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Vol. 148 No. 18 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024 USPS 523-500 \$1.00

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

Board chairman, supervisor steps down

By Debbie Hall
Brandon Simmons is stepping down as both chairman of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors and representative of the Dan River District, effective immediately. In his April 25 letter of resignation, Simmons said he decided to put his family first.



Simmons, who first served one term on the Patrick County School Board and spent much of that as its elected chairman, said he feels "I have been of help in bringing many positive changes" in both capacities. "I have always put the citizens of Patrick County first in every decision that I have made."
The decision to step down "isn't an easy one. I have four children and the oldest two play sports at least five days per week and I help coach their teams," Simmons wrote. "I cannot make time for both responsibilities, so I have chosen to put my family first."
His two eldest children, aged 9 and 11, are involved in sports, with activities 5 to 7 days each week, and he also helps coach their teams.

"It'll be even more hectic when the other two (children) get older," Simmons said of his youngest children, now aged 1 and 4.
"It has been challenging to make both work only to be present at meetings to hear much complaint(s) from people who obviously have all the answers but will not run for public office. Perhaps now that I am

(See Board Chairman p.3)



County Administrator Beth Simms discussed the proposed fiscal year 2024-2025 budget at the April 22 meeting.

Public hearing set on budget

By Taylor Boyd
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors had a first look at the proposed spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year last week, and scheduled a public hearing for Monday, May 13 to hear public input.
The overall proposal is \$74,803,977, and reflects an increase of seven percent, or \$4,877,459, over the current fiscal year. It includes more than 6 new positions, and a pay hike for employees.
Under the proposed fiscal year 2024-25 budget, general government administration would receive \$2,516,572 million, the judicial administration will get \$1,541,767 million, public safety would get \$10,878,398 including more than \$4 million for law enforcement, \$2.6 million for

the jail, and \$1.1 for the Quick Response Vehicle/Ambulance.
Public Works would receive \$1,883,239, with the Transfer Station getting the largest portion of the funds at \$885,091. Health & Welfare would receive \$5,053,336 and Parks & Recreation, \$331,315.
Community development, which includes contributions to agencies, economic development, tourism, and other offices, would receive \$1,665,733. The non-departmental category has an allocation of \$1,592,153, and education will receive \$9,109,217.
County Administrator Beth Simms said 43-percent of tax dollars will go towards education with 27 percent allocated for

(See Public Hearing p.7)

Long-standing business prepares to celebrate 100 years



Howell's Grocery & Restaurant will celebrate 100 years of business with a huge celebration from 12-6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 4.



By Taylor Boyd
Howell's Grocery & Restaurant was poised to celebrate 100 years of business with an all-day event at the store on Saturday, May 4, but the event will be rescheduled the event due to weather con-

cerns.
"I don't have a new date yet. It's to be determined right now. Hopefully, we'll have it in the next few weeks, but I don't know," said Matthew Holt, grandson of cur-

rent owner Leon Howell. "Hopefully, before Saturday we'll have a new date planned, that's my goal."
While the official 100-year anniversary was in April, Holt hoped it would be celebrated in May. However, there is a 45-80 percent chance of rain on May 4, with possible thunderstorms.
Holt said the event will be held outside and the restaurant will be closed that day.

If it's pretty weather, it's going to be a big event. That's what I'm planning for anyways," Holt said.
Seven bands were scheduled to take the stage, and Holt said he plans to rehire them, providing their schedules are open.
"The music will start at noon and go on until 6:30 p.m., when the last performance ends. Each band will play 45 minutes," he said.

(See 100 Years p. 3)

Input sought on Appalachian Power's 2024 Biennial Review of Rates

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is offering time for members of the public to give oral comments by telephone on Appalachian Power Company's 2024 Biennial Review of Rates. In the review, the SCC will analyze the company's base rates as well as the terms and conditions for the provision of generation, distribution, and transmission services.
In its application, Appalachian Power requests to increase revenues by approximately \$95 million, or 5.1 percent. The company states that the factors that contributed to its request include cost recovery for restoring service during major storms, increases in capital, material and labor costs, and rising interest rates.
The overall impact of the company's proposals would increase the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per month by approximately \$10.22, or 6 percent.
The SCC has scheduled a public witness session to begin at 10 a.m. on September 9, 2024. Public witnesses intending to provide oral testimony must pre-register with the SCC by 5 p.m. on September 4, 2024. The hearing will be webcast at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.
Public witnesses wishing to provide oral testimony may pre-register in one of three ways:
Completing a public witness form for case number PUR-2024-00024 on the SCC's website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting

E-mailing the same form (PDF version on the same website as above) to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov
Calling the SCC at 804-371-9141 during normal business hours (8:15 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and providing your name and the phone number you wish the Commission to call to reach you during the hearing
To promote fairness for all public witnesses, each witness will be allotted five minutes to provide testimony.
A public evidentiary hearing will follow the public witness hearing at 10 a.m. on September 10, 2024, in the SCC's second floor courtroom at 1300 East Main Street in Richmond to receive testimony and evidence from the company, any respondents and the SCC staff.
For those who prefer, there is also an opportunity to provide comments in writing on the Appalachian Power application. Written comments may be submitted through the SCC's website by September 4, 2024, at scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Simply go to the SCC website, select "Cases" and then "Submit Public Comments," and scroll down to case number PUR-2024-00024. Then select SUBMIT COMMENTS.
Comments also can be submitted by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments must refer to case number PUR-2024-00024

Songwriter series set for Saturday

By Taylor Boyd
The Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) will hold its first Songwriter's Circle Series show on Saturday, May 4 at the Historic Star Theatre in Stuart. Doors open at 5 p.m.
Denny Alley, president of the music association, said he decided to hold the show because it's something different than normal, plus it's a take on Bluebird Café, in Nashville, TN, which features up and coming and experienced songwriters.
"It's cool," Alley said of that venue. "We've never tried one here."
Performers include Alley, Michael Ray Fain, Mike Hall, Miller Hopkins, Barry Hutchens, Will Hutchens, Johnny Joyce, Scott Patrick, and Eric Shepherd.
Fain, a Patrick County native who grew up in the Rye Cover area, is a country singer and songwriter. He held a release party for his 2023 album, "Rye's N' Shine," at the Star last year.
Alley said Hopkins is a 17-year-old senior at Patrick County High School (PCHS).
"He's an old soul in a young body. I've been working with him for about a year-and-a-half now. He

can play about anything I can play on the guitar, and he can sing and plays the banjo," Alley said.
Hopkins will be playing the guitar and performing Tommy Moss's material at the Circle Series show, Alley said.
Patrick, who plays the guitar, is the leader of Lonesome Heart, a quintet from Christiansburg.
"He wrote a lot of songs, and he comes down occasionally with Barry Hutchens and Will (Hutchens) to write new songs and send them to Nashville," Alley said.
Hall plays bluegrass and gospel music, Alley said, adding "he and his daddy had a" large "stack of songs they wrote during their lives."
Shepherd, a guitar player, will perform several gospel songs, according to Alley, who said that Joyce is the leader of the Country Boys.
"He's had that band for 45 years. That's the longest running band in the entire county," Alley said, adding that he often hears Joyce's songs on Galax's radio station 98.1.
Joyce, he said, has "had some songs that did real well for him."
Barry Hutchens and son Will are set to perform together and play the

(See Songwriter Series p. 7)

Initiative inspires local delegation to enhance trail

A group of eight dedicated community members and local officials set off on a significant journey to Decatur, Alabama, on April 15 to participate in the Appalachian Gateway Communities Initiative (AGCI), and returned with a focus on enhancing the Mayo River Trail in downtown Stuart.

“Our vision and projects are to continue creating a more inclusive, vibrant, community-focused area,” James Houchins, director of Tourism, said of the plans.

Houchins explained that the asphalt-level trail, located just off Commerce Street, follows the path of the former Danville and Western Railway. The 1.8-mile trail that is suitable for walking and bicycling, also follows the Mayo River, with an additional spur leading to the Blue Ridge Therapy Connection Landmark Assisted Living Center.

“Some of our goals are to install more art-inspired features and develop better water access for tubing, canoeing, and fishing,” Houchins said.

In addition to Houchins, local team members who attended the initiative were Rebecca Adcock, director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce; Sissily Harrell, an architect; Wayne Kirkpatrick, of the Dan River Basin Association; Lora Mahaffey, president of Bull Mountain Arts; Travis Murphy, director of the Parks & Recreation Department; Bryce Simmons, Stuart Town Manager and Sarah Wray, coordinator of Community Engagement, Partnership & Program at the Reynolds Homestead.

“Our team came away inspired by the workshops, the teams, and the coaches that presented a tremendous amount of information. We



A local delegation participated in the Appalachian Gateway Communities Initiative (AGCI). Those representing Patrick County were Rebecca Adcock, James Houchins, Travis Murphy, Bryce Simmons, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Lora Mahaffey, Sarah Wray and Sissily Harrell. (Contributed)

were able to take each individual viewpoint and thought process and combine them into a cohesive plan that would benefit the entire county,” Houchins said.

“These projects are only the beginning,” he said. “A vibrant, welcoming community where its citizens love and appreciate it will draw more visitors and tourists, and that is our ‘end game.’ To increase the quality of life and grow the economy.”

The initiative was a joint effort by the Conservation Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Houchins said, and added that it also is a testament to the agencies unwavering commitment to the Appalachian region.

The Office of Tourism filed a grant application through the Conservation Fund in February, which met with success. Houchins said that “was a remarkable achievement amidst a highly competitive process.”

Along with Patrick County, other teams selected to attend the initiative this year represented Buckeye Hills, Ohio; Deep Gap, North Carolina; I-22 Region, Alabama; Little River, Alabama; Murray County, Georgia; and Waverly-Piketon, Ohio.

All of the community-based teams were from gateway communities in the Appalachian Region, he said, adding that enables team members “to build on the opportunities created by proximity to a public land as-

set and their confluence of resources, fostering economic opportunity to generate lasting health for people and places.”

The Appalachian Region, which spans 206,000 square miles, is home to 423 counties across 13 states, Houchins said. From southern New York to northern Mississippi, this region is a testament to the diversity and richness of our nation. Its 26.3 million residents, spread across parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and all of West Virginia, form a vibrant and diverse community.

The region also includes three federally recognized and five state-recognized Native American Tribal Communities, with Tribal entities in Appalachian Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, New York, and North Carolina, he added.

The Conservation Fund believes in conservation, which makes economic sense, Houchins said. “Their project places conservation at its center, and their entrepreneurial staff created and demonstrated innovative, practical ways to benefit from the abundant natural resources in our destinations.”

Political committee, historical society clean up historic school site

The Patrick County Democratic Committee, along with members of the Patrick County Historical Society, started cleaning up the site of Patrick County’s Indian Knob School on April 13. One former student and family members of former students also joined the cleanup. Years of accumulated trash, including abandoned appliances and furniture, made the site dangerous for those evaluating the rehabilitation of the building. The group collected and hauled away three truckloads of garbage and recyclables. Members also cut and stacked downed trees and limbs in the heavily forested site. Willie Mae Ware shared her memories of attending the school with the crew during the cleanup. Another day will be scheduled in May to finish the work.

Indian Knob School is in the far southern part of Patrick County. The county school board purchased the site in 1932 and a two-room school soon opened to offer instruction in grades one through six for Black students. Earlier records from the 1920s identify a church at this location; we



The Indian Knob crew after loading the trucks.

do not know if that building ever served as a school. The school operated until 1952 when Patrick Central School opened offering twelve grades of instruction for Black students (the first high school for Blacks in the county). Indian Knob School is believed to be the oldest standing school for Blacks in Patrick County. It is a rather surprisingly impressive building on its knoll in the woods and is a valuable historic site near a major highway in our county.

Bill Hines, who lives in the Five Forks

community, remembered his year at Indian Knob.

“I can’t believe I’m writing this. When I was starting school, writing was my weakness. I am writing my biography to tell the story of my growing up. I started the first grade at Indian Knob two room school. In 1952 our new school was built (Patrick Central), the only school in the county for Black children,” Hines wrote.

The Patrick County Historical Society has applied for a grant to preserve Indian Knob School. The owner has asked the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to evaluate the site, requesting that it be designated an historic landmark. As a landmark, the school and site would have a roadside historical marker. The society continues to research the history of Indian Knob and interview some known former students.

If you are a former student of Indian Knob School, or know of someone who may be, please call the Historical Society at (276) 694-2840 or email johnreynolds50@usa.net.

Deadlines set for Republican Primary

Early voting for the upcoming June 18 Republican Primary Election will be held at the Registrar’s Office beginning on Friday, May 3 and will continue through June 15 during regular office hours.

The office will be open on Saturday, June 8 and Saturday, June 15, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for early voting.

If you need to receive a ballot by mail, a Virginia Vote by Mail Application Form must be received on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, June 7. A request to receive a ballot by mail may be done online at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/>

VoterInformation.

Virginia law requires all voters to present an acceptable form of identification when voting early or on Election Day. Information about acceptable forms of identification can be found at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/in-person-voting/>.

Any registered voter who does not possess an acceptable ID, may sign an ID Confirmation Statement. The deadline to register to vote or to update your address on your existing voter registration for the upcoming June 18 Republican Primary Election will be on Tuesday, May 28.

Any citizen needing to register to vote or update their

address may do so either by appearing in person at the Registrar’s Office, mailing a completed application to Post Office Box 635, Stuart, VA, or going online at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>.

The Registrar’s Office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday and is located in the Patrick County Veterans’ Memorial Building, 106 Rucker St., Room 216C, Stuart, VA.

For additional information, or to request a Virginia Vote by Mail Application Form to be mailed to you, contact the Registrar’s Office at (276) 694-7206 or staylor@co.patrick.va.us or visit the Patrick County Registrar’s website at <https://www.co.patrick.va.us/206/Registrar>

Pets of the Week



This sweet lady with one eye patch is just 1 year-old and is available to adopt now. She would like to find a home as quickly as possible.

This young fellow was found on Community Church Lane. He is so scared he really needs to go home. He is adorable, with his big ears up. If you know who he may belong to, please let us know.

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

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Board Chairman

(cont. from page 1)

stepping down, some of those people will step up and run for the position," he said. "I've tried to make it work, but I can't find the time for both."

In a phone interview last week, Simmons, who is 40, said he believes that family demands are the "biggest reason people don't get into local government until they're older or retired. I made it as long as I could.

"It's hard enough trying to do the right thing and make time to fulfill my duties in that position, but to do that, make those sacrifices, and then get fussed at all the time? I won't do it," he said.

Those "people who have the time to stay on the Internet and do research, and have time to get on social media and complain," Simmons asked, "why not run for office? I'm not saying that people ought to not complain, but they seem to have all the answers and solutions" even when board members try to explain their points of view.

Two of the most current issues are pay hikes for county employees and a request for additional funds from a local rescue squad.

At a glance, both issues seem like no-brainers, but Simmons said, "it's not that simple," and that is from someone "who fought harder the last three years for the volunteer squads than anybody" else on the board.

While he is unable to share specifics, Simmons said, "there's been a lot of communication with that rescue squad to try and help, and all of those discussions are still in the works. There's a lot more to it than people think, and there's a lot more to think about when you make the decision."

Noting that request "is just one recent scenario," Simmons cited the solar farm debate as another recent example which prompted many people to attend board meetings to express opposition, while seemingly being convinced that others in the county – including many who have lived here longer – have a different view.

"There may have been 100 people to attend a meeting" to object, Simmons said, but in the case of the solar proposal, "the 200 to 300 people that I talked to in my district and in other districts, said that while they

may not like it, it wasn't their property," and they did not object to it.

While he wishes the so-called 'silent majority' would attend the meetings and "voice their opinions," most do not, Simmons said. Those who do speak during the public comment portion should educate themselves about the rules that govern the meeting and exercise proper decorum.

Instead, Simmons said some speakers try to bully and even threaten the board members. "One said they 'were putting us on notice,'" Simmons said. "What does that even mean?"

Additionally, the board "is still working through problems and bad situations of the last 10 to 20 years, but we can't fix things overnight," Simmons said, adding that many previous boards "had no vision for the county or to move the county forward. We're trying to fix all of that."

The solar issue was another sticking point, Simmons said, and recalled that many "people at meetings asked about solar" before any projects were officially announced.

At that time, "a couple of board members and the county administrator at the time said no solar company was looking at Patrick County," Simmons said, adding the board later learned that was incorrect, and that a company had filed its intent with state officials to locate a project in Patrick County.

The hospital issue was another hot topic, according to Simmons, who recalled that he was the one who publicly said the hospital would not open in the time frame cited by the new owners.

