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Vol. 148 No. 22 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024 USPS 523-500 \$1.00

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Smith defends budget, explains expenses



The Patrick County Sheriff's Office operates at nearly half the cost per resident compared to the national average, according to Sheriff Dan Smith. Fiscal Year 2024 numbers indicate the portion of funds under the sheriff's purview totals

\$7,601,118. The total county budget in FY 2024 is \$69,953,932. With 44.16 percent, or \$3,357,057 of the budget funded by the state, and 55.84 percent, or \$4,244,061, to be funded by county taxpayers.

"Local tax dollars used to fund sheriff's office operations only comprise 6.06 percent of the total county budget. That equates to only \$243.34 annually per resident. The national average is \$480 per resident," Smith said and noted that total equates to 67 cents a day per resident to cover law enforcement operations, jail operations, court security for three courts, funding for school resource officers in every school, animal control operations, and 911 Communications operations for sheriff, fire, and rescue.

"I would say that 67 cents per day for the services we provide to keep those we serve safe is quite a bargain," the sheriff stated.

He added that inflation has risen 21.7 percent since 2020, according to the U.S. Department of Labor (See Smith p. 3)



Siblings Jordan Wood Hicks (left), Jon Wood (center), and cousin, Keven Wood (right), are the new owners of Wood Brothers Racing.

The third generation of Wood family takes the helm of a legendary company

By Taylor Boyd

The third generation of racing royalty took the helm of Wood Brothers Racing on April 26, with siblings Jon Wood and Jordan Wood Hicks and cousin Keven Wood as the new co-owners.

Jon Wood was named the team's president, inheriting the role from his father, Eddie Wood, who was the team's first president.

In the beginning of racing, Jon Wood said there weren't any designated roles. He noted the only reason his father became the president was for legal reasons.

"My dad just sort of took over as, if you want to call it, a team president. That's what he was, but I think the only reason for that was the Secretary of State requires a (See Wood Family p.3)

All Seasons to shutter after 33 years



Stanley Fain interacts with a customer at All Seasons in Patrick Springs. After 33 years in business, Fain and his wife Jennifer are planning to retire.



The interior of All Seasons. Fresh produce greets customers as they enter the store.



The All Seasons shop in Patrick Springs will close its doors after 33 years in business, as owners Stanley and Jennifer Fain prepare to retire. Stanley Fain said there is already a buyer for the business.

By Taylor Boyd

After 33 years in business, a Patrick Springs business is preparing to close.

Stanley Fain, one of the owners of All Seasons, said he doesn't view the closing as sad, but rather it marks an exciting time in his life because he is retiring. As a result, he is celebrating with a retirement sale.

"We all look forward to retirement, but we don't want to retire. I'm just wanting to slow down a little bit. It's just a matter of trying to navigate through and see what's going to happen," he said.

Fain, now 68, said the current workload is too time-consuming.

"I guess just age, and so I had made the decision that I wanted to slow down, and this is not the business that I can slow down in," he said. "You're either wide open or you get out, and I had to come on and get out."

Fain also found a buyer to purchase the business.

"I don't know exactly what they're going to do, but from what they're telling me I think it's going to be good. They'll probably do certain aspects of this, but the thing about it is our concept's been here for 33 years. It doesn't necessarily work like it did 33 years ago," he said, adding he feels good about what's going to happen with the building. While he does not know when his last day of

business will be, Fain plans to keep the business going until September. He said most everything in the store is on sale with a few exceptions, like produce and plants.

"It's going to be first come, first serve until we sell out. So, if somebody came by say tomorrow and said, 'Mr. Fain, what would it take to buy the entire inventory of the store?' I would still do produce," he said.

Fain said discovering he could sell produce about 15 years ago was a happy accident.

"What was happening was I was going to Florida buying a lot of plants at the time. I would (See All Seasons p.3)

Organizations in Henry, Patrick to receive marketing funds

By Staff Reports

To kick off National Travel & Tourism Week, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced that more than \$3.27 million in matching grant and sponsorship funds will be awarded to 268 tourism programs as part of Virginia Tourism Corporation's Marketing Grants programs, and organizations in Patrick and Henry counties are among those to receive funds.

In Patrick County, Front Porch Fest 15 will receive \$5,000; One Family Productions, Inc. will receive \$3,305.25 for Spotlight on the Star; the Labor Day Weekend Gospel Singing will receive \$4,000 and the Beach Music Festival will receive \$4,000.

In Henry County, the Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival will receive \$10,000 for event production, and \$8,892 for Strut & Squawk at Rooster Walk.

The funding programs are designed to leverage local marketing dollars with matching state funds to increase visitation and traveler spending through 2025. This funding cycle, local partners will commit more than \$9.2 million to match the VTC funding, providing more than \$12.5 million in new marketing and

event production activity focused on increasing overnight visitation to Virginia across all nine GO Virginia regions. The funding will be awarded to 268 marketing programs, ultimately impacting 1,230 combined partners.

"VTC's marketing and sponsorship programs are powerful incentives creating tourism partnerships across Virginia that are a robust part of Virginia's economic ecosystem," said Youngkin. "Across the Commonwealth, the tourism industry recognizes the importance of having inventive strategies to showcase all that Virginia has to offer. These grants will support those efforts and help draw thousands of additional visitors to the Commonwealth to experience everything that makes Virginia so special."

VTC's tourism marketing and sponsorship programs are designed to increase visitor spending by leveraging limited marketing dollars, stimulating new tourism marketing through partnerships, and extending the "Virginia is for Lovers" brand to drive visitation. Using the hub and spoke tourism partnership model, Virginia entities partner to

(See Marketing Funds p.14)



Anita Bailey at a Patrick County Master Gardeners event selling garden hats she embellished.



The new class workshop was added earlier this year.

Nita's Nook to open Saturday

By Taylor Boyd

Nita's Nook, a Claudville area arts and craft store that offers artistic classes, will hold its grand reopening from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 1, at 4842 Hatchers Chapel Road.

Tours will be available, according to Anita Bailey, owner of the business, who said she handcrafts all of the shop's offerings.

"I like to think of it as whimsical. It's just a lot of different things, like shoes decorated like the beach and things like that," she said.

Bailey said she decided to open the store because she was always making things - something that began early in life and continued

during childhood and beyond.

"I've always been creative like that. I kept making things and filling up the space and I thought, 'You know, I really should sell these.' I have just so many and so much," she said with a laugh.

Items for sale include handmade jewelry, paintings, garden hats, decorations, baskets, and more.

Bailey said she likes the idea of having a space where people can come in to be creative and be with other creative people.

"That was a no-brainer, and then people like classes. Some people like to be told what to do, and they're not sure about creative stuff," she

(See Nita's Nook p. 13)

Chamber, P&HCC team up to host Business After Hours

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Patrick and Henry Community College will host a Business After Hours at The Gerald L. Baliles & Richard S. Reynolds, Sr. Learning Center in Stuart on Thursday, June 6, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Come learn about the programs offered at P&HCC's Patrick County Site. Engage with program activity officials. Become part of the P&HCC PHamily and enjoy networking with other communi-

ty members. Light hors d'oeuvres served.

Business after hours is a great way to connect with other professionals in the area. They provide a casual, low pressure setting for introducing yourself and spreading the word about your business or organization. They are free to attend for chamber members. Please RSVP by June 4 using the google form. Please fill out the form for each person attending. RSVP at <https://bit.ly/PCBAHJune6>.

Fraud Alert - Medicare Scams

Government programs are often the target of criminal scammers and Medicare is one of the biggest ones. Thankfully, a nationwide network of Senior Medicare Patrol volunteers often sees these scams first and warn others. Here are three scams they are seeing in 2024:

False billing for diabetes treatment has been seen on Medicare summary notices of people who don't have diabetes and didn't receive a related device. This is one example of how crooks charge Medicare for services not provided. To guard against this, check monthly Medicare statements carefully and report any false charges.

Free products are another common Medicare scam, however the

product you receive – if you get anything at all – is usually cheap and inferior. Only share your Medicare number with your healthcare providers, and not with someone offering “free” products or services.

Lastly, free genetic testing is once again a trending Medicare scam. This often happens at health fairs where a scammer will offer a free genetic test that only requires a cheek swab and your Medicare number. Medicare rarely covers genetic testing, and this is just a ploy to get your Medicare number.

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

Keep yourself and your property safe: Lightning Safety Awareness Week

With lightning five times hotter than the surface of the sun and reaching temperatures of 50,000°, the effects of a lightning strike can be devastating.

That's why the National Lightning Safety Council is sharing information on how to stay safe during thunderstorms and lightning events during National Lightning Safety Awareness Week, June 23-29.

“Lightning is the weather threat that affects most people, most of the time, in most regions of the U.S.,” said Kimberly Loehr, a lightning protection specialist and NLSC member. “Although approximately 90% of lightning victims survive being struck, injuries can be severe and debilitating.”

The NLSC warns that no place outside is safe during a thunderstorm, and June, July and August are peak months for lightning activity across the U.S. This

time of year also is peak time for outside summer fun, and almost two-thirds of lightning deaths from 2006-2023 occurred when people were enjoying outdoor activities.

To help keep yourself safe both outside and indoors, take the following precautions:

*If you hear thunder, quickly get to a substantial building or hard-topped metal vehicle.

*Avoid open areas, and don't be the tallest object.

*Stay away from isolated tall trees, towers, utility poles and metal conductors like wires or fences.

*When with a group of people, spread out.

*Avoid contact with water, plumbing and anything plugged into an electrical outlet.

*Stay away from outside doors and windows.

*Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before returning outside.

Additionally, light-

ning is a leading cause of property loss in the U.S. The Insurance Information Institute reported there were over 62,000 lightning claims in 2022, totaling \$950 million. Virginia ranked in the top 10 states for homeowners insurance lightning loss claims.

“In our experience handling lightning-related claims, the one thing we see is the damage is always catastrophic,” said James Walker, senior claims investigator for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. “From causing fires in structures to destroying electrical systems and electronic equipment, the effects of lightning are costly.”

Lightning can strike directly or strike nearby structures and travel underground into phone, cable and electrical lines. To protect houses, property and the people inside, homeowners can have lightning protection systems professionally installed to ground and dissipate lightning's electrical discharge.

“Lightning just wants to get to the ground, and a safety standard-compliant lightning protection system helps it get there without harmful impact to the structure, contents or building systems,” Loehr said.

For more information on lightning facts and safety, visit lightningsafetycouncil.org. To learn about lightning protection systems, visit the Lighting Protection Institute at lightning.org/technical/#how-system-works.

Farmers markets welcome spring shoppers

The weather is warm, farmers markets are open, and customers are flocking to find fresh, seasonal produce, meats, artisan goods and a sense of community.

From small neighborhood markets to large marketplaces in town squares, farmers markets serve as places for people to gather and connect with local growers and artisans. Market guests can find an assortment of produce—like asparagus, berries, green beans and leafy greens—as well as meats, cheeses, honey, baked goods and homemade wares among the commonwealth's 267 farmers markets.

“That number is similar to last summer,” said Mary Delicate, Virginia Farmers Market Association marketing director. “More markets will pop up in the next month or so. However, we anticipate the number to hold fairly steady.”

Some of those markets will display a new certification as a Virginia Certified Farmers Market, a recent initiative launched by the VAFMA. Designated in three levels—Bronze, Silver and Gold—the certification highlights markets that meet and exceed best practices in categories like food safety, continuing education and public safety.

The effort allows participating farmers markets to distinguish themselves among consumers, vendors and their communities, Delicate said.

“When consumers shop at a Virginia Certified Farmers Market, they can trust that the market is a safe, welcoming and transparent source of local food,” she explained.

At Hopewell Farmers Market, a Gold Certified Market, manager Tisha Sawyer said farmers and visitors are gearing up for peak market season. Market visitors will see more producers and vendors, food offerings, live music, cooking demonstrations and expanded nutritional and educational programming to increase consumer awareness about local foods.

“We have a kids' program called ‘Power of Produce,’ which provides fun, educational activities centered around produce and a two-bite taste challenge of seasonal produce items,” Sawyer said. “Participants receive a \$5 token to use toward their produce purchase.”

In addition to many markets hosting their own shopper promotions, the Virginia Farm Market Fresh program continues to expand across the commonwealth—addressing food access and financial assistance. Participants receive vouchers they can use to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables directly from farmers. Many markets also accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and participate in Virginia Fresh Match.

“The Virginia Farm Market Fresh program provides funds for eligible low-income seniors and WIC program recipients to use at farmers markets,” Delicate said. “The program is on track to double the number of participating farmers by the end of 2024.”

To find a farmers market near you, visit vdacs.virginia.gov/va-grown or vafma.org/virginia-markets.

Late spring planting leads to Virginia's fall corn mazes

As summer approaches, some Virginia farmers will be sowing the seeds of this year's corn maze craze—offering families plenty to look forward to this fall.

Traversing a corn maze's twists and turns is a beloved autumn tradition. Many of the 500-plus corn mazes across the U.S. serve as a major source of income for the farmers who grow them.

The first corn maze was created in Pennsylvania in the 1990s. A 3-acre field was cut in the shape of a dinosaur using a grid system to plot the design—a commonly used method.

Today, creating the Northern Neck Farm Museum's annual 1.5-acre corn maze is a “very hands-on process,” said Barbara Jean Jones, chair of the museum's board of directors.

Jones' daughter uses the traditional method of creating patterns on paper and laying them out on a grid for cutting. After the corn is planted around late June and reaches grass height, various board members will begin cutting this year's design with lawn mowers.

“We try to make it where visitors can go through the maze and come out in a reasonable time—it's just a fun thing to go through, and the kids love it,” Jones added.

Planning, designing and cutting the 8-acre corn maze at Jeter Farm in Botetourt County is a year-round endeavor for the family. They use similar methods for creating their “preschool approved” maze.

“We get a lot of preschool groups and younger families that enjoy more of a walk with a few wrong turns than a full-blown maze,” explained Rose Jeter.

Many farmers hire professionals to develop a computer-aided design and cut the corn—especially for more challenging courses.

Bringing Wayside Farm's complex, 10-acre corn maze to life requires help from The MAiZE Company, the world's largest corn maze design firm.

The Clarke County farm will begin planting this year's Spiderman-themed maze in late May. The seeds are cross-planted to ensure a thicker stand of corn—and no shortcuts for visitors.

“People get lost in there all the time,” laughed Philip Shenk, the farm's part owner.

He said it's “very gratifying” to welcome school groups and families to the 125-acre farm for its seven-week fall season, which will include a U-pick pumpkin patch, hayrides, barrel train rides, slides, an apple cannon and farm animals.

“There's just so many kids now that are so far removed from the farm, so it's a way to educate while we're having fun,” Shenk remarked.

“It's my hope that we are providing folks with a positive farm experience that also helps them see and appreciate where their food comes from,” Jeter said. She added that they utilize Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom resources.

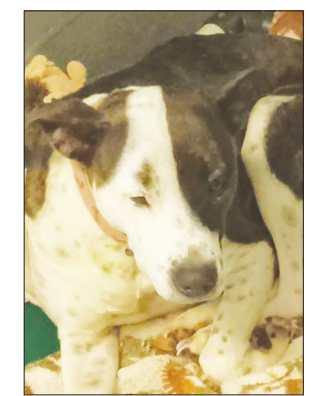
Visitors to the Jeter Farm Fall Festival in late September through October will find educational signage, wagon rides, barnyard animals, a pumpkin train, newly designed Jeter Farm T-shirts and other fall favorites.

The Northern Neck Farm Museum's Fall Harvest Fest is scheduled for Oct. 19, and the corn maze will open by mid-September and run through the last Sunday in October.

And nothing will go to waste once the corn mazes close, as most farms harvest the corn for livestock feed.

Visit the Virginia Tourism website for a list of corn mazes and pumpkin patches across the state.

Pets of the Week



This sweet girl has been looked over because she is a pittie breed, but she is super sweet and a favorite at the shelter. She is becoming depressed cause she keeps getting passed over.

