

THE ENTERPRISE

Calendar Church Classified Family Album **Obituaries Sports Viewpoints**

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

Congratulations Class of 2024! Special Graduation Section Inside

Due to a press issue, page 3B was printed incorrectly. It is reprinted, with our apologies, on page 2 of this section.

Commencement set for Friday

"We are the people our parents warned us about." Jimmy Buffett



By Staff Reports

With a line from a Jimmy Buffett song as its motto, the more than 180 members of Patrick County High School's Class of 2024 are poised to take their place in the annals of history on Friday, May 17, when the graduation ceremony gets under-

way on the football field at 7 p.m.

Visitors and guests are asked to please refrain from talking during the proceedings out of respect for the graduates.

Several class members are among the scheduled speakers, including 'Reflection,' by Dakota Michelle

Ashworth, and the Pledge of Alle- ficers. Roberts is vice president, giance led by Bobbijo Jean Roberts. and Ashworth, a member of PCHS

those serving as Senior Class Of-

Ashworth and Roberts are among Praise and Worship team, is Secre-

(See Class of 2024 p. 2)

Peace Officer Memorial Day, Police Week recognized locally

Officer Memorial Day, and this week is declared National Police Week, Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith said the designation was signed into law by President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

Three Patrick County law enforcement officers have been shot and killed in the line of duty, Smith said of Deputy Sheriff Robert Bunyon Sheppard, Deputy Sheriff Walter W. Willis, and State Trooper Charles Eugene Morris.

Then, as now, the dangers are real, Smith said.

We are on call 24/7, serving residents in this rural county," he said, and noted that statistics show that law enforcement officers in rural areas like Patrick County "face an exceptional risk of being seriously hurt or killed in the line of duty.'

That is partly because in many cases, 'our deputies and troopers answer dangerous calls alone, and they have to travel extended distances on curvy, mountainous roads to get to those calls," said Smith, adding "they have to be on their 'A' game to protect themselves and those they serve.'

Although "improvements in medical technology and mandatory body armor

Noting that May 15 is National Peace policies have helped keep the numbers of officers dying in the line of duty lower than in previous decades," Smith said that according to the Officer Down Memorial Page, 24,067 local, state and federal law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty since the late 1700s, and felonious assaults against law enforcement officers have increased dramatically in the past four years compared to

> previous years. Nationwide, Smith said "recruitment has been abysmal for the past several years, and that enhances the dangers of the job. People need to know that this is an honorable profession, our people are giving themselves for the service and protection of their fellow citizens, we are not

> Still, "the call to defund law enforcement is very much a reality, even by some here in our county," Smith said, "and that is why I humbly ask for the support of our citizens more now than ever before.

> "It is my responsibility to the deputies I appoint, and to the community we serve, to be prepared for any potential danger they may be faced, and I will not fail them in that endeavor," the sheriff Said.

Squads weigh in on outlook of EMS in county

"Station 8 is a backup system. By no means

are we trying to be the primary here. We are a

backup, that's what we started as, that's what

we'll remain as long as we possibly can, but we

will answer every call that we possibly can."

By Taylor Boyd

The Jeb Stuart Volunteer Res- he said. cue Squad responded to more calls furloughed. Since then, the number of calls it answered has plummeted to one call.

-EMS Director Scottie Cassell

Patrick County EMS Director Scottie Cassell said Station 8, the county's paid staff, has put a second truck into service full-time to pick up as many of those calls as possi-

"I know there's a couple days a by week where we only have one truck,

but all calls have been answered,"

Before career staff were furthan any other in the county until loughed, Cassell said the county's April 14, when it's paid staff was paid squad, known as Station 8, was running 108 to 110 fire and rescue calls each month. As of April 29, the number was 171 and counting.

'Our call volume increased because they (Jeb Stuart) haven't covered any calls, but we've been managing to cover them," Cassell said, adding that in April, there were 149 calls in the area previously served the financially beleaguered

(See Squads p.3)

Perry's latest book to be released next week

By Taylor Boyd

Local author and historian Tom Perry's latest book, "White Sulphur Springs North Carolina: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," is set to be released on Sunday, May 19 during his Tom Talks History event at the Ararat Ruritan Club at 2 p.m.

Perry said the book is about the history of the White Sulphur Springs on Riverside Drive, Highway 104, just north of Mount Airy,

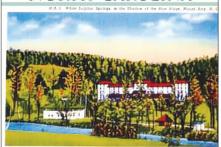
The approximately 100-page book is in chronological order, and will cost around \$10.

"It starts during the 1800s and comes up to today. It ends with the" current wedding venue site. "But most of it's the history of who owned it and who visited and stories about everything from murders to ghosts to people coming and drinking the water," he said.

Perry said he saw a reference that Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's mother, Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart, wrote that when the family was living at the Laurel Hill Farm, or the current J.E.B Stuart Birthplace, that people were coming to White Sulphur Springs to "take the waters" before

the Civil War.

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS North Carolina



YESTERDAY. TOMORROW

Tom Perry's latest book, "White Sulphur Springs North Carolina: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," will be released on Sunday Mav 19.

"You know, they'd drink all this old sulphur water thinking it would cure everything, and over the years the hotel developed. It had multiple owners and it got bigger and bigger, and by the time that it was in its heyday in the early 1900s, it was an

THOMAS D. PERRY

(See Perry p.3)

The cost to join is \$20 per vehicle with \$5 per additional rider. Those 15 and under can ride for free. All donations will be given to Cassell for his and his family's needs while he is out of work.

ago. Due to his injuries, Cassell Memorial Hospital and taken to the intensive care unit (ICU).

"He's just got a long road of recovery, so we're holding a benefit ride to try and gather some money for him and his family. He was the sole provider of his kids, and he also has one kid on the way," Ravon said. "We're just trying to do what we can to help him out."

Dena Hall, secretary of the group, said the ride will leave the shopping center in Stuart and proceed to Virginia 8, and up Floyd Mountain to get on the Blue Ridge Parkway, to Meadows of Dan, where partici-

Benefit ride set to help local man

By Taylor Boyd

God's Revenge, a Christian organization that seeks to help others in need, will hold a benefit ride on Saturday May 25 to support David Cassell, a Patrick County native who was injured in a car accident.

The event will take place at 11 a.m. at the CVS/Food Country parking lot in Stuart. Engines will start and kickstands will go up at

Cody Ravon, organization leader, said Cassell, a father and self-employed local mechanic, was in a vehicle accident about two months was airlifted to Carilion Roanoke

The benefit will also include

pants get onto Squirrel Spur Road. "We'll ride that down to (VA/ NC) 103, and then come back to the same parking lot we started. It's about 65 to 67 miles, and it shouldn't take more than a couple of hours," she said.

Hall said monetary and item donations can be dropped off at various locations in Stuart, including Little Caesars, Dollar General, Stuart Family Restaurant, and Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

The organization is also willing to pick up donations.

"We'll be happy to make accommodations. We'll be happy to pick up any donations that people would want to give," she said.

Hall said diapers and baby wipes currently are among the most need-

"I talked to David's wife, and they've got a 10-month-old and one on the way," she said.

Hall said the 10-month-old needs Huggies diapers in sizes 7 and 8. The baby boy is "sensitive to the different brands, and then anything smaller than that would be useful for the" new arrival.

raffle gifts, prize drawings, and a 50/50 split after the ride. You must be present to win.

For more information or to donate, contact God's Revenge via email at GodsRevenge612@gmail. com or call (336) 552-7721.

Class of 2024

(cont. from page 1)

tary. Levi Austin Vipperman, who will present Alison Easter, Colt Easter; Candi Edwards, Shannon Young, Audrey Young. "The Journey," is the president, and Sabrina Lane Rorrer is class treasurer.

Elizabeth Joselyn Rose is president of the Student Government Association and Kali Raven Craig is vice president.

Class Colors are dark green, gold and black. The Class Flower is a Tulip.

Class Motto is "We are the people our par-

ents warned us about." - Jimmy Buffett.

Class Song is "Sweet Child of Mine," by Guns N' Roses.

Room Mothers are Lisa Allen, Matthew Allen; Jordan Baliles, Broc Taylor; Melissa Barbour, Jackson Barbour; Melanie Beasley, Seth Beasley; Kristie Bentley, Marissa Bentley; Jackie Bolt, Cooper Bolt; Rhonda Brown, Ma-Corns, Ethan Cobbler; Amy Cutchins, Luke

Heather Edwards; Susanne Errichetti, Austin Errichetti; Ada Fain, Austin Hylton; Candice Fulcher, Lauren Fulcher; Connie Goode, Bethany Goode; Brenda Hall, Miranda Hall; Mary Handy, Kyle Handy; Misty Hazelwood, Stuart Callahan; Merrill Hopkins, Miller Hopkins; Samantha Joyce, Kylee Joyce; Joy Large, Nate Large; Tina Layman, Colby Layman; Santa Leon, Cecilia Cisneros; Phyllis Meade, Hunter Meade; Angie Norman, Hayden Norman; Crystal Perkins, Quentin Perkins; Summer Pike, Bryley Pike; Angela Rose, Elizabeth Rose; Wendy Smith, Bishop Smith; Michelle Spencer, Stephen Spencer; Missy Swails, Tucker Swails; Ana Tejeda-Martinez, Reyli Tejeda-Martinez; Myra Trent, Emily Trent; Rozina Turner, Marissa Brown; Amy Byers, Jonah Byers; Tashia ria Turner; Sara Vernon, Will Vernon; Brandi Williams, Lauryn Williams; Holly Wood, Levi Cutchins; Tammy Durham, Trace Durham; Vipperman; Mandy Worley, Lauren Worley and edition of The Enterprise.

Class Sponsors are Melanie Culler, Melissa Fain, April Harris, Chris Jensen, Ashlee Mullis, Ryan Pendleton, Kiran Penn, Angela Rose, co-chairman, Jennifer Turner, Andrea Williams, and Elizabeth Wood, co-chairman.

Junior Marshals are Dante Marshall Belcher, Bryan Nathaniel Clark, Eliza Lin Clifton, Tara Elizabeth Collins, Daryl Lynn Combs, Williams Chancellor Corns, Mason James Dellenback, Blake Lee Dillon Emily, Claire Eastridge Jackson, Blake Horton, Noah James Jessup, Whitley Katherine Kruse, Zachary Ryan Letchworth, Sadie Jane Martin, Raeli Jo Adrianna Moran, Owen Kyle Nutter, Mason Wyatt Scott, Dhrithik Deepa Tanna, Xavier Orlando Torres-Seda and Kendall Tate Williams.

Refer to the B section for more of our annual graduation coverage this week, and the May 22





Matthew Logan Allen



Draiden Jacob Archambo



Andi Willow Arnold



Dakota Michelle Ashworth



Seth Wayne Atkins



Jackson Douglas-Sanders Barbour



Alexandria Nichole Barker



Danielle Grace Barnett



Seth Garrison Beasley



Carlos Alberto Becerril



Riley Lynn Bell



Marissa Rae Bentley

Not pictured: Johnny Dean Bowman Jeremiah Dalie Lestat Hernandez Cynthia Jenet Hernandez **Natasha Emily Jones Aaron Matthew Ross** D'Asia Kathleen Thomas







Daniel Betancourt



Bailey Ryan Bolt



Jack Greene Blaylock



Cooper Leam Bolt

Squads

(cont. from page 1)

Station	Total Calls In Area	Answered Calls	Mutual Aid Coverage For Other Stations	Total Answered Calls	% Covered in Area	Total Co Wide Tones	Avg Dispatch to Enroute	Avg Dispatch to Scene	Avg Scene to Hospital (Transport)	Avg Dispatch to Hospital
1	22	4	0	4	18.18%	0	0:04	0:19	0:36	1:16
2	18	10	0	10	55.56%	5	0:14	0:26	0:17	1:06
3	149	26	1	27	17.45%	34	0:04	0:14	0:32	1:06
4	26	10	6	16	38.46%	0	0:04	0:27	0:32	1:13
5	12	5	4	9	41.67%	0	0:04	0:20	0:38	1:31
7	12	8	3	11	66.67%	1	0:13	0:25	0:15	0:57
8	2	NA	163	163	NA	NA	0:02	0:16	0:32	1:06
Totals	241	63	177	240	39.66%	40	0:07	0:21	0:33	1:11

The monthly data sheet shows the amount of calls each rescue squad answered in April.

squad.

"They covered 26 of them," Cassell said, and added the coverage was "before they made their announcement or anything. They mutual aided once, which means they went into someone else's area and covered a call."

Cassell said he remembers instances of Jeb Stuart running with three or four trucks and that still not being enough on some days.

"It's just (the nature of) EMS. Call volume is not the same every day," he said, adding that "Station 8 is a backup system. By no means are we trying to be the primary here. We are a backup, that's what we started as, that's what we'll remain as long as we possibly can, but we will answer every call that we possibly can."

The fact that Jeb Stuart hasn't been running calls obviously has put a strain on everyone, county wide, Debbie Foley, captain of the Smith River Rescue Squad, said.

"Our station has been able to put together a few crews a few times to cover Station 3's calls throughout when we can, but it's definitely put a strain on the county. There's no doubt about it, particularly Station 8," she said.

While she's uncomfortable answering for the squad itself, Foley said she thinks she can speak for everyone is saying that she hopes some type of solution is found quickly.

"Much sooner rather than later," she said.

Mike Fulk, captain of the Ararat squad, said he supports Jeb Stuart's request for \$100,000 from the county.

"I don't understand why the county won't do that. You know, Jeb is providing a service for the county, and employed several people in the county, so I don't know what the issue is," he said.

Fulk said all of the county's volunteer rescue squads are currently struggling to make it because of the minimal support they get from the county.

"But Jeb Stuart, in my opinion, they run more calls than anybody in the county. My understanding is they ran 1,200 and some odd calls last year versus the next would be Station 8 I guess at what, 800 and some calls," he said.

Fulk said when a rescue squad is running that amount of calls, it's a big service to the community "at a very minimal cost for what

they're actually doing for the community."

In his understanding of what's going to happen, Fulk said every rescue squad in the area under the Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services (WVEMS) umbrella is going to have to switch over to provide their own drugs.

"That's going to be even more expense. I don't know, I think they're asking for \$100,000 per year in four increments, like \$25,000 per quarter. I don't know what's been discussed between them and the county administrator or the board of supervisors," he said.

If it comes down to Jeb Stuart shuttering its doors, Fulk said the county would end up having to pay several million dollars to provide the services the squad had provided for virtually nothing.

"They're going to have to add more county employees, they're going to have to have more trucks. I mean, it's going to be a domino effect, it's going to probably eventually at some point in time increase taxes. So, to me it's almost a no brainer that they support Jeb Stuart if they continue to provide the service that they've been providing," he said.

Howard Alderman, of the Vesta squad, said he personally spoke with Derek Wagner, president of the Jeb Stuart squad to voice his support.

"I told him he had our support, as much as he said.
what we could do," he said.

Casse

Alderman said he doesn't have an issue with Jeb asking for additional funds.

"I do know that they have a large call volume, and I understand that it's going to take at least two, probably three paid trucks to be able to keep up with the call volume a lot of times," he said.

Alderman said it's obvious that the number of volunteers gone down significantly in the county, state, and country. He noted the county's population is also decreasing.

"So, that's fewer people we've got to pull from

to get volunteers, and the volunteers just aren't there," he said.

Alderman said there are four providers in Vesta, "and a lot of times with the call volume we have, sometimes it's not enough. And every-

body works, and a lot of people, like me, work

out of the county. That makes it even harder for

people to volunteer,"

Short of getting more volunteers to be able to cover more calls, Alderman said crews will have to be paid to be there to answer calls.

"Whether that means adding more staff to the county services already there or helping to supplement JEB Stuart, but you're going to have to pay people, because it's obvious the volunteers just aren't there anymore," he said.

Alderman added he fully supports both Jeb Stuart and Station 8.

"We've loaned both organizations a truck in the past, you know, when they get in a situation where they had one down and it was going to be in the garage for a couple days. We fully support both of them," he said.

Cassell said the county has made it well aware that county residents need EMS, and they will get it - one way or another.

"Whether it be volunteer or paid staff needed. They are committed to helping the citizens. In the same breath, we don't want any volunteer to close down," he said.

Like all other county agencies, Cassell said Station 8 soft bills for its services.

Cassell also said doesn't want to see any squad dissolve. The county needs every volunteer it can get.

"I appreciate every minute a volunteer gives,"

Cassell said the future is a hard call if the Jeb Stuart squad dissolves, particularly because Station 8 and several of the other volunteer agencies have had a downslide.

"I mean, it's not their fault, it's just volunteerism itself is on a downslide. Being a volunteer myself, going on 35 years now, every minute a volunteer can give the county is greatly appreciated," he said. "It's just nobody's hardly volunteering anymore. We have a few success stories in there, like Patrick Springs, but the majority is few and far between."