"A lot of things were brought to light then, including back door deals the board didn't know about," Simmons said, of information that included a former economic development director – who was a county employee also was accepting money from the owners of the hospital.

Simmons said paid rescue, or Station 8, is another example of the issues facing the current board.

"The biggest problem is when it started, it wasn't planned for," Simmons said.

He recalled that when the vote on a paid rescue squad service was taken, it "wasn't even listed on the agenda," Simmons said, adding

those board members "knew the situation the county was in, and they brought it up and voted for it anyway.

"You can't start an EMS service on \$300,000 and a borrowed truck," and lacking a plan to keep it going, he said. "Every decision I've made is what I thought was best for the county. What I don't appreciate are previous board members" voicing their opposition about how the current board is handling an issue.

"I want to say to them, 'if you had done this, or hadn't done that, we wouldn't be'" in whatever situation is being discussed, Simmons said, adding he also won't miss the annual trips to see legislators while the General Assembly is in session.

"Going to Richmond is pointless," he said. "Period. Whatever we talk about falls on deaf ears" with legislators from more urban areas. "We can't get any help. Northern Virginia and Richmond forget that southern Virginia built northern Virginia, and many don't care."

All in all, Simmons said "one of the biggest things with all the complaining is that people act like they're guaranteed something" like a job, good cell service, internet signal, healthcare, taxes, the views, or changes of any sort.

Newcomers to the area who have done their homework "knew those issues when they moved here," Simmons said. "I'm not saying that to be mean. I've been here all my life, and nobody is ever guaranteed anything."

That is particularly true for those who may enjoy the beauty of adjacent areas, he said.

"I enjoy it too. The trees and fields are beautiful, but the people who bought that land have the right to do with it what they want," Simmons said, adding "all this bickering amongst ourselves don't help attract economic development, healthcare" or other improvements to the county.

Additionally, current laws restrict communications, and board members are prohibited from discussing much of the behind the scenes work, Simmons said.

"When you run for office, if you get elected, it ties your tongue," Simmons said, and added the board has been as communicative as possible.

"We've had a lot of positive change lately, and we've been a lot more forward thinking" about the future ramifications when making decisions, Simmons said.

"Our new county administrator is getting her feet wet, trying to address" a host of issues left from previous administrations while responding to the ongoing issues, Simmons said, yet many are talking about the proposed budget and alleging "the county is going to break us.

"Well, the tax rate isn't going up this year," he said, adding that while there are proposed raises of 3 to 3.5 percent, some are mandated by the state and others are because the county is trying to be equitable to those who are not in positions that are partially funded by the state.

"We're making adjustments because it's hard to keep good" personnel, he said.

The relationship between the supervisors and the school board is "the best its been in a long, many years," Simmons said. "We have one of the best school systems in the state and we fund them minimally. Imagine what it would be if we gave them more. Imagine what they could do."

Pay also is "more in line with others in the same jobs" in localities similar to Patrick, Simmons said, "and if people will do their homework with the trash pickup situation, they'll see it'll be okay."

"With the new board and new administrator, I think people have been kept more in the loop, but are we perfect? No. We're a work in progress," he said, and added the five board members "are not trying to be heroes" or draw attention to themselves. "They're just trying to help the county. I hope only the best for the Board of Supervisors and Patrick County."

Simmons' term would have ended on Dec. 31, 2025. He had a combined total of 7-years on the top two boards in the county.

The board currently rotates the chairman post between its members. Doug Perry has been acting chairman in Simmons' absence. Perry, of the Smith River District, became the vice-chairman in January.

100 Years

(cont. from page 1)



Visitors are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs, and Holt said a hotdog, chips, and dessert will be available for \$1.

"We've got 1,500 hotdogs we plan to sell. On a normal day we do like 125-150. So, it'll be 10 times a normal day," he said. "We did the same thing 25 years ago for the 75th anniversary, except it was 75 cents. Now 25 years later, it's \$1."

Glass bottle sodas and candy bars also will be sold at \$1 each, and "we're going to mark a whole bunch of stuff on our shelves down for \$1, and it's just that one day," he said.

Holt said his great-grandfather Harry Howell purchased the building that now houses the store and restaurant from the bank in 1924.

"He had it until he passed away in 1971, where it was left to my grandfather and, I think, three of his brothers. It wasn't long before my grandfather had bought out the brothers," Holt said, adding that his grandfather has owned the business independently since 1980.

"He still owns it, but he'll be 85 this year," Holt said.

When the store first started, Holt said the original building was an old general store. The current building opened in 1962 as a garage and store.

"The restaurant wasn't here; it was a garage. If you look at the windows, those were the garage door, that's why the windows are so big. There were two bays that you could pull (vehicles) into," Holt said, adding that he believes the garage transitioned into a restaurant in the early 1980s.



Like many children of business owners, Holt said he grew up in the store.

"I remember pumping gas when it was full service, and pumping" gas for people who came by. "I was little. I remember filling up drink orders and merchandising shelves," he said.

Leon Howell said when he thinks about the store, hard work and long hours come to mind.

"It's a rough road. It really was and is. I worked 100 (hours) a week out there for probably eight years" before he decided he had to cut his hours.

Because he didn't want to deprive himself or his workers of the opportunity to go to church, Howell kept the business closed on Sundays for more than 40 years. On Friday and Saturday nights, Howell said he kept the store open until around 11:30 p.m. because there were several workers working second shift at the nearby textile mills.

"When they got off at 11 p.m., I'd serve a lot of customers coming in after 11-11:15 p.m. in 15-20 minutes, stopping out there getting different things. You got to take care of your customer," he said.

While he didn't particularly care for it, Howell said he saw quickly that if he wanted to run a convenience store, he would have to sell beer.

"You could come in and get beer, cigarettes, snacks, and stuff like that. We have a good number of people that come and eat breakfast with us, sometimes it's running over," he said of the restaurant portion.

While Howell's has its regular customers, Howell said he also sees a lot of new faces, as



Leon Howell and his brothers inherited Howell's Grocery & Restaurant from their father. He officially bought his brothers out in 1980.

does Dean Mabe, a shift manager, who has worked at the store for 40 years this June. Several other workers also have long tenures at the business as well.

"I got some good girls out there, good workers. I got some good workers, and I push cleanliness," Howell said.

Although Howell claims he "doesn't do nothing much" or "very little," he continues to go between the store/restaurant and Howell's Furniture to keep an eye on things.

"I think the customers ... they expect me to be around," Howell said. "They say, 'Well, I haven't seen you lately.' Well, I'm still here, so I'd be here or out there one," he said, inclining his ear in the direction of the other business.

Howell typically gets to the store/restaurant around 8:30 a.m. for breakfast. He leaves there for Howell's Furniture before 12 p.m., and then goes home by 6 p.m.

"That's enough hours in right now," he said.

Thunder in the Hills

Recently I attended "Thunder in the Hills", a play based off the infamous 1912 Carroll County Courthouse shootout, performed at the Courthouse.

Carroll County and the nation were rocked by the March 14, 1912 shootout. Newspapermen from all across the country flocked to the region to cover events. Until the sinking of the Titanic, this was the nation's top story. "The Courthouse Tragedy" emanated from a trial involving Floyd Allen, a descendant of one of the oldest families of Carroll County. Floyd had accosted a Carroll County Deputy officer attempting to turn in two of Floyd's nephews.

Upon Allen's conviction, bedlam erupted in the Carroll County Courthouse. Dozens of bullets flew inside the courtroom. The community and the Commonwealth could not believe what had happened.

The shootout claimed five lives, including a Judge, the Commonwealth's Attorney and Sheriff.

Some members of the so-called "Allen Clan" were taken into custody quickly and tried. Sidna Allen and his nephew would be captured six months later in Iowa. Floyd and his son, Claude, were executed. Sidna Allen was sentenced to thirty-five years (in 1926, he was pardoned).

To this day, people from all over Virginia and the country remain interested in the incident. Families on both sides are still sensitive about the disputed events. At the memorial service I attended in 2012, some surviving family members of those who died in this tragedy traveled to Hillsville from as far away as New England.

My connection comes from my great-grandmother of Rockbridge County. She and her Bible study group traveled to Richmond to pray with inmates at Libby prison, including Sidna Allen.

While in prison, Sidna focused on woodworking and building furniture in order to sell items to support his family.

During my great-grandmother's visit, she purchased a box made by Allen. Written inside is, 'Made by J. Sidna Allen, \$5.'

My grandmother handed the box down to me a few years before she died.

Since elected to Congress, I have displayed the box in my DC office.

The Carroll County Historical Society Museum features a collection of Sidna Allen's work: tables, treasure and jewelry boxes. His woodworking style reflected folk marquetry, creating intricate designs in his wooden objects.

As we look back on this incident, it's important to remember that we learn little about the past by attempting to apply modern law and mores. Romance, politics, power, and family honor all merged to become a lethal powder keg in this tragic event.



Morgan Griffith
Representative

The play was extremely well done. I was mesmerized by the performance. This same group has performed "Thunder in the Hills" every few years since 2012.

They say this is it. But I for one hope they will do it again or that maybe the Barter Theatre will pick up the production in the future.

Amongst the excellent cast was my former colleague in the Virginia House of Delegates, Tom Jackson. He played Floyd Allen and was superb. After the play, he showed me both Floyd Allen's pocket watch which he carried throughout the performance, and the lawbooks in the old courthouse's library which belonged to Commonwealth Attorney William Foster, who was killed in the shootout, and Dexter Goad, the Circuit Court Clerk, who was injured.

I should also mention that Martha Goad was played by Cynthia Jackson, Tom's wife, who was at Emory & Henry College while I was there. There were many outstanding performances and I do not believe I have ever seen a better cast.

As the play shows, the story has always been complicated. At Sidna Allen's death, the Lynchburg Newspaper wrote, "The Allens have just about proved their theory of their defense. That they were not all fundamentally bad men, but men for whom fate, in a bad hour, set a vicious stage."

In a like manner, Carroll County is a good place that more than 100 years ago found itself thrust by fate, in a bad hour, into a vicious set of circumstances. Let us hope that this may never occur again.

Sidna's old house in Carroll County remains today. Located just outside Fancy Gap, the Queen Anne style house is an iconic Carroll landmark. In 1974, the house was designated for the National Register of Historic Places.

A portion of the play's ticket sales go to the J. Sidna Allen House Restoration project. Contributions can be sent to the charitable organization at:

J. Sidna Allen Home
c/o Carroll County Historical Society and Museum
P.O. Box 937
Hillsville, VA 24343.

You may also visit carrollmuseum.org to make an online donation via PayPal.

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

Practice tolerance, love

This is a response to an April 10th letter to the editor.

Under the title, "Evil," the letter states that in a speech on Easter Sunday (March 31st of this year) President Biden declared that the day should be known as "International Transgender Visibility Day."

Biden did acknowledge the day however he did not "declare" or initiate this holiday as claimed by the April 10th letter. March 31st International Transgender Visibility Day was created in 2009 by Rachel Crandall from Michigan. The day is about recognizing the humanity of everyone - especially in the face of fear and intolerance that people who are not mainstream often face.

My limited understanding of Easter -

which this year also fell on March 31st - is that it is about resurrection of the spirit, of love.

Rather than expressing fear and hate towards those who may be different than oneself, it is important that we challenge ourselves to find our common humanity.

Biden, who is a practicing Catholic, was practicing tolerance and love.

Love, Peace and Happy Spring
Laura Rosenfeld,
Stuart

(Info for this letter based on: Press Statement from US Department of State 3/31/23 - <https://www.state.gov/transgender-day-of-visibility/> and Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Transgender_Day_of_Visibility)

May Blood Drive set

The Patrick County Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the John D. Hooker Building, Rotary Field.

The American Red Cross encourages donors to make an appointment for your time to donate via internet at redcross.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767. Walk-ins are welcomed but please know that your donation might take longer as those with appointments are accommodated first.

This month's blood drive is supported

by Shepard's Body Repair, a longtime corporate sponsor of the American Red Cross.

The American Red Cross recommends before donating that all donors: Get a goodnight's sleep; eat a well-balanced, nutritious meal; and drink lots of fluids 48 hours before donation.

We look forward to seeing you at Patrick County's oldest Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, May 14.

Gene Stirewalt,
Stuart

Aging in Place Workshop set for May 16

The Family and Consumer Science area of the Patrick County Extension office has planned an Aging in Place workshop. Since the majority of Americans both desire and intend to live in their home for as long as possible, careful examination of different aspects of life are needed for proper planning. This workshop will help participants look at their housing, health, finances, transportation and networks of connection and support. Helping people think about and plan for both their current and future needs will increase the likelihood of them maintaining independence at home and their ability to age in place. The program, called Aging in Place, will be held Thursday, May 16, from 1-4 p.m. at the Stuart campus of Patrick & Henry Community College. A \$10 fee will be charged for each participant and covers the workshop, workbook and snacks. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. To register, call (276) 694-3341.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact

Terri Alt at talt@vt.edu or (276) 694-3341 TDD (800) 828-1120 during the business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations no later than five days prior to these events.

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Michael Gutter, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; TBD Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

Volunteer fire department receives donation



The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club presented a \$500 donation to the Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department at its monthly meeting in April. The club also provided a meal for the members of the fire department who attended the meeting. The Ruritan Club is proud of the service that our fire department provides for the community. Pictured (left to right), Seth Bryant, James Bryant, David Clement (president of Patrick Springs Ruritan Club), Ross Adams and Bret Stovall.

Agriculture photo contest announced

By Sandra Heath,
Patrick County Farm Bureau

Entries are accepted through July 1 for the Patrick County Farm Bureau photo contest sponsored by the Patrick County Farm Bureau Women's and Young Farmer's Committees.

Winning entries will be published in our Farm Bureau calendar. Members with an interest in photography are encouraged to submit entries that depict barns, equipment, farm scenes and livestock throughout the seasons.

This contest is open to anyone who would like to enter, and we ask that you limit your submissions to 10 or fewer photos. All photos must be taken by the entrant. Photos must be taken in Patrick County. A completed release form (other side) must accompany your photo(s).

Photos need to be submitted as 8"x10" 300 dpi images (JPEG will be accepted). Photos must not be altered

in any way. Date stamps on photos will not be accepted. Photos will not be returned and become property of Patrick County Farm Bureau. Email digital entries to sadie.perry@vafb.com.

This contest is open to anyone. However, if you are not already a Patrick County Farm Bureau member, we encourage you to join the growing membership. Being a member is a simple yet powerful way to put your support squarely behind agriculture. It also gives you access to discounts on things like shopping, restaurants and even your prescription medication. And, as always, you support farming, agriculture and the Virginia way of life.

If you have any questions or would like to pick up an entry form, please contact Sadie Perry at the Patrick County Farm Bureau office, 276-694-7108 or stop by the office located across from Hardee's in Stuart.

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

Patrick Pioneers

ENROLLEES, COMPANY 363

FIRST ROW:
Christian, Francis Max Meadows, Va.
Dowdy, Alvin Newport, Va.
Eakin, Jay E. Lexington, Va.
Goad, Edmund Claudeville, Va.
Gunter, William R. Meadows of Dan, Va.
Hartberger, Lawrence E. Roanoke, Va.
Howell, Emmett Meadows of Dan, Va.

SECOND ROW:
Pauley, Buford Austinville, Va.
Saddler, George Castlewood, Va.
Shell, Joe Bill Richardsville, Va.
Burson, Martin Kitzmiller, Md.
Chambers, Albert Narrows, Va.
Cockram, Lynnus Patrick Springs, Va.
Dillon, Bruce Cripple Creek, Va.

THIRD ROW:
Epperson, Sidney Ararat, Va.
Hender, Garner W. Meadows of Dan, Va.
Hill, Hillard Floyd, Va.
Lang, Minor Narrows, Va.
Moran, Gus Woolwine, Va.
Nixon, Leann Ararat, Va.
Slatc, Thomas Claudeville, Va.

FOURTH ROW:
Adkins, H. E. Hillville, Va.
Alderman, Charles E. Floyd, Va.
Alderman, Otto Doran, Va.
Ashford, James Galax, Va.
Bedsau, Charles Galax, Va.
Bedsau, James Galax, Va.

FIFTH ROW:
Bentley, William Pochontas, Va.
Bevil, Lester Woodlawn, Va.
Bibbs, William Troutville, Va.
Blankenship, George Narrows, Va.
Bell, Leslie Meadows of Dan, Va.
Boyd, Arthur The Hollow, Va.
Boyd, Fay E. Meadows of Dan, Va.