This handsome guy is part Pyrenees. He loves to play and cuddle. His sister got a home, and he wants one, too.

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.

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Smith

(cont. from page 1)



"All we did for a five year period is hire and re-train folks, costing the county hundreds of thousands of dollars," Smith said. The General Assembly, Board of Supervisors, and county administration worked with Smith over that period to try to raise the pay of deputy sheriffs to a level that was in the market base of other law enforcement agencies in the region.

Smith said that vacancies have slowed over the past year, partly because of a slowing economy, but also because the pay is finally somewhat competitive.

"We invest tens of thousands of dollars into the training of every deputy sheriff," Smith said. "We have got to continue to be competitive in one of the most competitive job markets in the country."

Smith spends much of the winter and early spring annually talking with board members and working with the county administrator's office in preparing his budget and analyzing line items (expenses) one by one.

"The school budget makes up the lion's share of the total county budget, and we are second," Smith said, adding that this is typical among all local government budgets statewide. Inflation over the past five years has had an extraordinary impact on core areas of his budget, particularly in inmate medical payments, inmate food, motor vehicle parts and maintenance, motor vehicle costs, and ammunition.

"Five years ago, we were able to

purchase the lowest cost law enforcement vehicle offered, the Dodge Charger, for around \$25,000," he said. "By 2023, the exact same car had increased to \$36,000, and then Dodge announced that they would discontinue the Charger. That left us with the two lowest-cost offerings, either the Dodge Durango or Ford Explorer (utility interceptor). The state contract cost for both of those is around \$42,000."

Vehicles need to be replaced at an average rate of about 4.5 per year to keep safe vehicles on the road for response to emergencies, the sheriff said.

"Vehicles and consistent use of force/firearms training are the most important tools and liability factors we face in protecting the public, and I will not take shortcuts on either," Smith said, adding that it is so important that a few years ago, he suspended a deputy who lost control of a vehicle while responding to an emergency.

"That vehicle should have never been on the road. It had long outlived its safe lifespan," said Smith, adding that successful lawsuits have resulted in localities paying millions to officers and citizens injured due to vehicles being in operation that should have been replaced. Sworn law enforcement officers drive far more than any other governmental employees, and their vehicles are subject to extreme duty and must be replaced in a timely manner.

The cost of tires, car parts, and

bulk food have all seen significant increases. Ammunition has nearly doubled in cost over the past five years, and has seen up to eighteen months in delayed delivery, Smith said, adding that his office sells old equipment in online auctions, and participates in Federal Firearms Licensed auctions of seized and unclaimed firearms as allowed by court order every five to seven years.

The proceeds of these auctions, combined with state and federal asset forfeiture funds obtained from the successful prosecution of drug dealers, are used to purchase equipment for the sheriff's office.

"Taxpayer dollars are not used in purchasing duty weapons for this office," Smith said. "We use money generated through successful adjudication of seizing the assets of drug dealers to purchase both lethal and less than lethal weapons."

The sheriff said his office is aggressive in pursuing and securing grants that cover major, recurring equipment needs to help ease the burden on taxpayers. Law enforcement operations are heavily weighted with capital expenditures that have to be replaced, and that is inevitable.

"We are an accredited agency, we successfully complete state and local audits annually. We are transparent and frugal in our operations," Smith said, "and we will continue to do the best we can for those we serve."

Statistics.

"When you combine the anti-law enforcement rhetoric, and abnormally high inflation over the past four years, every law enforcement budget in the country has taken a hit," Smith said.

Retention of employees hit an all-time low between 2019 and 2024, with 36 deputies leaving the office, many of whom left for higher-paying jobs with other departments. Smith said that the national anti-law enforcement sentiment, combined with significant wage increases due to inflation in other sectors, caused an exodus that has been unforeseen in the past.

Wood Family

(cont. from page 1)

president, a vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer to form a company. It was for legal reasons, it wasn't because he was the boss," he said.

Wood estimates his father was president from the 1980s until he stepped down, and he does not know why Wood Brothers chose to shift into the third generation of leadership now.

"I asked that question myself, and I've never really gotten an answer. My dad just up and said, 'Hey, we're thinking about making you the company president. TBD (to be determined) we'll see how it goes,'" he said.

Wood said he didn't think anything more about it. However, around this time his uncle, Len Wood, started having a few minor health issues.

"I don't know if his health issues played a role in that not, but it all happened around the same

time," he said.

While the company has new ownership, Wood said major changes are not expected.

"It's funny because back when I absolutely had no say at all, I had all these ideas on how they could do things differently. I think we all do that at some point. We feel like our parents are doing things wrong, and it doesn't necessarily have to be within business, but just in life in general. We always feel like we can do it better," he said.

While he absolutely felt that way, Wood said as it turns out, he couldn't have been more wrong.

"So, it was really good that I had so say back then because I had to learn the hard way that they made it 75 years - not because they were stupid or made bad choices, but because they were pretty smart and made really good decisions," he said.

Above and beyond that, Wood said his predecessors were just good people.

"I think that's the part that really gets lost is a lot of teams come and go, and they come in and make a lot of noise, win a lot of races, but we are still here when pretty much every single one that at least started when we started has failed. So, they (previous owners) got to be doing something right," he said.

"Our performance is struggling now more than really it has in recent memory, but that's not to any single decision that they've made. It's just that they got to get better, and we will. I'm not even remotely concerned about that," he said.

While he feels like he doesn't deserve to become president, Wood said it's not something for him to question.

"I just hope to do the best, and I

don't want to let them down," he said. "I feel like my dad's pretty smart, and he's done a lot right. He's certainly managed to keep this company afloat and keep us in business, and so I don't want to let them down. I feel like I'm probably in a place now more than ever where I can take this seriously and respect the position."

Wood said becoming president is intimidating, particularly in the last year or so when there's been a lot of back and forth between NASCAR and other teams.

"We all kind of collaborate together, and so it's pretty intimidating when you walk in a room and Michael Jordan's sitting three seats down along others. It's overwhelming to think that I'm on the same level as a lot of these other team presidents now, and we're pretty much equals. That's the part that I really struggle with mentally," he said.

All Seasons

(cont. from page 1)

have the chance to get wonderful produce down there, so I would for my personal use," he said. "It would be sitting on the floor, and people would keep saying 'How much is that?' and I said, 'It's not for sale, it's personal.'"

After this happened a few times, Fain said he decided to start bringing produce for sale back with him on his trips to Florida.

Fain said he and his wife decided to open All Seasons because they were selling a few plants out front of their former business, the Western Auto/True Value store on Slusher Street in Sturtevant.

"It grew so much, I said, 'Hey, why don't we see if we can't do another shop and sell just seasonal merchandise?' Everything at the True Value was busting at the seams, and we were selling so much of the seasonal merchandise. That's how we came up with it. We were going to do a seasonal store," he said.

Looking back, Fain said the trends changed dramatically over time.

"When we first opened up, we were pretty much going to be a seasonal store "and Christmas was going to be a really big part of it. As time goes on, Christmas has kind of gone away, it's not what it used to be," he said.

In the store's early days, Fain said his wife would have about 12 different themed Christmas trees set up during the holidays.

"Now, people just don't do that. We migrated



Stanley Fain said he has become close to his customers during the more than three decades the store has been open.

from the Christmas business," he said.

In the store's heyday, Fain said he and Jennifer also opened a satellite store in one of Martinville's malls to sell Christmas merchandise.

Fain said his favorite thing about owning All Seasons has been the customers. In addition to interacting with the customers, Fain likes the fact that they're all individuals with stories of their own.

He said he "got to be" fairly close with them, "and of course, I enjoy the plants," he added.

During his retirement, Fain plans to spend his time pursuing his outdoor hobbies and spoiling his grandchildren.



Garden flags, like the one Stanley Fain is holding, and tons of outdoor and indoor décor await customers visiting All Seasons. Most of the inventory is on sale, with a few exceptions.

"I'm not a 'sit on the couch watch TV' kind of person," he said.

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Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a time for celebrations across the Ninth District, only a few of which are mentioned here.

For many Americans, Memorial Day means the beginning of summer as outdoor gatherings are embraced.

But the weekend is not just a weekend of picnics, swimming pools, family vacations to the beach and cookouts.

It is about celebrating people and honoring the U.S. military personnel who lost their lives serving their country.

The Ninth District of Virginia has a grand tradition of honoring our fallen heroes.

Dublin's Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Pulaski County stands as an outstanding example. The cemetery is located on an 80-acre parcel of land transferred from the U.S. Department of the Army's Radford Arsenal to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2008. The cemetery currently serves over 16,000 veterans.

I was honored to attend the Cemetery's Dedication Ceremony in 2011.

Radford's Glencoe Museum and Abingdon's Veterans Memorial Park are slated to attract visitors for their Memorial Day celebrations this year.

Martinsville celebrates Memorial Day annually. I have attended in the past their American Legion Post #78 service at Roselawn Chapel Funeral Home & Burial Park.

Marion's celebration also occupies the minds and hearts of Southwest Virginia every Memorial Day. This year's celebration will be particularly noteworthy and sad.

Not only are we honoring soldiers and particularly the soldiers of Smyth County. But the man who handled the Smyth celebration, which is one of the best in the country, passed away this year.

Mayor David Helms was the long-time Mayor of Marion, having served on the Town Council from 1990-2000 before becoming Mayor in 2000.

In public office, Mayor Helms pursued projects to revitalize downtown Marion and improve his community. His love for his community was evident: he spent decades in education, first serving as a teacher and then as a principal.

His love for America and celebrating veterans was a central tenet to his character and the man he was. Mayor Helms was a fierce advocate in recognizing veterans for their contributions and sacrifices. He worked closely with the Marion Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter and the East Tennessee Chapter of Rolling Thunder.

Every Memorial Day, Mayor Helms put on a celebration of epic proportions to honor the veterans of Smyth County and America. It receives widespread praise across the Common-



Morgan Griffith

Representative

wealth and the region every year.

The parade is beautiful. The town waves a massive American flag above the street with the help of a firetruck. They display another giant American flag at the downtown Courthouse.

Also at the Courthouse, you will find there is a wreath-laying tribute for the veterans. On the Courthouse lawn, the names of deceased veterans are etched into crosses planted in the ground. Full-fledged American flags accompany the crosses. There is a deluge of these cross-flag pairs on the lawn.

One of the crosses in Marion commemorates the Bedford Boys, in reference to the heroes from Bedford County that were amongst the first to land on Omaha Beach during the Allied invasion of Normandy.

Amongst the fallen on June 6, 1944, what we recognize as D-Day, is U.S. Army Private Thomas H. Williams of Marion. Private Williams served the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division on that fateful day.

During the parade, you march down the street, say "hi" and wish people "Happy Memorial Day." High school marching bands from several Counties participate in the parade and perform tunes. Other organizations and floats also pay their respective tributes for all to see.

I have loved being in the parade with Mayor Helms. I have always been impressed with his hard work and thoughtful dedication in making the celebration a staple for our region.

Following the parade, there is a program at Marion's Veterans of Foreign Wars facility. Inside the building, one can enjoy a meal with the company of family, friends and neighbors.

Outside their doors, a small ceremony is held with music and speeches.

The festivities are some of the most patriotic to take place in the Ninth District. I am humbled and moved by them.

Most of all, they were never about politics. For Mayor Helms, it was about the soldiers of Smyth County who gave their lives.

On this Memorial Day, while I will be celebrating all veterans of the Ninth District and grateful for their sacrifice, I will also remember patriot Mayor David Helms.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meadows of Dan Backpack Program

On behalf of Meadows of Dan Elementary School Backpack Program, I extend heart felt gratitude to all who have made monetary donations and given of their time and energy to keep at risk students supplied with nutritious, tasty weekend meals. This outreach would not be possible without your concern for the wellbeing of the children in our community. We begin sending home packages of food the very first week of school and additional food will be ordered in early July of this year and again in January of 2025. As we all know, the price of groceries and necessities continue to rise making it difficult for single parents and couples to feed, clothe and house their children. Thank you for being a part of the MODES Backpack program. Your tremendous generosity is appreciated more than you will ever know.

The Board members and volunteers look forward to working with Mrs. Rozina Turner, newly appoint-

ed principal of Meadows of Dan Elementary School, faculty, and staff during the 2024 -25 school year to help ensure the health and safety of our children. Once again, thank you to all who assist in making the Backpack Program a success!

If you would like to donate to the MODES Backpack Program you may simply go to the Skyline Community Bank's drive-in window in Meadows of Dan, located across the road from the Family Dollar Store at the intersection of Willis Rd. and Jeb Stuart highway. Let the teller know you would like to donate to the Meadows of Dan Backpack Program, and they will deposit your gift directly into the Backpack checking Account. Or you may mail your gift to Tammy Franklin, 7206 Squirrel Spur Road, Meadows of Dan, VA, 24120. Should you have any questions, call (276) 952-2356.

Tammy Franklin, President,
Meadows of Dan Backpack Program

Annual fishing event hosts 25 veterans



The 9th Veterans Fishing Event hosted by Blue Ridge Heritage, Inc. was held on May 18. Twenty five veterans enjoyed a day of fun, fishing and fellowship near the Blue Ridge Parkway and Meadows of Dan. The pond was stocked with Rainbow Trout, compliments of generous donations by the Honorable Martin Clark, Lynn Regan, Clark Gas & Oil and Hopkins Lumber. Volunteers from the Smith River Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) instructed how to cast flyrods, demonstrated fly tying and along with the TU members, helped the Veterans land fish. Lunch was prepared and served by volunteers from the Blue Ridge Heritage families and the Patrick County High School Fishing Team. Many thanks

go out to our volunteers and donors who make this day a success as well as a relaxing, fun event for the Veterans. Our gratitude for their service cannot be overstated.

Blue Ridge Heritage, Inc is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting education about Appalachian Culture during the 20th Century detailing the history and heritage of Patrick and Floyd Counties during the 1900's. This area has experienced monumental change during this time period - two World Wars, additional armed conflicts, the Great Depression, Prohibition, population shifts and the loss of the giant of our forests, the American Chestnut Tree. For more information about Blue Ridge Heritage, please visit www.brheritage.org.

'Tom Talk' raises funds for scholarship



The 'Tom Talks' History and Book Signing event hosted Sunday, May 19, by the Ararat Ruritan Club was a special event, with proceeds from sales donated to the Perry Family Scholarship.

Tom Perry, author, started the scholarship fund as a way to honor his late parents.

The event in Ararat included the release of his new book, "White Sulphur Springs, North Carolina," Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. It also offered the community a unique op-

portunity to engage with the author and learn more about our local history.

Pictured (L to R) is Horace Porter "Chip" Bondurant, Family Historian and Manager Pedigo Cemetery, Mary Dellenback Hill, Representative Dan River District, Patrick County Tourism and Author/Speaker Tom Perry. Donations may be made to the scholarship fund by mail to P.O. Box 11, Ararat, VA 24053, or call (276) 692 5300 for more information. (Photo by Kevin Smith)

Keith tapped as EMU Teacher of Promise

Eastern Mennonite University education student Erin Keith, of Stuart, was selected to represent EMU at the 2024 Teachers of Promise Institute. The annual event brings 100 of the top pre-service teachers in Virginia

together.

"I am confident that these future teachers will positively influence the lives of each student in their classrooms," said EMU Teacher Education program director Holly Rusher.

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

Patrick Pioneers

Troy Lee Thomas

By Beverly Belcher Woody

This Monday, May 27th is Memorial Day, the day that we officially mourn U. S. military personnel who were killed while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Patrick County has given many of their sons and daughters for the war effort and sadly, many have not returned home.

One of Patrick County's sons who did not make it back is Troy Lee Thomas. Troy was born to James "Jim" Samuel Thomas and Martha "Rennie" Edwards of Vesta, Virginia. Troy's paternal grandparents were George Lee Thomas and Martha Jane Rakes Thomas, and his maternal grandparents were John Franklin Edwards and Nancy Lou Newman Edwards, all of the Vesta area.

