awards for going above the standard.

The Military Friendly Schools list will be published in a special issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and can also be found at [www.militaryfriendly.com](http://www.militaryfriendly.com).

Surry Community College's Veterans Affairs Specialist, Jay McDougal, is a veteran himself. He served 13 years in the Army.



Surry Community College announces it has earned the 2024-25 designation as a Military Friendly® School, as well as a Gold School distinction for the year. This is the thirteenth year the college has received the honor of being a Military Friendly School.

"We are excited to once again be named a Military Friendly School, and especially excited to receive the Gold School distinction. This honor represents our college's commitment, and support to our veterans year after year. We support our veterans and the family members of veterans to the highest degree ensuring that they get the utmost attention while using their VA

Benefits," McDougal said, also noting that veterans use their benefits for curriculum course programs, Basic Law Enforcement Training, and in programs such as Workforce Training and Career & College Readiness.

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by VIQTORY, the publisher of G.I. Jobs magazine, with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and specifically for student veterans.

For more information about Veteran Services at SCC, contact Jay McDougal, Veterans Affairs and Financial Aid Specialist, at (336) 386-3245 or [mcdougaljr@surry.edu](mailto:mcdougaljr@surry.edu).

## Two indicted on federal charges in alleged scheme

Federal grand jurors seated in Roanoke indicted a pair of Central Virginia men in connection with multiple federal crimes related to a 2023 drug robbery and murder where one defendant allegedly sought to dispose of the victim's body by setting it aflame.

An indictment is merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

In an indictment returned April 11, the grand jury alleges that Joseph Richard Walker, a.k.a. "Joe," 30, of Roanoke, and Garrett Isaac Williams, a.k.a. "Gary," "Taz," and "Tez," 21, of Lynchburg, conspired to traffic marijuana; committed robbery; and conspired to commit robbery. Additionally, the indictment alleges Walker discharged a firearm to further the drug trafficking and robbery; possessed firearms as a prohibited person; and committed arson.

According to court records and public documents, beginning around January 2023, Walker and Williams conspired to sell large amounts of marijuana that they bought from the victim in York, Pennsylvania. By early April 2023, the defendants allegedly had accrued a \$40,000 drug debt to the victim. Rather than pay the debt, they allegedly arranged a final marijuana delivery from the victim and planned to rob him when he arrived. On April 17, 2023, the victim traveled to Walker's

house in southeast Roanoke, where the victim was shot twice in the head and the marijuana stolen. After killing the victim, his body was loaded into the trunk of the car and transported to a rural road in Bedford County where the car was set on fire.

The Virginia State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from the United States Marshals Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, the Roanoke City Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, the Roanoke City Police Department, the Roanoke County Police Department, the City of Lynchburg Police Department, and the Bedford County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office are investigating the case.

The Star City Drug and Violent Crime Task Force also aided in the investigation and is comprised of officers from the Roanoke City Police Department, Roanoke County Police Department, City of Salem Virginia Police Department, the Vinton Police Department, and Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Salem Field Office.

"There is no higher priority for my Office than keeping our communities safe by prosecuting violent crime," United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said today. "The federal charges brought in this case show the determination of the United States Attorney's Office — and our local, state, and federal partners — to

hold those who commit these acts accountable."

FBI Richmond Special Agent in Charge Stanley M. Meador said, "This indictment highlights the steadfast commitment of federal, state, and local partners to hold violent criminals accountable."

"These two arrests are the result of the exceptional and relentless investigative work of law enforcement from a myriad of agencies," said Colonel Gary T. Settle, Virginia State Police Superintendent. "Within 48 hours, our special agents had identified the murder suspects and had state charges placed thanks to the collaborative efforts" of several law enforcement agencies.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Drew O. Inman and M. Coleman Adams are 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.

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# Plants for your water garden

By Ginnie Conaway, *Patrick Co. Master Gardener*

In a previous article, we introduced types of water features to add to your landscape.