In the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget, Cassell said he requested an additional four paid staff members for Station 8.

"That will put two full-time trucks on at Station 8 around the clock," he said.

CCDF President Randy Burge and Captain Shana Payne, and Blue Ridge Captain Billy Aldridge did not respond to calls for comment.

Perry

(cont. from page 1)

almost 200-room resort hotel," he said.

Perry added he believes Patrick Springs was like the White Sulphur Springs because it turned into a resort-type place where people could come and drink the water.

"People back in the 1800s thought that by drinking water like this it would cure all kinds of things. Probably the most famous guy I know is Stonewall Jackson, he really believed in taking the waters before the Civil War. He was notorious for" it, he said.

Over the years, Perry said the spring had multiple owners.

"It grew, and then they'd have a fire, and it would burn down, and then they'd have to build it up again," he said.

While people don't think of Mount Airy as being a resort area, Perry said it boasted multiple hotels and multiple springs that were tourist destinations.

"It started attracting actresses and millionaires, and the book talks a little bit about some of the famous people," he said. "Supposedly, there was a woman who got murdered in the hotel and her ghost haunted it for years, I mean you hear all kinds of stuff like that."

The spring's last resort eventually burnt down around 1960. Perry said by then it was primarily used as a chicken coop.

"They kept chickens in it, so it became the world's largest chicken fire I guess," he said with a laugh.

Perry believes some of the people who own it also own the 13 Bones restaurant in Mount Airy.

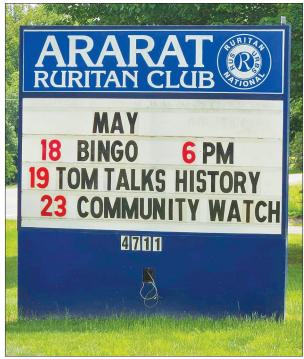
"They've turned it kind of into a wedding site and they have cabins, and you can get married and have your pictures made and all that. I think they only let tourists come out there on Mondays - I believe is their rule," he said.

he said.

The rest of the time, Perry said the site can be rented for events like concerts and weddings, and of course, visitors can also still

drink the Sulphur water.

"The spring is still there, and you can go down there and have you a big gulp. It (water) smells like rotten eggs, but I'd always heard if you get some and leave it out over-



Tom Perry will give a talk on the White Sulphur Springs at the Ararat Ruritan Club at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, to raise funds for his Perry Family Scholarship.

night the smell would go away and that the water is pretty good. The smell would really turn you off when you first get around it," he said, chuckling.

Perry added postcards of White Sulphur Springs can still be found in Mount Airy.

While the idea for the book started about a decade ago, Perry said he never got around to finishing it until now.

"It really came about because of the Dinky Railroad. The hotel was right on the Dinky Railroad, so a lot of people would ride up the railroad to stay at the hotel," he said.

Perry chose the hotel as a book topic because he likes history that's along the Virginia-North Carolina line.

The Tom Talks History program helps raise money for the Perry Family Scholarship Fund, which he started in honor of his late parents. Scholarships are awarded annually.

Unlike past years, the event will be held on a Sunday afternoon instead of on a Saturday. We're "thinking that maybe Sunday after-

noon, people will have more time for that

sort of thing. The Ararat Ruritan Club supports me in this, and allows me to use their

facility," he said.

Perry estimates 40 to 50 typically show up for the event.

Perry said this is the first of three different programs that will be held this year to benefit the scholarship:

Beverly Belcher Woody, the author of the "Patrick Pioneers" series in the Enterprise will hold a program on July 28.

On September 29, Perry will hold a program about J.E.B. Stuart and his brothers, William Alexander Stuart and John Dabney Stuart, in the Civil War. This will be the weekend before the Civil War Encampment at Laurel Hill on October 5-6.

The book will be available on Amazon, select book racks in the county, and on Perry's website, https://laurel-hill-publishing-llc.square.site.

Pets of the Week





Two sad-looking pups were found in Walmart parking lot, most likely dumped. One male and one female probably 3-4 months old. One is hiding behind their litter mate.

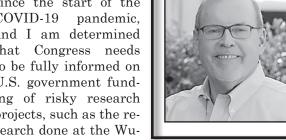
This sweet brindle boy is neutered and was found on Spring Road. He looks to be a Dachshund mix. He is waiting for someone to claim him because is certainly being missed.

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

VIEWPOINTS

Is Government Research Safe?

It has been roughly four and a half years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I am determined that Congress needs to be fully informed on U.S. government funding of risky research projects, such as the research done at the Wuhan Institute of Virolo-



Morgan Griffith

Representative

gy (WIV), in order to make sure the same mistakes don't happen again. During the 118th Congress, I've

signed letters pressing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for information and documents pertaining to risky research projects and biosecurity practices past and present, which would obviously include data concerning the origins of COVID-19.

As Chair of the Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, I held a hearing in 2023 to review biosafety and risk

Also, I have participated in closeddoor transcribed interviews with Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Dr. Francis Collins of NIH and EcoHealth Alliance President, Dr. Peter Daszak.

Daszak was a leading collaborative figure in applying for NIH grants, and was responsible for providing progress reports on Eco-Health's research.

EcoHealth is the company that received grants from NIAID which in turn gave subgrants to WIV to conduct research on Coronavirus evolution and transmission.

At a November 2023 deposition, I asked Daszak about EcoHealth's very late year-five progress report due to be filed in September of 2019. He said he "tried" to submit the progress report on time but could not get the NIH system to work.

Recall that evidence indicates the virus broke out in November or December of 2019 in China.

The missing report would not be submitted until August of 2021.

During Daszak's November interview, after I asked him specific questions about the report and if there were any changes, he told me first there was no change, then no "significant" change between the September 2019 version he tried to submit and the August 2021 sub-

After the transcribed interview, a whistleblower gave us a draft of the progress report, dated May of 2020, where EcoHealth stated that bat coronavirus spillover was a rare event in South China and Southeast Asia.

However, in their August 2021 official submission of the year-five progress report, despite supposedly using the exact same data as the initial draft, EcoHealth stated that the viral transference of coronaviruses from bats to humans could affect as many as one million people in South China and Southeast

To me the difference between 'very rare' and a 'million' people is a significant difference.

But during the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing on May 1, I asked Daszak why the change between May 2020 and August 2021. Did he have conversations with Fauci or his colleagues at NIAID? Was he pressured by outside sources? Or did they make the changes to hide potential EcoHealth liability?

He claimed the science changed! But that's not what he told me in November of 2023. And I gave him several chances.

Daszak clearly did not tell the

He lied to me and Congress in November! There must be some reason why.

A report from the Select Subcommittee recommends formal debarment of and a criminal investigation into EcoHealth and Daszak.

Unfortunately, I believe this is unlikely to happen under a Biden Department of Justice.

We should let a jury of American people decide if there is a substantial difference between a 'very rare' occurrence and as many as one 'million' people coming down with

But the guy who Fauci and NI-AID entrusted with our taxpayer dollars claims there is no substantial difference.

Further, EcoHealth did not obtain required logbooks from WIV.

We will never be able to eliminate all doubt there was a lab leak at WIV because Wuhan didn't submit crucial data to EcoHealth as required. Moreover, EcoHealth didn't insist Wuhan provide them with the data as contractually required.

And can we even trust the data

we actually got?

It comes down to whether you believe 'very rare' or a 'million' cases a year are substantially the same. I don't.

I do not trust information from

WIV or EcoHealth. Additionally, I find it incompre-

hensible that NIAID continues to fund EcoHealth research. Not to alarm you, but the govern-

ment is telling us right now that bird flu transference to humans is

Sound familiar?

And is NIAID doing risky research on other viruses like the animal poxes?

And if so, who are they collaborating with?

I will continue to dig into the facts and try to make government research projects safer.

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

Congressional App Challenge underway

The 2024 Congressional App Engineering, and Math) educa-Challenge for Ninth Congressio- tion," said Ninth District U.S. nal District students is now open. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem.

To participate in the challenge, middle school or high school students can choose to work individually or in groups of up to four students. Participants may create and submit their own app for mobile, tablet, or computer devices on a platform of their choice.

completed app by 12 p.m. EDT,

October 24. "The Congressional App Challenge allows students to demonstrate their talents, engage their creativity, and explore the fields house.gov with any questions re-

"I look forward to seeing the apps developed by the ingenuity of Ninth District students." Full details about the contest

can be found on the website here. You can determine if you are eligible, create an account, and find additional information on the Students must submit their rules and specifics are available at Congressional App Challenge

2024 CAC Rules. Faculty, parents, or students may contact Josh Hess at (540)

or Josh.Hess@mail.

381-5671

of STEM (Science, Technology, lated to the competition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Improper payments

(Fox, GAO, Office of Management and Budget, Just the News, Stars

An estimated \$236 billion in improper or incorrect payments was made under the Biden administration in 2023, with Medicare and Medicaid accounting for \$100.4 billion of that total, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO).

The \$236 billion in improper payments were reported by 14 agencies across 71 programs.

More than \$175 billion (74%) of errors were overpayments—for example, payments to deceased individuals or those no longer eligible for government programs.

\$11.5 billion were underpay-

\$44.6 billion were unknown payments—meaning it is unclear whether a payment was an error or

\$4.6 billion were cases where a recipient was entitled to a payment, but the payment failed to follow proper statutes or regulation.

The \$236 billion errors were concentrated in the following 6 program areas:

Medicare: \$51.1 billion Medicaid: \$50.3 billion

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance: \$43.6 billion

Earned Income Tax Credit: \$21.9 billion

Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness: \$18.7 billion

All Other Programs: \$50.1 billion The report of \$236 billion improper payments in 2023 does not tell the full story because the Biden Administration hid totals from select federal programs "susceptible

to significant improper payments," according to the GAO report.

These programs that went unreported to the GAO include the Department of Health and Human Services' Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Public and Indian Housing's Tenant Based Rental Assistance program, and the Office of Multifamily Housing's Project-Based Rental Assistance pro-

Since the Russian invasion in February 2022, Ukraine has been given approximately \$113.4 billion in U.S. military aid that has included a wide range of weapons such as air-defense systems, anti-drone systems, various missiles and rockets, and small-arms ammunition. More than \$1 billion in military weapons and equipment that the United States has provided Ukraine to fight invading Russian forces cannot be accounted for and is not being fully tracked, according to the Pentagon. This is money over and above the GAO audit of \$236 billion improper payments.

Over the last 20 years \$3 trillion in taxpayer dollars have been squandered on improper payments, a figure that is as stunning as it is unacceptable. In order to restore fiscal responsibility to Washington we must root out the gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned tax dollars, rein in spending, and reverse the curse of a debt crisis that looms large over our children's

Pray for our country. William Salser, Stuart

Your Words Matter

By Bryan Golden

You are usually conscious of what you say to others. The things you say are based on what you want to achieve. You know from experience that the words you chose have a big impact. When you use the wrong words, the reaction of others is not what you intended.

as important as what you say and the results you obtain. to others. Yet, too many people are not fully aware of the impact wellbeing. Your words to yourself program your mind.

Your mind follows whatever commands you provide. It doesn't question the directives it receives. It dutifully obeys whatever it is told to do. Your attitude, your actions, the way you feel, your perception, and your outlook, are all impacted by your words.

You talk to yourself constantly. Too often you say negative diminish your accomplishments. can't do. You tell yourself how many things are impossible. You justify failures with a never-ending string of excuses.

If there are areas of your life you want to improve, you must begin by changing what you tell yourself. Your self-talk changes your thoughts. Nothing in your life changes until your thoughts change. There various flawed

strategies which people employ instead of striving to say the right words to themselves. For example, waiting for conditions to improve leaves you waiting a long time. Rather than passively waiting for things to change, you have to make things change.

Hoping for circumstances to change is also ineffective. Although there is nothing wrong

with hope, it must be combined with action in order to have a positive impact.

control the actions of others, you do control your thoughts, emotions, and responses.

Doing the same things over and over, while expecting a different result, is one definition of insanity. In order to alter your results, you must change what you are doing. Remember, there is always a cause-and-effect re-What you say to yourself is just lationship between what you do,

Don't justify negative self-talk as being realistic. This is anoththeir self-talk has on their own er excuse. While you are figuring out reasons for not succeeding, others are doing exactly what you claim is unrealistic.

You can make self-talk a powerful, positive tool which propels you towards your goals. Here are some steps to guide you through this process. Begin with a constant awareness of the words you use when speaking to yourself. Each negative word must be replaced with a positive one.

You want a zero-tolerance polthings. You find fault with your- icy for negative self-talk. There self. You put yourself down. You is no room for any discouraging words. Each negative word, You focus on what you feel you or phrase, has a corresponding positive one. You must fill your mind with positive instructions.

> Use the same approach which works when taking a vacation. Start by selecting a destination. Next, figure out how to get there. The way you accomplish any goal is to start with positive self-talk. You tell yourself all of the reasons you can, should, and will succeed. You tell yourself all of the benefits of reaching your goal. You tell yourself how you will feel once you have arrived at your destination.

> Clearly, the words used when speaking to yourself matter. They are the difference between success and failure. They lead to happiness or produce frustration. Since you have total control over which words you use, choose only words which lead to positive outcomes.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Blaming others for your situ- Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com ation puts your fate in someone or visit www.DareToLiveWithelse's hands. You are responsible outLimits.com Copyright 2024 for your life. Although you can't Bryan Golden

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 - **5**

Patrick Pioneers

Judith Turner Nolen

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Judith Ann Elizabeth Turner was born on the 22nd of March 1857 to Jefferson Turner and Susan Shortt of Floyd County. Jefferson and Susan had four children, John Francis, born in 1850, William Richard, born in 1854, Judith Ann, and Sarah Rebecca, born in 1861. Sadly, William Richard and Sarah Rebecca each only lived one year.

War came to the mountains and Jefferson enlisted with the 54th Virginia Infantry, Company H on October 1st, 1861. In early 1862, he was listed as sick at Prestonsburg, Kentucky and Jefferson succumbed to pneumonia in Abingdon on the 2nd of April 1862. Susan loaded up the wagon, went to Abingdon, and brought her husband's body back to Shooting Creek where 32-year-old Jefferson Turner was buried at the Samuel P. Rakes Cemetery.

My grandmother had saved a newspaper clipping about Judith's 100th birthday celebration in 1957 and thankfully, Mama had kept all her clippings. Judith recalled what life was like after losing her father at the tender age of five years old, "I was too young to work in the fields, so I stayed in the house doing the cooking and housework. Even when I wasn't cooking, I kept a fire going in the cookstove. The smoke warned raiders that the house was occupied. When raiders did come in, I hid under the floorboards of the house."

On September 5th, 1872, 15-yearold Judith married Isaac Alexander Nolen, a schoolteacher and Confederate veteran. Isaac had fought with the 51st Virginia Infantry and was 17 years older than his new bride. Judith recounted the events of her wedding day, "I was married at home in a white polonaise style dress which was very stylish in that day. I wore a wreath of orange blossoms in my hair."

According to Google, "1870s and 1880s 'polonaise' dresses were bustle dresses with the bodice and bustling overskirt cut in one, and the bustling overskirt opening over the (often contrasting) underskirt in a V, inspired by 18th century dresses which opened over petticoats.'

After the wedding ceremony, the newlyweds and their attendants, six bridesmaids and six ushers, rode horseback from her home in Shooting Creek to his parent's home in Elamsville, where a large reception was held. Judith stated that, "the roads were so rough that to travel by buggy was too dangerous."

Judith and Isaac's first child, Lillie Alice was born the following year in 1873, followed by Samuel Kemper in 1875, Isaac Edward in 1877, Susanna Mae in 1879, Minnie in 1881, Nannie in 1883, Charles Jefferson in 1885, Posey Lester in 1888, George Ross in 1891, and John Abe Nolen in 1893.

Judith and Isaac's daughter, Susanna Mae married Thomas Jefferson Turner and their daughter, Bertie Lou Turner Ingram shared many memories of her beloved grandmother, Judith Turner Nolen. The following are Bertie's words, "Grandma made her own yarns and dyed them, then cut and made garments for her family. She had ten children, four girls and six boys. She spun and wove the materials for suits for her husband as well as the children, made carpets and rugs from worn out clothing, and used bolting silk to dress up her living room mantle, center table and wherever linen were used. This bolting silk came from grandpa's mill and was made into yoyos, alternating pink and natural or white. Her scatter rugs protected the woven hit-ormiss carpet that covered the living room or "parlor". These scatter rugs were made from burlap bags which were washed, hemmed, and covered



Judith Ann Turner Nolen, from Sheila and George Turner.

with bright woolen flowers cut on the bias and the edges fringed. They looked very pretty and protected the carpet as well. The dye that was used was made from roots, bark, leaves, walnut hulls, onion skins, fruits, and berries. Necessity being the motivating force, there was no end to the variety of products to tempt the imagination and many different colors were produced by re-dying a different shade over the first color. Blue resulted from the use of horsebrier and when used over the brown made with walnut shells, a black resulted. The dye had to be extracted first by boiling in a large vessel of water, strained and a mordant was used to set the color; salt, alum, oak balls, and copper were the most used and those who were fortunate to have materials so dyed can be assured that loving hands gave of their best and many of such is finding its way into museums where they will be heirlooms for future descendants, preserved and admired for ages to come."



and Judith Turner Nolen granddaughter Onie Rakes, from Sheila and George Turner.