Jim and Rennie Edwards Thomas' first child, James Eldridge Thomas was born the 2nd of June 1920. James was never able to walk or talk and passed away in 1938, at the age of 18. The couple's second child, a little boy, was stillborn on the 25th of March 1922. Jim and Rennie's third child, a little girl named Evelyn Ruth, was born the following year. At the age of five, little Ruth contracted scarlet fever and died in 1928. Troy Lee was born on the 11th of March 1930 and the couple's fifth child; Thelma Ruth was born the third of May 1935.

At the age of 34, Rennie Edwards Thomas succumbed to complications from tuberculosis. The following year, James died, and Jim was left to raise his 7-year-old son, Troy; and 3-year-old daughter, Thelma alone.

On June 10th, 1944, Jim married Gracie Etta Bowling and several years later, their daughter Phyllis was born. Phyllis' big brother, Troy Lee Thomas graduated from Meadows of Dan High School in 1948 and was inducted into the United States Army on the 30th of August 1951. Troy was first sent to Fort Meade in Maryland and a week later to a camp in California, from which point he was flown to Hawaii, where he completed his basic training. In February 1952, Troy was sent to Korea and put in the thick of the



Troy Lee Thomas (photo from Phyllis Thomas)

fighting. He had recently been discharged from the hospital in Korea and was killed in action on the 13th of June 1952, his first day back on the front lines. On the 1st of July 1952, Troy's father, Jim Thomas received a telegram from the Department of Defense notifying him that his son had been killed in action, two weeks prior.

The following information is listed in the Korean War Veterans Honor Roll: "Private Thomas was a member of the 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division. He was killed in action while fighting the enemy in North Korea on June 13, 1952. Private Thomas was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal."

Korean War—1951–1953

We didn't do much talking,

We didn't raise a fuss.

But Korea really happened

So please – remember us.

We all just did our duty

But we didn't win or lose.

A victory was denied us

But we didn't get to choose.

PVT. TROY L. THOMAS

The body of Pvt. Troy L. Thomas, 22, who was killed recently in Korea, will arrive in Stuart Saturday with military escort. He was the first native Patrick Countian to lose his life in the Korean war.

Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 p. m. at the Dan River Primitive Baptist Church at Meadows of Dan with burial following in the Thomas family cemetery.

Surviving are his father, Jim S. Thomas, and two sisters, Thelma Marie and Phyllis Thomas, all of Vesta.

Martinsville Bulletin 1952

We all roasted in the summer
In winter, we damn near froze.
Walking back from near the Yalu
With our blackened frozen toes.
Like the surf the Chinese kept coming
With their bugles in the night.
We fired into their masses
Praying for the morning light.
All of us just had to be there
And so many of us died.
But now we're all but forgotten
No one remembers how we tried.
We grow fewer with the years now
And we still don't raise a fuss.
But Korea really happened
So please – remember us.
—Lt. Cmdr. (Ret.) Roberto J. Prinselaar, U.S. Coast Guard

Thank you to Phyllis Thomas for sharing information about her big brother, Troy Lee Thomas. Next week, we will continue with the Blue Ridge Mission Schools series. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – I'm Working after age 65; Why Aren't I Exempt from Medicare Part B Premium?

Dear Rusty: Why, as I continue to work after age 65 and have FICA taxes taken from my check, am I - or anyone - also compelled under the threat of penalties, rate increases, etc. to immediately take Medicare Part B? Am I not then effectively paying into the system twice? As more and more people over 65 continue to work, isn't that a consideration that should be evaluated by Congress - if one is working past 65, above a specific level of income and paying FICA taxes, the Medicare Part B premium is waived? Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior: FYI, 6.2% of the FICA payroll taxes you pay while working goes to Social Security, and another 1.45% goes to fund Medicare Part A (hospitalization coverage, which is free to you). None of the FICA payroll tax you pay from your work earnings goes to fund Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), which is the part of Medi-

care for which you must pay a premium.

Said another way, your FICA payroll taxes do fund Medicare Part A, which is free to you, but do not provide any funding for Medicare Part B. Part B is funded from two primary sources - the premiums paid by beneficiaries, and the federal government from the general Treasury. Premiums from enrollees pay for about 25% of Part B healthcare expenses and the remaining 75% of Part B operating expenses are paid from the general U.S. Treasury (not from Social Security money).

So, it's necessary to separate Part B from your thinking about the payroll taxes you pay while working - you're not paying anything to fund Part B through your FICA taxes. You aren't compelled to enroll in Part B (it's optional), but if you don't enroll during your initial enrollment period (3 months on either side of the month you turn 65) and don't have other equivalent "creditable" coverage from an employer, and you enroll in Part B later, a late enrollment penalty will apply (10% additional premium for each full year after age 65 you go without creditable healthcare coverage).

So, your premise in suggesting that Part B be free (the premium waived) if you're work-

ing over a certain age or after an amount of time contributing to the program isn't valid, because no one contributes to Medicare Part B through FICA payroll taxes - Part B beneficiary contributions are only made through premiums paid by those enrolled in it. And you don't need to enroll in Part B if you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer. The Part B non-enrollment penalty only applies if you enroll after your initial enrollment period has expired and didn't have "creditable" healthcare coverage after you turned 65. "Creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants.

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

Get Totally Ready for Summer

Well, did we accomplish the goal? You know, the one we set after Christmas: "I am going to get myself in shape so I can look good at the beach." Or this one: "I am finally going to be able to wear shorts this summer." "No", you say, but you rationalize that it is only May, there is still time... WRONG, it is too late!!! The sun is already out in force, temperatures are rising, and people are already making plans for time at the beach.

Does that mean you should give up exercise for the summer? Absolutely not! Exercise is something we should do year round, not just for a special occasion to look good. If that is our main goal, it is a bit shallow and probably won't keep us going. We should exercise because it is good for us. Looking better is simply one of the byproducts. Additionally, exercise will keep us healthier, which means fewer trips to the doctor and less medicine. That in itself will help people save large amounts of money.

Our mental health also benefits from regular exercise. Research has shown that two-thirds of all depression could be reversed after three months of regular exercise done three times a week. It will keep us more alert, happier, and will enhance the desire to enjoy life to the fullest. Exercise has also been shown to reduce stress and boost brainpower. These substantial mental health benefits are motivation to exercise in and of themselves.

An exercise program should be broken down into three phases: strength training, aerobics, and flexibility. For strength training, you can invest in some equipment of your own or join a facility that has good equipment. If you don't

want to use weights you can do Pilates or follow some exercise videos designed for the purpose. The point is that strength training should not be overlooked just because you often exercise another way—different types of exercise target different parts of your body and are all necessary.

Aerobic exercise, also called Cardio, is designed to get your blood circulating and build endurance. Aerobic exercise is particularly beneficial to your heart, lungs, and circulation. Types of cardio include walking, running, cycling, and swimming. Each week, healthy adults should try to do some form of aerobic exercise at least three times a week. However, even if you have to break your exercise into short sessions, it will benefit you. Even exercise sessions as short as 10 minutes have been demonstrated to improve health.

For aerobic exercise, if at all possible, GET OUTSIDE! Especially if warm sunny days are not that plentiful in your part of the country. I'm based in South Dakota and vitamin D deficiencies are the norm around here. Vitamin D is often called the "sunshine vitamin" because the body uses sunlight to convert cholesterol into vitamin D. Adequate vitamin D levels are very important, particularly for strong bones. The good news is vitamin D can be stored; but getting some sun exposure, especially during the summer, is important. That being said, do not burn your skin or spend hours exposed each day, as this could lead to potential problems down the line.

Flexibility is an aspect of fitness that can be easily practiced in your own home or whatever facility you are at. If they have stretching ma-

chines available, all the better. Stretching is the aspect of fitness that often gets ignored (even by people who focus strongly in other areas). Ignoring flexibility is a big mistake. To keep moving comfortably into old age, we need to stretch. Don't just work on a few specific areas; be sure to work on all major joints to reap the full benefits of flexibility.

If all these steps are followed, you might be in for a big surprise. Each month, it is possible to lose 5 pounds of unwanted fat. Yes, it is already May, but if you start now, by August, you could have lost 15 pounds of fat. In addition to the great health benefits, it will help you feel better about yourself when you go to the beach. In other words, dig your swimming suit out of the closet and get it ready for action!

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

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Christopher Bell wins rain-shortened Coca-Cola 600

By Reid Spencer
NASCAR Wire Service

A lightning delay that turned into a heavy rainstorm made a winner of Christopher Bell in Sunday's Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Not that Bell didn't deserve the victory in the rain-shortened race, which NASCAR was forced to call after 249 of 400 laps were complete.

The driver of the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota started third, led a race-high 90 laps and won the second stage of the 14th NASCAR Cup Series race of the season.

The decisive juncture in the Memorial Day weekend race came when Bell held off Darlington winner Brad Keselowski during a 10-lap run after a caution for Corey Lajoie's spin in Turn 2 on Lap 229.

On the ensuing Lap 236 restart, Bell and Keselowski lined up side-by-side at the front of the field, with Bell prevailing and pulling out to a lead of roughly six car-lengths before NASCAR called the seventh caution for lightning in the area.

After the lightning came heavy rain, and though NASCAR attempted to dry the track when the rain subsided, heavy humidity thwarted efforts to do so in a timely manner.

As a result, Bell collected his second victory of the season, his first on the 1.5-mile Charlotte oval and



Denny Hamlin, driver of the #11 Mavis Tire Toyota, and Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 Rheem Toyota, race during the NASCAR Cup Series Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway on May 26, 2024 in Concord, North Carolina. (Photo by Logan Riely/Getty Images)

the eighth of his career.

The victory was a welcome momentum shift for Bell, who had finished outside the top 10 in five of his previous six races.

"Man, it feels so good—to win or lose—just to have a great race to go off of," Bell said. "A race where we led laps. We were able to pass cars. We lost the lead at times and were able to drive back to the lead."

"We had great pit stops. It was a team effort, and it was amazing to have a good race. Hopefully, this is

something we can build on and get back to being more consistent."

Keselowski, who posted his third runner-up finish of the season, was convinced he had the fastest car.

"We just didn't have time for it to play out," said the driver of the No. 2 Roush Fenway Keselowski Ford, who pressured Bell throughout the final 10-lap run before weather intervened.

Stage 1 winner William Byron ran third behind Bell and Keselowski, with Tyler Reddick and Denny

Hamlin finishing fourth and fifth, respectively.

Pole winner Ty Gibbs finished sixth after leading 74 laps, including the first 42 of the race. Chase Elliott finished seventh, followed by Ross Chastain, Alex Bowman and Josh Berry.

After finishing 18th in his Indianapolis 500 debut, Kyle Larson arrived at Charlotte Motor Speedway just before weather forced the stoppage. Larson intended to take over his No. 5 Chevrolet from Justin Allgaier, who had started the race at Charlotte because the Indy 500 was delayed by rain.

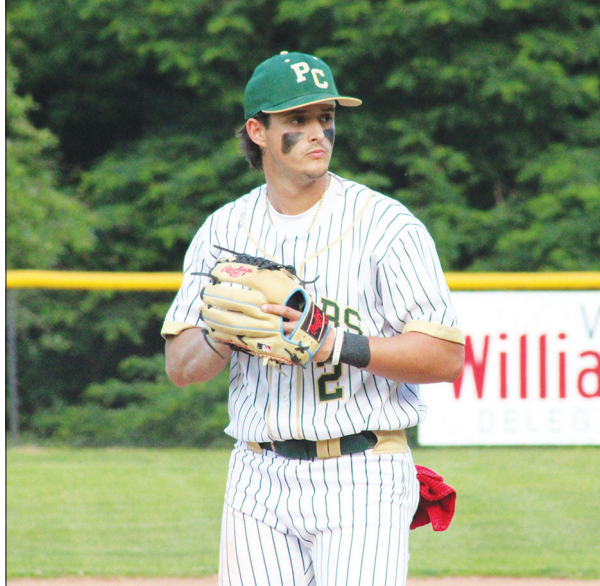
Allgaier was running 13th when the race was called, and Larson never had a chance to drive the car.

Defending race winner and reigning series champion Ryan Blaney slammed the outside wall in the second stage and exited the event after 143 laps.

"We'll have to look if I hit something or... I don't know," Blaney said. "I just went into (Turn) 3 getting up to speed and blew a tire and hit the fence. It's an unfortunate end to our night. That sucks."

"We're not even halfway and just wanting to work on your stuff all night. I thought we were getting it a little better here and there, but won't get a shot."

Five Cougars named to All-District Team



Tucker Swails was named Three Rivers District Player of the Year, as well as 1st Team at pitcher and shortstop.



Broc Taylor earned 1st Team All-District honors as pitcher and first baseman.



Stuart Callahan was named 1st Team as an outfielder and 2nd Team as a pitcher.

Lady Cougars Headed to Regional Semifinals

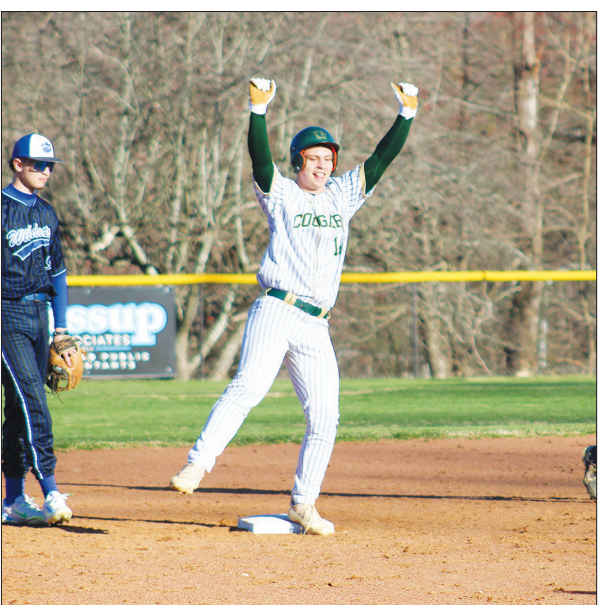
By Ashlee Mullis

On Thursday, May 23, the Lady Cougars defeated Dan River 11-4 in the regional quarterfinals at Cougar Field.

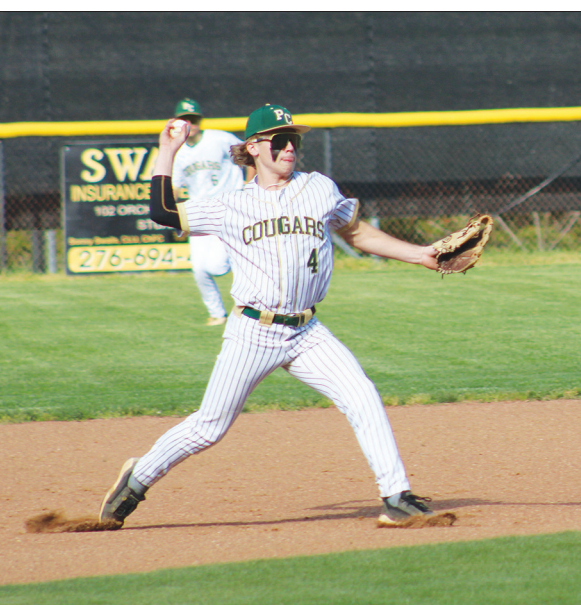
McKenzie Holt got the win, going 5 innings in the circle, striking out 10. Journey Moore pitched 2 innings, striking out 5. Moore had 2 hits with a double and a triple, scoring 3 runs. Lauren Fulcher had a double with 2 hits, and Lilly Hazelwood had 2 hits on the night. Maria Turner and Chloe Hubbard each had a double with 2 RBIs.

Bryley Pike, Lauren Hazelwood, and Hayden Lawless each had hits in the win.