In order of cost and complexity:

\*shallow bird bath, no moving water or electricity needed, too shallow for plants

\*bird bath or above ground tub with a solar fountain, no electricity needed

\*buried tub reservoir with a solar or electric pump to recirculate the water over a rock waterfall or small fountain

\*waterfall with lined stream dropping to a buried tub with recirculating pump

\*small or large in ground pond with pump for aeration and filtration

In this article we'll address the plants you can include in and around those water features to integrate them into your garden and landscape. A rubber or galvanized tub sitting in the middle of a bare lawn will look very out of place, so adding a few plants in the ground around it and some aquatic plants in it will help it look much more natural to both you and your wild-life visitors.

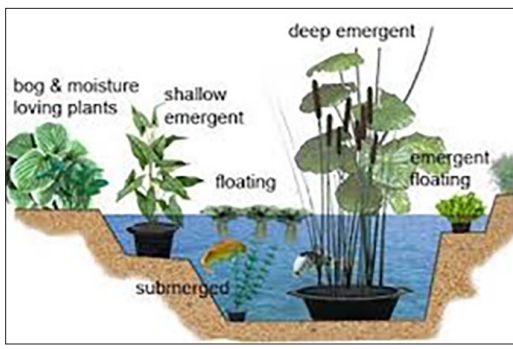
Plants are important to the water garden's ecology because they produce oxygen, remove and recycle nutrients, and provide shade and hiding places for fish and other inhabitants. A water garden with plants should be situated to receive at least 6 hours of sunlight each day. However, direct sun at mid-day during the warmest months can cause shallow pools to overheat.

Selecting Native and Non-Invasive Plants

Never use any invasive aquatic plant. Choose a reputable nursery, ask if the vendor is aware of regional or federal restrictions



Floating Plants



Submerged Plants



Emergent Plants

and verify the scientific names are correct. Common names may be used for several different species, not all of which are harmless. Never dump your water plants in local waterways. Many aquarium plants are very invasive in Virginia.

Great article on invasive plant and fish/snail species in water gardens is available at <https://extension.psu.edu/mid-atlantic-pocket-guide-to-water-garden-species>.

Water garden plants are grouped based on how and where they grow, and they're typically labeled as floating, submerged, or emergent. It's a good idea to include a mix of all three.

### Floating Plants

Waterlilies are floating plants that produce beautiful flowers in many colors. Hardy waterlilies (genus *Nymphaea*) bloom during the day, while the elegant lotus bloom at various times day and night. A few other floating plants: duckweed (*Lemna*), fairy moss (*Azolla*), water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), and water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)

### Submerged Plants

Submergent plants can float on the surface or be planted in pots in the water. They provide oxygen and food for fish. Try Canadian pondweed (*Elodea*) and native hornwort (*Ceratophyllum*). Both have feathery, whorled leaves, but fanwort is rooted while horn-

wort is free-floating.

### Emergent Plants

Emergent plants live near the water's edge and along the banks of rivers. They often have deep and dense roots that stabilize shallow soils at the water's edge. They provide an important habitat for birds, insects, and other animals living near water. Yellow canna is a tall emergent plant that has bright yellow flowers that draw butterflies, and pickerel weed produces lavender, pink, or white flowers that attract bees.

There are plenty of native plants to fill the shoreline with as well. These include giant blue lobelia and cardinal flower (*Lobelia* spp.), blue water hyssop (*Bacopa caroliniana*), Dwarf scouring rush (*Equisetum scirpoides*), American lotus, crinum lily, and several native species of water lilies. arrowhead (*Sagittaria* spp.), cattail (*Typha* spp.), marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), water iris (*Iris laevigata*), water plantain (*Alisma*). Duck potato (*Sagittaria lancifolia*) is a native, lance-leaf arrowhead, blooming plant that can be planted in the water or at the pond edge in full sun. It grows two feet tall and gets common name from the potato-like corms that grow underwater.

Remember to choose the right-sized plants for your space and don't allow plants to cover more than two-thirds of the water's surface when mature.