CCC Company 363 Partial List of Enrollees.

CCC Company 363, NP-14-VA, Camp Rocky Knob, Part One

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, we talked about the Rocky Knob Housekeeping Cabins that the CCC boys of Company 363 originally built for the Boy Scouts. This week and next, we will take a look at the young men who made up this camp.

Company 363 was the second CCC camp to be organized in Virginia, and was located in Mount Solon, in the heart of the George Washington National Forest. The work at this camp consisted of building roads, fire trails, bridges, constructing telephone lines, planting trees, and fighting forest fires.

On July 6, 1938, Company 363 was ready to move to its' new site, Camp NP-14-VA, Camp Rocky Knob, Woolwine, Virginia. The entire convoy boarded the train at the railhead at Bridgewater, Virginia and headed for Woolwine. At 1:30 p.m. the next day, the train arrived at Stuart where trucks were waiting to take the men 19 miles northeast to their new camp.

The camp had just been erected and the Army had set up headquarters at an old farmhouse near the camp. Unfortunately, there were a lot of empty houses in this hollow because families had recently been bought out or forced out through eminent domain; the government was clearing the way for the Blue Ridge Parkway.

We are fortunate to know what life

was like for these young men at the CCC camp because they published a monthly newsletter. The newsletter for 1939 was entitled the Rocky Hollow newsletter, in 1940, the name was changed to the Knob. These newsletters are available online through the Virginia Chronicle link on the Library of Virginia website. I also learned some great stories about Camp NP-14-VA from two local friends, Matt Hubbard and Allen DeHart.

Madison "Matt" Hubbard was 14 years old when the CCC camp came to Rock Castle and Allen DeHart was 13 years old. Mr. Hubbard told me that he loved going to the movies at the camp on Saturday night and Mr. DeHart earned money as a water boy for the camp. Mr. DeHart had a love for nature like no other, but that will be for another Patrick Pioneers story in the near future.

The following excerpts are from some of the newsletters to give one an idea of what life was like for the young men in the camp. "February 1940, Woolwine, VA. The Knob, our official camp paper, is published monthly by the Journalism Class and printed by the Mimeographing Class. We wish to acknowledge the services of the following members of the company who have made this issue possible. Harbinger-Company Clerk; Jordan-Asst. Clerk; Eakin-Sergeant; Hood-F. Clerk; and Kiblinger-Radio Oper. A cordial invitation is issued to



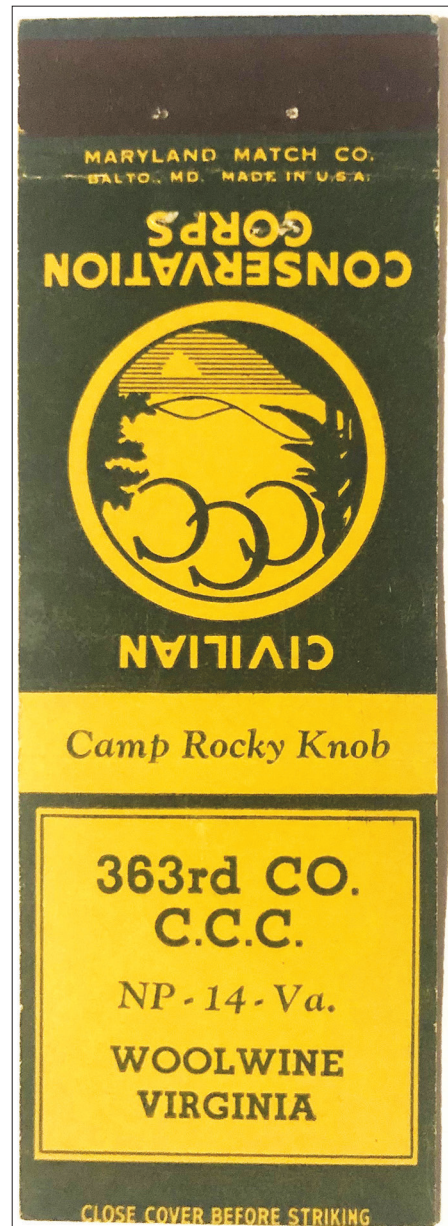
CCC Camp 363 Newsletter April 1940.

all members who would like to have a part in the issuance of our next paper."

February 1940, The Knob, "After an absence of two months, Mrs. Murphy our efficient Commercial Teacher returned to camp, and remarked that it was just like coming home. She has entered her old position with enthusiasm and quite an uproar has been created because all of her old students are clamoring to get back in her class. Mrs. Murphy announces that a class will be opened in bookkeeping and typing. Confidentially, your reporter has overheard that Mrs. Murphy at one time had the honor of being the best bookkeeper in Danville. Now I hear that she has won that distinction again in Charlottesville. Mrs. Murphy, we are proud to have you back. Just watch us prove it by our attendance."

April 1940, The Knob, "The remodeling of the barracks was started in Barracks 4 some time ago. There has been a partition put in the building and the rear portion of the building has been set aside for the convenience of the company overhead. The enrollees have taken great pride in remodeling the building. The ceiling was painted white and trimmed in orange. The old dusty grey paint as was used a long time ago is gone and instead, there is a fine new cozy color. It is a fine barracks now."

May 1940, The Knob, "Chaplain's Chat, by Chaplain Leighton E. Harrell. Since most of us are away from home,



CCC Matchbook courtesy of Larry Hopkins.

we should remember that we honor Mother by being true to the ideals of kindness, goodness, clean speaking, and living she taught and to the God whom she serves. Remember the people around us are judging our Mothers by the lives we live and the way we act. Write to your Mothers today!"

Next week, we will look at some more news from CCC Company 363, NP-14-VA, Camp Rocky Knob, Woolwine, Virginia. I would like to thank Larry Hopkins for sending me a photo of a matchbook from the camp. 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 - Minister Wants to Maximize Social Security Benefit

Dear Rusty: I want to apply for Social Security, but I want to make sure I get all the benefits I have earned. I am a veteran with a 10% disability rating (not sure if that matters). I am 68 years old. I am a minister and have been exempt from Social Security taxes for most of my income since I was about 30, but I still have the 40 quarters needed. I have also worked off and on in the secular workplace and continued paying Social Security taxes.

One hears a great deal about those who want to "help" us apply for Social Security, but which turn out to be a scam or want a fee. How do I apply and maximize my benefits with my unique situation? Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking: Don't worry about fees here at the AMAC Foundation - there is never a fee for the services we provide (we are non-profit). And I want to thank you for your military service - you may find the "For Veterans" section at our AMAC Foundation website

interesting - www.amacfoundation.org.

To your question: Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit. At 68 years old, your Social Security benefit payment has been earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) since you reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 4 months in July 2022. That means that your benefit, if you claim now, will be about 13% more than it would have been had you claimed at your FRA. FYI, if you continue to delay, your SS benefit will continue to grow (by 8% per additional year you delay), up to the month you turn 70. At that time, your SS benefit will be 29% higher than it would have been at your FRA. Nevertheless, if you wish to claim a smaller amount now, you can do so in a couple of ways:

- You can call Social Security (at 1.800.772.1213, or your local SS office) to request an appointment to apply. They will most likely set a date/time to call you to take your application over the phone (they discourage office visits these days). Once you have applied, it typically takes a month or two to process your application, but they will

pay your benefits effective with the month you say you want them to begin. Note, they will likely also offer you six months of retroactive benefits but be aware that if you accept that offer your monthly payment will be permanently reduced by 4%.

- You can apply for your SS retirement benefit online at www.ssa.gov/apply. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient method, as shown in this short video: www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm. However, to apply online you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal online account set up, you will be able to see what your SS retirement benefit will be now, and at future ages should you plan to wait longer to claim. Your SS retirement benefit will be based on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security FICA taxes were withheld (or self-employment earnings on which SS payroll taxes were levied). In any case, your SS benefit will be based on your lifetime earnings record contributing to Social Security, as well as your age when you claim. You'll get your maximum benefit based on those factors.

Although your situation is somewhat uncommon, it is not exceptionally unique. Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit and, because you are a member of the clergy, you are not subject to Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) - a rule which reduces SS benefits for those with a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security. In other words, your SS benefit will be based entirely on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security payroll taxes were withheld, and your age when your benefit starts.

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) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

How Exercise Tones Your Brain

A recent study conducted by scientists at the University of Minnesota suggests that exercise can protect your brain from fatty foods. Most people are aware that a high-fat diet is a major contributor to weight gain and overall poor health, but did you know that fatty foods could also contribute to a "fat head"? A growing body of research has suggested that this is the case—at least in lab animals.

In the study, a group of rats were given a memory test. Afterward, the group was divided in half and the groups were fed two different diets. Although the total calories were equal, the first group was fed a normal diet while the second group was fed a high-fat diet. After four months, the rats were retested. The rats on the high-fat diet exhibited "significant cognitive decline," while the rats on a normal diet performed the same as

they had before.

Upon reviewing these results, it is not difficult to imagine what this could mean for humans. Years of eating a fatty diet can definitely do damage to your brain.

The Good News

Thankfully, the study did not end here. After four months, half of the rats in both groups were given access to running wheels (exercise). While the performance of the rats that ate the fatty diet continued to decline, the ones exercising had significant improvements in their thinking and memory. Perhaps even more interesting was the fact that these improvements occurred while the rats were still eating a high-fat diet.

After seven weeks, researchers found that exercise had actually, "Reversed the high-fat diet induced cognitive decline." While the results of

exercise are clear, researchers are still unsure how exercise can undo brain damage caused by a high-fat diet. According to a November 7, 2012, New York Times health blog, research suggests that free fatty acids, found in a high-fat diet, may start a process leading to cellular damage in the brain. However, exercise seems to stimulate the production of specific biochemical substances that protect your brain from damage.

The Better News

It seems like we've always known it, but exercise is good for our bodies. Should it really surprise us then, that exercise can benefit our brains as well? The truth is, regular physical exercise is the best thing you could do for your health.

Lest you think you need to train like an Olympic athlete to receive these benefits, consider this: Dr. Mavanji,

the principal researcher, explained that we don't actually require all that much exercise to protect our brains. The rats were only exercising the human equivalent of a daily 30-minute jog. It's not just hype; moderate exercise produces actual results.

Even something as simple as walking has a great impact. A study published in Feb. 2012 showed that daily physical activity, such as walking, was an important factor in controlling blood sugar levels after meals. So, remember to move. Take a short walk when you have a few minutes to spare. Not only is it good for your body, but it's good for your mind. Your brain will thank you for it.

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

Top ranked Glenvar downs Cougars



The Cougars nearly tied the game on a shot that hit the crossbar.



Colby Laymen grabs the ball after scoring a second half goal.



Cougar goaltender Jonah Byers breaks up a Glenvar scoring chance.



Jonah Byers (#0) leaps on the loose ball after stopping the Glenvar shot.

By Pat Delaney
The Cougar varsity boys soccer team played host to the number one ranked Class 2 team in Virginia on April 22, losing a hard fought game, 4-1. Glenvar came into the game with a 9-0 record, having outscored their opponents 36-2, including an 8-0 win at home against the Cougars on March 20.

The rematch opened with both teams playing solid defense and limiting scoring chances. Cougar goalie Jonah Byers broke up several early Glenvar scoring chances to keep the game scoreless for the first thirty minutes of the game.

As the half wore on, Glenvar increased their pressure on the Cougar defense, and in the 33rd minute scored the game's first goal. Minutes later, the Cougars nearly tied the game on a long shot that hit the crossbar and deflected straight down on the goal line, but did not cross it.

In the 37th minute, Glenvar scored off a long throw-in into the Cougar penalty box and would take a 2-0 lead

into halftime. The Cougars came out strong in the second half, playing aggressive attacking soccer that created scoring opportunities, but could not capitalize. Following an early second half goal, Glenvar took advantage of Cougar miscues to increase their lead to 4-0 late in the half.

We've "got to get in a little more shape on the back line and push up so there's not a huge gap in the middle, and we can continue with pressing the attack and not just invite them in," said Cougar head coach Oscar Tejada.

With six minutes to go, the Cougar offensive pressure finally paid off with a Colby Laymen goal, cutting into the Glenvar lead. Goaltender Jonah Byers made several big stops in rapid succession in the closing minutes to keep Glenvar from adding another goal, ending the game at 4-1.

Tejada liked much of what he saw from his team and their effort. "We tried to manage the game as best we could and gave ourselves some opportunities. It's an im-



Jermaine Penn (#3) goes up for a header on a Cougar corner kick.

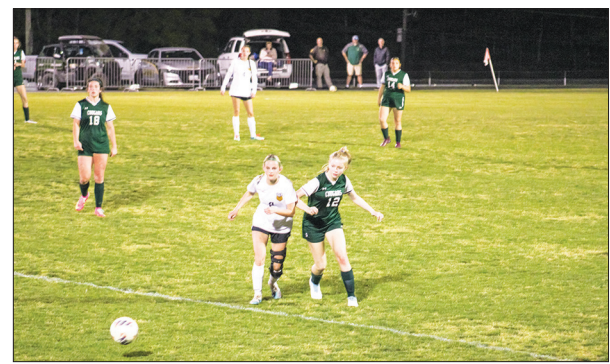
provement from the first time we faced them, and we've got to keep getting better. Once we get to the regional tournament, its win or go home, so that's what we're working towards."



Madi Heath makes one of her seven saves in the second half.



Bobbijo Roberts battles for the ball.



Daryl Lynn Combs runs past a Lady Bobcat for the ball.

Lady Cougars fall to Radford

By Pat Delaney
The Lady Cougar varsity soccer team lost a close, hard fought game to Radford, 3-1 on April 25.

The Lady Cougars were without their starting goalkeeper, and tapped players who are not normally goalies to help the team. In the first half, defender Dakota Ashworth had six saves and in the second half, center midfielder Madi Heath stepped into goal and had seven saves. In front of both goalkeepers, the Cougar defense

was solid, reducing Radford's scoring opportunities and keeping the game close.

Down by one for almost the entire second half, the Lady Cougars applied pressure on the Radford defense, including several near misses. They seemed on the verge of tying the game, particularly in the latter part of the second half, but the bounces just didn't go their way.

Late in the half, Radford got the ball in close to the Cougar goal, getting off several shots that were turned

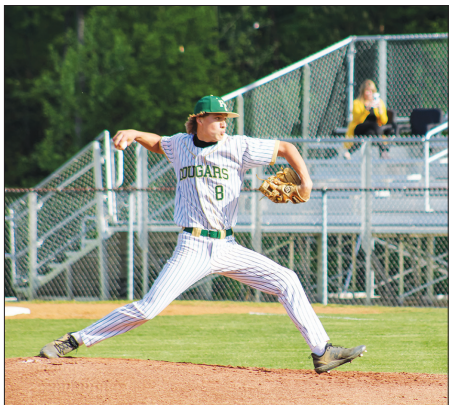
away by Heath and her defense. With less than two minutes to go, Radford scored to clinch the win against a very game Lady Cougar team.

Kyra Titular scored for the Lady Cougars in the first half.

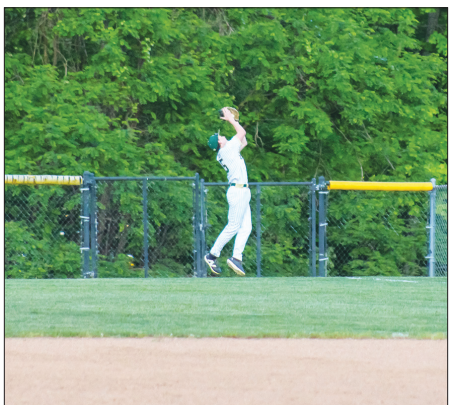
Head coach, Houston Boles Deskins liked the team's effort. "We played very well. It was a good game. They've just got to get some more shots on the goal."

The Lady Cougars are now 5-6 on the season.

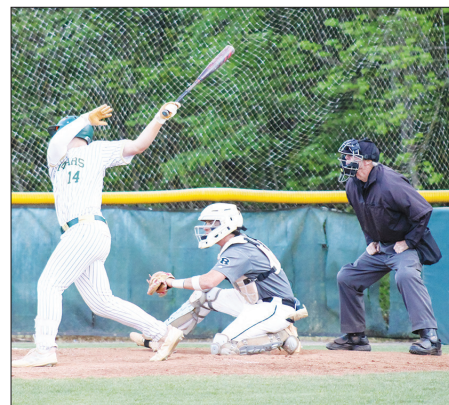
Varsity Cougars top Radford 10-3



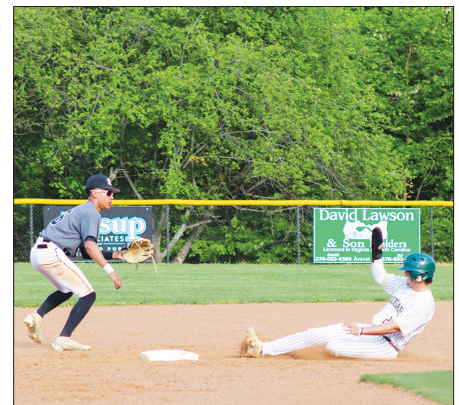
Broc Taylor pitched five strong innings for the Cougars.