The Lady Cougars were scheduled to play in the region semi-finals at Botetourt Sports Complex Tuesday night.



Jackson Horton was named as the 1st Team All-District third baseman.



Noah Jessup was named as the 2nd Team All-District second baseman.



Patrick County resident is NC State Champion

Davidlee Williams won the Pole Vault Competition at the NCHSAA 1A State Championships on May 20. He had the winning jump of 15 feet. This jump puts him 5th overall in the history of North Carolina's 1A division. Davidlee finished the Outdoor season undefeated in pole vault competition. His other accomplishments this season include setting a new School Record at 15'1," a new Northwest Conference Record at 15'0," and a new Midwest 1A record at 15'0." He plans on competing at Adidas Outdoor Nationals this June. (Contributed)

Portion of road to close for repairs

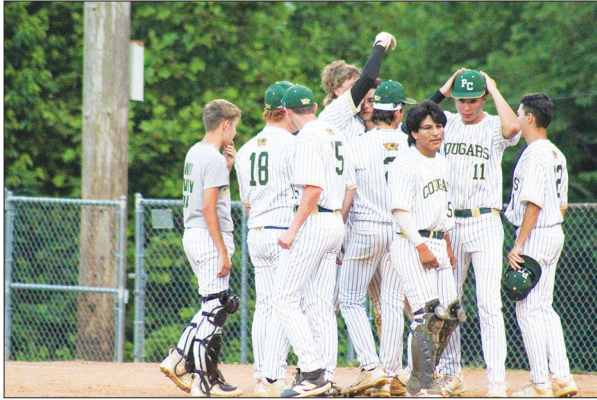
Beginning Tuesday, June 4, a portion of Virginia 642 (Poorhouse Creek Road) will be closed to through traffic from 0.10 mile from Virginia T-1014 (Sunset Drive) to 1.46 miles from dead end for a bridge replacement over Poorhouse Creek.

Weather permitting, the road will re-open to traffic on Friday, June 7.

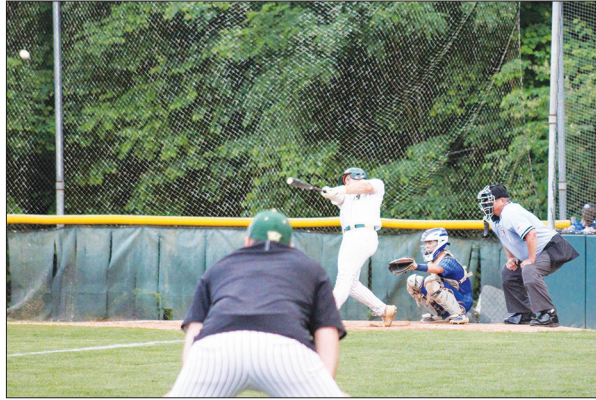
A detour and directional signs will be used to help motorists.

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Gretna ends Cougar's season



Cougar players console each other following the game.



Jackson Horton sends the ball on its way over the left field fence.



Gretna player slides in high on Cougar third baseman Jackson Horton.

By Pat Delaney

The Cougars' hope of back-to-back championships ended in their regional tournament game with Gretna on May 22, when the team fell 3-2.

A couple of errors in the first inning allowed the Hawks from Gretna to score three unearned runs. Cougar starting pitcher Tucker Swails held the Hawks scoreless for the rest of his complete game performance.

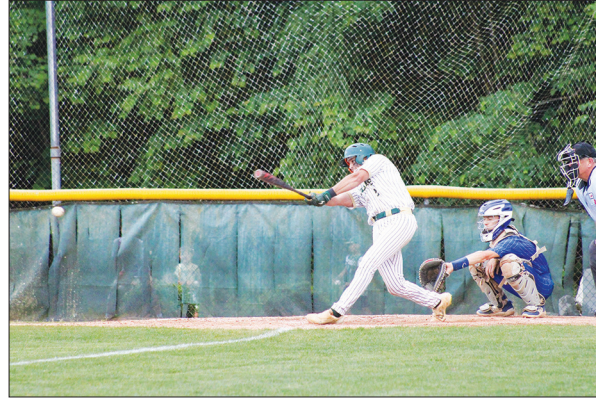
The Cougars threatened several times during the game, loading the bases in the second and putting two runners on in the third, both times without scoring. The Cougars would strand 13 runners in the game.

Noah Jessup scored the Cougars' first run in the fifth inning. In the sixth, Jackson Horton blasted a solo home run over the left field fence to close the gap to just one run.

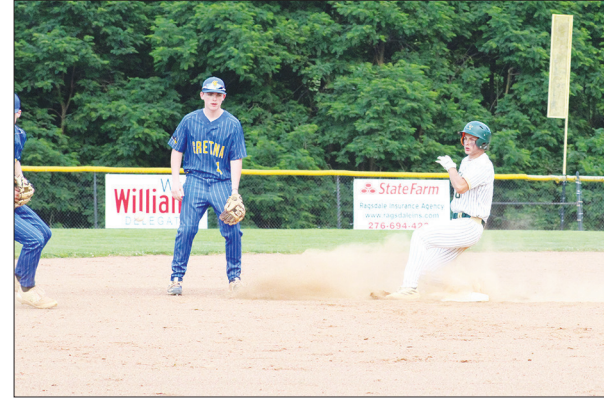
A Gavin Fain hit led off the seventh inning, followed by a Tucker Swails double. With runners on second and third, Stuart Callahan beat the throw to first on an infield hit, loading the bases. With two outs, Broc Taylor hit a line drive down the left field line. The Gretna left fielder charged in and made the catch with the ball mere inches from the ground. With that catch for the final out, the game and the Cougars' season came to an end.

On the mound, Tucker Swails went the distance without allowing an earned run, giving up five hits, walking one, and striking out twelve. With those twelve strikeouts, he climbed into eighth place all-time in Virginia High School baseball history, finishing his career for Patrick County with 328 strikeouts.

At the plate, Swails went 3-4 and Stuart Callahan went 2-4 for the evening.



Tucker Swails belts one of his three hits on the night.



Stuart Callahan beats the throw to second.

"What an unbelievable season," said head coach, Tal Swails. "19-1, the best record ever in the regular season. District champs in their inaugural year in the Three Rivers District. Our guys had a hell of a year. And unfortunately, it comes down to one game sometimes, and one at bat."

"The game of baseball will humble you. It is a life lesson teaching game, and this is one of those they're going to remember this one for a long time, unfortunately," the coach said.

The Cougar players and coaches were understandably emotional following the tough loss, with teammates supporting and lifting each other up.

"This one's going to sting awhile," said Tal Swails. "We just made a couple of errors early and got behind, and we just couldn't get a big hit. They wouldn't fall. We just kept hitting it at them and hitting it at them, and they got the plays. The left fielder made some really nice plays out there."

"Sonny (Assistant coach Sonny Swails) said he'd been doing it 54 years, and 53 had to end like this," continued Tal Swails. "There's always been a last game where there's a loss. We were fortunate enough last year not to have to have a conversation after a loss."

The loss did not dampen the pride Tal Swails has for his team and what they accomplished. "I'm proud of them. I'm proud of our seniors. We're going to miss them so bad."

While the season didn't end as hoped for by players, coaches and Cougar fans alike, these young men and their coaches took the community on an amazing ride. This group's greatness and their significance to the community cannot be overstated, from their championship victory last June to achieving a school best record of 19-2 this season.

"The last thing I told them was, just go be special," said Tal Swails, "because they are special. I told them to keep being special."

Walk-off win for Lady Cougars

By Pat Delaney

The Patrick County Lady Cougars finished the regular season with a come from behind win over Floyd County on May 20. The Lady Cougars trailed by three runs through four innings but got their bats going to make up the difference, taking the game, 5-4.

Senior pitcher McKenzie Holt got the start for the Lady Cougars and, after loading the bases in the first inning, came back strong, striking out the next three batters and stranding three Floyd runners.

Floyd would take a one run lead in the second, and added three more in the third for a 4-0 lead heading into the bottom of the third.

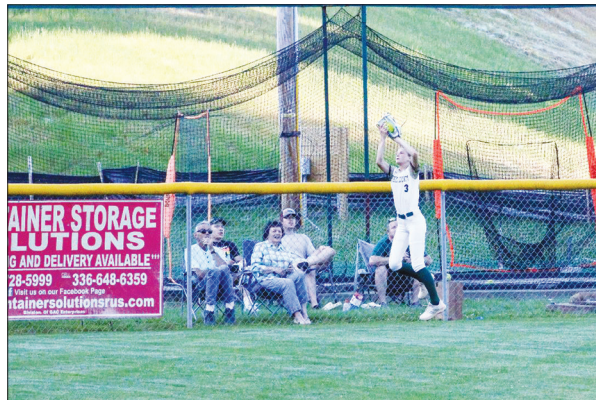
Lauren Fulcher got things going with a liner to right field. The Floyd second baseman mishandled a McKenzie Holt grounder, driving in Fulcher for the Lady Cougars' first run.

In the bottom of the fifth, the Lady Cougar bats came alive, starting with Chloe Hubbard reaching and Journey Moore collecting hits and moving into scoring position on a passed ball. A Lilly Hazelwood sacrifice fly to deep center brought home Hubbard and moved Moore to third. Lauren Fulcher brought home Moore with a sacrifice fly, closing the gap to one run at 4-3.

In the sixth, Chloe Hubbard helped keep Floyd County from adding to their lead with a great catch at the fence in center field. A Taylor Lawless RBI double up the middle in the Lady Cougar half of the inning tied the score at four a piece.

Journey Moore led off the seventh with a line drive off the fence for a double. Lilly Hazelwood reached base with an infield grounder, moving Moore to third. With the winning run on third, Lauren Fulcher drove in Moore to complete the comeback win, 5-4.

"We started off slow," said Lady Cougar Head Coach, Ryan Pendleton, "but we started hitting at the end." Asked about how his team handled the pressure



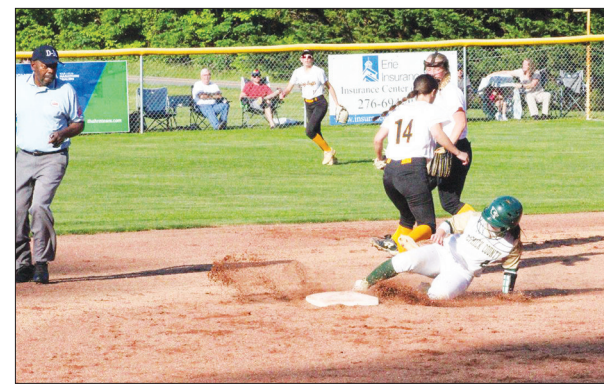
Chloe Hubbard goes up for a big catch at the fence.



McKenzie Holt tags the runner attempting to steal second.



Journey Moore beats the throw to score one of her two runs for the game.



Ladies Sutphin slides into second for the steal.

of coming back from three runs, Pendleton said, "there was no panic. I tried to tell them, if we get a couple of runs, we got this. And we did."

On the night, McKenzie Holt pitched four innings, striking out six. Journey Moore tossed the final three innings without giving up a run.

At the plate, Moore had three hits and scored twice,

including the game winner. Taylor Lawless added two hits.

The win gives the Lady Cougars a 14-5 record in the regular season, going 9-3 in Three Rivers District play.

Farmers contribute to agriculture emissions falling to lowest level in a decade

American agriculture reduced greenhouse gas emissions by almost 2% from 2021 to 2022—the largest decrease of any economic sector. This was reported in the Environmental Protection Agency's recently released Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2022.

In this study's data set, the largest source of agricultural emissions came from soil management—just over 5% of U.S. emissions overall. However, crop cultivation emissions totaled 319 million metric tons in 2022, down 1.7% from 2021.

"This would include fertilizer applications and tillage practices, which saw a 7.2 million metric ton, or 2.4%, decrease from 2021 to 2022," noted Ben Rowe, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation director of national affairs. "While soil management can lead to emissions of carbon dioxide, it also can serve to sequester it when conservation practices like no-till farming and cover crops are used."

These conservation practices are particularly common in Virginia where widespread voluntary adoption of agricultural best management practices has helped

farmers meet Chesapeake Bay water quality goals.

"And that has a co-benefit of lowering emissions," Rowe added.

To reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide and offset GHG emissions, carbon also is trapped in soils through other carbon sink activities. Practices include forest cultivation, forestry management decreasing forest fire risk or degradation, increasing below-ground plant matter, and wetlands or grasslands management.

Livestock emissions were down 2.1% from 2021. American Farm Bureau economists say this is likely attributed to smaller livestock inventories due to drought.

Livestock contribute 4.3% to total U.S. emissions, and Virginia farmers are doing their part to continue driving that number down, Rowe continued.

"For livestock, increasing the number of anaerobic digesters, pasture management and improved nutrient management and feed efficiency helps reduce emissions," he said.

Fuel combustion utilized by the agricultural sector is down 1.2% from 2021, making up just 0.64% of total

emissions.

In total, agriculture is responsible for under 10% of all greenhouse gas emissions.

The drop in agricultural emissions highlights the success of voluntary and market-based programs that support farmer efforts in sustainable agriculture practices, said AFBF President Zippy Duvall.

"The latest numbers should also serve as inspiration to lawmakers who can build on this progress by passing a farm bill, which not only provides a safety net for farmers, but also helps them meet sustainability goals."

The largest U.S. emissions source was the transportation sector, representing 28% of total emissions, declining 0.2% from the prior year. Next, electricity generation represented 25% of total emissions, dropping 0.4%. The industrial sector, including iron, steel and cement production, represented 23% of all emissions, down 0.2%. The commercial and residential sectors represented 14% of all U.S. emissions, increasing 4.8%.

Melvin Elmo "Pete" Hubbard, Sr.

Melvin Elmo "Pete" Hubbard, Sr., age 86, of Meadows of Dan, VA passed away on May 22, 2024, at Salem VA Medical Center, VA. Pete was born on May 23, 1937, in Meadows of Dan, VA to the late Walter Ethan Hubbard and Mattie Elizabeth Agee Hubbard. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Earnest Hubbard, Clayton Hubbard, Wayne Hubbard, and Harlie Hubbard; and sisters, India Williams and Janie Brammer.



He loved singing hymns and served as a song leader at church. He was known for his skillful abilities in farming and growing cabbage. For over 40 years, Pete and his family grew and sold produce at Pete's Place in Meadows of Dan. He cherished the time he spent with his family. He loved trout

fishers (Michaela), Eli Williams (Emily), Luke Williams, Levi Williams, Colby Hubbard, Riley Hubbard, Hunter DeShazo, Tanner DeShazo, Hayley DeShazo, and Ryder DeShazo; 17 Great-Grandchildren; 2 Great-Great-Grandchildren; sister, Essie Hubbard Hughes of Stuart, VA; sisters-in-law, Nancy Hubbard of Stuart, VA and Lou Massey of Bassett, VA; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Pete is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Iola Jane Massey Hubbard of the home; children, Annette Sutphin (Blake) of Mt. Airy, NC, Nancy Hubbard Plasters of Meadows of Dan, VA, Teresa Williams (Rodger) of Stuart, VA, Melvin (Pete) Hubbard, Jr. (Jill) of Ararat, VA, and Kandy DeShazo (Brian) of Spencer, VA; grandchildren, Kevin Handy (Rose), Brandon Handy (Jennifer), Heather Beasley (Patrick), Suzanne Belcher (Darren), Ethan Plas-

ters (Michaela), Eli Williams (Emily), Luke Williams, Levi Williams, Colby Hubbard, Riley Hubbard, Hunter DeShazo, Tanner DeShazo, Hayley DeShazo, and Ryder DeShazo; 17 Great-Grandchildren; 2 Great-Great-Grandchildren; sister, Essie Hubbard Hughes of Stuart, VA; sisters-in-law, Nancy Hubbard of Stuart, VA and Lou Massey of Bassett, VA; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at Conners View Primitive Baptist Church at 2:00 PM with Elder Tim McGrady officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Conners View Primitive Baptist Church, c/o Barry Fain, 459 Woodland Drive, Stuart, VA 24171. Expressions of condolences may be sent online by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Ruth Etta Collins Simmons

Ruth Etta Collins Simmons, age 94, went home to be with her Lord on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at Hospice House of Burlington. Ruth was born to Walter L. and Delphia Bowman Collins on November 26, 1929, in Patrick County, Virginia.