One of the first modern conveniences that Judith got was a sewing machine, the only one in the community. Girls from miles around brought their best dresses to her to be "machine stitched." Judith was a fine horsewoman and loved high spirited horses; she recalled riding 15 miles many times with a baby in her lap.

Alexander Nolen passed Isaac away in 1923 at the age of 82. Judith remained independent and on her own until her 99th year, when she moved in with her daughter, Susanna. Judith continued to take great pleasure tending to her chickens, rabbits, and her dog and in her 100th year, she cut and sewed a dress for herself. Judith lived until the 25th of September 1960, passing away at 103 years old.

Thank you so much to George and Sheila Turner for their assistance in this story. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

Social Security Matters

arm of the Association of Mature American Cit-

Ask Rusty - Future Retiree Worried reduced. About Social Security's Future

will only be able to pay out 75% of benefits come have not begun to collect have their future ben- not yet known. That uncertainty, itself, is reaefits reduced? I will be collecting my benefits no later than 2027 but my wife will not reach full retirement age until 2033 and we are looking for information on whether we need to adjust savings now to account for mine or my wife's possible reduction in benefits. Signed: Worried Senior

Dear Worried Senior: If Congress does nothing to prevent Social Security's reserves from depletion, Social Security – by law - will only be able to pay out benefits equal to income, which is estimated to be about 23% to 25% short of what will be needed to pay full benefits starting posing sides will likely just sling accusations at org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email

were previously receiving. And without reform, new beneficiaries would get benefits similarly

The action needed to prevent those cuts from Dear Rusty: I keep reading that the SSA happening resides with Congress, and any program reform they enact would likely only af-2033. If congress were to do nothing and this fect those who are not yet collecting. Whether already collecting benefits in 2033 have their future SS beneficiaries depends on the scope of goal. Also, calling your Congressional Represenson enough to bolster your savings for your future retirement.

The probability of Congress allowing the Trust Funds to be depleted, thus necessitating an guidance. It presents the opinions and interpreacross the board cut in everyone's benefit is, in my opinion, slim (it would be political suicide). Congress already knows how to fix Social Security's financial woes – they just currently lack the bipartisanship and political fortitude to do so. And it's doubtful any Social Security reform tion or any other governmental entity. To submit will happen this election year - rather, the opin 2033. That would mean everyone who is aleach other in 2024. But rest assured that both us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

By Russell Gloor, National Social Security ready receiving monthly Social Security benefits sides of Congress are acutely aware that reform Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit would get a payment 23% to 25% less than they of the Social Security program is needed soon, and we are already seeing signs that progress on reform may be forthcoming (but not until after the 2024 elections).

Congress is notorious for waiting until the last possible moment to act, and I don't suggest you alter your Social Security claiming strategy based on the unknown. But building a bigreduction in benefits occurred, would seniors or how that would affect you and your wife as ger nest egg for retirement is always a prudent benefits reduced or would it only be those who reform Congress will enact which, of course, is tative to endorse needed Social Security reform which ensures your future benefits will not be cut would be a good move.

> This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial tations 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 Administraa question, visit our website (amacfoundation.

harcoal: It's not only for the

Did you know that one of the best causes and severities) safeguards you'd have in a poisoning situation is charcoal? It may sound quacky, but it has been proven time and time again. In fact, if you were to bring someone who was poisoned to the hospital, chances are high that they would administer some form of charcoal. It may sound strange, but it works. While the Native Americans were known to use charcoal medicinally, a French professor named Touery was the first to prove charcoal's protective effects. In 1831, he famously ingested 10 times the lethal dose of strychnine in front of the French Academy of Medicine. He survived by mixing the poison with charcoal. That's powerful stuff! If charcoal can protect you from strychnine, what else can it do?

Well, over the last hundred years, the use of charcoal as a medicine has been gaining a lot of momentum. Besides cases of poisoning, people have used it to treat hundreds of different ailments. Depending on the situation, charcoal can be taken internally

or applied externally as a poultice or with gauze. A short list of charcoal's

greater than 500 m 2. That equates to 5382 square feet—which is larger uses includes the treatment of: Poisoning (of many different than most people's houses! That's a

- · nausea vomiting
- diarrhea
- intestinal gasses chest or head colds
- neonatal jaundice
- · inflammation
- · insect bites or stings snakebites
- and poison ivy.

From the Barbecue?

Now, before you think, "Great, I already have some of that in the garage." The charcoal used for medicine or consumption is called 'activated charcoal'. It is different from the standard charcoal people use to grill—although it is made from the same stuff, activated charcoal is specially processed for medicinal use.

Essentially, manufacturers heat common charcoal and expose it to oxygen. This process causes the charcoal to develop countless tiny pores (holes). These pores cause the surface area of the charcoal to increase dramatically. In fact, a gram of activated

charcoal tends to have a surface area

lot of surface area for a small spoonful of black powder.

The deceptively large surface area

is what makes activated charcoal so effective. Charcoal works because it is great at adsorbing various toxins (different from absorb, adsorb means to "chemically attach"). Because it has such a large surface area, charcoal has no shortage of bonding points.

When taken internally, charcoal traps toxins and thereby prevents the body from absorbing them. Then, the charcoal simply makes its way through the digestive system and exits, taking the toxins with it. Charcoal doesn't absorb every kind of substance, but it does work for a long list. Charcoal in Action

effective.

I can personally attest to the effectiveness of charcoal in several of these applications. But I'll admit it, the first time I heard about it I was very skeptical—both of its effectiveness and the fact that I would effec-

tively be putting ash in my mouth. It probably didn't help that it wasn't the first... odd... health remedy that my parents had told me about. How-

ever, it is definitely one of the most

could clearly see and feel the results of charcoal. A few months ago, about two hours after eating a meal, I began to feel terrible. Really terrible. My stomach began to cramp; I was nauseous and felt like vomiting. I realized that I had gotten some type of food poisoning. It took me several minutes just to

Unlike some other remedies, I

work up the energy to get out of bed. When I did, I took a spoonful of charcoal and lay back down. For the next half hour, I lay in bed, still feeling terrible and praying that the charcoal would help. It did. Two hours later, all of the ill effects of whatever I had caught were gone. An hour later, I left home and went about the remainder of my day as normal. Now do yourself a favor and pick up

some activated charcoal. It's inexpensive and is readily available online and in many stores. It is also available in powdered form, in capsules, and in pellets. Pick some up, you never know when you may need 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)

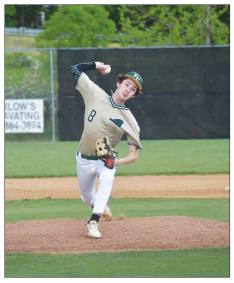
SPORTS

JV Baseball Team **Loses Road Game**

By Ashlee Mullis

The JV Baseball Team suffered their 2nd loss of the season at Carroll County, Tuesday, May 7th. The game was tied 1-1 in the 4th until Carroll scored 3 runs. The Cavaliers went on to take a 7-5 win over the Cougars. David Lawson had 2 hits and 1 RBI, Noah Caine had 1 hit and a run. Lawson went 5 innings on the mound, allowing 3 runs and striking out 2. Greeley Terry threw 1 inning, allowing 0 runs.

On May 10, the Cougars traveled to James River, getting a 12-2 win in a 5-inning run rule game. Will Heath had 3 hits and 2 RBIs. Ethan Errichetti had $2\ hits$ and $2\ RBIs$. Carter Christian Hylton pitches against James River. Gregory had 1 hit and 2 RBIs. Noah Caine, Zack Holt, and Christian Hylton all had 2 hits each. Hylton pitched 4 innings allowing 2 hits, 1 run, and struck out 6. Terry threw for



1 inning, allowing 1 run and striking

The Cougars are 14-2 in the season heading into the last week of play.

Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis

Lady Cougar Softball Splits

The Lady Cougars lost 2-1 in 8 innings on the road at Carroll County, Tuesday, May 7. McKenzie Holt went the distance in the circle with 13 strikeouts and 0 earned runs. Journey Moore hit her 7th home run of the year and reached base 3 times. Lauren Fulcher had 2 hits. Maria Turner and Holt each had a hit for the Cougars. Holt also hit, scoring pinch runner, Holt.

reached a milestone pitching her 300th high school career strikeout. Friday, May 10th, the Lady Cougars beat James River in an 11 inning Senior Night thriller, 10 to 9. Moore pitched all 11 innings, striking out 13. Lauren Hazelwood led the way with 3 hits for the Cougars. Fulcher and Hayden Lawless had 2 hits each. Turner, Moore. Aubreigh Large, and Lilly Hazelwood had a hit each. Bryley Pike had a walkoff

P&HCC Softball Team earns bid to NJCAA

Softball World Series

Patrick & Henry Community College's Lady Pats softball team is heading to Chattanooga, Tennessee to participate in the NJCAA DIII Softball team defeated Caldwell Community College 4-0 to win the Region 10 Championship and then defeated Owens Community College 13-2 to win the Appalachian District Championship and receive the automatic bid to play in the NJCAA National Softball Championship Tournament.

Patrick & Henry Community College softball played its inaugural season in 2009. This district championship secures the Lady Pats' first trip to the national tournament in the program's history.

Please support the Lady Pats by donating now to help cover their travel

expenses. Your tax-deductible gift will help offset the costs of transportation, hotels, and food while in Tennessee.

To donate, visit 2024 Patrick & World Series from May 22-25. The Henry Community College Softball National Championship Challenge at https://ets.rocks/3ymQLDM and click donate now. You may also email bhenderson@patrickhenry.edu.

> "Because state policy designates college spending for academics rather than athletics, resources for activities such as the world series must be secured via donations," said P&HCC Assistant Vice President Brian Henderson, adding, "Please feel free to share the link with anyone you know who may be interested in supporting our softball team. We sincerely appreciate any amount you can give to support these dedicated athletes."

Brad Keselowski breaks 110-race drought with dramatic Darlington win

By Reid Spencer

NASCAR Wire Service

A combination of stubbornness and patience paid off handsomely for Brad Keselowski on Sunday at Darlington Raceway, where the driver of the No. 6 Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing Ford ended a 110-race winless streak with victory in the Goodyear 400.

Keselowski's triumph, which came at the expense of hard-luck teammate Chris Buescher and pole winner Tyler Reddick, gave the Ford Dark Horse Mustang its first NASCAR Cup Series victory this season in 13 races and led to a heated exchange between Beuscher and Reddick on pit road after the fact.

It was also Keselowski's first win as a principal in RFK Racing, his second at Darlington and the 36th of his ca-

'What a heck of a day," exulted Keselowski, who finished 1.214 seconds ahead of runner-up Ty Gibbs. "It's Darlington, so whether it's your first win, your last win, this is a really special track. The history of NASCAR, it's as tough as it gets, and that battle at the end with my teammate and Tyler Reddick, we just laid it all out on the line, it was freaking awesome.

"I thought it couldn't get much better than Kansas. It did today. That was awesome. I'm so glad you guys got to see that (addressed to the fans). That was incredible. Thanks for being here."

Keselowski was stubborn in the way he raced Reddick after the final restart on Lap 261 of 293, aggressively staying beside the No. 45 Toyota and running him up the track in Turn

For four straight laps, Keselowski and Reddick battled side-by-side, allowing Buescher to slip past into the lead at the start/finish line on Lap 264. Reddick cleared Keselowski shortly thereafter and took off in pursuit of Buescher

That's when Keselowski exercised patience as stayed within striking distance, waiting for the drama that

unfolded ahead of him.

On Lap 284, Reddick's ill-timed bid for the lead went awry, and his No. 45 Camry slid up the track into Buescher's Ford, pinning it against the outside wall in Turn 4. Both cars were damaged and unable to maintain pace, and Keselowski charged

into the lead on Lap 285. Buescher, still smarting from last week's loss to Kyle Larson at Kansas in the closest finish in Cup Series



Brad Keselowski, driver of the #6 Castrol Ford, celebrates with the American flag after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway on May 12, 2024 in Darlington, South Carolina. (Photo by James Gilbert/Getty Images)

history (0.001 seconds), confronted Reddick on pit road after the drivers climbed from their cars.

We got wrecked," Buescher said later. "That one's clear as day. Don't need any cameras to tell us. I don't know what to say. We've raced really clean through the years, tried to be really respectful about it, and we get used up.

"It (Reddick's move) is just something that you know is not going to work. I'm just really pissed off about it right now. We certainly had a chance to win another one. I'm proud to have that speed. Just huge congratulations to Brad and the 6 bunch on their win. That's awesome, but I wanted it for our group right here."

Reddick took responsibility for the incident and punctuated his conversation with Buescher with the words "I know. I (screwed) up—I'm sorry."

Reddick elaborated after he and Buescher separated. "I completely understand where he

is coming from," Reddick said. "He was running the top, running his own race, running his own line to keep me at bay. I made a really aggressive move and was hoping I was going to clear him. When I realized I wasn't going to, I tried to check up to not wouldn't have done that.

slide up into him, but, yeah, I wish I "I completely understand why he is that mad. He did nothing wrong. Just trying to win the race, and to take 293.11. (9) myself out—that's one thing—I can

All but lost in the late-race drama

live with that, but just disappointed it played out the way that it did, and I took him out of the race as well.

was Gibbs' career-best second-place finish. The driver of the No. 54 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota also finished second in Stage 1 and third in Stage 2 behind respective stage winners Kyle Larson and Reddick.

Josh Berry finished third in his No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford, followed by Denny Hamlin and Chase Briscoe. William Byron, Bubba Wallace, Alex Bowman, Justin Haley and Michael McDowell completed the top 10.

Hamlin led one lap during a cycle of green-flag pit stops in the final stage, extending his streak of consecutive races with at least one lap led to 17.

Larson (34th on Sunday after a laterace crash) leads the series standings by 30 points over Martin Truex Jr., who finished 25th after suffering alternator issues. NASCAR Cup Series Race - Good-

year 400 Darlington Raceway

Darlington, South Carolina Sunday, May 12, 2024

1. (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 293.

2. (4) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 293

3. (33) Josh Berry #, Ford, 293.

4. (7) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 293. 5. (13) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 293.

6. (5) William Byron, Chevrolet, 293. 7. (8) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 293.

Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 8. (18) 9. (28) Justin Haley, Ford, 293.

10. (16) Michael McDowell, Ford,

293. Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 12. (31)

293. 13. (12) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 45,6,54,22,5,24,17,11,23,1

Ross Chastain, Chevrolet,

14. (36) Noah Gragson, Ford, 293.

15. (15) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 293.

16. (24) Corey LaJoie, Chevrolet, 293. 17. (26) Ryan Preece, Ford, 293.

18. (34) Kaz Grala #, Ford, 293.

19. (30) Erik Jones, Toyota, 293.

20. (25) Austin Cindric, Ford, 293. 21. (14) Joey Logano, Ford, 293.

22. (35) Harrison Burton, Ford,

23. (20) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 293.

24. (19) Daniel Suarez, Chevrolet,

(10) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota,

26. (21) Carson Hocevar #, Chev-

rolet, 293. 27. (11) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 293.

28. (23) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 293.

29. (32) Derek Kraus, Chevrolet, 292. 30. (3) Chris Buescher, Ford, 291.

31. (22) John Hunter Nemechek,

Toyota, 291. 32. (1) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 291.

33. (29) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 290.

34. (6) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, Accident, 252.

35. (27) Zane Smith #, Chevrolet, Accident, 161. 36. (17) Ryan Blaney, Ford, DVP,

Average Speed of Race Winner:

124.75 mph. Time of Race: 3 Hrs, 12 Mins, 30

Secs. Margin of Victory: 1.214 Seconds. Caution Flags: 6 for 38 laps.

Lead Changes: 16 among 10 driv-Lap Leaders: T. Reddick 1-37;B.