David Lawson hauls in the last out of the game.



Jackson Horton went 3-4 with four RBIs.



Tucker Swails steals second.

By Pat Delaney
The Patrick County Cougars claimed their 14th win of the season against the Radford Bobcats, 10-3, on April 25.

The Cougars got a solid performance on the mound from Broc Taylor, who went five innings, allowing just one run on 4 hits with eight strikeouts and one walk. Taylor threw just six pitches in a three-up-three-down top of the first and got run support right away.

The Cougar batters showed discipline

at the plate, with the first two batters, Gavin Fain and Noah Jessup, drawing walks. Tucker Swails drove in their first run with a single to right field. A Stuart Callahan single loaded the bases for first baseman Jackson Horton, who hit a liner over the second baseman's glove, driving in Jessup and Swails. Broc Taylor helped his own cause with a sacrifice bunt, bringing in Callahan, giving the Cougars a 4-0 lead after one.

After another Bobcat hitless inning,

Patrick County added two more runs in their half of the second, increasing their lead to 6-0.

Radford got on the board in the fourth, but the Cougars answered in their half of the inning. Noah Jessup drew a walk and promptly stole second. A Stuart Callahan single brought in Jessup, followed by a Jackson Horton stand-up double that scored Callahan, extending the lead to 8-1.

Horton would add another RBI in the

fifth, taking a 10-1 lead into the sixth. Stuart Callahan came on in relief in the sixth, going two innings and finishing the 10-3 win. David Lawson went airborne in right field to grab a fly ball near the outfield fence for the final out.

Leading the Cougars at the plate was Jackson Horton's 3-4, 4RBI night. Stuart Callahan added 2RBI's, going 1-3 and scoring twice, with Tucker Swails and Gavin Fain adding a hit and a run a piece. Noah Jessup scored twice.

Baseball Team Gets Revenge Win

By Ashlee Mullis
The Varsity Baseball Team has suffered one loss this season. Tuesday, they got a chance to get their revenge on the road at Glenvar. The Cougars pulled off a 5-0 win over the Highlanders. To further sweeten the win, Tucker Swails went the distance on the mound in a 2 hit shut-out with no walks and a career high 16 strikeouts. Furthermore, Swails threw his 300th career strikeout at the 11th strikeout of the game.

"It was arguably the best outing I've ever seen him throw," said dad and coach, Tal Swails. The Cougars were led at the plate by Gavin Fain with 2 hits.

Noah Jessup had a big 2 RBI triple in the 4-run 4th inning. Swails added an RBI ground rule double



Noah Jessup prepares to hit in the win over Glenvar.

in the 4th. Jackson Horton had a double while Stuart Callahan, Broc Taylor, and Easton Harris added a hit each.

Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis
Softball Team Splits the Week

The Lady Cougars lost 10-3, on the road at Glenvar Tuesday night. McKenzie Holt pitched the full game, striking out 6. Lauren Fulcher led the way for the Cougars with 2 hits and a triple. Holt, Journey Moore, Bryley Pike, and Lilly Hazelwood all had hits.

On Thursday, April 25, the Lady Cougars defeated Radford 8-5. Moore pitched the complete game with 9 strikeouts. Moore and Pike each had a home run. Moore, Pike, Holt, Lilly Hazelwood, Maria Turner and Hayden Lawless each had 2 hits each. The Lady Cougars had 15 hits on the night.

JV Cougar Baseball Wins Two

The JV Cougars hosted Glenvar, Tuesday, April 23, winning a close one 7-6.

The game ended with a walk

off win after Greely Terry singled with 2 outs, scoring Zack Holt from third after a big triple by Holt. Terry finished with 2 hits and 2 RBIs. Holt had 1 hit, an RBI, and 2 runs. The Cougars scored 5 runs on suicide squeeze plays.

David Lawson got the start on the mound, going 3 innings allowing 3 earned runs and striking out 1. Mark Register went 4 innings, allowing 0 runs and 5 strike outs. The Cougars got an 11-1 win over Radford, Thursday, April 25 in a 5-inning run rule game.

Holt had 2 hits and 3 RBIs. Maddox Taylor had 2 hits, 2 RBIs, Ethan Errichetti had 1 hit, 2 RBIs. Terry went 4 innings on the mound allowing 2 hits, 1 run, and struck out 7.

Holt went 1 inning, striking out 2, and allowing 0 runs.

The Cougars are 12-1 on the season.

Gary Wayne Smith

Mr. Gary Wayne Smith, age 77 of Stuart, passed away Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at his home. He was born in East Orange, NJ on April 13, 1947, to the late Walter Edward Smith and Marion Elaine Smith.

Gary served 8 years in the U.S. Air Force and was a Vietnam War veteran. He was extremely proud of his service. He loved to fly planes, drive boats, drive muscle cars, and drag race. He was always good for a laugh and was well known for his sense of humor. He was an avid record and stamp collector and a mini model enthusiast. He was a world traveler and loved fishing, especially deep-sea fishing. He was an entrepreneur at heart, starting his first



business at the age of twelve. Although he had many hobbies and loved going on adventures, Gary's favorite pastime was spending time with his family.

Surviving is his loving wife of 44 years, Pamela Smith of the home; three daughters, Elaine Smith of Robbinsville, NC, Tina Smith and husband, Charles Goins of Bermuda Run, NC, Melis-

sa Fain and husband, Jared Fain of Stuart, VA; six grandchildren, Jason Michael Mace, Alec Smith, Christian Fain, Jordan Carver, Carrington Fain, Alexandria Cozart; five great grandchildren; and one brother, Walter Smith and wife, Linda of Richmond, VA.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 pm at the Peters Creek Community Building in Dry Pond on Saturday, May 18th. Gary was especially passionate about assisting other war veterans. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Leonard Lee "Buster" Reynolds

Mr. Leonard Lee "Buster" Reynolds, Sr., age 70 of Patrick Springs, VA, was called home by the Lord on April 26, 2024, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born in Patrick County, VA on August 5, 1953, to the late Theodore Reynolds and Betty Pearl Clark Reynolds.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Clarence Reynolds. Buster worked at Cooper's Mill from age 13, until they closed and retired from William's Logging. Buster was a member of Tatum Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church; everyone knew he loved the Lord. He would always say "I'm not perfect, but I love the Lord". He loved hunting, fishing, gardening, attending car shows and monster truck shows.



All that knew Buster knew that he was an outdoorsman.

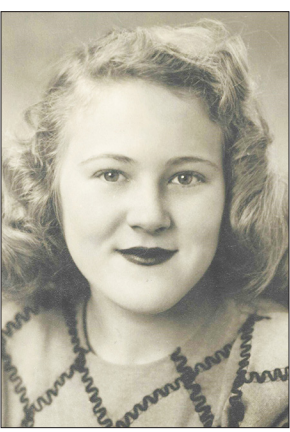
Buster is survived by his wife, Ramona "Sue" Hylton Reynolds and Mother Eva Reynolds, his daughter Monica (Bearvie) Hylton, daughter Alicia Reynolds, son Leonard "Junebug" (Tina) Reynolds, daughter Andrea Reynolds, five sisters; Bettie Hill, Diane Poeske, Mary Lee (Wayland) Hunt, Della (Ricky) Carter, and Teresa Reynolds.

Buster was known as Poppa to James, DeVante, Kabria, Karana, Michael, Michelle, Tyshae, Cameron, Jazmyne and Providence. Buster was loved by a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held for Mr. Reynolds on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 12:00 Noon at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart, with Elder Manuel Jessup officiating. Burial will follow in Patrick Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at the funeral home. Flowers will be accepted, or memorial contributions may be made to Ramona Reynolds, 582 Roosevelt Reynolds Road, Patrick Springs, VA 24133. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Ruth "Joann" Ayers

Mrs. Ruth "Joann" Ayers, age 94 of Claudville, passed away Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Joann was born in Kibler Valley on April 8, 1930, to the late William Barnard and Agnes "Cubie" Clement Barnard. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Charlie R. Ayers, Jr., one daughter Sandra Ayers Burkhardt, one brother Bill Barnard, one sister Inez Epperson, and one niece Ilene Epperson.



Joann met her husband Charlie in Kibler Valley when he was her school bus driver. When Charlie returned from WWII he later told folks that Joann was all grown up as a beautiful young lady who no longer was making mud pies. They married soon after.

Joann was a long-time member of Danube Presbyterian Church where she served as Treasurer, Sunday school teacher, and VBS teacher throughout the years. She loved her church and church family. She especially enjoyed the annual Patrick County Lord's Acre Sale where she, her dear friend Ethel, and others made and donated crafts, canned and baked goods. She also enjoyed volunteering at the Patrick County Fair and serving as a 4-H Club leader. She loved vegetable gardening and tending to her flower and rose gardens.

Joann was a selfless lady who loved helping others and who truly lived by Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive". She was a "second Mom" to many. In her later years her greatest joy was her grandsons Wes and Blake.

She is survived by her daughter Rose Ayers of Claudville, daughter and son-in-law Sara Ayers and Nicky Boninfante of Roanoke, two grandchildren Wesley "Wes" Burkhardt and Blake Boninfante, one brother-in-law James Ayers and wife Renda, one sister-in-law Mary Ellen Jessup of Claudville, and a niece Janice Epperson Hall of Welcome, NC.

A graveside service of worship and celebration of Joann's life will be held Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 2:00pm at the Barnard family cemetery in Kibler Valley with Pastor Denny Casey officiating. A family and friends gathering will immediately follow at Danube Presbyterian Church in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcomed to attend. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Good Samaritan Hospice at 4751 Cove Road, Roanoke, VA 24017 or by calling 540-776-0198 or to Danube Presbyterian Church c/o Lynda Chandler at 640 Claudville Hwy, Claudville, VA 24076. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Lucy Erlene Turner

Mrs. Lucy Erlene Turner, age 87 of Stuart, passed away Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection. She was born in Patrick County on June 12, 1936, to the late Russell Filmore Turner and Lillie Mae Lawson Turner. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Paul S. Turner; and one sister, Albion Turner Stanley. Lucy loved cooking, garden-

ing, and homemaking. Mrs. Turner is survived by one niece, Patricia Fain of Patrick Springs, Virginia; one nephew, Doug Fain of Danbury, North Carolina; several great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces, and great-great nephews.

Funeral services for Mrs. Turner will be held Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor

Shaun Draughn officiating. Burial will follow in the Patrick Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Wednesday afternoon. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to T and B Volunteers, 2273 S. Mayo Dr., Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Norma Jean Caldwell Puckett

Mrs. Norma Jean Caldwell Puckett, age 85 of Meadows of Dan, passed away Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at Sovah Health of Martinsville. She was born in Roanoke on October 1, 1938, to the late Clarence E. Caldwell and Bertha Paitzel Caldwell. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her 1st husband, Lonnie Webb; her 2nd husband James Morris Puckett; brothers, Julius, Roy, Buford, Wade, and Linwood Caldwell. Norma had retired from J.P Stevens with over 40 years of service. She was a member of Collinstown Presbyterian Church. She loved



gardening, tending to her flowers, and she made the world's best pound cake.

Surviving is her son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Samantha Webb of Fincastle; sister, Nancy Cox of Floyd; a special niece, Charlene Dillard Stump; sisters-in-law,

Claudine Caldwell, Billie Caldwell, Juanita Mitchell; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held Monday, April 29, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Patrick Memorial Gardens with Pastors Shaun Draughn and Tracy Collins officiating. The family will receive friends from 12:30 to 1:30 at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Patrick County Chapter, P.O. Box 1301, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Lois Haley Shelton

Mrs. Lois Haley Shelton of Patrick Springs, Virginia went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, surrounded by her loving husband and family. Hand in hand her children and grandchildren sang her home right into the arms of Jesus. Lois was born in Axton, Virginia on March 9, 1940, to the late Carl Haley and Byrd Hankins Haley. She was preceded in death by one son, Carl Collie; one grandson, Logan Smith; four sisters; and three brothers. Lois was a faithful member of True Gospel Baptist Church in Stuart, Virginia. Her entire life was dedicated to God and everything that she did was filled with patience and love. She touched the lives of many and that will never be forgotten. What a wonderful servant of God, wife, mama, grandma, granny, great and great-great Grandma she always was and



will be. The memories of her will forever flood our souls and she will forever be missed.

Surviving Mrs. Shelton is her loving husband, Pastor J.R. Shelton of 56 years and 2 days; six children, Teresa Carter (Kelley), Donna Holcomb, Richard Collie, Carolyn Dodson (Dean), Beth Bouldin (Troy), and April Smith (Will); twelve grandchildren, Tim (Shannon), Mark, Joseph (Amanda), Jesse, Katina (Ron), Ashley, Sarah (Brandon), Tyler, Andrew, Grace, Daniel, and Abigail; twenty-three great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; two brothers,

Gary Haley and Mike Haley; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at True Gospel Baptist Church in Stuart, Virginia with Pastor Darrell Boles, Pastor Nute Shelton, and Evangelist Paul Sisk officiating. Burial will follow in Buffalo Cemetery in Sandy Ridge, North Carolina. The family will receive friends and loved ones on Friday, April 26th, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at True Gospel Baptist Church in Stuart, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations should be made to Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care, 1427 Edgewood Drive, Suite 101, Mt. Airy, NC 27030. Moody Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

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

PATRICK PULPITS

Jesus Still Calms the Winds

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

Many of us remember the experience that Jesus and His disciples had out on Lake Galilee one day when a terrible wind storm arose quickly and threatened to sink their boat. (Mark 4:35-39) Jesus, who was asleep in the stern of the boat, was awakened to this danger.

We might ask "Do miracles like this still happen today"? It seems that they do. Some years ago, a lady in Oklahoma had just finished milking the cows and had gone out on the porch. When she looked toward the west, she saw a tornado coming right at her.

It scared her because she knew what tornadoes could do. But in that moment of fear, her mind turned to God. She raised her arms to heaven with confidence and prayed that God would stop the tornado or turn it in another direction.

A similar experience occurred when a missionary was working in eastern Congo (Zaire at the time). He was holding a camp meeting near Goma. On Sabbath morning thousands of people were gathered along the mountainside worshipping together.

to the northwest, they saw dark menacing clouds fast approaching. Big drops of rain began to fall, and lightning streaked across the sky. Right away, the missionary knew this would ruin the camp meeting for the whole day.

To his surprise, the people said "No, we're staying. Let's kneel to pray." The missionary thought to himself, "Really? I don't think this is going to work. The storm is upon us!" Well, shame on him!

A more recent experience occurred in Guam where two Christian radio towers survived the typhoon which ravaged the island this past May. When the storm was over, the tower operators knew that it could have been much worse in their area.

Local news outlets described what happened as the storm approached the island: "In a stroke of luck, an eyewall replacement cycle occurred overnight, just hours before the super typhoon was due to reach Guam. Consequently, the storm's intensity weakened temporarily, and the typhoon's winds dropped as it brushed the northern edge of Guam," (away from the tower area). This report came from The Guardian, May 26, 2023.

To the prayer warriors this wasn't luck, but rather God's intervention. The Lord had again proved that He can control the wind in answer to prayer.

Burnette named Silver Agent

Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance has named Bob Burnette a Silver Agent during its annual sales conference at Williamsburg Lodge and Conference Center, in Williamsburg, VA.

Burnette has been recognized as a Virginia Farm Bureau 2023 Silver Agent. In his 19th year with the agency, he was recognized by his peers for outstanding sales and service to his members.

"Bob excels at ensuring his members in Patrick understand and have the insurance coverage they need. We are fortunate to have Bob representing Virginia Farm Bureau



Insurance and congratulate him on this achievement," said Ray Leonard, VP of Sales.

NC3 National Signing Day prompts local students to commit

The 10th annual National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) National CTE Letter of Intent signing day was held on Thursday, April 18, with 45 local students participating at Patrick & Henry Community College, which hosted the event.

Twenty-eight students from Henry County and Martinsville schools signed letters of intent at P&HCC's MET Complex. These students will go on to pursue additional training and careers in the fields of HVAC, Industrial Electronics Technology, Motorsports Technology, Power Line Worker, Residential/Commercial Electrician, and Welding.