Ruth grew up on the family farm with eleven siblings. On July 9, 1946, she married Wilbur R. Simmons and they were blessed with three children. After moving to Greensboro, NC, Ruth began working at Guilford Mills and remained there as an Administrative Assistant until retirement.

Ruth was predeceased by her husband of fifty-three years, Wilbur Simmons; son Michael R. Simmons; daughter-in law Dale Simmons; sisters Mozelle Harris, Evelyne

Crowder, Ann Martin, Myra Mills; brothers James Collins, Vance Collins, Buddy Collins, McKay Collins, Edward Collins; and two great-grandchildren. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Patricia and Barry Dillard, son and daughter-in-law Mitchell and Ivy Simmons, daughter-in-law Dianne Simmons; nine grandchildren; twenty-one great-grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brothers Bobby Collins

Paul Odell Light

Mr. Paul Odell Light, age 84 of Stuart, Virginia passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at Blue Ridge Nursing Home. He was born in Patrick County on October 8, 1939, to the late Charles Edgar Light and Rosa Myrtle Lawson Light. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Francis Motley Light; one brother, L.D. Light; two half-brothers, Obie Collins and Junior Collins; and one half-sister, Ruth Lawson. Paul loved life and lived life to the fullest. He enjoyed watching baseball and racing. He loved to peddle his apples and talk with every customer.



Mr. Light is survived by one son, Tommy Knowles (Angel Blanchette) of Alden, Michigan; four grandchildren, Keegan Knowles, Aidan Knowles, Ava Knowles, and Lydia Knowles; one great-grandchild, Cecelya; stepson, Johnny Motley of Stuart; one step-grandson, Michael Motley; two sisters, Carlene Inman of Stuart, and Lena Inman of Martinsville;

and Charles Collins.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at Minnies Chapel Wesleyan Church, 161 Minnies Chapel Loop, Stuart, Virginia. The family will receive friends and family beginning at 1:00 pm, with the service to begin at 2:00pm. Burial will be in the church cemetery. If anyone wishes, flowers will be appreciated, or memorial donations may be made to Minnies Chapel cemetery fund. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

The family extends our deepest appreciation for the staff at Guilford House Memory Care in Greensboro and Hospice of Burlington and Greensboro for their compassionate and loving care.

Annie Mae Mills Epperson

Annie Mae Mills Epperson, age 95, transitioned to Heaven April 27, 2024. She is predeceased by her husband of 61 years, Bill Epperson, and her son Jim Epperson.



Surviving are her children, Rodger (Jane), daughter-in-law Darlene, Lynn (Donnie), Tony (Carol). Grandchildren include Rusty (Heidi), Tom (Susan), Ben (Amanda), Dana, and Lora (Andrew), as well as 13 great grandchildren

Annie Mae and Bill built a farm, opened Amelia Industrial Service, then added other businesses as time went on. Annie Mae had excellent customer relations, accounting and busi-

ness skills. She could always remember who owed them money, even after 30 years!

Annie Mae always had room at her table and a warm smile for customers, friends, and most of all, family. She was affectionately known as "Granny". Her presence was noted at every sports game or school func-

tion involving a family member, and she was a very vocal fan.

Education for her family was encouraged and she provided support to make it happen. Tremendous work ethic was a part of her being, and you were expected to work as hard as she did.

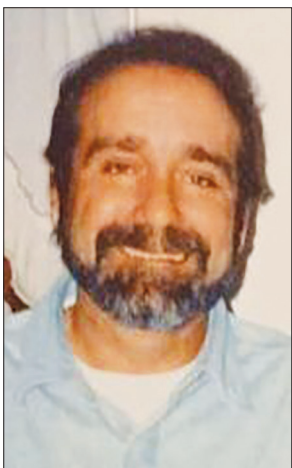
She always had time to listen and comfort everyone. Annie Mae was a sweet lady who loved people and was loved by many. She will be missed.

Please, no flowers. Just do a kind deed in her honor.

A Celebration of Life will be held June 2, 2024 at 1 pm Mattox Presbyterian Church, 14600 Chula Rd, Amelia, VA 23002.

Richard Owen Collie

With deepest sorrow, we announce that Richard Owen Collie, age 65, a most beloved son, brother, family member and friend passed away suddenly on Saturday, May 25, 2024, while in the hospital.



Those who knew Richard, even just a little, lost a shining light in their lives.

Richard will be missed every day by his daddy, JR Shelton; his sisters Teresa, Donna, Carolyn, Beth, April; his special friend Sandra; and many, many nieces; nephews; brothers-in-law; cousins; and great friends.

We know Richard is now with his mama,

Lois Shelton, and his brother, Carl Collie, and is loved here on earth as well as he is in heaven.

A funeral service will be held at True Gospel Baptist Church in Stuart, Virginia on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor

Mark Wright and Rev. David Hardy officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends and loved ones on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at True Gospel Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be sent to True Gospel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 504, Stuart, VA 24171.

Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Clifton presented with Jefferson Book Award

Patrick County High School recently recognized Eliza Clifton as the recipient of The Jefferson Book Award. This award was established to recognize outstanding high school juniors who embrace creativity and innovation and embody the spirit of discovery, much like the University's founder, Thomas Jefferson. received Mr. Jefferson's Telescope: A History of the University of Virginia in 100 Objects, a customizable certificate signed by University of Virginia President, James E. Ryan, and a customizable bookplate.



PCHS Junior Eliza Clifton, recipient of the Jefferson Book Award, alongside Ms. Hope Perry, Principal.

Eliza is an ambitious young lady who is always looking for opportunities to challenge herself. Eliza is a part of BETA Club, Ararat Ruritan Club, and Gifted Club. She is also on the PCHS Student Government Association. Eliza plays varsity volleyball, varsity basketball, and runs events for the PCHS track team. She volunteers as a teen counselor at 4-H camp and helps her local community club with fundrais-

ers. Eliza attended the month-long Governor's School for the Humanities and Performing Arts at Radford University during the summer of 2023. She

has also recently been accepted into the United States Naval Academy Summer Seminar in Annapolis, Maryland, which she will attend this summer.

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PATRICK PULPITS

On the Day of Pentecost

By Evonne Wimbush

Fresh Harvest Christian Church (D.O.C.)

May 19th was not only special in that it was a day many of us gathered together to worship and praise the Lord but also the day we observed as Pentecost. Pentecost is the fiftieth day after the ascension of Christ and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles of Jesus.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4KJV).

One of the many reasons this moment was so wonderful is that it was the fulfillment of a promise the Lord made to each of us.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lies with you now and later will be in you (John 14:16-17 NLT).

Plainly, I will send to you a Comforter, saith the Lord. That Com-

forter that Jesus sent lives inside of us. How can he leave us if he is in us? Thus, He will never leave us nor forsake us. We cannot forsake ourselves; can we? Greater is He that lives in us than He that lives in the world (1 John 4:4). He that lives inside of us is more powerful than any enemy in the world. Just like He said He would, the Lord came through. But why send a comforter?

Jesus had commissioned the Disciples to go forth and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). The promise that the Lord fulfilled on the day of Pentecost gives us power and encouragement to do what we have been commanded to do. We are encouraged to keep pressing. We are encouraged that we can endure all things. We are encouraged that no matter what we may go through, think, or do, the Comforter is within us and will remind us that we are the Lord's and He is ours.

One other reason this moment was so wonderful is that with the fulfilling of the promise came the blessing.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father (John 14:12).

Thank you, Lord, for keeping your Word. Thank you for your presence and thank you for the Comforter who is greater than anything, anybody in this world. Thank you for the day of Pentecost.

Chamber holds 'Coffee Talk' in Ararat



Rebecca Adcock, Kurt Bozenmayer.



Rebecca Adcock, speaks with Rodney Boyd, restaurant owner, about the benefits of Chamber of Commerce Membership. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill)

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce in Ararat, with Executive Director Rebecca Adcock and Kurt Bozenmayer, chamber and Tourism Board member, along with Mary Dellenback Hill, tourism member for Dan River District. The event was held at Boyd's Restaurant in Ararat. Officials in Ararat said they "look forward to more such opportunities with the chamber and its willingness to visit our local businesses and be a presence in our communities.)

ca Adcock and Kurt Bozenmayer, chamber and Tourism Board member, along with Mary Dellenback Hill, tourism member for Dan River District. The event was held at Boyd's Restaurant in Ararat. Officials in Ararat said they "look forward to more such opportunities with the chamber and its willingness to visit our local businesses and be a presence in our communities.)

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BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Acts (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In 2 Chronicles 9:21, which was not among the things Solomon's ships brought to emphasize the luxuriousness of Israel? Ivory, Apes, Peacocks, Cedars
3. From Proverbs 30, what will pluck out the eyes of anyone who scorns their parents? Demons, Ravens, Doves, Quails
4. In 1 Timothy 6:10, who wrote, "For the love of money

is the root of all evil"? Saint Jude, Isaiah, Moses, Paul

5. From Matthew 8, what Roman official asked Jesus to heal his servant? Marshall, Governor, Centurion, Jailor
6. Who was the father of Hosea? Uzzah, Beerli, Joash, Ahab

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Cedars, 3) Ravens, 4) Paul, 5) Centurion, 6) Beerli

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 46 Leaving | 95 Entry points | 5 Region of Italy's "toe" | 42 "Zounds!" | 79 "Finding —" (2016 film) |
| 1 Quartz, e.g. | 47 Oz creator L. Frank — | 96 2017 film about skater Harding | 6 Sour in taste | 43 Gelatin in a petri dish | 80 "Tell Mama" singer James |
| 7 Take — of faith | 49 Female rat | 97 Supreme Court members' favorite beers? | 7 Longtime Yankee nickname | 44 See 47-Down | 84 Clic — (Bic pen brand) |
| 12 Imbiber's hwy. crime | 52 Things docs prescribe | 100 Royal Navy letters | 8 Singer Rawls | 47 With 44-Down, big embrace | 85 Place to buy a leash |
| 15 Gown designer Vera | 53 Daybreak | 101 Sword parts | 9 Ger.'s continent | 48 "Diana" singer Paul | 86 Queens' homes |
| 19 Brood pouch | 54 Search for a Marvel superhero? | 102 Some sports rounds, for short | 10 Very simple | 49 Attic buildup | 87 Novelist Oz |
| 20 Baseball Hall of Famer Edd | 58 eBay action | 103 Lover of beauty | 11 Ghostly figure | 50 Like Ogden Nash's "lama" | 88 Hot cereal, often |
| 21 German "a" | 59 Flip (out) | 108 Skating jump | 12 Myers once of CNBC | 51 To be, to Gigi | 89 Punchline drum hit |
| 22 Smell | 60 Rodent-catching cat | 109 Yelled while using a juicer? | 13 "You can't — all!" | 53 More than mere doubt | 90 Big desert |
| 23 Sports contest between two disorderly crowds? | 61 Rubdown given in a mountain chalet? | 112 Pilaf base | 14 Savings acct. buildup | 55 Osso buco meat | 91 Miracle drink |
| 26 Give relief | 67 Winged insect native to Iraq or Oman? | 113 Singer Grande, to her fans | 15 "Alas!" | 56 Film director Nicolas | 92 Choose |
| 27 Trapped | 69 Setting for petri dishes | 116 The "A" of A/V | 16 Slowly, on music scores | 57 Color shade | 93 With milk, in French |
| 28 Negative battery pole | 70 List of jurors | 117 Vermont hrs. | 17 Have as a snack | 58 Jezebel's god | 94 "— sure you know ..." |
| 29 Fitting snugly | 72 Lower limb | 118 Tire problems | 18 — Green (old eloping mecca) | 59 — shui | 98 Heckles |
| 30 Telly network | 73 Talked on and on about chicken products? | 119 Itty-bitty | 24 Sleuth, slangily | 61 "—Ca-Dabra" (1974 hit) | 99 Give credit where credit — |
| 31 Perform a hip-hop song about a military operation? | 75 Fan noise | DOWN | 25 Jay of "Gary Unmarried" | 62 Untruth teller | 100 "— So Shy" |
| 34 Periodic table creator | 77 Use Lyft, e.g. | 1 Very annoyed | 29 Despot of old | 63 Pageantry | 103 Uproars |
| 38 Mendeleev | 81 Dadaist Jean | 2 "Terrible" Russian | 31 — to go (eager) | 64 Mets' gp. | 104 Newsmen Brit |
| 39 Singer Cooke | 82 Defeat | 3 Ad- — (wings it) | 32 Church cry | 65 Big simians | 105 Boys' school in Britain |
| 40 Mined matter | 83 Pale-looking | 4 13-digit ID in publishing | 33 "It just came back to me" | 66 Comics' bits | 106 Some till bills |
| 41 Kid-lit "pest" | 85 H. Ross — | | 34 Tragic destiny | 68 Glittery jewelry, informally | 107 Jacuzzi effect |
| 44 Present | 86 Genesis brother | | 35 Allison of jazz | 71 Brother in Genesis | 109 Actress Issa |
| 45 Port in Japan | 88 Official account of an excursion? | | 36 Apple debut of 2010 | 74 Put on | 110 Org. for cavity repairers |
| | 89 Official account of an excursion? | | 37 Clucks of shame | 75 Cry feebly | 111 Suffix with beat or neat |
| | 90 Bagel seed | | 38 Clumsy boat | 76 Mother chickens auto, say | |
| | 93 Towing org. | | | 77 Seized | |
| | | | | 78 De-wrinkle | |

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ABC NOTICE
M&S Pizzeria LLC (Michael Fiumara, Steven Frankbach) trading as Tony's Pizza, 402 Patrick Ave, Stuart, Patrick County, Stuart, Virginia 24171. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail on and off-premises wine and beer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael Fiumara - Owner
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

LEGAL

Maintenance Department - IFB - Garbage Collection
The Patrick County School Board is accepting written bids from interested parties to provide garbage collection services for the school division. Bid packet information may be picked up at the Maintenance Office located at 117 Via Avenue, Stuart, VA. Sealed bids are due Tuesday, June 4, 2024 by 10:30 a.m. (local time) at this same location. For further information, contact Chad Haynes, Director of Maintenance at 276-694-6984.

The Enterprise

Established in 1876
P.O. Box 348 - Stuart, Va. 24171-0348
Phone (276) 694-3101

www.theenterprise.net

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

Publisher Michael Showell
Editor Debbie Hall

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

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Combs receives W&M Leadership Award

Daryl Lynn Combs was recently recognized as the 2024 Patrick County High School recipient of the William & Mary Leadership Award. Established in 1998 to honor young leaders, the William & Mary Leadership Award is presented to one outstanding current junior from each high school in the Commonwealth. received a certificate, as well as a book about leadership. The award is intended to recognize young leaders in their community.

Daryl Lynn has participated in numerous extracurricular activities, including Senior Beta, Gifted Club, Patrick County Praise and Worship, and Varsity Soccer. She also enjoys playing travel Soccer for the Piedmont Youth Soccer League. She is an active member of Mountain View United Church and has volunteered at her local food bank in Meadows of Dan. She enjoys science and has attended summer Envision camps for STEM enrichment at Wake Forest University and the University of North Caro-



Daryl Lynn Combs receives the William and Mary Leadership Award from Ms. Hope Perry, PCHS Principal.

lina at Chapel Hill. She is currently interning at the Patrick County Commonwealth Attorney's office and plans to pursue a career in law. Patrick County High School recently recognized Eliza Clifton as

the recipient of The Jefferson Book Award. This award was established to recognize outstanding high school juniors who embrace creativity and innovation and embody the spirit of discovery, much like the Univer-

sity's founder, Thomas Jefferson. received Mr. Jefferson's Telescope: A History of the University of Virginia in 100 Objects, a customizable certificate signed by University of Virginia President, James E. Ryan, and a customizable bookplate.