Wallace 38-43; R. Blaney 44; T. Gibbs 45-78;K. Larson 79-93;B. Keselowski 94;T. Reddick 95-225;B. Keselowski 226-237; W. Byron 238-239; D. Hamlin 240;C. Hocevar # 241-242;B. Keselowski 243-256;T. Reddick 257-261;B. Keselowski 262;T. Reddick 263;C. Buescher 264-284; B. Keselowski 285-293.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Lead, Laps Led): Tyler Reddick 4 times for 174 laps; Brad Keselowski 5 times for 37 laps; Ty Gibbs 1 time for 34 laps; Chris Buescher 1 time for 21 laps; Kyle Larson 1 time for 15 laps; Bubba Wallace 1 time for 6 laps; William Byron 1 time for 2 laps; Carson Hocevar # 1 time for 2 laps; Denny Hamlin 1 time for 1 lap; Ryan Blaney 1 time for 1 lap.

Ten: Stage Top

5,54,6,45,19,38,17,12,24,23 Top #2

Stage

Ten:

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 - **7**

Critz Resident Earns **Doctoral Degree from** Vanderbilt University

CRITZ, VA. Raven van den Bosch of Critz graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee on Friday, May 10, 2024 with a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree. Combining both research and application, van den Bosch earned her doctorate degree in Leadership and Learning in Organizations (LLO), which leverages educational leadership skills in both educational institutions and a broad range of business settings.

In addition to her degree, van den Bosch was recognized by Vanderbilt University as a First-Generation College Student in Vanderbilt's Intersectionality Ceremony honoring first-generation college graduates. The honorary white and gold Intersectionality stole was placed on her shoulders by her youngest son, United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Joshua L. Donovan, of Vernon Hill, Virginia.

In 2021, van den Bosch was one of 40 professionals from across the United States selected for Vanderbilt's top ranked LLO program. She studied subjects such as data science, applied statistics, research design, public policy and administration, economics of human resources, organizational theory, leadership theory, psychological perspectives in business, and more.

In van den Bosch's dissertation, titled "Organizational Evolution and Capacity Building: Membership Recruitment, Retention, and Diversification in a Professional Membership Nonprofit Organization," she partnered with the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) to help increase membership and membership diversity in the organization. She researched professional membership organizations, designed a conceptual framework, and collected and analyzed and extensive set of data. Her findings from the data gave her solid recommendations for OWAA to strategically increase their membership and membership diversity before their 100th anniversary in

A lifelong learner, van den Bosch New York University (NYU) in New York, New York with a Master of Science in Professional Writing. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design and Illustration from Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina. van den Bosch also graduated from Hope Ministry Institute in Apex, North Carolina with a certificate in Pastoral Ministry with a concentration in Pastoral Care and served as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Henry and Patrick County and City of Martinsville, Virginia.



van den Bosch's career spans thirty years as an award-winning creative director for advertising agencies in the Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill area. In North Carolina, van den Bosch also worked in elementary education, teaching media and technology. She designed a technology-based science curriculum that led to the highest end-of-year science scores in the history of the school, and started a successful writing club in another school pairing younger students with 5th-graders as peer-mentors.

van den Bosch moved to Critz a decade ago and works remotely for a Fortune 5 company while serving as a consultant to guide new business start-ups and editing award-winning novels for new writers. Since 2021, van den Bosch is also a judge for NYU's School of Marketing Masters Capstone Projects, as well as a marketing mentor for NYU masters students.

An active researcher, writer, and photographer, van den Bosch's studies span the breadth of her life science interests as a conservationist, wildlife management advocate, geologist, and horticulturist. Her studies also include social science matters such as domestic violence, child abuse, generational bigotry, and both childhood and corporate bullying. van den Bosch's writings are published both under her name and several pseudonyms.

With her doctoral degree from is a Dean's Scholar Graduate from Vanderbilt, van den Bosch says, "I am humbled to be a graduate of such an esteemed program. I studied under some of the most brilliant researchers in the world and the skills I've learned are already invaluable assets to the established businesses and new businesses I coach and mentor.'

> van den Bosch is the daughter of Larry and Karen DuFour of Stuart, Virginia, and the mother of two sons, Samuel van den Bosch of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Joshua Donovan of Vernon Hill, Virgin-

FTC report shows increase in fraud

ponentially over the last five years. A recent report from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), found that reported fraud losses topped \$10 billion in 2023, up from \$2.4 billion in 2019. A recent survey from the AARP Fraud Watch Network showed that this growth is not going unnoticed with 58% of people worried about fraud.

The survey also showed many people have lost money or personal data due to scams and fraud. Overall, 42% of people reported losing money, but among African Americans (56%) and veterans (50%) ey. Unfortunately, less than half aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

Theft through fraud has risen ex- (46%) of those who were victims of fraud shared their experience with friends and family.

Having money or sensitive data stolen from a fraud criminal can be a traumatizing experience and all too often victims want to keep that trauma private. However, it's often more harmful and isolating because victims end up suffering in silence. It is also a missed opportunity to protect friends and family by sharing an important story that could help keep them safe.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP significantly more people lost mon- Fraud Watch Network at www.

DMV Select in Stuart to close for training

The Stuart DMV Select will be CLOSED on Thursday and Friday, May 23 - May 24, for training.



Boone Honors Program (BHP) seniors were recognized during the annual BHP banquet held April 21. Pictured left to right is BHP Director Lana Whited, Ryan Gobble, Madison Cline, Emily Arrington, Aubrey Billings, Sarah Crawford, Reagan Lawson, and BHP Assistant Director Ed Hally. Not pictured are fall 2023 graduates Nathan Girardi and Daphne James.

Lawson recognized at banquet

A student from Claudville was Ferrum College President Dr. Jerat the annual Boone Honors Banquet held at Ferrum College.

Reagan Lawson, of Claudville, was among the eight graduating seniors of the Boone Honors Program honored. Reagan will receive a B.S., Political Science and B.S.W., Social Work,

The Boone Honors Program was established in 2001 under the direction of Dr. David Homeland named and endowed in honor of former

among those recognized last month ry Boone and Mrs. Shirley Boone. Program members complete five honors designated seminars, twelve hours of enrichment projects, and language study through the intermediate level. Many receive a travel scholarship for study abroad. At Commencement, students completing all requirements are presented the Boone Honors Medallion.

> The program will have eight students who graduated on Saturday, May 4.

More than \$22 million offered to help farmers

An estimated \$22.3 million is available to community-based and nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and Tribal entities that help underserved and veteran farmers and ranchers own and operate successful farms. Funding is made through USDA's 2501 Program. This program is administered by USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE).

"2501 Program partners are based in local communities and rural areas where they serve a critical role in maximizing USDA's outreach efforts to underserved communities," said OPPE Director Lisa Ramírez. "They provide training and technical assistance to help these agricultural producers succeed and also connect them to USDA programs and ser-

For more than 30 years, and in partnership with organizations nationwide, the 2501 Program has helped reach underserved farmers and ranchers. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded the program to include EDT

assistance to veteran farmers and ranchers. The 2018 Farm Bill increased mandatory funding for the program through fiscal year 2024. With 2501 funding, organizations conduct education, training, farming demonstrations, and conferences on farming and agribusiness.

Since 2010, the 2501 Program has continued to increase access to US-DA's programs and services and has awarded 615 grants totaling more than \$194 million.

Eligible applicants include notfor-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and a range of higher education institutions.

Applications must be submitted through grants.gov and received by Friday, July 5, 2024. Visit the 2501 Program page for more information on the 2501 funding opportunity.

Learn more through upcoming we-

Session 1: May 22, 2024, at 2 p.m.

Session 2: June 26, 2024, at 2 p.m.

National competition doubles top prize for innovative rural entrepreneurs

pushes the boundaries for what's possible in agriculture and farming.

That's the mission behind the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Ag Innovation Challenge, a business competition that showcases innovative agricultural entrepreneurs who address issues facing America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

AFBF, in partnership with Farm Credit, is seeking online applications for the competition through June 15. The Farm Bureau will award a total of \$145,000 in startup funds throughout the course of the competition.

Now in its 11th year, the contest identifies top rural entrepreneurs and startups that tackle both traditional and new challenges, including access to labor; optimizing yields; reducing operating costs; and supporting farmers and their communities.

The overall winner will receive \$100,000 to fund their businessdouble the prize amount from last year. One runner-up will be awarded \$25,000, and two additional business owners who advance to the final round will receive \$10,000.

"The decision to double the prize comes from the realization that ev-

eryday entrepreneurs are working to

address the challenges facing the agri-

culture sector," said Chase Heineman,

director of industry affairs for AFBF.

Innovation drives progress and "Farm Bureau wants to ensure they have the resources to continue that great work, and so by doubling the prize money, AFBF hopes to double the impact."

> Last year's winner manufactured autonomous robots that support small and midsize farms by assisting in planting, soil sampling, weed control and spraying. And the runner-up from last year developed a new autonomous system that improves sanitation and enhances milk flow as dairy cattle are milked.

After the application period closes, 10 semifinalist teams will be selected and announced on Sept. 3. The 10 teams will pitch virtually to compete for a spot in the final round of the contest. The final four teams will be awarded \$10,000 each and will compete live in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives at the AFBF Annual Convention in January 2025 in San Antonio, Texas.

Entrepreneurs must be Farm Bureau members to qualify as top 10 semifinalists. Applicants who are not Virginia Farm Bureau members can join. Visit vafb.com/membership-at-work/membership/join-now to learn about becoming a member.

Interested applicants can view eligibility guidelines and the competition timeline at fb.org/challenge.

OBITUARIES

Brady Leon Walker II

Brady Leon Walker II, age 62, of Ararat, Virginia, passed away Sunday, May 12, 2024, at his residence. Brady was born in Mount Airy, North Carolina, on August 27, 1961, to the late Brady Leon Walker I and Mary Lee Epperson. He was a loving husband, father, and friend, he will Ray Vaughn. Left to kinson;



surely be missed by the cherish Brady's memomany that were bless- ries are his loving wife ed to have known him. of the home, Beverly Brady was well-known Walker; his mother, for his true passion in Mary Lee Epperson the 1960's era of cars, King; daughter, Ricky deep passion for El- Lee McAdams; sons,

Clay Atkinson; sister Harriet Black, Patricia Ann Puckett, and her children; brother and sister-in-law, Randy Lee Montgomery and Annette Montgomery; nieces and spouse, Heather Montgomery, Jessica Gibson and Scott; many great nieces and nephews. Brady was preceded in death by his father, Brady Leon Walker I. A celebration of Brady's life will be held at a later date. Moody's of Mount Airy is respectfully serving the Walker family. Online convis Presley, Michael Carl Daniel Atkinson, dolences may be made Jackson, and Stevie Wesley Alexander At- at www.moodyfuneralgrandchild, services.com.

Elizabeth "Dianne" Bledsoe

Mrs. Elizabeth "Dianne" Bledsoe, age 67 of Claudville, Virginia passed away on Friday, May 10, 2024, at her home. She was born in Surry County, North Carolina on June 29, 1956, to the late Rayfus Moore and Demmie Woodruff Pruitt. In addition to parents, she was preceded in death by one son, Jamie Hall; Austin Hayden (Abby) stepfather, Bob Pruitt; of Patrick Springs, stepbrother, Ray Pruitt; and a special

friend, Patsy Slate.



emy Puckett of Ararat; three grandchildren, Hannah Martin of Claudville, and Emily Bowman (Carson Mrs. Bledsoe is sur- Faulkner) of Claudvived by one daughter, ville; one great-grand-Sherry Hall of Claud- child, Luke Hayden; www.moodyfuneralsville; Son-In-Law, Jer- one brother, Bryant ervices.com.

Pruitt (Kristen); and lifelong friend, Michael Hall.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in Old Mayo Mountain Cemetery with Pastor Chad Harrison officiating. Memorial donations can be sent directly to the family, 11118 Ararat Highway, Claudville, VA 24076. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting

Waylon Strother; ma-

Ruby Jane Mankins

with her loving fam- Hunter ily by her side. Mrs. Reagan Barnard Montgomery. She was a loving wife, will be deeply missed by all that knew her. She enjoyed working her flowers, as long as she was able, and friends. Left to cherish Mrs. Mankins memo-Mankins and Rickie Jones; son and daughter-in-law,

Jane gela Mankins, Jeffrey Floyd Mankins was born Elli Mankins, Kash Family Mankins, mother, grandmother, Mankins, and Holston family and friend to many, she Mankins; sister and friends grandchildren Ernest Mankins; sistheir spouses, ter, Dorothy liner, Ronald and An- Folger Montgomery,

Montgomery, Mankins, age 90, of Ar- and Nancy Mankins, Roosevelt Montgomarat, Virginia, passed Kevin and Heath- ery, Acie Montgomery, away early Monday er Puckett, Andrew Winfred Montgomery. morning at Northern and Alexis Mankins; Funeral services will Hospital, great-grandchildren, be held Thursday, May Mankins, 16, 2024, at 1 PM at Ep-Mankins, person-Smith-Young Cemetery April 20, 1934, to Puckett, Nick Lublin- in Ararat, Virginia, the late Hie Madison er, Lincoln Puckett, with speakers Don-Montgomery and Sallie Harper Mankins, Jax- na Mankins, Ronnie son Mankins, Aryel Mankins, and Rodney Jeremiah Boyd officiating. The will receive Wednesday, brother-in-law, Max- May 15, 2024, from ine and Haywood King; 6:00 to 8:00 PM at brothers and sister-in- Moody Funeral Home law, Barnard and Love in Mount Airy. Flowers Montgomery, Franklin will be accepted, or megetting her hair fixed Montgomery, several morial contributions and socializing with nieces and nephews; may be made to Epspecial friend, Jeannie person-Smith-Young Harrell, and special Family Cemetery, c/o ries include, daughter caregiver, Margaret Donna Mankins 3028 and son-in-law, Donna Bowman. In addition Raven Rock Road, Arto her parents, Mrs. arat, Virginia, 24053. Mankins was preceded Moody's of Mount Airy Ronnie in death by her loving is respectfully serving and Fonda Mankins; husband of 45 years, the Mankins family. Online condolences "Aunt may be made at www. Denise Puckett Lub- Dot" Noah; brothers, moodyfuneralservices.

Mrs. Lindsey Faith Harris Holt, age 23 of Stuart, Virginia passed away Thursday, May 9, 2024. She was born in Galax, Virginia on March 7, 2001. She was preceded in death by her beloved grandmother, Elizabeth Annette Wood. Lindsey had worked very hard and recently earned her insurance license. She will be remembered for her caring, helpful nature and how she enjoyed searching for 'salvaged' treasures and repurposing many those treasures. Above all she loved being a mom to her sweet little boys, a wonderful wife, a caring daughter, a devoted sister, and an adoring aunt, she loved her family with everything she

memories of Lindsey



Lindsey Faith Harris Holt

Holt, of the home; her father and stepmother, David Harris (Crystal) of Meadows of Dan; her mother, Rebecca Sue Funk (fiancé Danny Lineberry) of Fries; six Mountain View Unitsiblings, Amber Bob- ed Church Cemetery. bitt (Justin) of Fancy Visitation will be held Gap, Emily Vernon one hour prior to the (Shane) of Woolwine, services on Monday Christina (Kevin) of Meadows al home. Flowers will of Dan, Bailey Bolt be accepted, or meof Meadows of Dan, morial donations may Matthew Bolt (Heath- be made for the care Left to cherish the er) of Floyd, and Tom- of her boys, c/o Emily my Bolt of Willis; two Vernon, 374 Turkey are her husband, Bai- nieces, Jacy Bobbitt Ridge Lane, Stuart, ley Holt of the home; and Jada Bobbit; four VA 24171. Online conher two beloved sons, nephews, Jacob Bob- dolences may be sent Oliver Lawrence Holt bitt, Jaxon Bobbitt, by visiting www.mooand Luka Augustus Lemuel Strother, and dyfuneralservices.com.

ternal grandparents, Curtis Funk and Sue Funk of Fries; paternal grandfather, Gerald Wright; two uncles, Steve Harris of Lexington, NC and Ronald Harris (Annpaige) of Galax; several cousins, dear friends, and favorite dog, Chiweenie. A celebration of life service for Lindsey will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Kenneth Terry officiating. Burial will immediately follow in Strother morning at the funer-

Groundcover options abound, but home gardeners are urged to choose wisely

shore up slopes, serve as lawn alternatives animals into natural areas. or beautify landscapes presents both ecological rewards and potential pitfalls.

Groundcovers can cool the ground, retain moisture, and reduce soil compaction and erosion, while filtering and slowing rain runoff. And an appropriate groundcover will reduce yard maintenance as a "green mulch," said Elaine Mills, a Master Gardener in Northern Virginia.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners encourage Virginians to choose and climates. Not only can they add beauty and interest through the seasons, but they also double as a critical resource for wild-

However, non-native groundcovers designated as invasive in Virginia, including English ivy and periwinkle, are widely available to consumers. They can escape

Planting groundcovers to fill bare spots, cultivation as seeds are carried by wind or

"There, they can invade the understory of forests, spreading further by rampant vegetative growth and producing a dense monoculture that suppresses native herbaceous plants," Mills cautioned.