### Care and Maintenance

#### Algae

Just like having weeds in your lawn, you can also have weeds in your water garden. Algae are microscopic weeds that are sometimes a problem in water gardens. Like many aquatic plants, if left to grow unchecked, they can deplete the water of oxygen.

Algae need sunlight to grow, so adding aquatic plants to cover 50-75% of the water surface will help.

If your water garden grows an overabundance of algae, try adding more plants and rocks. These provide places for bacteria to col-

onize, and these bacteria help control algal growth. Add barley balls to your water garden to further suppress algae growth. Barley balls can be found at specialty fish stores and online.

#### Mosquitoes

Water attracts mosquitoes, especially standing water. A solar fountain, bubbler, air stone, or moving water from a pump will limit the problem. If you have a small container garden, just add water to the container until it flows over the top and flushes out the mosquito larvae. You can also buy mosquito dunks, harmless to pets, fish, and wildlife.

#### Fish

Fish are sometimes added to water gardens for visual interest. Keep in mind that they will add nutrients to the system that you will have to remove with filters or balance using plants. The fish commonly used in water gardens are goldfish. They consume aquatic plants and can make the water cloudy as they feed. Another fish, gambusia are small, native fish that feed on mosquito larvae and pupae at the water's surface. Like the water plants, they should never be released or allowed to escape into local waters.

For additional information, visit:

University of Florida Extension, <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/types-of-gardens/water-gardens.html>;

Pennsylvania State Extension, <https://extension.psu.edu/dragons-and-damsels-around-your-pond-and-water-garden>;

Iowa State University, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/smallfarms/water-gardens-aquatic-plants>.

'Pocket Guide to Water Garden Plants,' by Timber Press, Greg & Sue Speichert.

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# Primary school students plant a flower garden

Students from Mrs. Mosketi's first grade class at Patrick Springs Primary School beautified the school grounds by planting a flower garden to celebrate Earth Day. Master Gardeners Revonda Gilbert and Norma Bozenmayer led the program and assisted the students in the planting. The students have been caring for a worm bin since last fall and added vermicompost (worm compost) as they planted the flowers. Thanks to Patrick County High School and Eli Roberson for the donation of the beautiful flowers from the greenhouse, and Barry at Tractor Supply for a donation of garden soil.



**Thank You for reading  
The Enterprise**



## Patrick County Chamber of Commerce 2024 MEMBERSHIP

The motto of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce is "Community is our Business" and community has never been so vital as it is now. Our community has come together to help each other, welcome new members to our community and embrace new businesses that have opened in Patrick County. It is the Chamber's business to help our community from beautification grants, business assistance, tourism related activities and events such as Stuart Spooktacular and Hometown Christmas.

To those who have renewed or joined for 2024~ Thank you! For those who haven't, we invite you to consider investing in your community by joining the Chamber of Commerce.

Since starting the new year, The Chamber has

- Attended meetings to represent Patrick County in regards to the change of operations at Mabry Mill, request for input at the Rocky Knob Cabins, SOVA Rise initiative, SOVA economic monthly meetings and Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
- Hosted the Patrick County Economic Summit with our partners
- Assisted with the Patrick County Tourism Summit
- Hosted a Business After Hours at The Star Theatre
- Published our Spring 204 Patrick County Magazine with our partners
- Hosted ribbon cutting for CPB Behavioral Therapy celebrating their expanded office
- Promotion of employment opportunities
- Promotion of Local Events
- Creation of "How to Start a Business in Patrick County" pamphlet
- Pick Up Patrick Campaign for April
- Assisting Reynolds Homestead with their Work Based Learning Programs
- Attending Appalachian Regional Commission Workshop with our team from Patrick County in Alabama.

And we are just getting started! Join the Chamber and help us keep Patrick County Moving in the right direction.

[www.patrickchamber.com](http://www.patrickchamber.com)

**Thank you!**  
**Rebecca Adcock, Executive Director**