Eliza is an ambitious young lady who is always looking for opportunities to challenge herself. Eliza is a part of BETA Club, Ararat Ruritan Club, and Gifted Club. She is also on the PCHS Student Government Association. Eliza plays varsity volleyball, varsity basketball, and runs events for the PCHS track team. She volunteers as a teen counselor at 4-H camp and helps her local community club with fundraisers. Eliza attended the month-long Governor's School for the Humanities and Performing Arts at Radford University during the summer of 2023. She has also recently been accepted into the United States Naval Academy Summer Seminar in Annapolis, Maryland, which she will attend this summer.

DAR honors students with awards

The Daughters of the American Revolution announced the winners of the Youth Citizenship Awards. Each recipient received a certificate and a medal.



Blue Ridge Elementary School

Midori Waycaster is this year's recipient of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Youth Citizen Award. This award recognizes and rewards individuals

who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities.

Born and raised here in Patrick County, Virginia, she enjoys drawing, painting, gaming, and helping people. When she's older, she has a desire to become a videogame designer/artist. Midori is an extraordinary student who works diligently and puts forth her best effort in all she does, reflecting dependability and leading by example. We are proud to name her this year's DAR good citizen.



Hardin Reynolds Memorial School

This year's recipient of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Youth Citizen Award is Gavin Smith. This award recognizes

and rewards individuals who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. Born and raised here in Patrick County, Virginia. He enjoys riding dirtbikes and hanging out with his friends. He has a desire to grow up and take over his dad's concrete business. Gavin is an extraordinary student who works diligently and puts forth his best effort in all he does, reflecting dependability and leading by example. We are proud to name him this year's DAR good citizen.



Woolwine Elementary School

The 2024 recipient of the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter NSDAR Good Citizenship Award is Addison Gray Friedrichs. Showing qualities of leadership, trustworthiness, service, and patriotism, she is a worthy recipient of this award. During the promotion ceremony on May 16, Addison also received the Academic Award for having all A/B averages and the Silver President's Education Award. She was recognized for being a member of Jr. Beta and a member of the band. Addison has an advanced brown belt in Taekwondo and has received piano lessons for eight years. Her other hobbies include swimming and arts and crafts. She also is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Bassett Youth Group. Addison lives in Bassett with her parents, Gray and Jill Friedrichs, and her two brothers, Nolan and Chase.



Meadows of Dan Elementary School

Ethan Gibson is a rising 8th grader from Meadows of Dan who exemplifies outstanding character,

citizenship, and leadership. He displays great moral character in his relationships with his teachers and peers. Ethan demonstrates responsibility by his willingness to help others and being a friend to everyone. Ethan is a leader and role model in his community. Ethan is a member of Patrick County Middle School football team and plays basketball. He goes above and beyond in his classwork and is an active member of the Junior Beta Club. Ethan is resilient and strives to do his best every single day. He refuses to give up, no matter the challenge. He is the son of Jeffrey and Samantha Gibson.



Stuart Elementary School

Kinsleigh Harris received the DAR Youth Citizenship Award. Kinsleigh is a rising 8th grader and will be attending Patrick County High School in the Fall of 2024. She

enjoys spending time with her family and her golden retriever, Bailey. She also enjoys crafting and going on vacations to the beach. Kinsleigh played on the Patrick County Middle School volleyball team and the Southside travel volleyball team this past school year. The Patrick County Middle School soccer team was also a highlight of her seventh grade year as well as her PYSL travel soccer team in Martinsville, VA. Kinsleigh has been taking dance lessons for nine years and currently dances at Patrick County Dancing Arts Center. Her future is bright and we are so honored that she received this award.

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Meetings

Monday, June 10
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors meets at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Thursday, June 13
The Patrick County School Board meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Patrick County School Board Office.

Wednesday, June 19
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

Events

Friday, May 31
Wayside Community Church will hold a Friday Night Fellowship starting at 6:30 p.m. Music will be By Grace group, with a message by Pastor Cody Zorn. A light meal will be served after the event at 3520 Wayside Road, Stuart.

Monday, June 3 -Thursday, June 6
Stuart Church of Living Water will hold DRIVE! Vacation Bible School Press On for the Prize for ages 3 to 13. Dinner is available at 5 p.m. each day. Check in begins at 5:30 p.m., and full throttle fun until 8 p.m. Pre-register by calling the church office at (276) 694-3322, or the church's Facebook page.

Sunday, June 9
Hatchers Chapel, 268 Hatchers Chapel Road, Claudville, will hold a Biker Sunday event starting at 11 a.m. Full Circle Ministry to sing, and pastors Philip Adams and Butch Spurlin. A meal will be provided after the service.

Wednesday, June 12
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, June 13
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its monthly meeting at 11 a.m. in the

Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Stephen Dixon with In His Name. Grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments, and beverages will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts to share.

Sunday, June 23 - Wednesday, June 26
New Hope Church of the Brethren will hold Vacation Bible School with Camp Firelight for ages 3 and up, from 6-8:15 p.m., with songs, crafts, games, and Bible lessons. A family fun night will be held on Wednesday, June 26. Dinner will be served nightly for the children. If your child needs to be picked up by the church van, call (276) 930-2121 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

Monday, July 8 - Wednesday, July 26
Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) and Verizon will hold a Verizon Innovation Learning STEM Achievers Program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for rising 6-8th graders. It is free to students, and lunch and transportation for the Stuart site only will be provided. Those interested should register by going to <https://verizon.nacce.com/registration>, or calling or calling (276) 656-5461.

Wednesday, July 10
The Patrick County Food Bank will hold distribution at the Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6: 30 p.m., at Ararat starting at 8:30 a.m., and at Meadows of Dan starting at 5:30 p.m.

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. 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.

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.

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

Hylton named winner of DAR award at PCHS

Chase Hylton, a recent graduate of Patrick County High School (PCHS), has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious DAR Youth Citizenship Award. This accolade, provided by the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter, is awarded to a PCHS Senior who exemplifies the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in the home, school, and community. Chase has been an active member of SkillsUSA since the 10th grade. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and riding side by sides. Looking ahead, Chase will be attending Patrick and Henry Community College this fall, where he plans to pursue a career as a diesel mechanic. Additionally, he hopes to continue building his skills in welding. Chase is the son of Katina and Brad Hylton of Stuart. Chase Hylton's dedication and achievements make him a deserving recipient of the DAR Youth Citizenship



Award. Hylton will receive a medal, certificate, engraved Jefferson Cup and a \$100 check from the Colonel Penn Chapter NSDAR.



Open Jam held Tuesday

Open Jams are held Tuesday mornings at the Coffee Break Café in Stuart, and often attract several musicians to play and sing. The impromptu gatherings are free, and all are welcome.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:
 *Jerry Christopher Howard, Jr., 18, of Stuart, was charged May 16 with one count each trespass and destruction of property. Inv. J.W Kruse was the arresting officer.
 *Evan sands Hall, 18, of Claudville, was charged May 16 with one count each trespass and destruction of property. Inv. J.W Kruse was the arresting officer.
 *Cooper Leam Bolt, 18, of Ararat, was charged May 16 with one count each trespass and destruction of property. Inv. J.W Kruse was the arresting officer.
 *Reginald Dale Moore, 49, of Stuart, was charged May 18 with drive while intoxicated. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.
 *Scott Eugene Moore, 52, of Cana, was charged May 18 with assault and batter. Senior Deputy A.G. Kinney was the arresting officer.
 *Dionte Morris Nowlin, 21, of Stuart, was charged May 20 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.
 *Ashton Peery Hunt, 33, of Stuart, was charged May 23 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy M. Sowder was the arresting officer.
 *Seth Harmon Wade, 34, of Stuart, was charged May 23 with one count each property damage, reckless driving, and assault. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Moss inducted into Hall of Fame

Mary Moss, a native of Patrick County, was inducted into the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Civilian Hall of Fame on March 27.

Moss served McChord Field for 36 years at Harborstone Credit Union, retiring in 2013 as the community relations manager. Since, she has served on the Lakewood City Council, as Lakewood deputy mayor, and serves as the secretary for the Washington State Air and Space Forces Association, and more. Through her involvement with the Air Force Association, she helps educate the public about the critical role of aerospace power in national defense while she supports the United States Air Force and Air Force families. She honors Airmen who graduate from the Julius A. Kolb Airman Leadership School at JBLM on behalf of the Air and Space Forces Association by awarding the distinguished graduate with a gift as recognition for their hard work. Through the associ-



ation she has also helped raise funds to donate hundreds of turkeys and hams to Air Force families during the holiday season.

From 2010 to present, Moss was elected to serve in Position 1 on the Lakewood, Washington City Council and serves as the Deputy Mayor.



Special annual service held May 19

Services at Hunters Chapel Assembly Church, 3057 Ararat Highway, Ararat, on Sunday, May 19, included the annual visit by The Gideons (Distribution of Bibles), and annual Ruritan Sunday. Pictured (L to R) is Lori Bowman Easter, Pastor Joseph M Easter, Mike and Jane Scales Fulk, Ruritans, Mary Dellenback Hill Ruritan Forever, Mr. Hardy, Special Guest Speaker, and his wife Josephine were from the Gideons. (Photo by Darlene Lowe Hill)

Initial unemployment claims continue to drop

The 2,224 weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance that were filed during the week ending May 18 is 6.8 percent lower than last week's 2,386 claims and 10.0 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,470), according to Virginia Works. Nearly 84 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (65 percent) were Accommodation and Food Services (329); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (239); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (208); Retail Trade (164); and Health Care and Social Assistance (163).

Continued weeks claims (15,851) were essentially unchanged from last week (15,847) and were 24.5 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,736). 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 (2,462); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,176); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,466); Retail Trade (1,336); and Manufacturing (1,326).

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for 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.

Nita's Nook

(cont. from page 15)

said. "But I think everybody's creative, it's just not developed a lot. In art classes they tell you what to do and how to do it," and some people need that direction.

Bailey also encourages people to get a group of friends together to come and have a craft day to be creative.

"Or a birthday party, you can have four people. You can celebrate your birthday by coming in and making something. Or a lady's night out or an evening out," she said.

Bailey said the business is divided into three or four parts - a studio where items that are for sale are kept, and other areas filled with items like baskets, boxes, and supplies that people can use during the classes.

"What they do is they pay me my \$15 or \$20, depending on the class, and then they can use anything that's mine. They don't have to bring any ma-



Nita's Nook is located at 4842 Hatchers Chapel Road in Claudville.

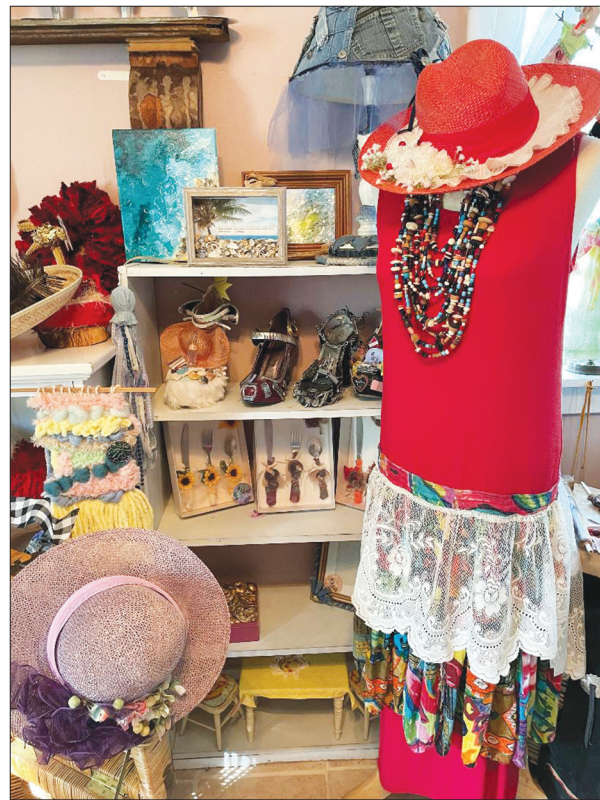
terials," she said.

There is also a side porch where visitors can take a breather or have lunch during her classes.

Nita's Nook officially opened about three years ago, but due to health reasons Bailey was forced to put it on hold until now.

She plans to hold a creating a welcome sign class on June 8, a working with denim class on June 15, and making quilts on June 22. She will also hold a branch weaving class on June 29, macrame on July 13, and a mixed media class on July 20.

Two participants are the minimum for each class, and four are the maximum. Pre-registration is required by calling (276) 694-4228. Class-



Inside Bailey's studio where items are for sale.

es are typically from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a break in the middle.

"Again, they can use all of my materials. They don't need to bring anything," she said.

For more information about the Nook and the future classes, visit Facebook.com/Nita'sNook.

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3	8	7	1	6	2	5	9	4
6	9	1	4	5	7	3	8	2
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1	5	6	2	8	4	9	7	3
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Nomination Period Opens for Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced the opening of the nomination period for the 2024 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards, an annual award program coordinated by Serve Virginia and the Virginia Service Foundation, recognizing Virginians who volunteer their time to make a difference in their communities. Nominations will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25.

"I am incredibly proud of this year's Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Award winners," said Youngkin. "Their dedication to serving our communities is truly inspiring. They embody the Spirit of Virginia and represent the best that Virginia has to offer; we are a better Commonwealth because of them."

The Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards recognize volunteers across a wide range of focus areas. Past honorees have

positively impacted the lives of thousands, increasing access to medical care and healthy food, protecting Virginia's natural resources, supporting youth and families, and inspiring students to become Virginians who give back, among other service areas.

The Awards honor individuals and groups in the following categories:

- *Individual, youth (aged 18 and under)
- *Individual, young adult (aged 19-30)
- *Individual, adult (aged 31-59)
- *Individual, senior (aged 60+)
- *Independent Group (family, friends, or other informal group)
- *Community organization (nonprofit or government)
- *Faith-based group (spiritual community)
- *Educational organization (K-12 school or higher education institution)

*Small business (for-profit, 0-50 employees)

*Corporation (for-profit, 51+ employees)

"Volunteering is beneficial to Virginians across the Commonwealth, providing individual and community health benefits as well as vital opportunities for connection," said Serve Virginia Director Kathy J. Spangler. "We are honored to spotlight Virginians who dedicate their time and talents to making a difference in the lives of others, as well as the organizations and businesses partnering to create meaningful service opportunities."

Virginia Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards honorees will be recognized in a ceremony at the Executive Mansion this Fall. Additional information about the Awards and nomination process, as well as the form to submit a nomination, is available through Serve Virginia at ServeVirginia.org/governors-awards.

Online Brain Health Workshop Series begins June 6

Virginians looking to improve their brain health will be able to get free tips and resources without leaving home as AARP Virginia teams up with the Alzheimer's Association of Southeastern Virginia for a series of online workshops throughout June.

June is national Alzheimer's and Brain Health Awareness Month and AARP is hosting several events across Virginia to increase knowledge about brain-healthy habits. The Brain Bites online series will be held 1-2 p.m. each Thursday in June on Zoom. Participants must register to receive the Zoom link.

The schedule of workshops includes:

June 6 – Brain Bites: Healthy Living for Brain and Body -- will explore the latest research providing insights into how to make life-

style choices that can help you keep your brain and body healthy as you age. Register at <https://events.aarp.org/brainbites06062024>.

June 13 – Brain Bites: What is Dementia? -- will examine Alzheimer's disease, a progressive and fatal brain disease and is the most common form of dementia. Find out how Alzheimer's affects the brain, how it is detected, causes and risk factors, stages of the disease, treatment and much more. Register at <https://events.aarp.org/brainbites06132024>.