But native options abound at garden centers. Thriving in sun, shade or both, groundcovers can be herbaceous or woody, flowery or grassy. They may grow in clumps, mounds, carpets or mats.

"The choice of an evergreen, woody perennative groundcovers suited to local soils nial or herbaceous groundcover depends on your preference and scale of the landscape," said Alex Niemiera, a professor at the Virginia Tech School of Plant and Environmental Sciences.

> paths, draping over walls or filling in hot, dry curbsides called "hell strips" where other plants can't grow, Mills said.

And if the function of a groundcov- lia, or Virginia creeper. er is to minimize weed growth, "then the groundcover should be evergreen, and deep and thick enough to deter weed seedling growth," Niemiera added.

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Native perennials for sun include Phlox subulata, or moss phlox; Antennaria plantaginifolia, or plantain-leaved pussytoes; Opuntia humifusa, or eastern prickly pear cactus; Salvia lyrata or lyreleaf sage; and Symphyotrichum oblongifolium, or aromat-

Shade-loving groundcovers include Podophyllum peltatum, or mayapple; Polystichum acrostichoides, or Christmas fern; Asarum, or wild ginger; Viola, or violets; and Solidago caesia, or blue-stemmed gold-

Consider grasses and rushes like Schizachyrium scoparium, or little bluestem; Juncus effusus, or common rush; and Chasmanthium latifolium, or river oats.

Low-growing woody natives include Ju-Some species are ideal for edging garden niperus horizontalis, or creeping juniper; Rhus aromatica, or 'Gro-Low' fragrant sumac; Hypericum prolificum, or shrubby St. John's wort; and Parthenocissus quinquefo-

> Visit bit.ly/3PgDLp5 for a native groundcovers webinar. Read the full story in Virginia Farm Bureau's spring Cultivate magazine at bit.ly/3QuKAUC.



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OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

PATRICK PULPITS

Thank you for being a blessing

By Van Yandell

Philippians 1: 9-11 "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.'

Needing a minor adjustment on my Harley, I rode out to the dealership this morning. After checking into the service department and my bike was being worked on, it seemed worthwhile to look through the riding apparel and equipment.

One can always justify another Harley cap or t-shirt. Of course, it was necessary to look at the new Heritage Classics but my need for another one was questionable.

Milling around trying not to look too conspicuous, a man approached me. The usual conversation began with him asking me "How are you?" Normally I say, "Just peachy, how are you?

But this time was a little different and into the conversation I told him I had a few things on my mind I should give to the Lord so He could solve my dilemmas. Knowing full well Jesus prefers to shoulder our burdens, we sometimes forget to share them with Him.

1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your cares upon him; for he cares for you." We humans in all our prideful ways and thoughts prefer to self-contain our troubles because at times we will not admit our weaknesses.

Always looking for an opportunity to share my faith with another, such a statement would normally have been a "lead-in" to a sharing situation. Not so with this guy. He began to expound upon his relationship with the Lord before I could get my mouth open to say anything.

He began to educate me on the details and specifics of being a child of King Jesus. Perhaps disappointment should have resulted in that he was telling me instead of me telling him. In a short second the decision was made to not interrupt and let him talk until his spirit-filled heart was content.

At a point we determined each was secure in our beliefs. Our conversation then turned to other matters. I asked him his nation of ancestry. By his accent I could tell he was Hispanic.

as a stone mason, tiler and glazer. Ahha! We had another thing in common besides motorcycles: brick and mortar personalities are one of their own.

He stated his wife was waiting for him. They had they been married eighteen years and I said "You probably shouldn't keep her waiting much longer or there may not be another eighteen.'

We laughed and off he started toward the exit. He turned and said, thanks for the conversation. My immediate and spontaneous response was "You have been a blessing to me today; thank you." Will I ever see him again? Not likely but I will remember him for a long time.

When we are a blessing to another,

we are also a blessing to ourselves. Being a retired teacher, I would like to think that a few lives over the years have been touched.

Romans 12: 9-10 "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."

Paul's admonition to us in these verses is not only a suggestion for the other person, it also is directed at our own peace of mind and emotional benefit. To bless someone goes in both directions.

Genesis 37: 4 "When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him." In the story of Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob, we see the results of hatred and speaking harshly to an-

Results of evil speaking never benefit anyone, yet many in our world know no other way to address another. Speech filled with anger and spite is hurtful regardless of the resilience of the other person.

1 Peter 3: 15 "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Some may regard the words "gentleness and respect" as being too soft and some situations require tough language. That could possibly be true, but I have doubts. Severe words fail to convey an attitude of respect for the other person and when respect is lost, effectiveness is diminished.

Most of us will remember a few conversations that were had and, in some cases, exact words that were said. If someone talks to us with bitterness and disrespect, feelings toward that person are forever etched in our minds.

Asking us to forgive another would of course include things they have said to us. Forgiveness is one thing, forgetting is another.

Hopefully, my experience at the Harley dealer will make a statement to all of us, including myself. Would we not prefer someone say to us "You have blessed me. Thank you" than to feel lowly and assaulted by our conversation?

Matthew 11" 29 "Take my voke He told me he was from Puerto Rico upon you, and learn from me, for I but had lived and worked in New am gentle and lowly in heart, and York for thirty years. He had worked you will find rest for your souls." This statement by Jesus should warm our hearts and minds. To set our course for a better day depends on us more than anyone.

Jesus is our greatest teacher. He gave himself as a ransom for our sins and our eternity is by a faith based belief in Him crucified for the remission of sin and resurrected.

We can be our own best friend or our own worst enemy. How we treat others has a tremendous bearing on our own stability.

Look for opportunities to say "You have been a blessing to me today. Thank you."

Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary.

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of 2 Thessalonians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Titus 1. Paul wrote that unto the pure all things are ...? Gold, Righteous, Worthy, Pure

3. What archangel is mentioned by name in the book of Jude? Gabriel, Silas, Michael, Melchizedek

4. In 1 Kings 21, who forbid Naboth to give his vineyard to Ahab? The Lord, Jezebel, Absalom, Balaam

5. Jared was the father of Enoch and lived how many years? 110, 450, 600, 962

6. In Psalm 103:5, what bird's youth is renewable? Dove, Eagle, Raven, Swal-

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Pure, 3) Michael, 4) The Lord, 5) 962, 6) Eagle

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.

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21 Renovates ingredient

23 It's used for outlining designs in embroidery 25 Internet

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28 Grills in stoves 30 Take a stroll 32 Cheerful disposition

34 Carrying of a boat 38 View anew 39 Nonsense

song syllable 40 American bird with all-white plumage 42 "So there!

48 Lawyers: Abbr 49 Dental floss coating

44 Feels unwell

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Puzzle answers page 13



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From the Ararat Ruritan Club



Hunters for Hungry -Perriello, Bryan Young.



Gary Arrington, Ruritan VP Tom President Michael Noonkester and 'his' popcorn popper.



Ruritan's mascot, Rudy Ruritan and the Easter Bunny.

Contributed

The Ararat Ruritan Club has had a tremendous first quarter continuing on into the second quar-

In January, a donation was made to the Blue Ridge Elementary School for second semester school supplies. "As the school year progresses, the students need more supplies, and our club is always happy to help the youngsters in our community," said board member Mary Slate, who also is a teacher at BRES, noted the teachers are appreciative of this gesture. The club will accept donations of school supplies at the July bingo to donate to the school, just in time for the next school year.

In February, the club members assisted with a fundraiser held to help with medical expenses for 18-month old Willow Guynn. This BBQ fundraiser was successful in helping Willow's family to the tune of nearly \$5,000! "It is no secret that our club has the best BBQ in town, and we were honored to be asked to help this family," said Claude Smith, the club's resident cooking king.

During the March meeting, Gary Arrington and Bryan Young presented information on the Virginia Hunter's for the Hungry Program. The Ararat Ruritan Club is pleased to announce a partnership, starting this fall, with this organization. Legally harvested deer in Patrick County can be brought to the club building, as it will be the ONLY collection site in the county. The meat will then be processed and distributed locally to help feed those who are in need.

Speaking of food, the club has also partnered with the Patrick County Disaster Relief Food

Ministry. Members are helping with the distribution on the last Saturday of each month held in the parking lot. Jimmy Willard, who is the founder of this food ministry said, "Members of the community can just pull up, provide general household information, and let us load their vehicle for them. They don't even have to get out of their car."

Pamela Smith, past president, said she is glad to see the formations of these partnerships. "This year, we decided to partner with Dan River Park for a community Easter Egg Hunt, and it was very successful." Noting the club just started the egg hunt back up about three years ago after being absent for the community for a few years, the participation was low at the building. "The park was the perfect place, because we could split the age groups and have lots of room. I think the popcorn was a big hit not only for the kids, but also for the parents/grandparents," continued Smith.

The club voted to assist with purchasing equipment for the spring/summer league baseball teams in the area.

After hearing a very informative spiel from Sally Smith and Debbie Tatum, the club made a donation to their Patrick County Alzheimer's Group organization. Sally said money donated to them goes right back to help folks in Patrick County.

Local Author Tom Perry is scheduled for his series "Tom Talks History" to start back up this month. Sunday, May 19 at 2:00 his topic will be the White Sulphur Springs and how it ties into local history. This series of programs is free to Ruritan Club, you are welcomed to come to one of attend, but donations are accepted to help fund our meetings - 1st Thursdays of each month, 7 scholarships Perry has started in memory of his p.m., at 4711 Ararat Highway.



President Michael Noonkester with Debbie Tatum and Sally

The club will host a breakfast on Saturday, June 1, from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Plates are only \$8 (\$5 for kids) and will include ham, sausage, eggs, gravy, biscuits, apples, pancakes, and a beverage. The club is offering a free meal to local first responders (fire, rescue, and law enforcement) to show our appreciation to them for all they do!

If you would like to know more about the Ararat



Congressional staff to hold office hours

Congressman Morgan Griffith's Ninth Dis-Henry counties on May 22. trict staff will be available in Patrick and

Tired of



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RURAL SERVICES **Commercial Garbage Collection in P.C.** ruralservicesinc.@swva.net

Staff will be in Henry County from 10 -11:30 a.m., in the Henry County Administration Building, Summerlin Room - Board of Supervisors Meeting Chambers, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville.

Staff will visit Patrick County from 12:30 2 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.





MAY MARKET EVENTS

Every Friday 8 am to 12 pm

May 17: Blood Pressure check with The Landmark Center

May 31: Master Gardeners to answer questions.

Great selection of fruits, vegetables, backed items, meats, eggs, plants, craft items.

> Check us out on Facebook for up to date information Stuart Farmers Market



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Please join the Young Democrats of Virgina (ages 13 to 35) to make your voice heard this election year.

Visit our booth at the Stuart Strawberry Festival to meet Sullivan Manley, Southwest Virginia Chair of Virginia Young Democrats, for information and inspiration.

Organizational meeting for Patrick County Young Democrats on Tuesday May 28th, 5:30 pm, at the Patrick County Library in Stuart.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Thursday, May 15

The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

Tuesday, May 21

The Patrick County Planning Commission will hold its regular business meeting at 6 p.m. in the third-floor board room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Events

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.

Thursday, May 16

The Patrick County Republican Committee will meet at 6 p.m. at the Motorsports Hall of Fame Auditorium.

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 place an order, call (276) 930-2113.

The first annual cruise-in and art extravaganza featuring the WHOOTY Award will be held at the Francisco Community Building in Westfield, N.C., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cars, trucks, and motorcycles are all welcome.

High Point Baptist Church invites the community to enjoy a grilled hotdog and the fixings, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will also be adult and children's games. The church is located at 2381 Big A School Rd. Stuart.

The Christian Bowhunters of the Blue Ridge will host a Youth Archery event, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., for ages 6-17 at Sycamore Baptist Church. Bows and arrows are provided, or you can bring your own.

The Blue Ridge 9th Annual Veterans Fishing Event will be held at 902 Rock Castle Gorge Road, Floyd, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Veterans and guests are invited. The event will be held rain or shine.

Monday, May 20

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Budget & Finance Committee will meet at 11:15 a.m. in room 124 of the Frith Economic Development Center.

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Executive Committee will meet at 11:45 a.m. in room 125 of the Frith Economic Development Center.

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall of the Frith Economic Development Center.

Tuesday, May 21- Thursday, May 23

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) will hold a free Dot Hazardous Materials Regulations Awareness Training Workshop from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The class size is 20 students. The deadline to enroll is May 9. Pre-registration is required by emailing FastForward@patrickhenry.edu, or calling (276) 656-0260.

Saturday, May 25

God's Revenge will hold a ride to support David Cassell, a Patrick County local 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.

The Carroll County Genealogy Club and cosponsors Grayson Heritage Foundation and the Grayson County Historical Society will hold a genealogy workshop from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Carroll County Search and Rescue building. Tony Lowe, a local resident and Quaker heritage researcher will speak. Gerald Coad, the Carroll County Clerk of Court, and Kathy Vestal, editor of the book Childress Cousins, will also attend.

Meadows of Dan High School Alumni will hold its annual meeting in the Meadows of Dan Elementary School cafeteria. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with a pot luck dinner at 6 p.m. The business meeting will follow the dinner.

New Hope Church of the Brethren will hold a spaghetti dinner and dessert auction to raise funds for a Guatemala mission trip from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The auction begins at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 27

A Twilight Memorial Day Service will be held at Alice DeHart Park Pavilion in Stuart at 8:30

p.m. The event is presented by American Legion Post #105 and the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard. For more information, call Clyde Thomas at (276) 930-2117, Gary Griffith at (276) 930-2708, or any American Legion or Honor Guard member.

Through 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.

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 Library hosts Story Time with Ms. Sam at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, with books, songs, finger plays, and more. LEGO Club with Ms. Sam is held on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. This program is mainly intended for school age children. For more information, call the library at (276) 694-3352.

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

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

The 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.

The Carroll County Genealogy Club is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Budget updates presented at meeting

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County School Board heard updates on its fiscal year 2023-24 and 2024-25 budgets at its May 9 meeting.

Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the timeline for the budget was difficult because the division set a budget in March 2023 and received the finalized state budget in Sept. 2023.

"Which in that was a loss of \$135,870 in local funds, and we notified the appropriation board and the board of supervisors of that lost revenue," he

In December 2023, Gov. Glenn Youngkin revised the budget, which was officially adjusted in March 2024. The school lost an additional \$170,431 in local funds.

"It's their saving and our loss as a school division. With just two budget adjustments, we've lost over \$300,000 in local dollars, that doesn't include what changed at the state level for us," he said.

Wood also gave credit to the division's depart-

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

PATRICK To use the state of th

The Patrick County School Board heard budget updates at its May 9 meeting.

ment heads and its administrative team for making sure the division is operating as fiscally conservative as it could.

Wood said the division is still waiting for the upcoming fiscal year's budget to be approved.

The General Assembly will reconvene on May 15, "so, we're hoping to find out about the state budget very quickly," Wood said.

In other matters, the board:

*Heard the superintendent's report.

*Heard an update on division projects.
*Approved giving Assistant Superinte

*Approved giving Assistant Superintendent Shannon Brown the authority to sign documents

in the superintendent's absence.

*Approved the migrant certification as presented

*Approved the division literacy plan as presented.

*Approved the purchase of Family Life Resources.

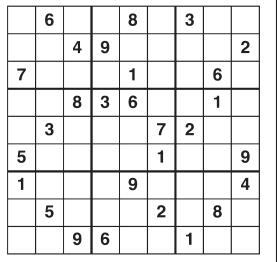
*Approved the consent agenda.

*Approved the consent agenda.

*Approved personnel reports 1 and 2, as amended.

*Approved certificated personnel recommendation lists 1-5.

on lists 1-5.
*Approved support staff recommendation list 1-3.



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

◆◆◆ HOO BOY! © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



Winners selected in PUP campaign



Rebecca Adcock, Amber Rakes

cently announced. The winning Club, Woods Cold Storage, Ararat Hall Hammerheads Baseball team ritans. Pictured are:



Caring Hearts Free Clinic - Christie Fain, The Hall Hammerheads 9 & under baseball

Group winners in the Pick Up groups were randomly selected, and Ruritans, Stuart Ruritans, Caring 9u, Pickle & Ash, Blue Ridge Ozone



Pickle & Ash Chris Lester, Rebecca Adcock and Mia Stowe

Patrick litter campaign were re- include Meadows of Dan Ruritan Hearts Free Clinic, Dan River Park, Baseball Team, and Woolwine Ru-



Meadows of Dan Ruritans Aaron Shelor and Rebecca Adcock

Twilight service set for May 27

A Twilight Memorial Day Service will be held at Alice DeHart Park Pavilion a special veteran for \$10 each or 3 for in Stuart at 8:30 p.m. on Monday, May

The event is presented by American Legion Post #105 and the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard. The ceremonies will feature lit luminaries placed along the roadway in honor of a person currently in active duty.