Seventeen students from Patrick County Schools signed letters of intent at P&HCC's Patrick County site. These students will go on to pursue additional training and careers in the fields of Motorsports Technology, Power Line Worker, and Welding.

Additionally, Patrick County senior David Hernandez was one of 20 students from around the nation awarded the \$1,000 Skilled Trades - 3M Transformational Scholarship.

Before signing their letters of intent, students heard words of motivation and encouragement from



Dr. Greg Hodges, P&HCC president, congratulated David Hernandez, a Patrick County High School senior who was among 20 students around the nation to receive the \$1,000 Skilled Trades - 3M Transformational Scholarship.

Michael Scales, Business Analyst for Longwood University Small Business Development Center for MHC and Patrick County and Keith Simpson, Director for Mid-Atlantic Education with Bluegrass Educational Technologies.

P&HCC president Dr. Greg Hodges welcomed students to the PHamily and congratulated them on their commitment to the future.

Regional employers were available at both events to discuss career opportunities with their companies.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Simon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. How many chosen men of Israel did Saul take with him to the wilderness of Ziph to search for David? 12, 100, 200, 3000

3. From 1 Samuel 3, whose voice did Samuel think it was when he first heard God calling him? Jonathan, Saul, Ahiah, Eli

4. The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any ...? Tongue, Knife,

Two-edged sword, Wit

5. In Genesis 26, where did Isaac stay when there was a famine in the land? Gerar, Endor, Sychar, Lydda

6. What insect was a plague on the Egyptians? Wasp, Locust, Flea, Cockroach

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 3000, 3) Eli, 4) Two-edged sword, 5) Gerar, 6) Locust

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

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Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church. 1515 Rock Church Rd. Meadows of Dan, Virginia. Rev. Tommy Gosnell. CHURCH SERVICES: Sunday School 10 am, Worship Services 11 am

FAIRWAY BAPTIST CHURCH. 9427 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett. Located 15 miles from Stuart - 276-629-0088. Sunday School 9:45 - Worship 10:50 am, Sunday Night 6:00 pm, Wed. Night - Adult Bible Study 7:00, 'Be the Change' Youth Night 6:30-8:00 pm

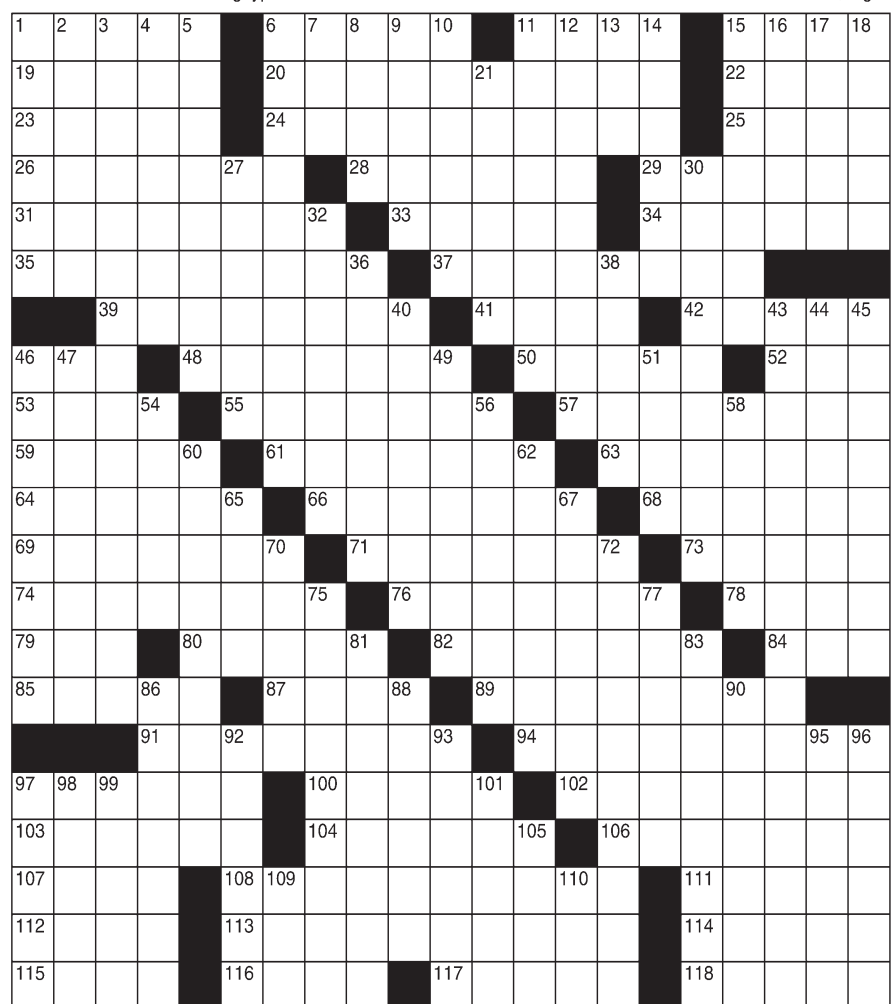
Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness. 260 Spring Rd., Patrick Springs, VA - 276-694-6357. Sunday Worship 10:45 am, Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am, Wednesdays, Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm, Food Distribution Ministry: Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Stuart Baptist Church. Bringing the World to Christ. 108 W. Blue Ridge St., Stuart. 276-694-3440. 945 Sunday School, 11:00 Worship Service. www.stuartbaptist.org, office@stuartbaptist.org

Risen Lord Catholic Church. Mass Schedule: Sundays at 8:30 a.m., Reconciliation: Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m. Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church. 220 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 1078, Stuart, VA 24171. 276-694-7677 • www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org. SATURDAY SERVICES: Sabbath School - 9:20; Worship 11:00 a.m. Come visit our Bible-believing church. Join the Church Page! Call (276) 694-3101 Today

Super Crossword STEEP STAIRWAY

- CROSSWORD clues: Across 1 Offer hush money to, 6 Strip of gear, as a ship, 11 Weight unit for a druggist, 15 'I am at your -- and call', 19 'Elementary' actor Quinn, 20 Sonata, often, 22 Many a cruise stopover, 23 Unconcealed, 24 Customized for, 25 Lee of Marvel Comics, 26 Like a swine, 28 Also-rans, 29 Like a diluted drink, 31 Parceled out, 33 'Haven't -- before?', 34 Shout of discovery, 35 Having two hues, 37 'It could go either way', 39 Rival of Delta or United, 41 Urgent, 42 Fire residue, 46 Taxpayer's ID, 48 Dedicates, 50 Fender guitar, for short, 52 Ltd. cousin, 53 Pot toppers, 55 Edits for publication, 57 Conflict, 59 Sad paper notices, 61 Say a different way, 63 Michael who co-hosted 'Live' with Kelly Ripa, 64 Gets broader, 66 'No outlet' street, 68 Always, in music scores, 69 Keyboard instrument, 71 One of three womb-sharers, 73 Florida's Key --, 74 Charges for not paying on time, 76 Decongestant brand, 78 Legal claim on property, 79 Broke a fast, 80 Flimflam, 82 Non-PC person?, 84 Suffix with Taiwan, 85 Bothersome types, 87 Boring type, 89 Relax after working hard, 91 Red-tinged jewelry alloy, 94 Removes hair from, 97 Second-to-last king of Egypt, 100 Greeting sent online, 102 Emily Dickinson's 'Much Madness is -- Sense', 103 Tropical rabbit lookalike, 104 Shrink back, 106 Brings about, 107 Finger-paint, 108 The Northwest's 'City of Trees', 111 Like many allergy sprays, 112 Robbie Knieval's father, 113 Remark from the sharp-eared, 114 1950s-70s baseballer Boyer, 115 Actress Russo, 116 Deck crew officer, in brief, 117 Puts in order, 118 City on the Ruhr, DOWN 1 African tree with a very thick trunk, 2 Italian municipality west of Turin, 3 Perfect choices to fill positions, 4 Stereotypical setting for a brawl, 5 Having a right (to), 6 In prison, informally, 7 Vardalos of 'Connie and Carla', 8 Toddler bed attachment, 9 Like a truck ascending a steep hill, gear-wise, 10 Silly, like a honking bird, 11 The two dots in 'naïve' or 'Bronië', 12 Fly-catching warblers, 13 Shakespeare work part, 14 Imitated a cat, 15 Small restaurants, 16 Lauder of fragrances, 17 Lois' partner, 18 Its capital is Nairobi, 21 Aspiring doc's major, 27 Person stashing stuff, 30 In the buff, 32 Cracked, as a cryptogram, 36 Info group to be input, 38 'Dagnabbit!', 40 Bee-luring fluids, 43 Chief female officiators in sacred rites, 44 Gets bigger, 45 First division of a 13-Down, 46 Sparse start of some rounds of applause, 47 Utter with a hissing sound, 49 Arena relative, 51 Crafts' counterparts, 54 Apple's Jobs, 56 Pop in a blended family, 58 Egypt's Nasser, 60 Detects like a dog, 62 Intertwined, 65 Crystal ball gazer, e.g., 67 Neutralized, as a bomb, 70 'The Cloister and the Hearth' novelist Charles, 72 Planes' first fliers, often, 75 Operations, 77 Infer (from), 81 Like a district bishop's jurisdiction, 83 Faith, 86 Difficulty, 88 Finisher just under the winner, 90 Beach footwear, 92 Overalls for hitting the slopes, 93 Sci-fi automatons, 95 Grand home, 96 Purloined, 97 Soundboard control knob, 98 Mojave plant, 99 Northern French city, 101 Inflicted upon, 105 Actor Bert, 109 'Well well!', 110 Fedora, e.g.



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The oldest continuously operated business in Patrick County. Published each Wednesday except the last week in December by The Enterprise, Inc., and entered as second class matter at the post office in Stuart, Virginia 24171. Postmaster: send address changes to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 348, Stuart, VA 24171-0348.

Publisher Michael Showell
Editor Debbie Hall

Subscription Rates: \$32 per year in Patrick County; \$42 elsewhere. Single copies \$1.00.

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

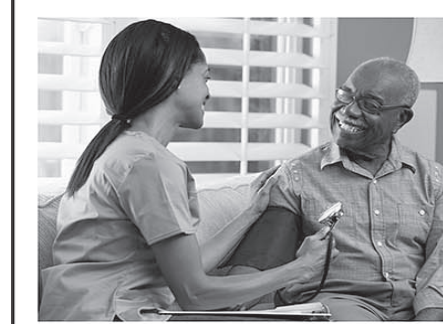
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Open Jam Friday Night described as 'Outstanding'



Pictured left to right is Rick Sebastian, banjo; Ralph Keen, harmonica; Tommy Morse, banjo; Tyler Hughes, banjo; Alan Cray, guitar. Seated in back is Don Rierison, fiddle; Wade McMillian, guitar; Dwight Lawson, banjo with Shane Vestal, mandolin and Jamie Graham, bass.

The Open Jam Friday Night held April 26, at 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat, attracted more than 135 attendees, 37 musicians/singers and a large 50/50 drawing. Several homemade cakes also were served to celebrate three recent birthdays. The event was outstanding, ac-



Les Edgell, Tyler Hughes, Otto Hiatt and Mary Dellenback Hill are pictured in front of the LOVE sign. Hughes had a 4-hour trek back to his home in Big Stone Gap.

According to Mary Dellenback Hill, who also expressed appreciation to James Houchins, director of Patrick County Tourism; special guest Tyler Hughes, executive director of The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail; and all the volunteers, musicians, singers, and audience members.

Spring shaping up to be a sweet strawberry season

Sweet, local strawberries are a hallmark of the spring season.

And thanks to a mild winter with above-average temperatures, many Virginia farmers are stocking up their farmstands, opening their U-pick fields and welcoming customers early with promising harvests.

"This is probably one of the better crops we've had," said Rob French of Sunnyside Farms in Cumberland County. "We started picking last week so our stands are open, and we have strawberries."

French's berries started ripening a week ahead of schedule this year, something he attributes to the area's moderate temperatures, which he hopes will continue. Strawberries are

weather-sensitive and don't like extremes.

"We didn't have those long, drawn-out periods of really cold weather," explained French, a member of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Specialty Crops Advisory Committee. "We were a little worried when it was starting to turn up a little hot, but it cooled back down."

Sunnyside Farms sells strawberries wholesale and at the farm's four produce stands in Cumberland, Crewe, Farmville and Powhatan. Customers can buy the berries in flats and quarts.

"The jelly makers are getting ready," French quipped.

In Chesapeake, Jerry Lilley of Lilley Farms echoed French, saying he is cautiously optimistic for a longer strawberry season after the early start—barring severe weather or heavy downpours.

"They look good so far," he said. "I think everybody in the Hampton Roads area is having the same sort of season we are—everybody I've talked to is early and has a good crop."

The farm's U-pick fields are already bustling with customers, and Lilley is preparing for the height of the season.

"The big month for us is May, around Mother's Day weekend," he said. "Everybody is excited about strawberries."

While southern areas are benefiting from the temperate climates, farmers farther north are working hard to protect the delicate flowers and berries during recent spring freeze and frost warnings.

"It's been a little bit of a challenge since it got warm early, and we've had to fight some frost and freezes here for the last few weeks," said Jay Yankey of Yankey Farms in Prince William County.

But, he added, "it's not unusual. We usually have to cover them a few times every season—we haven't had any devastating freezes or anything."

Yankey said his crop is looking "pretty good" and anticipates opening his U-pick fields for customers within the week.

To keep ripe strawberries fresh after picking, don't leave them on top of each other in buckets. Instead, place the berries on a cookie sheet in the refrigerator with a cotton towel laid over top to help them last longer.

"We suggest not washing them until you're ready to eat them," Lilley advised.

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WES recognized by state department

Woolwine Elementary School in Patrick County was among 37 schools selected for an Exemplar Performance School award, according to the Virginia Board of Education, which recognized a total of 64 schools for high achievement and continued improvement as part of its Exemplar Performance School Recognition Program.

The Exemplar School Recognition Program and its Exemplar Performance Awards recognizes schools that exceed board-established performance requirements or show continuous improvement on academic and school quality indicators. Thirty-seven schools earned

the Board of Education Highest Achievement Award, and 27 schools earned the Board of Education Continuous Improvement Award. The awards are based on performance and practices during the 2022-2023 and prior school years.

"On behalf of the Virginia Board of Education, I am thrilled to celebrate and honor the 64 schools who are being recognized for their accomplishments," said Board of Education President Grace Turner Creasey. "Recognition in this program is one of the highest achievements a school can receive in the Commonwealth. Congratulations to the staff, students, and commu-

nities who support these remarkable schools for their success."

"I am pleased to recognize and congratulate the 37 schools that earned the Highest Achievement Award and the 27 schools that have earned the Continuous Improvement Award," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons. "When high expectations are set and our schools achieve them, they deserve to be celebrated. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and tireless efforts the educators and staff, students, families, and communities are making every single day. They should be very proud of all that they have achieved."

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Meetings

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

Monday, May 13
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Thursday, May 15
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

Events

Friday, May 3
Hardin Reynolds Memorial School (HRMS) will hold a spring bingo. 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.

The Woolwine community food truck will be at the Woolwine SRRS from 3-4:20 p.m.

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.

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 in Stuart will hold a community coffee event starting at 10 a.m. EMS Director Scottie Cassell will be the guest speaker.

Saturday, May 11
Woolwine Methodist Church will hold a Spring Tea 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.

A yard sale and bake benefit to help Shanna Spence with her medical expenses will be held at Mayo Mountain Church, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be lots of girls' clothes, teens, women's and men's clothes, glassware, and more items.

Wednesday, May 15
The Patrick County Food Bank will hold distribution at the Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m., at Ararat starting at 8:30 a.m., and at Meadows of Dan starting at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 17
The Woolwine community food truck will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18
Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a country breakfast from 6:30-10 a.m. Dine in prices are \$10 for an adult plate and \$5 for a child plate. All take out plates are \$10. To make an order, call (276) 930-2113.

Saturday, May 25
God's Revenge will hold a ride to support David Cassell who was recently in a car accident. The ride will start at 11 a.m. and all vehicles

are welcome. Engines start and kickstands will be up at 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 per vehicle and \$5 per additional rider. Children under 15 enter for free. All donations go towards David and his family's needs.

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.

Wikstrom selected for the Aspen Institute's Rising Presidents Fellowship

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program (Aspen) this month announced that Dr. Chris Wikstrom, Vice President of Academic & Student Success Services Patrick & Henry Community College, is one of 40 leaders selected for the 2024-25 Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship.