June 20 – Brain Bites: Caregiver Process for Families Dealing with Alzheimer's -- learn some of the things you most need to put in place to help you and your loved ones, and what resources are available. What are strategies for care planning and support building? How do

you prepare for doctor visits and where do you find support after a difficult diagnosis? We will answer these questions and more. Register at <https://events.aarp.org/brainbites06202024>.

June 27 – Brain Bites: The Six Pillars of Brain Health -- Do you think you're too old to grow additional brain cells? Think again! Learn how to take charge of your brain health and improve the quality of your life at any age. Throughout this interactive presentation, attendees will learn and share information about what they are doing to help keep their brains healthy. The Six Pillars presentation is based on current brain research, vetted by AARP's Global Council on Brain Health and AARP's Staying Sharp program. Register at <https://events.aarp.org/brainbites06272024>.



Split Rail Fence project underway in Ararat

Laurel Hill Park (Birthplace of Major General JEB Stuart), 1091 Ararat Highway, Ararat, is being updated with a split rail fence. Ronnie Haynes, president, and Dave Lusk, vice president, have been digging the holes and constructing the fence. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill)

Marketing Funds

(cont. from page 1)

apply for funding. Partners may consist of Virginia cities, towns, counties, convention and visitors' bureaus, chambers of commerce, other local or regional destination marketing organizations, museums, attractions, cultural events, and other tourism-related non-profits and private businesses.

These various grant programs assist Virginia Destination Marketing Organizations help and establish Virginia special events and festivals with marketing and/or event production costs.

The Marketing Leverage Program is a reimbursable grant program to leverage existing marketing funds available to Virginia travel industry partners including small businesses, DMOs, private sector attractions, accommodations, and events.

The Virginia DMO Grant Program is awarded to DMOs for

marketing expenses that show a positive and significant economic impact on tourism and must include marketing plans designed to drive visitation to Virginia.

The Virginia Special Events & Festivals Program is for the marketing and production of Virginia-based special events and festivals occurring in 2024. These events must have at least two years of prior attendance since 2017 with minimum attendance tiers.

"The VTC grant programs continue to inject critical funds into communities across the Commonwealth, helping to make Virginia the best place to live, work, and raise a family," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "The tourism industry is an incredible employment on-ramp for high school and college students, part-time workers, and those interested in long-term hospitality careers.

From kitchen line cooks to regional executive hotel managers, these funds support a robust hospitality workforce by inducing tourism demand and increasing overnight visitation."

VTC will have a Microbusiness Marketing Leverage Program grant round opening in Summer 2024 designed to assist small tourism-oriented businesses and organizations, such as Main Street Organizations, with Fall and Winter marketing initiatives. Another round of the Virginia Special Events & Festivals Program will open in mid-2024 for events in 2025. The next round for the Marketing Leverage Program and the Virginia DMO Marketing Grant Program will open in February. Organizations and businesses interested in applying for these grant opportunities may visit vatc.org/grants for more information.

Students Awarded GRASP scholarships

GRASP (Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.), a non-profit, college and career access organization, headquartered in Richmond, recently awarded 130 Last Dollar scholarships totaling \$160,000 and 84 Community College scholarships totaling \$84,000 to Virginia high school students graduating in 2024.

Three students in Martinsville received awards: Mallori Lowe, Nayti Patel, and Elijah Pickett.

Audrey Young, of Patrick County, was also awarded a scholarship.

GRASP's goal is to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity for continuing education after high school, regardless of financial or social circumstances. During the 2023-2024 academic year, GRASP implemented its programs via advisors who provide free, confidential, one-on-one counseling in 111 Virginia high schools to students seeking financial aid and scholarships for continuing education after high school – whether that is technical school, community college or a four-year university. Advisors conducted meetings with more than 8,100 students this school year.

GRASP advisors were able to provide financial aid advising this year through in-person meetings as well as virtual options including video meetings, phone, email, texting, assisting students/families through the financial aid process to include completion of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as well as the VASA (Virginia Alternative State Aid) application. GRASP advisors now serve students and families in Virginia schools, from the greater Richmond area to Buchanan County in the southwest, Highland County in the west, Northumberland County in the north, Isle of Wight County in the east and Mecklenburg and Patrick counties in the south. The highly trained GRASP advisors are adept at navigating the maze of the college and post-secondary education financial aid process. They also have a passion for expanding students' opportunities to learn.

The GRASP advising program and scholarships are made possible by generous donor support year af-

ter year. Last Dollar scholarships are awarded to at least one student at each school GRASP serves. The Community College Pathway scholarships are awarded to students who plan to attend community college to receive a career certificate or transfer to a four-year college.

GRASP salutes the 2024 scholarship recipients. Many of this year's scholarship recipients will be the first members of their families to attend post-secondary education. All have learned about the importance of continuing their education as the next step for their future successes. This year, GRASP will host regional scholarship luncheons in seven areas of the state (Cedar Bluff, Staunton, Warsaw, South Boston, Williamsburg, Hopewell, and Richmond) served by GRASP to recognize GRASP Scholarship recipients as well as high school seniors who have participated in the early commitment scholarship (SOAR Virginia®) program, a collaboration with Virginia529 that was created and funded by Virginia529 to inspire and assist high school students to reach their post-secondary education goals.

GRASP also coordinated a new program, Richmond Pathways Scholarship & Stipend, this year for students who attend Armstrong, Huguenot, John Marshall, Richmond High School for the Arts, or Thomas Jefferson high schools. These scholarships and monthly stipends help students bridge the gap and overcome barriers that might stop them from pursuing higher education. This year, 37 scholarships (\$74,000) and 32 stipends (\$400/month) are being awarded. The City of Richmond's Office of the Mayor, generosity of our corporate donors, and collaboration with our community partners made these scholarships and stipends possible.

GRASP was co-founded in 1983 by Sen. Walter Stosch and Dr. Ray Gargiulo. GRASP advisors work one day per week at each school. Appointments, which are free of charge, can be made through the schools' counseling offices. More information about GRASP is available at www.grasp4va.org.

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WES Warrior Readers announced

Woolwine Elementary School announced the names of its top readers who participated in the Warrior Reading program during the fourth quarter.

Each student who reached their grade level goal received a free snack. In addition, students who read the most books in each grade level also received a free book. Students who reached the

classroom goal all four nine weeks enjoyed an ice cream and movie party.

The top readers are:



Pre-K—Miles Foley



Kindergarten—Lexi Hubbard



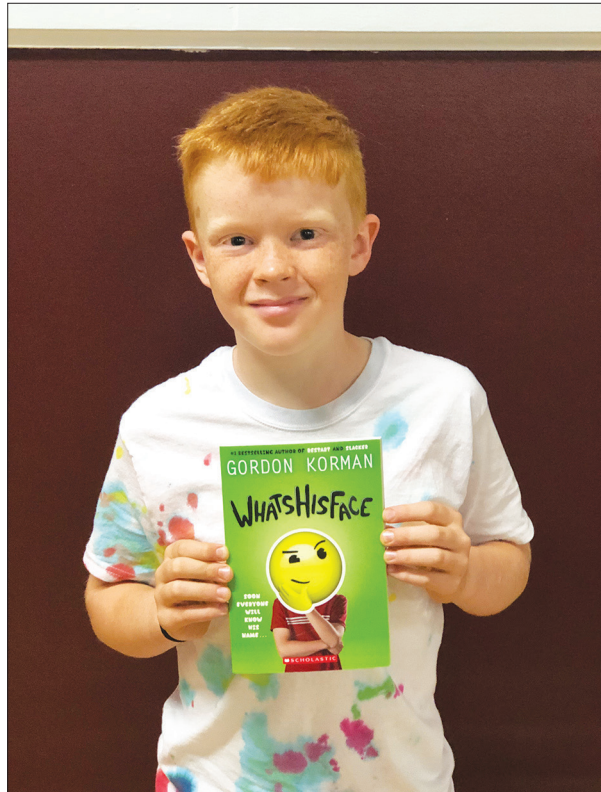
First Grade—Joanna Shelton



Second Grade—Madilynn Shuff



Third Grade—Michael Hughes



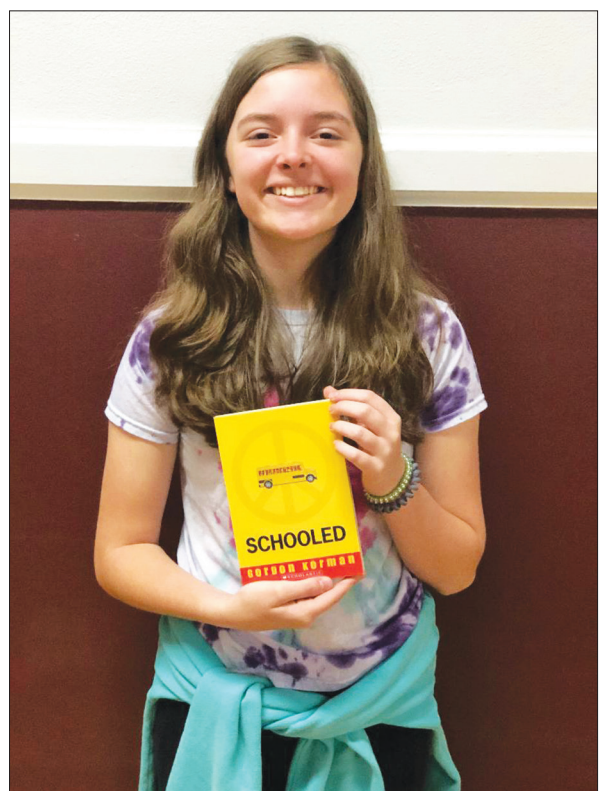
Fourth Grade—Bjorn Johnson



Fifth Grade—Wyatt Rodgers



Sixth Grade—Lacie Bullins



Seventh Grade—Paisley Shuff

Dam Safety Awareness Day set

Dam Safety Awareness Day is May 31 in Virginia. It is intended to raise awareness of the dangers posed by improperly maintained dams and to promote shared responsibility between individuals and communities for dam safety.

Dam Safety Awareness Day is observed annually to commemorate the failure of the South Fork Dam in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in 1889. The Johnstown disaster killed over 2,200 people and remains the worst dam-related disaster in the history of the United States. The flood was caused by a catastrophic failure of South Fork Dam brought on by days of heavy rain and a series of alterations that made the dam more vulnerable to overtopping.

Flooding, improper maintenance and aging infrastructure can all impact dam safety. The average age of Virginia's dams is 75 years old, according to the United States Army Corps of Engineers' National Inventory of Dams.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is responsible for and regulates more than 2,500 dams across the state, including 487 high hazard dams. High hazard dams are likely to cause loss of life or serious economic damage in the event of a failure. DCR's dam safety staff provide technical assistance to ensure dams are properly and safely designed, built, operated and

maintained.

DCR encourages individuals and communities across the commonwealth to take these actions to increase awareness about dam safety:

Know your risk. Find out if you live in a dam-breach inundation zone and determine your flood risk by visiting the Virginia Flood Risk Information System (VFRIS), by contacting your local emergency management agency or DCR Dam Safety Program staff.

Know your role. Be aware of potential maintenance issues and report them to dam owners, DCR Dam Safety and local authorities immediately. Visible cracks and damage, seepage, overgrown vegetation and clogged spillways are all signs of neglect.

Take action. Maintain flood insurance if you live at or near a dam-break inundation zone. Have a plan in place for your family or business should you need to evacuate quickly because of a dam failure.

DCR is the agency to contact if you have concerns about a dam. You can reach DCR's Dam Safety Program staff at 804-371-6095 or by email at dam@dcr.virginia.gov.

To learn more, please visit DCR's Dam Safety Education page: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/ds-education>.

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10% DISCOUNT FOR VETERANS

How NRCS programs help producers improve grazing lands through conservation practices

By Terry Cosby

NRCS programs such as EQIP and CSP do more than just throw money at land issues. NRCS conservationists work with producers every step of the way to make improvements that benefit your land now and for years to come.

Since its founding nearly 90 years ago, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been committed to helping farmers, ranchers and forest landowners help their land. The mission has grown and expanded in the nearly nine decades since, but the steadfast commitment to helping producers address resource concerns on their land has not wavered.

The NRCS, the USDA's primary private lands conservation agency, supports producers by providing one-on-one, personalized assistance to help them address the specific needs of their operations through financial and free technical assistance. From the initial planning process to the implementation of conservation practices, the NRCS works directly with you, the producer, to tailor the project to help you accomplish your ecological, economic and management objectives.

The NRCS has numerous conservation programs available to help you implement the needed practices to address resource concerns on your land. Financial assistance is available through programs including the flagship Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which is typically the first step in a producer's conservation journey, and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which is designed to help producers take their existing conservation work to the next level. Many of the practices designed to address concerns on your grazing land are also climate-smart mitigation activities and are eligible for funding through the Inflation Reduction Act. Over the next several years, \$19.5 billion has been made available as part of President Joe Biden's "Investing in America" agenda to help producers implement practices that yield climate mitigation benefits.

Getting started

Working with the NRCS is voluntary, and your local district conservationist from one of the NRCS's more than 2,300 offices nationwide will be with you every step along the way. The first step to receiving assistance is making an appointment at your local USDA Service Center.

Service centers typically include staff from both the NRCS and the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). If you have not previously visited a service center or used assistance from the USDA, a representative from the FSA can help you establish eligibility by creating a farm number for your land. Required paperwork can vary, but to establish initial eligibility you will need an official tax ID (Social Security number or an

employer ID) and a property deed or lease agreement to show you have control of the property.

Working with your conservationist

Your next step after receiving a farm number is to meet with your local NRCS district conservationist who will work with you to identify your resource concerns and the programs and practices best suited to addressing your individual concerns. The NRCS uses a nine-step conservation planning process to develop a unique plan tailored specifically to your needs and goals for your land.

The district conservationist works with you to determine your objectives for your land, inventory the existing resources and begin developing a plan to address your concerns. The goal of the plan is to provide actionable solutions unique to your situation, including the possible development of a grazing management plan with assistance from an NRCS expert.

The NRCS will then work with you to make decisions on how to implement the plan. The NRCS provides free technical assistance, including the development of a conservation plan, practice designs and resource assessments. The NRCS also provides financial assistance if you need help implementing the solutions identified during the planning process.

Your local district conservationist will help you identify the right program for your land, choose the correct practices to meet your needs and guide you through the application process. Applications for most of the NRCS's programs are accepted on a continuous basis, but they are ranked and funded during specific funding cycles. Your district conservationist can work with you to ensure you submit your application in a timely manner. Applications submitted outside of funding cycles are automatically considered during the next cycle. If your application is approved, you will then have the choice of whether to move forward or not. If you do, the NRCS will be with you every step of the way and will work with you to implement the practice(s) including design work, assistance with permits, surveys and other necessary steps.

Grazing management and more

For many livestock producers applying for financial assistance from the NRCS, the foundational conservation practice is prescribed grazing. Through this practice, the NRCS works with you to develop a grazing management plan to help you reach your production and conservation goals. This takes the initial planning process a step further and helps you identify your goals and objectives for your operation and to conduct a resource and forage inventory. You'll also develop a grazing schedule and a contingency and monitoring plan. Having a grazing plan in place will help you maximize the performance

and health of your herd and grazing land.

Once your grazing management plan has been developed, the NRCS has a wide variety of practices designed to help you address identified resource concerns. For instance, to help you address a lack of available forage, the pasture and hay planting practice provides financial and technical assistance before, during and after the planting process. The goal of the practice is to help you meet the health and nutritional needs of your animals, while also reducing erosion and improving soil health on your grazing lands for long-term sustainability. Experts help identify how much additional forage is needed and the correct species to provide maximum benefits to your animals while conserving your land. They'll also help identify the correct process for planting seeds, when to plant them and how to manage the plantings to ensure their success.