Luminaries may be purchased for \$20. Please indicate if the veteran is deceased, living, or on active duty.

Money and information should be sent to Gary Griffith at 3929 Millhouse Road Woolwine, VA, 24185. For additional information, call Clyde Thomas at (276) 930-2117, Griffith at (276) 930a deceased veteran, a living veteran, or 2708, or any American Legion or Honor Guard member.

Farmworkers get updated heat protection guidelines

Edwin J. Viera

Virginia News Connection

Some Virginia farmworkers will have upguidelines.

The Farm Labor Or-Committee climate change. ganizing is enacting heat and safety protections for organizing

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ther Virginia nor the half hours with water federal government has in the shade or as often comprehensive guidelines for workers. dated heat protection It comes as summer present. temperatures are getting hotter because of

> Mario Vargas, lead development coordinator at the Campaign for Migrant Worker Justice, said being mindful of heat stress is important.

> "It should be important every season," Vargas asserted. "There's been some deaths not only in some fields, not na but in some other states, because of these supervisors or contractors, independent contractors, that they push the people to their lim-

The new protections say if temperatures are near 85 degrees, anyone experiencing heat stress or dehydration symptoms should leave the protect field and seek shade. to 95 degrees or higher, workers should take a

all its members. Nei- break every two and a heat as needed, regardless of whether a supervisor is

> The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates an average of 43 workers died from environmental heat between 2011

> and 2021. Baldemar Velasquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, said the new guidelines are prevenmeasures since lawmakers at any level have yet to act.

"The problem with only in North Caroli- legislation, whether it's federal or state, it takes forever, and enforcement is always an issue," Velasquez emphasized. "We're not talking about big factories with a lot of workers in a big city somewhere. We're talking very remote labor camps, isolated."

He added workers should know without necessarily fil-For temperatures close ing a complaint with a federal agency.

THE PATRICK COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Dehart Park, Stuart Finding Dory

Sat. May 25th

Sat. July 20 **Dan River Park, Ararat** Kung Fu Panda 4

Sat. June 22 I.C. Dehart, Woolwine Elemental

Sat. August 24 Mt. Top Park, Meadows of Dan The Croods "A New Age"

Sat. September 21 **Patrick Springs Park** The Nighmare Before Christmas

Movies will start at dusk.

Concessions will be available.



Movies In The Park series gets underway May 25

The Patrick County Parks & Recreation Department and Pat- by the individual park boards. rick County Tourism are partnering on a new summer community event: "Movies In The Park."

The summer series will be a free family friendly event, created to promote exploration and community fellowship to each of the county's five parks. Everyone is welcome to attend. Concessions will be available. Showings will begin at dusk.

Each of the movies were chosen

The schedule and movies are: *May 25 DeHart Park in Stuart,

Finding Dory. June 22 IC DeHart in

wine, Elemental. *July 20 Dan River Park in Ara-

rat, Kung Fu Panda 4. *August 24 Mt. Top in Meadows

of Dan, The Croods "A New Age." *Sept. 21 Patrick Springs Park,

The Nightmare Before Christmas.

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Jason Pendleton

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Cynthia M. Jones, AA, AS

Red Cross urges planning ahead of hurricane season

The 2024 hurricane season is on the horizon and the American Red Cross urges everyone to make their preparations now.

"The American Red Cross is taking this year's forecast for an above average hurricane season very seriously," said Allison Taylor, Regional CEO of Humanitarian Services, Red Cross North Carolina region. "The American Red Cross works closely with local, state, and federal officials, along with partner community organizations, to respond to disasters

and meet basic emergency

needs before, during, and

after disasters." The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially runs from June 1 through November 30 and early forecasts indicate there could be a near-record number of storms this year. Experts even warn that the first named storm could form before the season begins. They are calling for as many as 25 named storms with 4 to 6 having a direct impact on the U.S.

"We encourage everyone to take time now to get ready for potential disasters this spring and summer," said Taylor. "You can do so by updating your emergency supply kit, building a plan, and staying informed of weather risks in your area.'

GET READY NOW: There are simple steps you can take to be prepared:

- Create an evacuation plan. Plan what to do in case you are separated from your family during an emergency and if you have to evacuate. Coordinate your plan with your child's school, your work and your community's emergency plans. Plan multiple routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for pets. If you already have an emergency plan, update it and review with household members so everyone knows what to do if an emergency occurs.
- · Build an emergency kit with a gallon of water per person, per day, non-perishable food, flashlight, battery-powered radio, first aid kit, cable, a multi-purpose tool, personal hygiene items, copies of important papers, cell phone chargers, extra cash, blankets, maps of

contact information. If you already have a disaster kit, make sure the food and water is still okay to consume and that copies of important documents are up to date.

- Be informed. Find out how local officials will contact you during a disaster and how you will get important information, such as evacuation orders.
- Download the free Red Cross First Aid app so you'll know what to do if emergency help is delayed and the free Emergency app for weather alerts, open Red Cross shelter locations and safety steps for different emergencies. Choose whether you want to view the content in English or Spanish with an easy-to-find language selector. Find these and all of the Red Cross apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

In addition to taking these preparedness steps, we also have important safety information available for you on hurricanes.

VOLUNTEERS Public Notice: NEEDED Because of ex-

treme weather, the Red Cross is now launching nearly twice as many relief operations for major disasters than we did a decade ago. This growing need for assistance is prompting us to increase our volunteer capacity so we can continue responding on a near-constant basis.

The need to help during disasters has never been greater. Join us to provide relief and hope when it matters most. Visit redcross.org/volunteertoday to sign up for opportunities with your local chapter. Our most-needed disaster positions include supporting shelters and providing health services.

SHELTER SUPPORT: Help at a shelter during a large disaster by welcoming and registering residents, serving meals, setting up cots, distributing blankets and personal hygiene kits, and providing information and other assistance to people in need.

HEALTH SERVICES: We also need volunteers

who can use their profesmedications, supplies for sional skills as a licensed an infant and pets if appli- health care provider to deliver hands-on support, including care and education to people staying at a shelter during a large disaster. Qualified licenses include the area and emergency RN, LPN, LVN, EMT,

Patrick County Public Schools - Copy Machine Paper Bid Request The Patrick County School board is accepting written bids from interested vendors to furnish copy machine paper for the school division. Bid packets can be picked up at Patrick County Public Schools, Maintenance Office, 117 Via Avenue, Stuart, VA 24171 (Monday through Thursday). Written bids will be accepted until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 30, 2024. For further information, contact Chad Haynes, Maintenance Director, at 276-694-6984.

Request for Proposal - RFP - 2004-MNT-002

The Patrick County School Board is accepting written competitive proposals from suppliers to furnish liquid propane for the 2024/2025 school year at multiple locations belonging to Patrick Public Schools. A proposal packet can be picked up at Patrick County Public Schools, Maintenance Department, 117 Via Avenue, Stuart, VA 24171, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Written proposals will be accepted until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2024. For further information, contact Chad Haynes, Maintenance Director at 276-694-6984.

EGAI

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.

LEGAL

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 WAR-RANTY 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

LEGAL

Public Hearing for Town of Stuart - Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Paramedic, MD, DO, PA,

DISASTER ACTION

TEAM: While big disasters

get the most news cover-

age, smaller emergencies,

such as home fires, are no

less devastating to those

affected. Join your local Di-

saster Action Team to help

families in need by provid-

ing food, lodging, comfort,

recovery assistance and

ABC NOTICE

Critz Gas and Grill Inc. trad-

ing as Critz Gas and Grill, 2716

Abram Penn Hwy, Critz, Patrick

The above establishment is ap-

plying to the VIRGINIA AL-

COHOLIC BEVERAGE CON-

TROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for

a Convenience Grocery Store

license to sell or manufacture al-

NOTE: Objections to the issu-

ance of this license must be sub-

mitted to ABC no later than 30

days from the publishing date of

the first of two required news-

paper legal notices. Objections

should be registered at www.abc.

virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

County, Virginia 24082.

coholic beverages.

Yuvraj Patel, President

other support.

NP and APRN.

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

Sewer Fund	FY 2025
PSA SEWER INCOME	\$ 22,960
SEWER FEES IN-TOWN	\$ 334,000
Sewer Revenues Total =	\$ 356,960
DEBT RETIREMENT	\$ 131,808
SEWER ADVERTISING & PUBLIC NOTICE	\$ 600
SEWER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 12,000
SEWER DUES, LICENSES, & PERMITS	\$ 5,500
SEWER ELECTRICITY	\$ 54,000
SEWER INSURANCE	\$ 15,000
SEWER INTERNET & COMMUNICATION	\$ 1,440
SEWER MATERIALS & SUPPLY	\$ 30,000
SEWER MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$ 5,000
SEWER PROFESSIONAL SERV.	\$ 24,000
SEWER REPAIRS & MAINTEN	\$ 16,000
SEWER SLUDGE DISPOSAL	\$ 46,000
SEWER SYSTEM FICA	\$ 9,835
SEWER SYSTEM GROUP INS.	\$ 47,000
SEWER SYSTEM RETIREMENT	\$ 5,500
SEWER SYSTEM WAGES	\$ 111,253
SEWER SYSTEM WAGES P/T	\$ 17,306
SEWER TELEPHONE EXPENSE	\$ 1,200
SEWER TESTING FEES	\$ 9,600
SEWER VEHICLE EXPENSE	\$ 1,200

Sewer Expenses Total = \$

544,242

464,212

	-	-
Water Fund		FY 2025
PSA WATER INCOME	\$	35,000
WATER FEES IN TOWN	\$	363,480
Water Revenues Total =	\$	398,480
DEBT RETIREMENT	\$	113,580
WATER ADVERTISING & PUBLIC NOTICE	\$	1,200
WATER DUES, PERMITS, LICENSES	\$	2,500
WATER ELECTRICITY	\$	56,400
WATER HEALTH DEPT ASSESMENT	\$	3,000
WATER INSURANCE	\$	15,000
WATER INTERNET & COMMUNICATION	\$	1,440
WATER MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	\$	50,400
WATER MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$	4,000
WATER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$	20,000
WATER REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	\$	16,800
WATER SLUDGE DISPOSAL	\$	12,000
WATER SYSTEM FICA TAX	\$	8,605
WATER SYSTEM GROUP INS	\$	30,000
WATER SYSTEM PART TIME	\$	17,846
WATER SYSTEM RETIREMENT	\$	6,000
WATER SYSTEM WAGES	\$	94,640
WATER TELEPHONE EXPENSE	\$	1,200
WATER TESTING FEES	\$	7,800
WATER VEHICLE EXPENSE	\$	1,800

Sanitation Fund	FY 2025
GARBAGE FEES	\$ 178,800
Sanitation Revenues Total =	\$ 178,800
INSURANCE	\$ 10,000
SANITATION DUMPSTER EXPENSE	\$ 12,000
SANITATION FICA	\$ 8,150
SANITATION GROUP INS	\$ 30,000
SANITATION LANDFILL FEES	\$ 60,000
SANITATION MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	\$ 5,000
SANITATION MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 8,000
SANITATION RETIREMENT	\$ 4,000
SANITATION VEHICLE	\$ 18,000
SANITATION WAGES	\$ 106,538
Sanitation Expenses Total =	\$ 261.688

Water Expenses Total = \$

All Funds			
Revenues	FY2025		
General Revenues	\$	1,225,310	
Enterprise & Utility Revenues	\$	934,240	
Total Revenues FY2025 =	\$	2,159,550	
Expenses		FY2025	
General Operating Expenses	\$	889,409	
Sewer Expenses	\$	544,242	
Water Expenses	\$	464,212	
Sanitation Expenses	\$	261,688	
Total Expenses FY2025 =	\$	2,159,550	

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

			Lifective July 1, 202		
		Base Residential,	Residential >2000 gal,	Base Commerical	Commerical >2000 gal,
		<2000 gal/month	\$/1000 gal	<2000 gal/month	\$/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

LEGAL

Ararat, VA 24053

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated December 17, 2004 and recorded on December 20, 2004 in Instrument # 040003505 of Patrick County land records, Trustee Services of Virginia, LLC, the appointed Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the Courthouse of the Circuit Court for Patrick County, Main Street, Stuart, Virginia on June 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM the property more particularly described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust, located at the property address listed below and briefly identified as follows

TRACT NO. 1: CONTAINING 0.8899 acres, more or less, and being all of the remainder of a 1.3217 acre parcel of land conveyed to the Grantors herein from Stephen Gray Willis by Deed dated October 9, 1998, recorded in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Patrick County, Virginia, in Deed Book 334, Page 261, as shown on plat of survey by David B. Scott, CLS, dated November 6, 1987, revised December 29, 1987, recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Plat Cabinet I, Slide 38-C.

LESS, HOWEVER, that certain tract containing 0.4318 acres, more or less, conveyed to Clyde W. Bowman and Angelena D. Bowman, by Deed dated March 28, 2000, recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as Instrument No. 0000983, and being tract No. 1 on plat of survey by D. B. Dudley, CLS, dated January 11, 2000, revised February 4, 2000, recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as part of Instrument No. 0000984.

TRACT NO. 2: CONTAINING 0.4318 acres, more or less, and being all of the land conveyed to the Grantors herein from Clyde W. Bowman and Angelena D. Bowman, by Deed dated March 28, 2000, and being tract No. 2 on plat of survey by D. B. Dudley, CLS, dated January 11, 2000, revised February 4, 2000, said deed and plat being recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as Instrument No. 0000984. There is further convey that certain right-of-way across a private drive leading to the property herein conveyed from Virginia Route 762. Reference is here made to a Deed recorded in Deed Book 168 Page 51, a certain right-of-way agreement recorded in Deed Book 262, Page 350, and Plat of Survey recorded in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide 38-C, all of the Circuit Court Clerks Office of Patrick County, Virginia, for a more complete description of the rights and obligations with respect with said easement of right-of-way. Tax No.: 4010-4 and 4010-4-A

Property address: 29 Perry Bowman Rd, Ararat, VA 24053

The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, as might be listed in this notice or may be

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$10,500.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale, except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss is on the purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 14 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor 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 of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a forbearance, repayment, or other agreement was entered into, the loan was reinstated or paid off, or whether the property became subject to an automatic stay under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (23-21766)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC

(Attorney for TRUSTEE SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, LLC) 484 Viking Drive, Suite 203

Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Initial unemployment claims increase by double digits

At 2,497, the number of unem- an unemployed individual after a ployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending May 4 is 10.2 percent higher than last week, when 2,266 claims were filed. The number is 25.1 percent lower than the 3,336 filed in the comparable week of last year, according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 83 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (66 percent) were Manufacturing (343); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (292); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (246); Health Care and Social Assistance (195); and Retail Trade (179).

An initial claim is a claim filed by

separation from an employer.

Continued weeks claims (15,546) were 0.2 percent higher than last week (15,518) and were 21.7 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,769). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,354); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,148); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,434); Manufacturing (1,298); and Retail Trade (1,289).

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 unemploy ment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.

Arrests Reported

fice reported the following:

*Lawrence E. Mishoe, 61, of Fieldale, was charged May 3 with probation violation. Senior Deputy I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

*Kelsi Merritt Templin, 32, of Ferrum, was charged May 4 with probation violation on felony offense. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges made the arrest for Halifax Coun-

*Steve Adam English, 42, of Arlington, was charged May 4 with two counts of fail to appear. Sgt. C.L. Elgin made the arrest for Nelson County.

*Anthony Don Davis,29, of Bassett, was charged May 5 with one count each drive while intoxicated and reckless driving. Trooper J.N. Mabe was the arresting officer.

*Preston Howard Norman, 19, of Oak Ridge, N.C., was charged May 5 with trespass. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

*Charles Christopher Maines, 21, of Kernersville, NC, was charged May 5 with trespass: entry-sing posted by authorized person. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arrest-

*Shahil Patel Thakore, 25, of

The Patrick County Sheriff's Of- May 5 with trespass. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

*Sherry Lee Stowe, 50, of Bluff City, TN, was charged May 6 with two counts of fail to appear. Deputy Margie Stowe was the arresting

*Richard Ray Burgart, 75, of Patrick Springs, was charged May 7 with two counts pointing/brandishing firearm. Senior Deputy C.M. Gilbert was the arresting officer.