Applying lessons from over a dozen years researching exceptional community colleges, the Aspen fellowship aims to select and prepare the next generation of presidents who can lead institutions to higher and more equitable levels of student success.

Many sitting community college presidents plan to retire in the next decade, creating an opportunity for college trustees and system heads to select leaders who have the skills and knowledge to achieve better outcomes for students. Aspen Presidential Fellows represent the next generation of college leadership: this incoming class of Aspen Rising Presidents Fellows is 58 percent women, and 55 percent are people of color. The institutions they represent are also diverse, located in 20 states, from small rural colleges to large urban campuses.

The fellows, selected through a competitive process, will work closely with highly accomplished community college presidents and thought leaders over ten months to learn from field-leading research, examine demographic and labor market conditions in their communities, assess student outcomes at their colleges, and advance a clear vision for excellent and equitable outcomes for students while in college and after they graduate.

"With so many community college presidents taking or nearing retirement, Aspen has a heightened sense of urgency to develop new leaders who are committed to systemic change," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the College Excellence Program. "Community colleges have a unique opportunity to advance the talent communities need and enable the economic mobility that draws so many students to higher education. I am confident that these fellows can realize that promise—and in turn advance the entire field—by taking the lessons from the highest performing colleges and preparing to bring those lessons to their first presidencies."

"Dr. Wikstrom has been an innovative

leader at Patrick & Henry for 12 years. We are elated to have his passion for student success recognized in this manner and look forward to supporting him as he works to further enhance what it truly means to be P&H family for our campus community," said P&HCC president Dr. Greg Hodges.

Rising Presidents Fellows aspire to enter a college presidency within five years of completing the fellowship. As fellows, they join a network of over 350 forward-thinking peers—175 of whom are sitting college presidents—who are applying concrete, grounded, and innovative strategies to meet student success challenges in their colleges.

The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship is made possible by the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Burton Family Foundation, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the College Futures Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and JPMorgan Chase.

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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.

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Pastor from Willis fills in at local church

Pastor Brian Turpin, of Willis, filled in recently at Hunters Chapel Assembly Church, located in Ararat, for Pastor Joseph, who along with his wife, wife Lori, were on vacation. Turpin was accompanied by his parents.



From left to right Guest Pastor Brian Turpin, Clint E. Hill, and Jeff Ubanks, with Kitty Easter at the piano. (Contributed by Mary Dellenback Hill)



Pastor Brian Turpin, with his mother and father.



Clint E Hill is pictured with Pastor Brian Turpin and his parents.

Tips for safely charging Electrical Vehicles at home

As electric vehicles (EV) enter our roadways, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) has introduced a series of free resources, guidelines, and information to help raise awareness about EV fires and safe EV charging practices at home.

According to the International Energy Agency, global sales of electric vehicles exceeded 10 million in 2022 and are expected to grow in the coming years. At the same time, consumer concerns about the fire safety risk of EVs are increasing. Lithium-ion batteries, the most widely used and reliable source of energy for electric vehicles, are central to questions about safety.

"It is widely known that electric vehicles provide environmental and cost-effective benefits," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "However, as fires involving EVs are reported in the news, concerns about the risks they pose persist. Through advocacy efforts that highlight our new online resources and information, NFPA is working to better educate the public about the risks associated with EVs and other devices that use lithium-ion batteries, along with ways to use them safely."

The new online resources from NFPA feature more detailed information about lithium-ion batteries, EV maintenance, and what tips consumers can follow to stay safe when charging their electric vehicle at home. Resources for safety educators and consumers, including a safety tip sheet and social

media cards, are all free and downloadable. A free training course is also available to the public that helps address some of the common concerns and myths about owning an electrical vehicle, including safety features, charge types, and battery life.

To help prevent fires, NFPA has several recommendations when charging electric vehicles at home:

- *Before charging an electric vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician check your electrical system to see if it can handle charging.
- *Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.
- *Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- *Read and follow all manufacturer directions.
- *Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.
- *Do not use more than one plug or extension cords with the charger.
- *Keep charging items out of reach of children and animals when not in use.
- *Cover charging station outlet to keep water out.

Learn more about electric vehicle fire safety, find training information, and download the free safety tip sheet at nfpa.org/evsafetyinfo.

Information on the safe use of smaller devices that use lithium-ion batteries such as computers, smart phones, e-bikes and e-scooters, can be found at nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety and nfpa.org/ebikes.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

- *Wendy Rorrer Cassell, 48, of Stuart, was charged April 19 with assault. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.
- *Sheena Renee Nolen, 38, of Patrick Springs, was charged April 20 with trespass. Senior Trooper J.M. Hylton was the arresting officer.
- *James Leslie Boyd, 39, of Patrick Springs, was charged April 20 with trespass. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.
- *Lonnie Lee Howell, 49, of Stuart, was charged April 20 with possess Sch. I or II drugs. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.
- *Jerry Christopher Howard, 40, of Patrick Springs, was charged April 22 with warrant of extradition. Senior Trooper J.M. Hylton was the arresting officer.
- *Gladys Lynette Griffith, 51, of Ararat, was charged April 22 with assault and battery. Senior Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.
- *Jerry Christopher Howard, 40,

of Patrick Springs, was charged April 23 with possess Sch. I/II drugs w/intent to manufacture/sell/distribute. Inv. D.B. Hubbard was the arresting officer.

- *Jimmy Lee Stanley, 54, of Patrick Springs, was charged April 23 with probation violation. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.
- *Christopher Shannon Graham, 44, of Bristol, was charged April 24 with probation violation. Bristol VA PD made the arrest for Patrick County.
- *Anthony Rayshawn Hale, 28, of Winston Salem, NC, was charged April 25 with assault. Deputy C. A. Strother was the arresting officer.
- *Anthony Leroy Brannon, 58, of Patrick County Jail, was charged April 25 with warrant of extradition. Deputy C. A. Frick was the arresting officer.
- *Brikk Michael Bennett, 35, of Spencer, was charged April 25 with one count each monument damage and assault. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

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

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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.
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, May 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM to hear comment on amending the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget with an increase of as follows:
Revenue State Revenue \$ 698,250
Local Funding 251,750
1% Additional Retail Sales & Use Tax 600,000
Total \$ 1,550,000
Expenditures CSA Expenditures \$ 950,000
School Capital Projects (Locker Room, Track & Field Lights, Tennis Courts) 600,000
Total \$ 1,550,000
The hearing will be held in the 3rd floor Courtroom in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia. A vote will be taken at the meeting. Anyone wishing to view the proposed budget amendments may do so at the County Administration office, Suite 218 located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE
5746 Iron Bridge Road, Stuart, VA 24171
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$ 174,800.00 dated January 1 5, 2008 and recorded as Instrument No. 080000114, of the Patrick County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W Blue Ridge Street, Stuart , Virginia 24171 on May 22, 2024 at 2:30 PM, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:
All that certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the Smith River Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:
Tract "E," containing 3.245 acres, as shown on Plat of Survey entitled "Reba M. Hancock and Allen Hancock," prepared by R. Cleve Lawson, LS, dated October 24, 2007, and recorded contemporaneously herewith in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia; and
Being the same tract or parcel of land conveyed to Janie Lynn Collins by deed from Reba Maxey Hancock, dated December 5, 2007, and recorded as Instrument No. 0800113 in the aforesaid Clerk's Office, to which deed and map reference is here made for a more particular description of the property herein conveyed.
This conveyance is subject to any and all easements, restrictions, reservations and rights-of-way property of record and affecting said property.
Tax ID #: 5116-84
The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.
TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor's tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit by the Substitute Trustee of the conduct of the auction itself as well as the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust, including, but not limited to, determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, c/o McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC, 3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee
c/o Adrian G. Jacobs, Esq.
McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC
3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
Phone: 404-474-7149
Fax: 404-745-8121
MTG File No.: VA2023-00647

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NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE
710 Doe Run Road, Ararat, VA 24053
By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated March 3, 1993 and recorded March 4, 1993 in Book 292 Page 331 in the Clerk's Office for the Patrick County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$50,000.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the front steps of the Circuit Court for Patrick County located at 101 W Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171.
June 06, 2024 at 2:00 PM
improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit:
NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the loan(s) Borrower does hereby grant, bargain, sell, convey, and assign unto trustee with general warranty the following described property situated in the State of Virginia, County of Patrick, in the Dan River Magisterial District:
Containing 0.8702 acres as shown on a plat of survey titled "RUTH M. DIENGES & EUGENE T. ELLIOTT", prepared by Larry G. Rakes, L.L.S., dated July 31, 1990, revised March 3, 1993, which plat is recorded immediately prior hereto in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County; AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents.
Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
(Attorney for the Secured Party)
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

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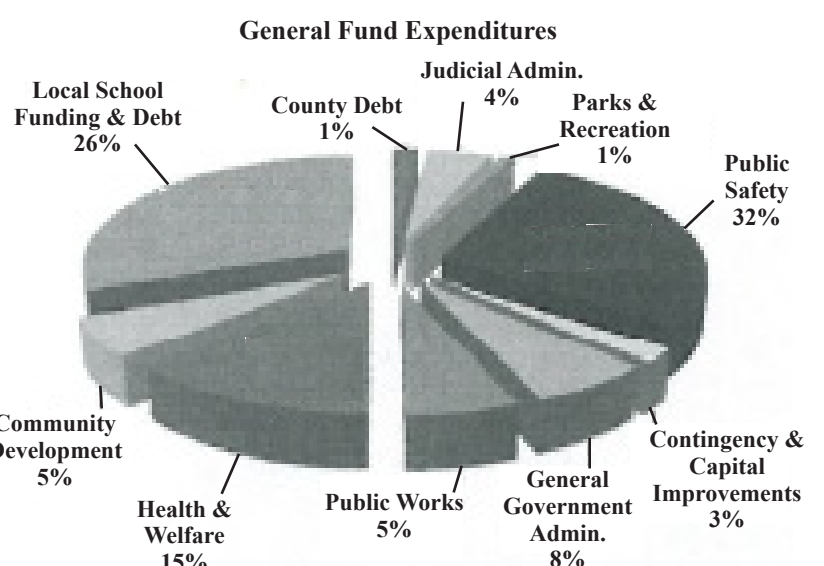
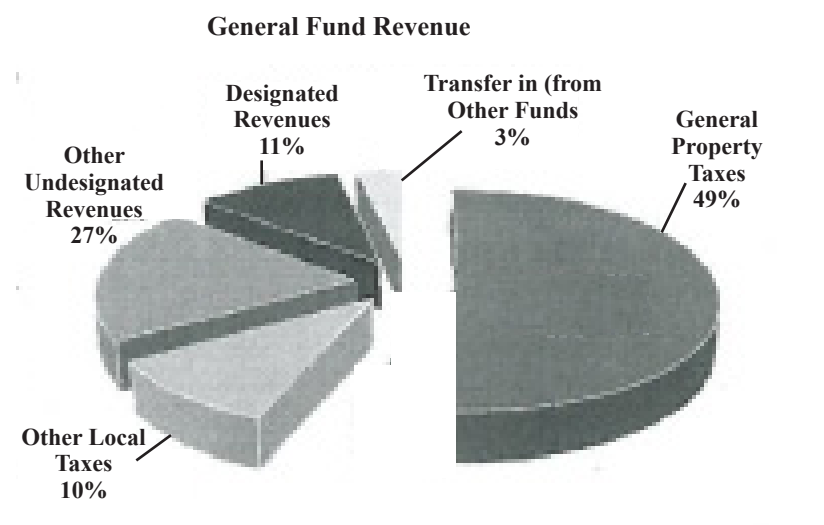
COUNTRY OF PATRICK, VIRGINIA
Synopsis of the Budget for
Information and Fiscal Planning Purposes
For the Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

In accordance with the provisions of Section 58.1-3001 and 15.2-2506, 1950 Code Of Virginia, as amended, notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Patrick, Virginia, on the proposed County budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 on Monday, May 13, 2024. The hearing will be held in the Board Room in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building in Stuart, Virginia, at which time any citizen of this County shall have the right to state his or her views thereon. The Public Hearing shall commence at 6:00 p.m. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094. The following proposed budget synopsis is for informative and fiscal planning purposes only and does not constitute an obligation or commitment on the part of the Board of Supervisors to appropriate funds for any items or purpose, except the public school budget, which is required to be funded to comply with the Standards Of Quality as set by the Virginia General Assembly. NO funds may be expended until appropriated by the Board of Supervisors. Tax levies, both current and proposed, are as listed herein.

Table with columns: Tax Levy (per \$100), 2023-2024 Rate, 2024-2025 Proposed. Rows include For Real Estate, For Personal Property, For Machinery and Tools, For Public Utilities (Personal Property), For Public Utilities (Real Estate).

Further, in conjunction with the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998, Section 58.1-3523, and as outlined by County Ordinance, the Board shall consider and set the percentage computation for allocation of PPTRA relief to county citizens at a specific amount to be offset against total taxes Otherwise due. A detailed copy of the budget is available on the Patrick County website at www.co.patrick.va.us.

Table with columns: REVENUES, ESTIMATED AMOUNT, EXPENDITURES, ESTIMATED AMOUNT. Includes sections for GENERAL FUND, SCHOOLS, OTHER FUNDS, EXPENDITURE FUNCTION, and GENERAL FUND.



Published at the direction of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors

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Public Notice:

Public Hearing for Town of Stuart - Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

The Town of Stuart will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Stuart Town Office, located at 100 Patrick Avenue, to solicit public input on the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budget. The proposed budget is attached for review.

The Town of Stuart is also proposing an adjustment to the base water and sewer rates. The base water and sewer rate is billed to each customer for the first 2000 gallons of water used. This rate change will affect all Town customers. No changes are being proposed to the additional usage rates, the rate billed for water usage over 2000 gallons per month. A proposed rate table is attached for review.

For additional information, please contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager at 276-694-3811. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Town of Stuart at PO Box 422, Stuart, VA 24171 until Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. If you plan to attend and have any special

Town of Stuart, VA

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 2025

General Revenues	FY 2025
AUTO DECALS	\$ 14,700
AUTO RENTAL TAX	\$ 150
BUSINESS LICENSE	\$ 208,000
CIGARETTE TAX	\$ 14,100
FESTIVAL INCOME	\$ 3,800
FIRE DEPARTMENT OTHER FUNDS	\$ 500
FRANCHISE TAX	\$ 175,000
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 26,400
MEALS TAX	\$ 420,000
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ 8,500
PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 275,000
PSA MISC INCOME	\$ 150
RENT - INCOME	\$ 19,200
RESTRICTED INCOME	\$ 7,250
STATE COMMUNICATIONS TAX	\$ 2,160
STATE SALES TAX	\$ 50,400
General Revenues Total =	\$ 1,225,310

General Expenses	FY 2025
ADMIN SALARY	\$ 52,000
ADMIN. FICA	\$ 3,978
ADMIN. INSURANCE	\$ 2,400
ADVERTISING & PUBLIC NOTICE	\$ 7,000
BANK CHARGES- SERVICE CHARGE	\$ 3,500
BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT	\$ 20,000
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 55,295
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 42,000
DEBT RETIREMENT	\$ 64,440
DUES, LICENSE, PERMIT	\$ 2,500
ELECTRICITY	\$ 68,400
FACADE PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 10,000
FARMERS' MARKET	\$ 2,000
FESTIVAL EXPENSE	\$ 9,400
FIRE DEPT - MISC	\$ 6,000
INSURANCE	\$ 25,000
INTERNET & COMMUNICATION	\$ 9,420
MATERIALS & SUPPLY	\$ 68,400
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$ 10,000
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 24,000
POSTAGE	\$ 4,500
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	\$ 36,000
RENT - EXPENSE	\$ 10,000
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	\$ 42,000
SECURITY & POLICING	\$ 2,500
STREETS - GROUP INS	\$ 30,000
STREETS - INSURANCE	\$ 10,000
STREETS - RETIREMENT	\$ 4,200
STREETS FICA	\$ 5,022
STREETS WAGES	\$ 65,653
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	\$ 3,000
TOWN COUNCIL FICA	\$ 918
TOWN COUNCIL SALARY	\$ 12,000
TOWN MANAGER	\$ 74,880
TOWN MANAGER - FICA	\$ 5,728
TOWN MANAGER INSURANCE	\$ 8,500
TREASURER - INSURANCE	\$ 2,400
TREASURER - RETIREMENT	\$ 4,200
TREASURER FICA	\$ 4,774
TREASURER SALARY	\$ 62,400
VEHICLE EXPENSE	\$ 15,000
General Expenses Total =	\$ 889,409

**Town of Stuart, Virginia
Utility & Service Rates
Effective July 1, 2024**

	Base Residential, <2000 gal/month	Residential >2000 gal, \$/1000 gal	Base Commerical <2000 gal/month	Commerical >2000 gal, \$/1000 gal
Water In-Town	\$21.11	\$4.22	\$35.00	\$4.22
Sewer In-Town	\$21.11	\$5.58	\$35.00	\$4.90
Garbage In-Town	\$11.04		\$20.14	
Water Out-Town	\$30.13	\$5.85	\$50.00	\$5.85
Sewer Out-Town	\$30.13	\$6.30	\$50.00	\$5.90

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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

M. J. Barber
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 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 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.