Financial assistance is also available to help plan and construct fencing to help you implement rotational grazing, allow for proper rest and recovery of forages, or to keep animals out of sensitive areas. If invasive herbaceous or woody plants interfere with grazing on your lands, the NRCS can help you remove them through its brush management, herbaceous weed treatment or prescribed burning practices. These practices can all help address resource concerns, improve the health of your grazing lands and provide desirable forage to enhance your livestock performance.

If your concerns are related to your animals' access to water, the NRCS can help you design and install watering facilities throughout your grazing lands to ensure your cattle have constant access to clean water. The facilities can have wide-ranging impacts beyond the health of your animals, both on and off the farm, by helping to improve the distribution of livestock and protect sensitive resources such as waterways and adjacent areas where animals previously accessed water. They can also improve the health of your pastures when paired with a rotational grazing plan and heavy-use area protection to reduce erosion from animals congregating around natural waterways and adjacent areas.

Each of these practices, and the many others available from the NRCS, can be tailored to meet the unique needs of your operation. No matter the program or practice you choose, the NRCS's goal throughout the entire process – from planning to implementation – is to help address the specific conservation goals you have for your land, while improving the health of the land and your grazing animals. Reach out now to see how the NRCS can help you help your land.

(Submitted by Travis Mead, District Conservationist)

Senate Intelligence Committee passes the Intelligence Authorization Act

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence passed the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (IAA) last week by a unanimous 17-0 vote. The bill authorizes funding, provides legal authorities, and enhances congressional oversight for the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC).

"The Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 reflects the Senate Intelligence Committee's bipartisan commitment to ensuring America's intelligence agencies have the authorities and resources they need to protect against rapidly evolving conflicts and threats," said Committee Chairman Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Alexandria.

The IAA for Fiscal Year 2025 authorizes funding for the IC and ensures that it has the resources, personnel, and authorities it needs to protect our country and inform decision makers, while ensuring continued robust congressional oversight. The bill's provisions focus on the following key areas:

- *Increases oversight of the national security threats posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC), including its attempts to evade sanctions and regulations, military capabilities, and investments in, and attempts to dominate, the supply chains of artificial intelligence (AI), next-generation energy technologies, and biotechnology, among others.

- *Enhances the IC's ability to identify and counter threats relating to biotechnologies, including by improving and modernizing the roles, missions, and objectives of the National Counterproliferation and *Biosecurity Center and by directing the IC to identify PRC plans, intentions, and timelines relating to illicit uses of biotechnologies.

- *Enhances sanctions enforcement against terrorist and ransomware organizations and revokes foreign nationals' visas if they endorse/espouse terrorist activity.

- *Enhances policies relating to AI, including by requiring the President to develop procedures to ensure that Federal agencies better engage the private security on AI system-related threats, as well as establishing an AI Security Center within the National Security Agency to advance AI security research.

- *Enhances the IC's ability to procure, tran-

sition, and incorporate emerging technologies, including by creating a fund for acquiring and transitioning such technologies.

- *Increases the IC's focus on the growing threats to the United States by ISIS and affiliated terrorist organizations.

- *Promotes reform of the nation's security classification system, by requiring the President to designate an Executive Agent for Classification and Declassification, improving the system for the classification and declassification of information, and requiring each Federal agency with access to classified information to establish an insider threat program to protect against unauthorized disclosures.

- *Prohibits entry into the Department of Energy National Laboratories by foreign nationals from adversary countries who pose counterintelligence risks.

- *Builds upon the Committee's efforts relating to energy security by requiring a strategy to improve information sharing between the IC and the private sector regarding foreign adversary-based threats to U.S. critical minerals and other energy-related projects abroad.

- *Requires the IC to conduct an assessment of the likely course of Russia's brutal war in Ukraine, and the effects of Western support to Ukraine.

- *Requires the IC to conduct an assessment of the Israel-Hamas war.

- *Improves oversight related to the Western Hemisphere, specifically when it comes to national security implications of visa-free travel by certain foreign nationals.

- *Enhances insight into the Venezuela Maduro regime's relationship with state sponsors of terrorism and foreign terrorist organizations.

- *Requires the IC to establish an IC-wide policy authorizing a program for contractor-based sensitive compartmented information facilities, to improve public-private cooperation on technology innovation.

- *Requires a Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of the All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office regarding unidentified anomalous phenomena reporting and Federal agency coordination.

- *Reforms management of controlled access programs to improve Congressional oversight.

- *Enhances election security by requiring that voting systems undergo penetration testing for certification processes.

- *Maintains strong congressional oversight of and enhances protections for IC whistleblowers.

- *Ensures continued support to the victims of anomalous health incidents (AHIs or "Havana Syndrome") by improving funding flexibility for payments to qualified victims.

- *Safeguards important voluntary investments in watermarking and content authenticity by generative AI firms by establishing penalties for services that deliberately facilitate removal of those voluntary protections.

"This year's bill enhances the IC's ability to identify and counter emerging technological threats posed by adversarial nations, including foreign adversaries' efforts to use and dominate areas like artificial intelligence, biotechnologies, and next-generation energy," Warner said. "The IAA also designates foreign ransomware organizations as hostile cyber actors and ensures the IC has the tools it needs to counter economic coercion and illicit technology transfer, in particular by the People's Republic of China.

"It also reforms the nation's security classification system, strengthens the security of our election systems, and furthers the Committee's efforts to ensure the IC can attract and expeditiously on-board a talented, diverse, and trusted workforce to meet the emerging challenges we face," he added.

"Our Intelligence Authorization Act represents significant improvements to our national security tools, legal authorities, Intelligence Community workforce, and ensures resources are focused on the most pressing threats, specifically from China, Russia, Iran, and their partners, including Cuba, Venezuela, and North Korea, as well as terrorist organizations," said Committee Vice Chairman Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL). "Importantly, this bill takes unprecedented steps to address counterintelligence risks to our National Laboratories by prohibiting visitors from foreign adversary nations thereby protecting America's research and competitive advantage. I look forward to moving our bipartisan legislation to the full Senate and final enactment."

Vaccines Help Protect Horses by Lowering the Risk of Mosquito-Borne Illnesses

Mosquito season is back in most areas of Virginia. That means it's time to vaccinate your horses against mosquito-borne illnesses, such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis, also called "sleeping sickness," causes inflammation or swelling of the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms include impaired vision, aimless wandering, head pressing, circling, inability to swallow, irregular staggering gait, paralysis, convulsions, and death. West Nile Virus typically causes inflammation of the brain which leads to a loss of coordination, lack of interest in their surroundings and loss of appetite and can cause the horse to go down and be unable to get up without help.

As the mortality rate for horses with West Nile Virus is 30 percent and up to 90 percent for Eastern Equine Encephalitis. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) encourages equine owners to contact their veterinarian to schedule vaccinations for these diseases.

"Prevention is key to equine health and vaccinations are a great way to provide protection. Vaccinations may be effective for up to a year; however, many veterinarians may recommend vaccination every six months in areas where the dis-

ease occurs frequently," said Dr. Charles Broaddus, VDACS State Veterinarian. "For the vaccine to be effective, it must be given at least two weeks before the horse is exposed to the virus. To stimulate full immunity, horses must be vaccinated twice, about 30 days apart, during the first year of vaccination."

Humans cannot become infected with Eastern Equine Encephalitis or West Nile Virus by handling an infected horse, nor can a horse acquire the virus directly from another infected horse. However, the presence of an infected horse in an area indicates that mosquitoes carrying these viruses are present, and those insects pose a threat to both humans and horses. Other mosquito prevention methods include:

Dumping or draining standing water breeding sites for mosquitoes, such as containers and puddles.

Using insect repellents and removing animals from mosquito-infested areas during peak biting times, usually dusk to dawn.

Turning off the lights in and around the barn at night.

For more information on WNV or EEE, contact the VDACS Office of Veterinary Services at 804.786.2483 or visit vdacs.virginia.gov/animals-animal-health.shtm.

Youngkin Takes Final Action on 2024 Regular Session Legislation

Gov. Glenn Youngkin recently acted on legislation that was returned to his desk after the General Assembly rejected his proposed recommendations.

"During my State of the Commonwealth address in January, I made clear my intention to work in a bipartisan manner with the General Assembly to accomplish policies that move Virginia forward, and we have a lot to be proud of this session," said Youngkin. "I sent 115 bills back to the General Assembly with amendments which improved the legislation and sought compromise on collective priorities. I'm glad the majority of those recommendations were accepted. While I look forward to working with the General Assembly to see if we can reach agreement on language in the future, today I must act on the language before me, and there are several bills which are not ready to become law."

"This includes legislation related to contraception. Let me be crystal clear: I support access to contraception. However, we cannot trample on the religious freedoms of Virginians. And that is the issue the recommendations I sent back to the General Assembly addressed. I will continue to uphold the oath that I swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia," Youngkin said.

The Governor signed seven bills, which included:

*SB 498 - School-connected overdose policies; guidelines, parental notification and response- the Virginia Senate accepted the Governor's recommendation, which returned the bill to its stronger original version. The House of Delegates unfortunately rejected the recommendation. While the current language does not go far enough to ensure parental notification of school-connected overdoses, it allows the Board of Education to establish guidelines. The Board of Education will begin this important work immediately. In addition, Executive Order 28, which establishes

a 24-hour parental notification standard for all school-connected overdoses, remains in effect.

*HB 707 & SB 361- Consumer Data Protection Act; protections for children- the Governor's recommendation would have expanded protections for children from harmful social media practices online. In its current form, the bill does not go as far as it should, particularly by excluding minors over the age of 13 from protection, but the bill can be signed as the Administration works with the legislature and stakeholders to further strengthen these protections next session.

*HB 1055- Eastern VA Health Sciences Center at Old Dominion University, board of directors of; membership- The Governor's recommendation strengthened the ability of the General Assembly and the executive branch to oversee the new board established by the forthcoming merger of Eastern Virginia Medical School and Old Dominion University. The bill in its current form can be signed, allowing the merger process to continue while pursuing future governance changes.

*SB 142- Public school teachers; licensure requirements, issuance of a one-year local eligibility license- the Governor offered recommendations that would have improved the functionality of the bill. While legislative changes will be necessary next session to make it more effective, the bill as it currently stands will improve the ability to hire teachers.

*HB 214- Common interest communities; residents providing certain services exemption- this bill was sent to the Governor's desk in the "7-day" bill window during the 2024 Regular Session. Additional review was needed. The relevant agencies have been consulted and the bill is ready to be signed into law.

*HB 1071- Reduction of speed limits; local authority- while additional work will need to be done on this policy in the future to continue to improve its implementation while continuing to guarantee road safety, the bill can move forward at this time.



Governor Glenn Youngkin participates in a bill signing ceremony at the Stafford County Public Safety Center, on May 22, 2024. (Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin)

Youngkin signs legislation on child exploitation, missing child alerts and sentencing guidelines

Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed legislation last week to protect children from exploitation, increase penalties on child predators and ensure rapid response for missing or endangered children.

"As a father of four children, I know that protecting our children is a parent's highest priority. By signing these pieces of legislation, we continue to make progress to ensure the safety and well-being of our children. I am proud to sign these bills that protect our children and hold those who commit atrocities against children accountable," Youngkin said of SB 731, HB 1427, and SB 201.

Sen. Tara Durant said the legislation "brings our child pornography code into the 21st century by closing a loophole that criminals have been able to exploit using digital technology and artificial intelligence. On July 1, we will be able to more clearly prosecute these heinous criminal acts."

"We want to make sure that we have additional resources put in place to reunite kids and their fam-

ilies as quickly as possible. The CODI alert is a tool that can be deployed to help find children who may have gotten lost or are known not to be in immediate danger. The success of the Amber alert demonstrates that early intervention is key. This new alert will be a valuable tool for law enforcement and parents," Sen. Danny Diggs said.

"All of these bills will have a measurable impact on the safety of our kids, HB1427 directly works to ensure that those convicted of heinous crimes against children will not be able to so easily reoffend," said Del. Michael Webert.

Del. Bonita Anthony, who carried HB1388, said she took great pride in sponsoring the legislation dubbed the Critical Operation for a Disappeared Child Initiative (CODI) Alert Program.

"This legislation marks a pivotal stride in protecting endangered children, especially our Black and Brown youth, who have historically been overlooked by the stringent criteria of the AMBER Alert system," Anthony said.

Celebrate and support Virginia pollinators during national observance

Much of the food we eat and the natural beauty that surrounds us depends on pollinators.

June 17-23 is National Pollinator Week, an annual event designated by the U.S. Senate to highlight how essential pollinators are to the production of food and fiber. According to the nonprofit Pollinator Partnership, about 75% of all flowering plants need help with pollination, and about one-third of all foods and beverages are generated by pollinators.

"When we think of pollinators and human benefits, we tend to think of honeybees, which are incredibly important for agriculture," said Stephen Living, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources habitat education coordinator.

He noted that while honeybees are primary pollinators for more than 130 types of fruits and vegetables, native bees also play an important role in pollinating crops like blueberries, squash and cherries. They also pollinate 80% of all flowering plants around the world.

There are 458 species of native bees in Virginia. Other essential pollinators include beetles, flies, butterflies, moths and birds.

But pollinator populations are declining worldwide due to factors like habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change. Virginia DWR's Wildlife Action Plan identifies 60 pollinators that are deemed "Species of Greatest Conservation Need."

Virginia Tech recently became Bee Campus USA-certified for ongoing efforts to conserve native pollinators. Students, faculty and administrators work together to carry out commitments to provide pollinators with a healthy habitat that is rich in native plants, provides nest sites and is protected from pesticides.

"These commitments align very nicely with the campus' commitment toward climate action and sustainability," explained Marga-

ret Couvillon, assistant professor of pollinator biology and ecology, and chair of the VT Bee Campus committee.

Since spring 2022, volunteers have planted three pollinator gardens, improved the habitat of one garden and installed bee hotels around campus.

Couvillon's research lab helps inform the committee on the best practices to improve pollinator health, including publishing a study of 25 common garden plants that attract abundant and diverse insect pollinators.

"Native plants do a much better job at supporting pollinators—offering nectar and pollen for adults and serving as host plants for young insects to grow on," Living said.

"If you go to a garden center and walk around, you can see what plants are attractive to insects because they will usually find it and come forage at it," Couvillon added.

Supporting native insects also is important for other wildlife species' survival, like that of the Carolina chickadee. It takes more than 6,000 caterpillars to raise a single nest.

Living encourages avoiding or minimizing the use of pesticides, and leaving fall leaves and standing dead plant material for native pollinators to use as winter cover.

Couvillon recommends delaying or partially mowing in the spring, as early season wildflowers offer important forage sources for bees and other insects.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Program offers a native plant finder for selecting and finding sources for native plants.

For more information on native plants and plant guides, visit the Plant Virginia Natives website at plantvirginiannatives.org. For more information on establishing a habitat at home, visit the Virginia DWR website at dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat.

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PCHS Fishing Team serves veterans

Several Members of the Patrick County High School Fishing Team volunteered their time the Saturday after their last day of school to assist with the Blue Ridge Heritage 9th Annual Veteran's Fishing Day. Anglers assisted in baiting

hooks, casting, netting and serving lunch to the men and women who once served our country.

Special thanks to the following anglers for assisting: Evan Wood, Ben Wood, Eli Wood, Parker Roop, Evan Havens, Cameron Collins, Evan

Eastridge, Caleb Geiger, Antwain Mitchell, Mason Bennett and Hunter Heath.

The event was hosted by Smith River Trout Unlimited. With respect, honor and gratitude. Thank you to all veterans.



'Give a Hoot' Owl themed Storytime program held at the library



"Wow! Said the Owl," by Tim Hopgood and "Hoot Owl Master of Disguise," by Sean Taylor were the books of the day read by Sam Edmundson at a recent Storytime held at the library. The books were followed by a program on owls and a giant pinecone snowy owl craft, led by Master Gardeners Jessica Hines and Norma Bozenmayer. (Contributed)

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****Pictures on Web Site/AuctionZip.com**

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