*Lawrence McKinley Martin, 64, of Winston Salem, N.C., was charged May 8 with attempt to obtain money by false pretense. Senior Deputy Douglas Perry was the arresting officer. *Gregory James Montgomery,

34, of Spencer, was charged May 9 with one count each cruelly treat/ beat child while in one's custody and abuse/neglect child. Inv. T. Jessup was the arresting officer. *Nicole Marie Montgomery, 31,

of Spencer, was charged May 9 with one count each abuse/neglect child and endanger a child while in one's custody. Inv. T. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Jarrett Harley Goins, 21, of Patrick County Jail, was charged May 9 with probation violation. Deputy Kernersville, N.C., was charged B. Fields was the arresting officer.

Results of public safety surge to combat fentanyl announced

More than 17,000 pounds of iling, education, and partnerships licit drugs and 18,000 pounds of to reduce supply and demand prescription medications during Operation Free Virginia, a 30day statewide fentanyl operation coordinated through 114 state, federal, county, and municipal agencies to protect the Commonwealth and combat the fentanyl

"I'm immensely proud of the work done by The Secretariat of Public Safety and Homeland Security and Virginia State Police," Gov. Glenn Youngkin said. "Through their tireless efforts this first-of-its-kind operation seized enough fentanyl to kill more people than the entire population of Virginia. While we still have a long way to go towards our goal of eliminating fentanyl in the Commonwealth, these reour communities."

The order, amongst other things, nue of over \$1.3 billion. directed the Secretary of Public develop a strategic plan for law trafficking and the sale of fentanyl in Virginia. In response, the Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security, being led by the Virginia State Police conductfocusing on increased enforcement, whole of community train- to save a life."

across the Commonwealth.

"Through the leadership of Governor Youngkin and the success of Operation Free Virginia, our Commonwealth has become safer," said Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Terry Cole. "The Governor's operation brought 114 state, federal, county, campus, and municipal agencies together to protect our Commonwealth. It's a reminder that when we work together in an all of government approach, we can make our communities more secure. I'm happy to see that Virginia is one step closer in our fight to eliminate the deadly impacts of fentanyl."

The data collected from the operation detailed clear and signifisults are significant, and proof of cant positive results in stemming the positive work being done in fentanyl's devastating impact in our communities. Operation Free Last May, Youngkin signed Ex- Virginia seized 23.45 kilograms ecutive Order 26 to help combat of illicit fentanyl and resulted in the fentanyl epidemic in Virginia. a total estimate of denied reve-

"The hard work of law enforce-Safety and Homeland Security to ment, community partners and stakeholders across the Comenforcement agencies across the monwealth, builds on our con-Commonwealth to combat illicit tinued efforts to make Virginians safer and healthier," said First Lady of Virginia Suzanne S. Youngkin. "We will continue to educate around the dangers of fentanyl — stressing that 'It ed a statewide fentanyl operation Only Takes One' pill to take a life and one important conversation

Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.

Buying Logs Standing Timber or Timberland Stuart, VA

> Contact Ronnie Bolt at (276) 694-4432

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- Account Coordinator • Finance • Business • Marketing
- Admissions Representative
- Office Clerk Help Desk Assistant

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.

TAXPAYER NOTICE JUNE 5TH DEADLINE FOR FIRST HALF **2024 REAL ESTATE TAXES**

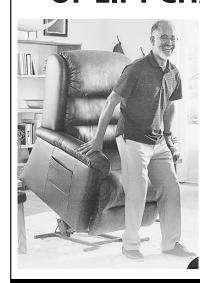
This is a public service reminder to all the taxpayers of Patrick County from the Patrick County Treasurer's Office reminding you

WEDNESDAY-JUNE 5, 2024 is the due date for the first half of the 2024 Real Estate Taxes. If you have not received your statements, please contact the Treasurer's Office immediately. 10% penalty is added to the first half unpaid taxes on Thursday June 6th. 10% per annum interest begins to accrue on the unpaid tax plus penalty 26 days after the due date. Payments are honored if postmarked by the post office June 5, 2024. Payments may be made: In Person at the Treasurer's Office located in the Veterans Memorial Building, Room 221, by Drop Box located outside doorway of 2nd floor Veterans Memorial Building. Please put your check, cashier's check or money order for payment along with your payment stub(s) in a sealed envelope. Please include a phone number that we can call in case of any questions. PLEASE DO NOT DROP CASH OR COINS OF ANY KIND IN THE DROP BOX. By mail to: Sandra K. Stone, Treasurer, P.O. Box 668 Stuart, VA 24171. Make check or money order payable to: Treasurer, Patrick County. Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00 (open through lunch). Telephone 276-694-7257. By Credit Card call: 1-833-398-6729 or go to www.acipayonline.com, enter jurisdiction code 6215, your eleven-digit bill number (located at the top right corner of your bill)

and the amount you are paying (this is not automatically filled in). Note: We cannot take credit card payments over the phone in the office.

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Martinsville VA 276-632-1286

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Students recognized for achievements

recognized for outstanding achievements:

Blue Ridge Elementary School

3rd Grade

Academic Awards: Jase Bowman, Lydia Clement, Marlee Dailey, Grayson Guynn, Kara Hiatt, Kasen Rupert, Brooklyn Stanley.

Principal's Award: Ian Roman, Landree Simmons.

4th Grade

Academic Awards: Mackenzie Cain, Raven Hernandez, Early Hill, Dallas Lawson, Staci Martin, Daniel McGrath, Chloe Quesinberry, Brody

Principal's Award: Olivia Chaney, Renesmee Moody, Karleigh Saunders, Evan Seal.

Academic Awards: Emily Adams, Cailey Arnett, Arieanna Crews, Brent Crocker, Dilan Diego Juan, Lucas Hall, Tanner Horton, Austin Marshall, Matthew Morales, Payton Odell, Tobin Simmons, Bentley Stanley, Wyatt Thompson, Ariella Valerio, Olive Waycaster.

Principal's Awards: Kaylee Bowles, Sadie Bowman, Montana Cain, Jay Hill, Lincoln Puckett.

6th Grade

Academic Awards: Haylee Bowman, Gavin Burris, Ryan Chaney, Carly Dellenback, Mason Epperson, Camdon Fain, Maddox Frye, Jayden Gonzalez, Kimberly Gutierrez, Grayson Holland, Christian Humble, Brody Hunger, Chloe Lawson, Tommy Lawson, Josue Rios.

Principal's Awards: Bronx Beasley, Elijah Brown, Reese Horton, Brigham Meredith, Beckham Terry.

7th Grade

Academic Awards: Cassidy Brim, Sydney Easter, Ean Martin, Aiden Moody, Ashland Noonkester, Hunter Sawyers, Midori Waycaster, Gage Whitaker, Isaiah Willard, Bella Wright.

Hardin Reynolds Memorial School

4th Grade

Academic Awards:Bentley Brooks, Matthew Clifton, Ella Dollarhite, Natalie Ferguson, Holly Lawrence, Amya Stephany, Aubree Triplett.

Principal's Award: Paisley Holt, Timothy Hough, Jasen Puckett.

5th Grade

Academic Awards: Aleigha Biggs, Wesley Burge, Atticus Colson, Simon Frazier, Nataley Graham, Jensen Harbour, Mackenzie Harman, Avalynn Huffman, Andrew Keen, Jasper Keffer, Miles Lange, Amilya Lawson, Andrew Nelson, Ethan Nelson, Jada Stump, Linnea Tankersley, Elena Turner.

Principal's Award: Taelyn Blankenship, Braiden Brooks, Savannah Carroll, Dylan Clark, Colston Collins, Aiden Hagwood, Lucas O'marra, James Pombo, Leila Stephany, Alice Terry, Mason Whit-

6th Grade

Academic Awards: Kody Agee, Kira Barker, Eli Collins, Mason Collins, Caden Harris, Kendra Howell, Benjamin Hudson, Jayden Johanknecht, Gabriella Johnson, Alaina McBride, Dane Orton, Savannah Sanchez-Austin, Jennifer Stowe.

Principal's Award: Aleah Bowman, Caitlyn Collins, Brayden Conner, Kenneth Craig, Ronald Davis, Alexa Diaz, Addyson Foley, Evelyn Hayes-Linton, Noah Jenkins, Sarah Lawson, Arianna Lemons, Brinlee Mills, Levi Montgomery, Novie Rutledge, Mia Spangler, Asher Vaughn, Maci Whitlock.

7th Grade

Academic Awards: Lily Boyce, Steven Brooks, Anna Dixon, Conor Dollarhite, Evan Eastridge, Tiffany Eckrote, Robert Goff, Laila Hairston-Slater, Levi Hankins, Wesley Kruse, Rosalinda Medina Mauricio. Meadows of Dan Elementary School

3rd Grade

Academic Awards: Jennings Hatcher, Emersyn

Principal's Award: Banner Davis, Carter Puckett.

Principal's Award: Hayleigh Phillips Academic Awards: Easton Hall

5th Grade Academic Awards: Happy Martin.

7th Grade Principal's Award: Caleb Howell, Hannah Phil-

lips, William Wood. Academic Awards: Isabel Wilson, Mendo-

za-Gonzalez, Natalie Moore, Lily Pritt, Madison Purdy, Bethany Rakes, Collin Rakes, Aishwraya Tatum, Kody Townsend, Jayson Turney, Cooper Principal's Award: Cali Jade Biggs, Faith Calla-

han, Kylee Childress, Bentlee Davis, Sky Evans, Grahm Foley, Sarah Hagwood, Maddyson Kendrick, Anna Long, Gabrielle Reynolds, Ava Rigney, Jenna Robertson, Gavin Smith, Samuel Tatum, Reagan Underwood, Damian Wolfe. Patrick Springs Primary School

Principal's Award: Rebbeca Handy, Will Keffer,

Destiny Plaster, Trinity Plaster, Sarah Wyatt. Academic Awards: Landon Correll, Ryan Gra-

ham, Mia Hagwood, Sophia Hylton, Porter Keffer, Jeremiah Lester, Emma Nelson, Harlem Smith, Caroline Whitlow, Taelyn Wilson. Stuart Elementary School

3rd Grade

Academic Award: Addison Bowman, Hunter Briley, Annie Crowell, Carley Rae Fain, Raelynn George, Landon Hall, Hayden Hall, Whitney Hanks, Adelyn Hutchens, Jennifer Juarez-Luna, Scarlett Kendrick, Skilynn McDonnell, Alana Morris, Olivia Morrison, Colton Overby, Brystol

Pack, Ethan Parsons, Nora Post, Jacob Pruitt,

Conner Scott, Bella Terry, Reina Tucker, Bradley

Principal's Award: Avery Brown, Wyatt Fain, Brooklyn Fulcher, Preslie Hall, Maewyn McCraw, Korbin Puckett, Canon Rakes, Jocelyn Stevens, Zion Turner, Wesley Whitener.

4th Grade Academic Award: Peyton Adkins, Nella Bembry, Braeden Campbell, Easton Conner, Tomias Devers, Kaythan Gray, Emily Hawks, Adrian Hodges, Emma Hutchens, Courage Jackson, Parker Jones, Dallas Martin, Leah Miller, Harper Russo.

Principal's Award: Caleb Allison, Lucas Black, Aiden Brown, Carter Foley, Kay'Cee Glenn, Cooper Hall, Lyric Houchins, Hadley Jones, Jose Matias Gonzales, Paige Ragsdale, Lucas Wheeler.

5th Grade

Academic Award: Elizabeth Allison, Brooklynn Bocock, Easton Childress, Sofia Gonzalez-Hylton, Charlee Handy, Milayna Helms, Ava Lawson, Alex Leon Cisneros, Addyson Minter, Jayden Repass, Maddox Scott, Evangeline Stimac, Madilyn Tate, Hope Walton, Ivy Witt.

Principal's Award: Elise Cagle, Eli Fain, Avery Hubbard, Adalee Hughes, Ethan Lester, Sophia Martin, Hana Martinez-Tejeda, Chandler Moles, Keller Muse, Hannah Post, Milli Scott, Juliet Turner.

6th Grade

Academic Award: Ian Baker, Eli Briley, Carles Campos, Tessa Curry, Milli Foley, Brantley Fortner, Carrie Gregory, Madison Handy, Kiah Jackson, Megan Johnson, Jesse Minter, Nathan Spencer, Mya Taylor, Izzabella Walker.

Principal's Award: Savannah Fain, Kaden Gravely, Vanessa Gregory, Ashton Hall, Adilynn Jones, Pagan Smith, Bryson Turman.

7th Grade

Academic Award: Noah Bembrey, Kobe Bogle, David Clark, Leia Cobbler, Tucker Collins, Emmalynn Corns, Ethan Hawk, Layla Hege, Riley Hostetter, Ethan Hutchens, Ben Joyce, Jameson Lawson, Audrey McGhee, Nexaniel Martizes De Jesus, Ellie Post, Abigail Quesinberry, Mariah

Principal's Award: Elena Cagle, Molly Cassell, Kinsleigh Harris, Jillian Turner.

Woolwine Elementary School

3rd Grade

Academic Award: Zoey Mabe, Talin Maselli. Principal's Award: Maelynn Jones, Asher Perez.

4th Grade

Academic Award: Emmalyn Hubbard, Moncerat Joaquin-Ortega, Cameron Kendrick, Raina Newsome, Sophia Otero-Garcia, Joel Shaffer.

Principal's Award: Charlee Shuff. 5th Grade

Academic Award: Aubree Bowman, Blake Miles, Dixie Scott, Natalie Worley. 6th Grade

Academic Award:Kaitlyn Gunter, Grant Ia-

covone, Jasper Lockhart, Nathan Shuff.

7th Grade Academic Awards: Mason Conner, Addison Friedrichs, Conner King, Isabella Martin, Cor-

rynn McAlexander, Levi Ojodeagua. Principal's Award: Paisley Shuff.

Patrick County High School 8th grade: (88 or higher average)

Hailey Anderson, Kloe Armentrout, Braylon Arrington, Rylee Barker, Benjamin Bowman, Lily Bowman, Casey Boyer, Cody Boyer, Logan Brown, Jake Bryant, Mysteri Campbell, Ariel Clarke, Isabella Clarke, Caleb Clement, Olivia Clifton, Carter Cockram, Presley Combs, Gracen Conner, Oliver Cruise, Rain Davis, Eli Dillon, Jordan Draper, Carson Farrar, Kaylene Garcia, Karson Gillispie, Draden Goins, Scarlett Gregory, Ashton Gurley, Evan Hancock, Mason Hancock, Morgan Handy, Abbigail Hanks, Jordan Hardee, Autumn Hawks, Arabella Haynes, Sierra Helms, Lowell Hopkins, Martina Hubbard, Soledad Huerta-Dominguez, Kiera Hylton, Ivan Joaquin-Ortega, Analeigh Jones, Riley Jones, Mason Keith, Leah Kendrick, Olivia Kendrick, Owen Kruse, Savannah Lawrence, Halo Martin, Madelyn Martin, Isabella Mashburn, Peyton McBride, McKenzie Mitchell, Jayme Moose, Kinley Morrison, Kyara Nieves, Christian Pendleton, Camryn Perkins, Asher Perry, Cameron Rakes, Mark Register, Kamiya Reynolds, Alexa Rivero, Marion Rowe, Maggie Rutledge, McKenzie Sanchez, Brisan Scott, Eva Sechrist, Josiah Shelor, Aiden Slate, Kalix Smith, Gabriella Swisher, Jared Thompson, Julianna Turner, Caleb Vaughn, Jonathan Walton, Derron West, Ethan White, Haileigh Wingfield, Anna Witt, Carly Wood, Conner Wood, Kayleen Wood, Meredith Wood, Jenna Woods.

9th-12th grade (3.2 GPA or higher) 9th grade: Caleb Ashworth, Myhia Ballenger-Mijes, Melissa Barker, Brooklyn Barner, Joseph Beasley, Ruth Belcher, Nathaniel Bright, Noah Cain, Mason Cassell, Isobel Clay, Madison Corns, Caroline Dalton, Jason Day, Sierra Easter, Adam Edwards, Jacob Edwards, Laine Errichetti, Mason Fain, Jaylee Foley, Aedan Frazier, Allison Gonzalez-Barajas, Kaylee Gravley, Cinthia Gutierrez, Elijah Hairston-Slater, Addisyn Hall, Chloe Hancock, Natalie Hancock, Kaydence Harman, Wheeler Helms, Ava Hiatt, John Hicks, Chloe Hubbard, Willow Hylton, Kyra Ingalls, Elyjah Jenkins, Lily Kelly, Aubreigh Large, Taylor Lawless, LeMia Lemons, Fisher Martin, Hunter Martin, Kimatai Martin, Nexander Martinez De Jesus, Michael Mitchell, Landon Moles, Brady Moore, Oren Osborne, Alyssa Overby, Emily Pearson, Kendra Penn, Anderson Philpot, Riley Pruitt, Jayden Radford, Logan Rakes,

Ryder Richardson, Hayden Rowe, Alexia Shuff,

The following schools released a list of students Bentley Queen, Isabella Queen, Madisyn Redd, Abigayl Slate, Jacob Spencer, Mason Spencer, Lacey Sutphin, Maddox Taylor, Tripp Thompson, Zachary Thompson, Karleigh Vasquez, Isabella Walker, Emily Whitaker, Lilliana White, Paige Whitt, Jonas Wooden.