What's in YOUR water?

Did you know that private water supplies like wells and springs are unregulated? It is the responsibility of the homeowner to regularly test water quality, maintain the water system, and address any problems.

Confidential water testing and education will be offered through the Patrick County Extension office. The date for our annual water clinic will be June 26. Participation is voluntary and confidential. Water samples collected by participating homeowners will be analyzed for 14 parameters, including bacteria, metals, nitrate and hardness.

This year, the test will be offered for free to the first 40 county residents who have not received a free or discounted kit in the past. The fee for this testing is normally \$70. Free tests are limited to one per Patrick County household. You may receive additional kits by paying the normal price. Results and water system care and maintenance information will be given to each participant.

A pre-recorded presentation will be made available to help explain the summary results and recommendations to address problems. All information is kept strictly confidential.

Contact Terri Alt at (276) 694-3341 or talt@vt.edu to pre-register. Space is limited and pre-registration is REQUIRED. For more information about the Virginia Household Water Quality Program, as well as many resources relevant to private water systems, please visit www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu.



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

Find out about a project to repair drainage culverts in three counties 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.

DOMINION VALLEY PARK

415 DOMINION VALLEY LANE // STUART, VA

2024

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY MAY 24 | 5:30 PM
Down East Boys
Chuck Wagon Gang
Kelly Ratcliff

SATURDAY MAY 25 | 5:30 PM

Karen Peck & new River
The Harvesters Quartet
The Churchmen

SUNDAY MAY 26 | 10:30 AM

Music by Beachy's Next Generation
Message by Curt Ashley

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY AUGUST 30 | 5:30 PM

The Inspirations
The Churchmen
Jeff Tolbert & Primitive Road

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11 | 5:30 PM

The Singing Cookes
The Harvesters Quartet
The Browders

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2 | 10:30 AM

Music by The Singing Cookes
Message by Ricky Rogers

Presented by Dominion Valley Events

Camping Available

contact information

phone: 276-694-4245

email: DominionValleyPark@gmail.com

website: dominionvalleyllc.com



Virginia's blossoming floriculture industry offers bountiful options for Mother's Day

Cultivating beauty is a blossoming business in Virginia—offering plenty of options for Mother's Day gift giving.

The fast-growing nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod sector ranked fourth among Virginia's top farm income-earning commodities, generating \$399 million in 2022, according to the most-recent U.S. Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture.

The state's floriculture industry is bustling, as the number of farms growing bedding and garden plants, cut flowers, florist greens and potted, flowering plants jumped from 618 in 2017 to 822 in 2022.

There are 320 Virginia farms cultivating cut flowers and florist greens today—a 73% increase from 184 farms in 2017.

Part-time farmer Terry Osborn of Corvallis Farms has noticed more vegetable growers incorporating fresh-cut flowers at her local farmers

market—where she sells specialty produce and seasonal bouquets from May through August. Her family has been growing summer annuals like peonies, larkspur, zinnias and sunflowers on their small Culpeper County farm for 35 years.

Osborn said her customers appreciate her flowers' lasting beauty. The blooms are cut every Friday and guaranteed fresh until the next Saturday market. She's also noticed more shoppers adding flowers to their regular shopping lists.

"I will treat myself to flowers before anything else, and I think a lot of people see it that way—it's just a bright spot for their day," she said.

Bob Wollam of Wollam Gardens, also in Culpeper, has witnessed the industry's evolution throughout his 36 years of growing cut flowers. While overseas imports make up a majority of the U.S. flower market, "local flowers are getting people's attention," he said.

"Customers are becoming more aware of the benefits of buying locally grown flowers, which have a low carbon footprint" because they haven't been trucked thousands of miles, Wollam explained.

He welcomes visitors to his 11-acre farm, where he grows more than 80 varieties of perennial and annual flowers for them to pick.

Wollam and other flower farmers, like Jenny and Paul Maloney of Wind Haven Farm in King William County, are extending their growing seasons. Wollam's tulips were ready by Valentine's Day in his heated greenhouse, and the Maloneys' high tunnels produced blooms by mid-January.

Growing over 100 varieties of flowers and foliage on their farm, the Maloneys provide year-round materials for Richmond florists, businesses and grocery stores.

"Virginia is a beautiful place to grow flowers," Jenny Maloney re-

marked. She said the state's "happy medium of weather" and thriving ecosystems allow a greater variety of flowers to thrive.

They're utilizing high tunnels to offer their wholesale clients plentiful options for Mother's Day—what Jenny calls "the Super Bowl for local flower farms." Bachelor's buttons, campanula, orlaya, nigella and delphinium are among the variety of blooms that will be ready.

Wollam's Lenten roses were the first to bloom this spring, and his ranunculus, sweet Williams, viburnums, bleeding hearts, daffodils, snowdrops, Iceland poppies and peonies also will be ready for picking by Mother's Day.

Osborn hopes her 200 peony bushes will bloom in time for Mother's Day bouquets, yielding a favorite flower of the holiday.

To find fresh-cut flowers near you, visit the Virginia Grown website at vdacs.virginia.gov/vagrown.

Added sugar, sodium to be limited under new meal standards for schools

Nutrition standards for school meals will be gradually updated to include less sugar and greater flexibility with menu planning between the fall 2025 and fall 2027, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced. The changes came about after listening closely to public feedback and considering the latest science-based recommendations from the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

K-12 schools serve nutritious breakfasts and lunches to nearly 30 million children every school day. These meals are the main source of nutrition for more than half of these children and help improve child health.

Key updates to the nutrition standards to support healthy kids include:

Added Sugars - For the first time, added sugars will be limited in school meals nationwide, with small changes happening by fall 2025 and full implementation by fall 2027. The USDA cited concerns from parents and teachers about excessive amounts of added sugars in some foods, which factored into this new limit. Research shows that these added sugars are most commonly found in typical school breakfast items. Child care operators will also begin limiting added sugars in cereals and yogurts – rather than total sugars – by fall 2025.

Milk - Schools can continue to offer flavored and unflavored milk, which provide essential nutrients that children need, such as calcium, vitamin D and potassium. There will be a new limit on added sugars in flavored milk served at breakfast and lunch by fall 2025. Thirty-seven school milk processors – representing more than 90% of the school milk volume nationwide – have already committed to providing nutritious school milk options that meet this limit on added sugars.

Sodium - Schools will need to slightly reduce sodium content in their meals by fall 2027. In response to public comments, USDA is only requiring one sodium reduction, and not the three incremental reductions that were proposed last year. This change still moves our children in the right direction and gives schools and industry the lead time they need to prepare. The sodium limits in this final rule will be familiar to schools, as they were supported by leading school nutrition and industry stakeholders during previous rulemaking activities in 2017 and 2018.

Whole Grains - Current nutrition standards for whole grains will not change. Schools will continue to offer students a variety of nutrient-rich whole grains and have the option to offer some enriched grains to meet students'

cultural and taste preferences.

Supporting Other Food Preferences and Local Food Purchases - While not a new requirement, starting this fall, it will be easier for schools to serve protein-rich breakfast foods such as yogurt, tofu, eggs, nuts, and seeds, which can help reduce sugary food options, while also supporting vegetarian diets and other food preferences. Also, this fall, schools have the option to require unprocessed agricultural products to be locally grown, raised or caught when making purchases for school meal programs, making it easier for schools to buy local foods.

Starting in fall 2025, schools will have limits on the percentage of non-domestic grown and produced foods they can purchase, which will enhance the role of American farmers, producers, fishers, and ranchers in providing nutritious foods to schools.

What's Staying the Same - School meals will continue to emphasize fruits and vegetables; whole grains; and give kids the right balance of many nutrients for healthy, tasty meals. School nutrition professionals are local experts in their communities and will continue serving meals that their students want to eat, while also prioritizing cultural and religious food preferences.

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As part of our expansion program, our company is looking for part time Work from home Account Manager and sales representatives, it pays \$1700 monthly plus benefits and takes only little of your time. Please contact us for more details. Requirements - Should be computer literate. 2-3 hours access to the internet weekly. Must be over 24yrs of age. Must be Efficient and Dedicated. If you are interested and need more information, contact: Kenneth.bbraun.com@outlook.com for more details.

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Stuart, VA

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(276) 694-4432

Firewater SERVICE CENTER

1329 Scenic Drive, Stuart, VA 24171
(276) 694-7417 or (276) 358-1580

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Debate continues on Va. bill to legalize physician-assisted death

By Shelby Warren, Capital News Service

George Michael Vasiloff loved music, his family and barbecues. The native Minnesotan played saxophone and clarinet and performed in the Marine Corp. band. He shared his love of music with his daughter, and they played in the church choir together. It's a fond memory, said his daughter Kate Vasiloff.

George Vasiloff was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in September 2013. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, is a progressive disease that attacks nerve cells that control muscles. The condition can result in the loss of movement, speech, eating and breathing, according to the ALS Association.

Kate Vasiloff and her father stayed up late to talk the night he was diagnosed. George Vasiloff was terrified of what the disease would do to their family, and what his family would watch him go through. His daughter assured him it was OK to pass on his terms.

"I wanted to give him any slice of peace I possibly could," Vasiloff said.

Her father slept well for the first time since his symptoms started because he felt he would have control if things got bad, she said.

He passed in his sleep 18 months after his diagnosis.

Vasiloff believes people should have a choice in their death.

"Why don't we give people the autonomy to make decisions about their own body when their body is failing them?" Vasiloff said.

Vasiloff has lobbied since 2020 for physician-assisted death with the organization Compassion & Choices.

Physician-assisted death is being discussed more as states introduce legislation, including Virginia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, and Tennessee, among others.

People are polarized around the procedure; divided by the concept of a person's free will versus accepting their fate. Many physicians oppose it on the principle of their oath to heal. Faith leaders believe it goes against the will of God. But people on both sides of the issue say it is about respecting human lives.

The process is legal in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and Washington, D.C., according to Compassion & Choices. Several states have pending amendments.

Legislation on physician-assisted death was recently voted down in Virginia; there have been attempts to legalize the procedure since 2019.

Sen. Ghazala Hashmi, D-Richmond, sponsored Senate Bill 280 this year, which would allow an adult diagnosed with a terminal disease to seek a physician's approval to end their life. Hashmi worked with Compassion & Choices to draft the bill, in response to constituent requests, she said.

"They want to die in Virginia, and they want to be able to have ownership over their final decisions in



Sen. Ghazala Hashmi, D-Richmond, the patron of Senate Bill 280 on physician-assisted death. Photo by Chelsea Brooks-Giles, VCU InSight.

that regard," Hashmi said.

Physician-Assisted Death, Explained

Physician-assisted death is when a life-ending prescription is given to a patient by a physician. The patient takes the dose on their own. The process differs from euthanasia, when a doctor administers the drug and causes the death directly, which is legal in some countries but not the U.S.

"This is a bill that expressly is concerned with terminal illness, and disability is not a terminal illness — and we have those safeguards in place to protect the individuals in making the right decision for themselves," Hashmi said.

SB 280 required that to be eligible for physician-assisted death, an individual must be a mentally competent adult and have a terminal illness with a diagnosis of six months left to live. Two oral statements and a written statement must be given to a medical provider, according to Hashmi.

The Virginia legislation created a Class 2 felony for anyone who interfered with a patient's end-of-life request, or coerced a patient to request the procedure.

Former Virginia congresswoman Jennifer Wexton could be considered the face of the legislation, Hashmi said. Wexton was diagnosed in 2023 with progressive supranuclear palsy, which affects motor functions and has no cure. Wexton will not seek reelection in the fall.

Wexton issued a statement of support for Hashmi's bill that was read ahead of the final vote in the Senate.

"Prohibiting willing physicians and their terminally ill patients and our families from working together to create an end-of-life plan that is peaceful, humane and allows us to maintain our dignity is needlessly cruel," Wexton stated.

The Oregon Death with Dignity law in 1997 was the first to be enacted in the U.S. and has similar safeguards as Virginia's proposed legislation.

Hospice and Palliative Doctor View

About 1.7 million Medicare beneficiaries receive hospice care each year, and Medicare pays about \$23 billion annually for hospice care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In Virginia, 46.2% of Medicare beneficiaries used hospice care in 2020, according to figures from a



Dr. Tom Eppes, a family practitioner from Lynchburg, Virginia, spoke in opposition physician-assisted death in January 2020. Photo by Andrew Ringle, Capital News Service.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization report.

The American Medical Association says the process directly goes against the role of a physician to heal.

Dr. Andy Arwari is a hospice care worker and palliative care physician who warned against legalizing physician-assisted death.

Dying patients receive specialized care through hospice to make life as comfortable and peaceful as possible before a natural death. The core philosophy of hospice is not to speed up or delay death and a hospice care worker is not going to end a life prematurely, according to Arwari.

Under current law, a licensed health care provider would have their license revoked, or suspended, for providing or administering life-ending drugs.

Medical care has an interdisciplinary approach that treats physical ailments but also focuses on psychosocial, and spiritual elements to ensure a patient is cared for on many levels, according to Arwari.

"Are we sure that we have explored all the possibilities and explain why that patient is suffering," Arwari said. "Did we exhaust every possible avenue to resolve that suffering before getting to that option of medical assistance in dying?"

Religious Opposition

Jeff Caruso, executive director of the Virginia Catholic Conference, lobbies for hospice and palliative care for end-of-life patients. Quality, affordable health care is seen as a right within the Catholic Church, Caruso said.

The Catholic Church teaches that every suicide is a tragedy, regardless of if it is approved by a physician. The government should advocate for the common good and respect life, according to Caruso.

"The government still has an obligation to do everything that it can to prevent suicide rather than promote suicide," Caruso said.

End-of-life Care, or Doulas

Reamey Belski is an end-of-life doula, also known as a death doula. They are nonmedical professionals who provide specialized care for the dying, which can include spiritual,

emotional and logistical care.

Death doulas are often mediators between family members with caregiver fatigue and hospice care workers, according to Belski.

Belski estimated she has served as an end-of-life doula for approximately 25 people.

A patient's quality of life and environment is important to a death doula. If someone with a terminal illness is suffering greatly and wishes to end their life, they should have a right to do so in every state, said Belski.

A person chooses physician-assisted death when they wish to live but their body will not allow it, and she does not consider it suicide, Belski said.

"I think people who get caught up with the issue of medical aid in dying start blurring the lines between the two and they're very, very different things," Belski said.

Vasiloff also does not consider it suicide, saying "people with terminal illnesses desperately want to be here."

The first sign of her father's ALS happened when he could not lift his foot. The actual diagnosis took months, but his decline came on fast, putting him in a wheelchair just a month after his diagnosis, Vasiloff said.

She was thankful that up until his death he could still talk, eat and drink -- three of his favorite things. Those memories, just like their time in the church choir, stay with Vasiloff as she finds herself advocating for a change in state law.

"I never thought that I would be sitting here talking to you about this, and this involved in this issue," Vasiloff said. "I'm grateful that I have somewhere to put my energy and do this work in my dad's name."

VCU InSight journalist Chelsea Brooks-Giles contributed to this report.

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

Northern Virginia Businessman Pleads Guilty in Federal Bribery Scheme

A Northern Virginia businessman, who paid a \$25,000 cash bribe to then-Culpeper County Sheriff Scott Jenkins' reelection campaign, recently pleaded guilty to federal bribery charges.

Rick Rahim, 60, of Great Falls, Virginia, pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery and honest services mail fraud and one count of honest services mail fraud.

Rahim is the third Northern Virginia businessman to plead guilty as part of the bribery scheme. In March 2024, James Metcalf of Manassas, Va., pled guilty to one count of bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds. Fairfax Attorney Frederic Gumbinner pled guilty in November 2023 to an identical charge.