10th grade:

Skye Ayers, Jaxon Ayers-Rosas, Robert Bannister, Amber Barnett, Kylei Blevins, Devon Booth, Autumn Bowman, Isaac Boyer, Rachel Branch, Reggie Brown, Abigail Bryant, Lilieann Butler, Jayden Callahan, Ethan Casstevens, Tyler Cobbler, Brooke Collins, Tonya Collins, Alexandra Cotoc Santos, Alexis Cox, Tristan Cox, Dylan Cruise, Lacey Easter, Bronson Edwards, Carrington Fain, Daniel Finnegan, Avery Foley, Camille Gonzalez, Carter Gregory, Jaeden Hairston, Jykevis Hairston, Aiden Handy, Logan Handy, Johnathan Harbour, Peyton Hazlewood, Will Heath, Cynthia Hernandez, Joselin Hernandez, Shyanne Holt, Zachary Holt, Chloe Hostetter, Hunter Hubbard, Kristopher Huerta, Christian Hylton, Hannah Ingalls, Jacob Jones, Mitchell Keith, Avone Kidd, Raegen Kingsley, Sadie Knight, William Lancaster, David Lawson, Kylee Leonard, Jacob Lester, Alyssa Light, Evan Martin, Kiley Martin, Erik Martinez Tejeda, Draysin Maselli, Jose Mendoza Gonzalez, Callie Montgomery, Ellianna Montgomery, Journey Moore, Virginia Nations, Samantha Nester, Angela Overby, Lexus Owen, Emmi Pack, Abigail Pendleton, Michael Perez, Angel Plaster, Brandy Ponce, Braydon Priest, Haley Rakes, Nathan Register, Aailyah Reynolds, Jazmyne Reynolds, Hunter Roberts, Parker Roop, Elijah Rorrer, Abigail Royall, Madison Scott, Cayden Smith-Adame, Rylee Soliday, Vishal Somasundaram, Katelynn Spillman, Mitchell Stovall, Zane Tankersley, Sydney Tatum, Adara Taylor, Greely Terry, Alyssa Titular, Kyra Titular, Jennifer Venegas, Wyatt Westmoreland, Dana Wilcox, Xena Wilcox, Kade Williams, Jaiden Parker, Callie Wood, Eli Wood, Kathryn Wood, Zoe Wooden, Kendra Worley, Sa-

vanna Wright, Jed Young, Denali Zimmerman. 11th grade: Anna Arellano, Dante Belcher, Jordan Belcher, Burke Black, Abbigail Bowman, Kali Bowman, Heather Brim, Donovan Buchanan, Alyssa Callahan, Sasha Campos, Carrie Cassell, Bryan Clark, Amelia Clement, Eliza Clifton, Cameron Collins, Tara Collins, Taylor Collins, Zachary Collins, Daryl Combs, Benjamin Conner, Alysha Copening, Paige Corns, Williams Corns, Lexi Cutchins, Kayleigh Davenport, Mason Dellenback, Emma Dellinger, Blake Dillon, Emily Eastridge, Gavin Fain, Rachel Fitzjarrald, Brett Foley, Joshua Freeman, Seth Geiger, Haley Gillispie, Conner Goad, Nicol Gonzalez, Jacob Gosnell, Nicolas Haden, Breanna Hall, Easton Harris, Evan Havens, Lilly Hazelwood, Richard Hazelwood, Hunter Heath, James Hensley, James Hodges, Sydney Hopkins, Jackson Horton, Caleb Hostetter, Riley Hubbard, Scottie Hubbard, Allison Hughes, Jackson Iacovone, Noah Jessup, Elena Joaquin, Tessa Johnson, Kalynn Jones, Justin Keen, Autumn King, Alivia Kirk, Whitley Kruse, Ryanne Lary, Chelsea Lawson, Haley Lawson, Cindy Leon-Cisneros, Zachary Letchworth, Jymasia Manns, Jude Martin, Sadie Martin, Katy McBride, Lilly Mc-Dowell, Kenzie Mize, Raeli Moran, Ethan Morrison, Matthew Nester, Chase Norman, Owen Nutter, Rocio Olivares, Sydney Peer, Hunter Pendleton, Quentyn Penn, Tyrese Penn, Rhythm Poynter, Carley Quesinberry, Dylan Quesinberry, Lane Ross, Kijah Rothrock, Mason Scott, Sophie Scruggs, Sadie Shelton, Jonah Shockley, Talan Smith, Josiah Spangler, Emily Stiltner, Benjamin Sutphin, Dhrithik Tanna, Lucas Taylor, Xavier Torres-Seda, Isabelle Turner, Sydni Turner, Katie Vernon, Josilene Williams, Kendall Williams, Mary Beth Williams, Kimora Wimbush, Noah Wingfield, Brayden Wolfe, Cheyenne Wood, Jack-

son Zeigler, Allie Zwerling. 12th grade: Matthew Allen, Draiden Archambo, Andi Arnold, Dakota Ashworth, Seth Atkins, Jackson Barbour, Alexandria Barker, Seth Beasley, Carlos Becerril, Riley Bell, Marissa Bentley, Daniel Betancourt, Jack Blaylock, Bailey Bolt, Jeremiah Bowman, James Brintle, Marissa Brown, Paul Bryant, Curtis Busick, Jonah Byers, Stuart Callahan, Morgan Cambron, Seth Cassell, Isabela Cisneros, Moises Cisneros, Cheyenne Clifton, Lillian Cobbler, Journey Collins, Kali Craig, Luke Cutchins, Alura Day, Dustin DeHart, Coby Dillon, Colt Easter, Heather Edwards, Austin Errichetti, Lauren Fulcher, Hannah Gay, Brayden Gilley, Haley Gilley, Bethany Goode, Evan Hall, Miranda Hall, Kyle Handy, Madeline Heath, Myranda Helms, Tanner Herring, Shyanne Hicks, Shauntel Hill, Jonathan Hodges, Trinity Holt, Miller Hopkins, Austin Hylton, Chase Hylton, Jewel Iacovone, Hannah Janney, Anaiah Jenkins, Katelyn Johnson, Aaron Jones, Lindsey Jones, Kylee Joyce, Shyann Kerce, Danyel Koger, Nathan Large, Colby Layman, Cecilia Leon Cisneros, Gabriel Lomibao, Cherilyn Lopez-Gonzalez, Cordelia Martin, Hunter Meade, Remi Miller, Madison Mills, Caleb Morris, Hayden Norman, James Nunez, Lance Overby, Montana Oxendine, Arya Patel, Nicholas Pell, Aniya Penn, Jermaine Penn, Verity Perez, Dalyce Pike, Kaitlyn Puckett, Brandy Quesinberry, Abigail Ramsey, Rebekah Ramsey, Brayton Reynolds, Isabella Rivero, Bobbijo Roberts, Sabrina Rorrer, Elizabeth Rose, Gina Rubio, Anna Bella Russo, Rayshawn Sawyers, Heather Spencer, Stephen Spencer, Joseph Stiltner, Bradley

Swails, Andrew Taylor, Emily Trent, Maria Turn-

er, Levi Vipperman, Nathaniel Whitaker, Lauryn

Williams, Mason Wright, Audrey Young, Jaylan

Season in bloom at Stuart Farmers' Market







The season has officially kicked off at the Stuart Farmers' Market, with vendors offering a variety of items for sale. The market is open 8 a.m. until noon on Fridays. It is located at 320 Chestnut St., Stuart. (By Taylor Boyd)

TEDx event kicks off at Green Rock Correctional Center



VADOC Director Chad Dotson gave his

More than two dozen speakers shared inspirational stories, music, and more at the TEDx GreenRock-CorrectionalCenter on Tuesday, May 7 at Greek Rock Correctional Center in Chatham.

The event is the first of its kind in a Virginia prison and was hosted by the Virginia Department of Corrections, in partnership with Proximity for Justice.

Speakers included Del. Rae Cousins, D-79th District, Pittsylvania County Sheriff Mike Taylor, VADOC Director Chad Dotson, First Piedmont Corporation Chairman and CEO Ben



Warden Mike Seville was among the speakers at the TEDx event correctional center in Chatham.

J. Davenport Jr., and several members of the Green Rock inmate popu-

"I appreciate every speaker for their uplifting stories of hope and redemption that demonstrate the importance of second chances," said Dotson, who spoke about lessons he learned from a Southwest Virginia drug court during his tenure as a commonwealth's attorney and judge. "I thank Proximity for Justice Founder Delia Cohen and

her organization for their partnership on this special project."

TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design. TED's mission is to research and share meaningful new ideas through conferences. A TEDx event is independently organized and features short, carefully prepared talks. More information can be found on the TED website.

it that has organized several TEDx talks when videos are available. events at prisons across the Unit-

ed States, bringing leaders, victims, philanthropists, law enforcement and many more into prisons to encourage dialogue, forge connections, and inspire change. More information can be found on the Proximity for Justice website.

The VADOC will provide more information about where to stream the Proximity for Justice is a nonprof- TEDx GreenRockCorrectionalCenter



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A UNIVERSAL SERVICE FEE TO BE PAID BY RETAIL CUSTOMERS TO FUND THE PIPP CASE NO. PUR-2020-00117

On April 12, 2024, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") requesting approval of an updated Universal Service Fee ("USF") to fund the Percentage of Income Payment Program ("PIPP") of \$0.00132 per kilowatt-hour ("kWh") effective June 1, 2024.

The PIPP was established as part of the 2020 Virginia Clean Economy Act as a mechanism designed to limit the electric utility payments of persons or households participating in certain, specified public assistance programs, based upon a percentage of their nicome, for customers of Virginia Electric and Power Company and APCo. The General Assembly further addressed the PIPP, its funding, and implementation, as part of the 2021 legislative session with the passage of Chapter 308 of the 2021 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Special Session I.

The Commission issued an Order on July 29, 2021 ("July 2021 Order") directing, among other things, that (i) APCo begin collecting the USF from statutorily designated customers to fund the estimated start-up costs that the Department of Social ervices ("DSS") needed to establish the PIPP; (ii) calculate a USF on a per kilowatt hour basis to recover \$0.6 million on an annual basis, file tariffs reflecting such fee with the Commission; (iii) begin making payments to the state treasury to enable DSS to undertake the actions necessary to establish the PIPP, and (iv) defer its PIPP administrative costs and seek their recovery at a later date. The USF established in the July 2021 Order was directed to be effective on service rendered on and after September 1, 2021, and to remain in place until further order of the Commission. Additionally, the July 2021 Order required the Company to submit certain reporting and filing requirements within 60 days ("60-day Report") after the DSS rules or guidelines are promulgated. On September 9, 2021, the Commission issued an Order on Motion granting APCo's request to have the effective date for USF implementation delayed until September 7, 2021.

On July 14, 2023, the Commission issued an Order which, in part, found that DSS published PIPP guidelines on its on August 25, 2023

In its current Application, APCo seeks to increase the USF on June 1, 2024, to build the PIPP fund prior to implementation and ensure the program will be properly funded for participants in the future without risk of underfunding while remaining under the statutory cap. APCo states that the current USF is \$0.0000407/kWh, and that the Company is requesting to increase the USF to \$0.00132/kWh to collect its proposed revenue requirement from Virginia jurisdictional customers. The Company states that the increase is intended to recover a revenue requirement of \$19,252,260.69 from Virginia Jurisdictional customers. According to APCo, the monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month will increase \$1.28 if the Application is approved.

Additionally, APCo asks for expedited approval of the increased USF by May 15, 2024, and authority to implement new rates effective June 1, 2024. Further, APCo seeks clarification on whether participation in energy efficiency and weatherization programs is optional for PIPP customers and the effect this has on customer participation in the program and APCo reporting requirements. According to APCo, it was determined in a prior Commission order in this proceeding that participation in weatherization and energy efficiency programs is a requirement for customers to participate in the PIPP program, while DSS subsequently has determined that "[f]ailure to have the audit completed or to install the additional energy efficiency measures will not impact PIPP eligibility.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion the USF among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates for the USF that differ from those appearing in the Company's Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application, to file a notice of participation and to request a hearing in this matter. Regarding the Company's request for approval to implement the proposed increase to the USF by June 1, 2024 through an Order entered on or before May 15, 2024, the Commission established an expedited procedural schedule, but found that given the timing of the filing of the Application and issues to be considered arising from the proposed USF increase, that a proper review of the Application, with notice to customers and interested parties, cannot be accomplished in the time requested by the Company

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission's Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

An electronic copy of the Company's Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: James G. Ritter, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or jritter@aep.com.

On or before June 5, 2024, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments 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 shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-

On or before June 5, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent shall send a copy of the notice of participation to counsel for the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00117.

On or before June 5, 2024, any interested person may file a written request for a hearing by filing such a request at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a request for hearing electronically may file such at the address listed above. Requests for hearing shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. A copy thereof also must be sent to counsel for the Company. Requests for a hearing shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filling party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00117.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The Company's Application, the public version of other documents filed in this case, the Commission's Rules of Practice, and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

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<u>APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY</u>



New retail store opens downtown

Patrick County Chamber of Commerce was held on Friday May 10 for new business, SweeT Water Trading Company LLC, a new retail store located at 334 Patrick Avenue in downtown Stuart.

This store is purveyors of gemstones, minerals and natural arts (handmade and handcrafted arts from the earth). It also offers a stone carvings, pottery, honey and soaps. The store is open Tuesdays

A ribbon cutting hosted by the through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Pictured, left to right, are Danay Harris, Mountain Valley Hospice and chamber board member; Kurt Bozenmayer, Patrick County Music Association and chamber board member; Amber Agee, owner of Pet Provisions; Rebecca Adcock, director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce; Tiffany and Matt selection of tapestries, wood and Blevins, owners and James Houchins, director of Patrick County Tourism.

Saturday's benefit ride attracts hundreds









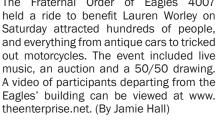


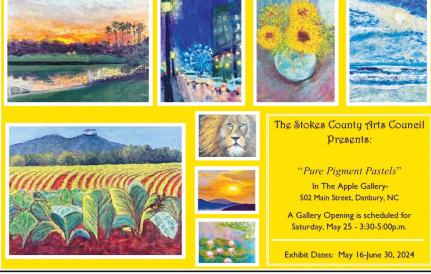


Exhibit of original works open through June











An exhibit of original art by Eileen Wilhem is slated to open in the Apple Gallery. A reception is scheduled for Saturday, May 25 from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Apple Gallery of the Stokes County Arts Council 500 Main Street Danbury, N.C.

"Living on a horse farm in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, I am never at a loss for images and inspiration," Wilhem said. "Watching how the light changes with the seasons and trying to capture its beauty. My paintings attempt to recreate the mood, whether a drizzly day in France, foggy sunrise on the mountain, the cocky strutting of a rooster or the curiosity of a pig. The grace of people and animals enchants me

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so that I must pick up my pastels and paint. I mostly paint everyday scenes, which keep me grounded."

Wilhem was juried into numerous exhibitions, including:

The Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts, Winston-Salem

311 Gallery, Raleigh

Red Dog Gallery, Winston-Salem Hanging Rock Gallery (Solo exhib-Apple Gallery (Solo exhibit)

Red Dog Gallery Featured Artist

The Art Gallery, Greensboro Ambleside Gallery, Greensboro Welborn Gallery (Yadkinville Cultural Arts Center)

Captain White's Gallery (Ala-

mance Arts)

Left Coast Pastel Society 2022 International Show

North Carolina Statewide Exhibition multiple times

Wilhem is a featured local artist at The Arts Place of Stokes, and the Red Dog Gallery. She is a member of Art for Arts Sake, Piedmont Pastel Society (Past President, Member Chair and Treasurer), Pastel Society of NC Pastel Guild of Europe, Juried in as an Associate member of the Pastel Society of America, and Stokes County Arts Council. She previously served on the boards of Associated Artists and Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA).

This exhibit will be on display through June 30. The Stokes County Arts Council is open to the public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 12-6 p.m. For additional information about the exhibit, please contact the Stokes County Arts Council at (336) 593-8159 or visit www. stokesarts.org.











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