"Today's guilty plea demonstrates how seriously the Justice Department takes public corruption and the bribery of public officials," United States

Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said. "The badges and guns worn by the men and women who swear an oath to protect and serve the Commonwealth of Virginia is not for sale and those who attempt to buy that honor will be held to account."

According to court documents, Rahim owned and operated several businesses, including BV Management LLC and Food Truck Company LLC. Rahim had no law-enforcement or military experience and was disqualified from owning a firearm due to a prior state felony conviction.

In 2003 or 2004, Rahim met a businessman residing in Prince William County, Virginia who was also an Auxiliary Deputy with the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office. In late 2019, the businessman asked Rahim if he wanted to "support" Jenkins. At that time, Rahim understood support to mean give money. The businessman told Rahim that Jenkins would prob-

ably agree to make Rahim an Auxiliary Deputy in exchange for his support.

Rahim agreed.

On July 31, 2019, Rahim, the businessman, and Jenkins met at the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office. During the meeting, they discussed Rahim's previous felony record and his desire to get his firearms rights restored. Jenkins claimed he could use his official position to ensure that Rahim's petition to restore his firearms rights would be granted.

Jenkins and Rahim agreed that Rahim would provide things of value to Jenkins in exchange for Jenkins' use of his official position to get Rahim's rights restored and to appoint him an Auxiliary Deputy with the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office.

On two occasions, Rahim gave Jenkins manila envelopes filled with cash—once with \$15,000 and a second time with \$10,000. In addition to the

\$25,000 in cash, Rahim also made in-kind donations to Jenkins' campaign, including a campaign billboard and approximately 200 customized knives.

In addition, Rahim loaned Jenkins \$17,500 towards a new home Jenkins was building. Rahim never requested repayment because he wanted to maintain a good relationship with Jenkins.

On May 27, 2020, the Circuit Court Clerk of Culpeper County swore Rahim in as an Auxiliary Deputy Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office issued him a deputy badge and identification card.

The FBI's Richmond Field Office, Charlottesville Resident Agency is investigating the case. Trial Attorneys Celia Choy and Lina Peng of the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney Melanie Smith of the Western District of Virginia are prosecuting the case.

Virginia to receive federal funds for solar projects

The Virginia Department of Energy has been selected to receive more than \$156 million through the Solar for All (SFA) grant competition to develop long-lasting solar programs that enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy and benefit from distributed residential solar.

This award is part of the historic \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which was created under President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act to lower energy costs for families, create good-quality jobs in communities that have been left behind, advance environmental justice, and tackle the climate crisis.

The Virginia Energy Program (SAVE) will seek to enable energy savings and increase resilience by expanding access to solar and solar plus storage funding for low-income and disadvantaged communities. SFA funds will be used to transform the low-income solar market in Virginia by leveraging additional private capital and supporting solar business formation and expansion. SAVE will address existing market barriers to solar development by reducing upfront costs, enabling broader access to leasing and power purchase agreements, increasing access to financing for low-income homeowners, and removing barriers to interconnection.

"We're delivering on President Biden's promise that no community is left behind by investing \$7 billion in solar energy projects for over 900,000 households in low-income and disadvantaged communities," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "The selectees will advance solar energy initiatives across the country, creating hundreds

of thousands of good-paying jobs, saving \$8 billion in energy costs for families, delivering cleaner air, and combating climate change."

"The health and economic benefits of renewable energy should be accessible to every community" said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz.

Virginia Department of Energy is among 49 state-level awards totaling about \$5.5 billion, along with six awards to serve Tribes totaling over \$500 million, and five multistate awards totaling approximately \$1 billion.

The EPA estimates that the 60 SFA recipients will enable over 900,000 households in low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy and benefit from distributed solar energy. This \$7 billion investment will generate over \$350 million in annual savings on electric bills for overburdened households. The program will reduce 30 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions cumulatively, from over four gigawatts of solar energy capacity unlocked for low-income communities over five years. Solar and distributed energy resources help improve electric grid reliability and climate resilience, which is especially important in disadvantaged communities that have long been underserved.

Solar for All will deliver on the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to creating high-quality jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union for workers across the United States.

The \$7 billion investment in clean energy will generate an estimated 200,000 jobs across the country. All selected applicants in-

tend to invest in local, clean energy workforce development programs to expand equitable pathways into family-sustaining jobs for the communities they are designed to serve. At least 35% of selected applicants have already engaged local or national unions, demonstrating how these programs will contribute to the foundation of a clean energy economy built on strong labor standards and inclusive economic opportunity for all American communities.

The 60 applicants selected for funding were chosen through a competition review process. This multi-stage process included review from hundreds of experts in climate, power markets, environmental justice, labor, and consumer protection from EPA, Department of Energy, the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, Department of Treasury, Department of Agriculture, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Labor, Department of Defense, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Department of Energy's National Labs – all screened through ethics and conflict of interest checks and trained on the program requirements and evaluation criteria. Applications were scored and selected through dozens of review panels and an interagency senior review team.

The EPA anticipates that awards to the selected applicants will be finalized this summer, and selected applicants will begin funding projects through existing programs and begin expansive community outreach programs to launch new programs in the fall and winter of this year. Selections are contingent on the resolution of all administrative disputes related to the competitions.

State department releases SOL reports for parents

To help give parents a more complete picture of their student's progress this school year, the Virginia Department of Education has developed a new Spring Standards of Learning (SOL) Parent Report designed to provide parents additional information about their child's performance this year in a clear and accessible format.

The Parent Reports are available to parents whose students have already completed the spring SOL assessments in school divisions around the Commonwealth and can be obtained directly from their child's school. For students who have not yet taken their SOL assessments, parent reports will be available after those students have completed their tests.

"An involved and informed parent is critical to a student's success," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons. "We want to empower parents with clear and useful information about their child's performance this year and equip them with tools to help their child catch up or get ahead over the summer."

"The new Spring SOL Parent Report pro-

vides a helpful year-long overview of student academic performance by including the fall and winter Virginia Growth Assessment score alongside the final spring Standards of Learning score," said Virginia PTA President Jenna Alexander. "The inclusion of easy-to-read bar graphs and simple performance descriptions for each question type transforms the SOL Parent Report into a helpful tool that can be used by students, parents, and teachers to target areas for new instruction."

The reports are designed to give parents greater insight into their student's progress and more opportunities to participate with the child's teacher. "Parents are active, impassioned participants in the quest for educational excellence," said Ms. Tonia Emanuel, a parent of a Richmond City student. "These SOL parent reports are more than just data. It's our translator. It transforms complex information into meaningful dialogue and opportunities for advocacy, ensuring no child's potential is left unexplored and no opportunity for growth goes unnoticed."

The Spring SOL Parent Report informs parents if their child's test scores show that the child needs additional support, is considered at-risk of falling behind, or if the child is performing on grade level or above. Designed to provide a year-long look at a student's academic progress, the Parent Reports tie together the Virginia Growth Assessment scores previously taken and the current spring SOL results to show the current trend in the student's academic progress. These results help show in which content areas and skills a student may need additional support and where more time with a teacher or tutor could be beneficial to the student's academic success.

Sample parent reports are available for Grades 3-8 reading and math, and all other SOL tests (except writing). Additional resources for parents, including a video explaining the Spring Parent Reports and a tool for parents to help facilitate conversations with their child's teacher regarding their child's performance can be found on the Parent Resources page of the VDOE website under the Assessment tab.

Number of initial claims continues to climb

Last week, Virginia Works announced that 2,331 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending April 20, which represents a 4.2 percent higher than last week's 2,238 claims and 26.8 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (1,838).

Nearly 84 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (293); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (248); Health Care and Social Assistance (237); Retail Trade (228); and Manufacturing (142).

An initial claim is a claim filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer. The count of U.S. initial claims for unemployment insurance is a leading economic

indicator because it is an indication of emerging labor market conditions in the country.

Continued weeks claims (15,254) were 0.1 percent lower than last week (15,263), but 28.9 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (11,830). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,281); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,125); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,327); Manufacturing (1,313); and Retail Trade (1,229).

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a

good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for unemployment insurance benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions, according to Virginia Works. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.

In the week ending April 20, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 207,000, a decrease of 5,000 from the previous week's unrevised level of 212,000. The advanced number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 201,619 in the week ending April 20, a decrease of 7,363 (or 3.5 percent) from the previous week. The seasonal factors had expected a decrease of 2,549 (or 1.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 203,233 initial claims in the comparable week in 2023.

Charlottesville-Monticello named international wine region of the year

Five Central Virginia counties have earned their place among the world's most iconic wine regions.

Recently named the 2023 Wine Region of the Year for Wine Enthusiast's 24th Annual Wine Star Awards, Charlottesville and the Monticello American Viticultural Area bested long-recognized international winemaking regions.

The award honors more than 40 wineries in the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Nelson and Orange.

"The region is situated in an interesting spot in Virginia," said Drew Harner, assistant professor of viticulture for the Alson H. Smith Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Frederick County. AREC staff educate and assist growers with best practices, backed by the latest research.

Grapes thrive in the geographically transitional space between Virginia's Coastal Plain and Piedmont, with a desirable temperature mix.

"There's a range of soil types as well," explained Harner, who also works as a Virgin-

ia Cooperative Extension specialist. "You get this 'Goldilocks area' where grape growers can work with a range of different growing conditions. They produce grapes and wines that are expressions of the conditions they're working with, and the management practices they're tailoring to these conditions."

The 2022 Census of Agriculture reported Virginia's vineyards span over 40,000 acres on 538 farms, generating \$3.5 million in total market value. The rural areas surrounding Charlottesville are home to over 20% of Virginia's vineyard plantings. A separate industry impact study said Virginia's grape wine sector generated over \$6 billion for the state when considering wages, tourism dollars and other indirect impacts.

At the Virginia Governor's Cup Competition, 58 of the 142 gold medals were presented to wineries on the Monticello Wine Trail in 2024.

Medalists include Eastwood Farm and Winery in Charlottesville, owned by Athena Eastwood and operated with family. Eastwood's grapes are grown at two vineyards in Albemarle and Nelson counties.

"This region has been developing for decades with a large number of well-known wineries producing world-class wines," she said. "To that extent, the award is not that surprising! There's a lot of innovation and talent in this region."

French "clones" perform well in the vineyards, like Eastwood's award-winning petit manseng boasting notes of honeysuckle, pineapple and mango.

Wine Enthusiast noted a "spirit of collaboration" among the region's winemakers.

"It's one of the biggest things enabling growth in this area," Eastwood said. "You can call other winemakers and talk through an approach, or how to deal with a challenge, and they are always willing to help."

Regional wineries also encourage guests to visit other sites, and a few tasting rooms present wines from rising vintners on rotating incubator lists.

During Monticello Wine Week, Eastwood will host 15 wineries for the White Wine Showcase May 1. Visit monticellowinetrail.com/taste-of to see all the week's events.

Earth Day celebration held at the Library Garden



Earth Day was celebrated at the library with stories about the environment, a decorated plant marker craft and flower planting in the Books, Blooms and Bugs Children's Library Garden. (Contributed photos)

Blue Ridge Music Center to reopen for season on May 2

The Blue Ridge Music Center will reopen to visitors for the season on Thursday, May 2, with a free Midday Mountain Music performance from 12 to 3 p.m. by Scott Freeman and Willard Gayheart. The Visitor Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday-Monday, from May 2-20, and daily from May 23-Oct. 31.

Midday Mountain Music is a free, informal music presentation by local and regional musicians held on the covered breezeway every day the venue is open. Visitors are invited to listen for a few minutes or the whole session.

- Midday Mountain Music schedule:
- Sundays: Fisher Peak Timber Rattlers
 - Mondays: The Buck Mountaineers
 - Tuesdays: Cedar Ridge
 - Wednesdays: Gen 3
 - Thursdays: Scott Freeman and Willard Gayheart
 - Fridays: Bluegrass Jam with Jim Purcell and Lynn Wolf
 - First Saturdays of the month: special guest band
 - Second Saturdays: special guest band
 - Third Saturdays: Sugarloaf Mountain Band
 - Fourth Saturdays: Blue Ridge Ramblers
 - Fifth Saturdays: special guest band

Visitors can tour the award-winning Roots of American Music Museum, take home a souvenir from the America's National Parks gift shop, or hike the Fisher Peak Loop or High Meadow Trail, which includes fun Kids in Parks activities. The visiting exhibit "Half-



Scott Freeman and Willard Gayheart (Midday Mountain Music)

Tone Folk Heroes: Traditional Musicians as Pop Art" by illustrator Gina Dilg will be on display starting June 1 in the Luthier Shop.

The Music Center's Deep Roots, Many Voices: Summer Concert Series kicks off on May 25, with outdoor concerts hosted Saturday

evenings through August in the amphitheater. Gates open at 5:45 p.m. and concerts begin at 7 p.m. Tickets and a full schedule of concerts are available at BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org.

First Saturday Outing set



Enjoy a late spring paddle on the beautiful Mayo River on May 4, as the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) floats six miles from Anglin Mill's Mayo Beach to NC 770 near Stoneville, N.C.

DRBA's First Saturday Outings (FSO) are always free and open to the public.

Learn more at <https://www.dan-river.org/event/2024-05-04-9-00/may-fso-paddle-on-the-mayo>.

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Kids' Trout Fishing Day deemed a success

The 4th Annual Patrick County Kids' Trout Fishing Day was held on Saturday, April 13, at the Mayo River Rail Trail. Approximately 85 children lined up and down the banks of the Mayo River and enjoyed great trout fishing with their family and friends.

"The children enjoyed a great day in Patrick County catching trout along the banks of the Mayo River and just being outside enjoying the outdoors and spending time together with family and friends," said Sandra Heath, who along with Wayne Kirkpatrick and Dale Owens, organized the event.

The volunteers and adults had a large time as well, Heath said, adding the overall winner was Isaac Boyer with the longest trout, at 24 3/4 inch weighing in at 7.1lbs. Other respective winners were Kaeleigh

Woodham, Justin Montgomery, Emree Barnard and Mason Heiney.

Prizes were presented for the longest trout, shortest trout and the first one to bring the legal limit to registration, as well as a large number of other door prizes donated by Smith River Trout Unlimited, Falling Creek Hunting Club, Tin Pen Alley and several anonymous donations. Also, several door prizes were presented by Rocky Mabe and Michael Mabe in memory and honor of their friend David Hayes, who was an avid outdoorsman.

A special thanks to several partnerships involved in making this kids' event a success, including

Heath with Patrick SWCD; Owens and the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources; Wayne and Betty Kirkpatrick, along with members of Smith River Trout Unlimited and the

Dan River Basin Association; Sammy Hughes, Junior Hughes and Angela Spence and many other members of the Falling Creek Hunting Club; Rocky Mabe, Michael Mabe, Walter Scott; PCHS Fishing Team; Patrick County Maintenance; Patrick Coun-

ty Tourism and Town of Stuart.

This section of the Mayo River at the Mayo River Rail Trail is only stocked by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources once a year for the annual Patrick County Kid's Trout Fishing Day.



Trivia part of local Earth Day celebration



Earth Day was celebrated at Landmark by making beautiful flower bookmarks and Earth Day Trivia, led by Master Gardener Jessica Hines. (Contributed)

Sample questions included:

1. What year was the first Earth Day celebrated? (Answer: 1970)
2. Which bestselling book warned of the effects of pesticides? (Answer: "Silent Spring," by Rachel Carson)



★ AUCTION ★

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Saturday, May 4, 2024 @ 10:00 am (Doors Open at 8:00 am)

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES - Precious Moments figurines, designer handbags, metal signs, hand made canes & walking sticks, boxed Barbie dolls, Depression Glass, crystal, collection of tea pots, Plumb axes, pots & pans, vacuum cleaner, fireplace set, Shockey Dairy, Stuart, VA milk bottle caps, Lt. Ed. Ertl truck bank



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

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Money comes from the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, which is carried out by conservation districts and administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

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Planting a system of continuous, year-round cover reduces nonpoint source pollution by slowing runoff and taking up excess nitrogen that otherwise would leach into the water table. Cover crops also prevent soil erosion caused by wind and rain.

Choosing the right cover for your crop rotation is important. Planting early in the season generally produces the best economic and environmental results. No-till practices further enhance cover crop benefits by allowing biomass to accumulate and enrich the soil.

Contact the Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation District at 276-694-2911 to learn more about cover crops or to set up a field visit. Please feel free to visit our office at 104 Via Avenue, Stuart, VA 24171

Next steps:

Conservation begins with your local Soil and Water Conservation District, which can help you apply for many different cost-share funding programs to help you implement cover crop best management practices. District staff also can identify other conservation programs for which you might qualify.