



THE ENTERPRISE

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Vol. 148 No. 23 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024 USPS 523-500 \$1.00

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

Memorial Day ceremony honors sacrifice of the fallen



Retired U.S. Navy Captain Ray Clark spoke about Memorial Day.



The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard honored those whose funerals it attended in 2023.



The Honor Guard and American Legion Post #105 folded an American flag during the event.



More than two dozen county residents attended the May 28 Twilight Memorial Service.

By Taylor Boyd
 American Legion Post #105 and the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard held a Twilight Memorial Day service at the Alice DeHart Park Pavilion in Stuart on Monday, May 28.

Honor Guard Commander Clyde Thomas said the ceremony was held to honor service members and remember their sacrifices, achievements, courage, and dedication and to say, 'thank you.'

"These service members that we honor today came from all walks of life, but they share several fundamental qualities. They possessed courage, pride, determination, and dedication to duty. All the qualities needed to serve a cause greater than one's self," he said.

Thomas said Memorial Day is a sacred time as people remember their brothers and sisters in arms who are no longer with them.

"They are the thousands who

fell on the battlefields of Europe, the Pacific, Korea, and Vietnam. Others, more recently, gave their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan in the global war on terrorism," he said.

However, Thomas noted that still more returned home to live out their lives in the country for which they fought unselfishly.

"They have passed on, but on Memorial Day we pause by each of their gravestones to salute their

military service too," he said.

"This Memorial Day, we are honoring the nation's men and women currently serving in uniform, past veterans, and above all, those who made the supreme sacrifice for liberty here and around the world."

Retired Navy Capt. Ray Clark, guest speaker, said U.S. military installations around the world, national cemeteries, U.S. embassies, cities, and towns will hold

(See Memorial Day p. 3)



Several county residents attended the May 28 Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Spending plan for upcoming fiscal year approved

By Taylor Boyd
 The Patrick County Board of Supervisors approved the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget in a 3-1 vote at its May 28 meeting.

Interim chairman Doug Perry, of the Smith River District; Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District; and Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, voted for the budget.

The dissenting vote was cast by Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District.

"I've still got some reservations about it, and we've got about another month" until the deadline "anyways. Therefore, there's a few things that aren't settled in my mind, so I'm going to vote no," Kendrick said.

"It is a lean, balanced budget with no tax increases, \$109,095 reserved dollars reserved for contingency," Perry said, adding that attention was paid to the identified gaps in basic local government operations such as land use staff support, addressing deferred maintenance, capital planning, increased cost of health insurance, cost of living raises, and market-based salary adjustments.

The budget includes "increased funding for public safety including law enforcement, emergency services, and increased contributions to volunteer fire department and

rescue squads. Increased funding for health and welfare, specifically with Social Services," he said.

Perry said the budget also includes increased costs to cover the rising costs of electricity, necessary capital improvement projects, and replacement of essential equipment.

Before voting on the budget, Perry noted that he is a full-time employee of the Patrick County Sheriff's Office. "I am able to vote on Patrick County's annual budget fairly, objectively, and in the public's interest."

The new fiscal budget takes effect on July 1.

In other matters, the board:

- *Appointed Jane Fulk to serve as the interim Dan River District supervisor until a special election slated for November 5.
- *Approved a resolution to settle a lawsuit with a 4-0 vote.
- *Discussed creating a festival-type ordinance to ensure there is enough fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) staff present in case of an accident.
- *Discussed the possibility of the county selling business licenses so it can track who is doing business and to create a list that can be viewed on the county's website.
- *Discussed the idea of giving farm roads and farm buildings 911 addresses in case of emergencies.

Fulk to fill Dan River District post

By Taylor Boyd
 Jane Fulk was chosen to fill the vacant Dan River District seat on Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

The board made the selection at its May 28 meeting.

Fulk will serve in the post until a special election is held in November. The winner of that election will then finish out the remaining year of Brandon Simmons' 4-year term.

Simmons resigned from the board earlier this year.

Fulk, who was officially sworn in as the interim on May 31, resigned as a member of the Planning Commission because she can't hold both offices due to a potential conflict of interest.

Fulk said she decided to seek becoming the interim as she thought she could help the board out for a short time.

"I didn't want to run again, but I could do the short-term. I felt it would be a good fit right now because we have so many new members and so many new employees. That maybe I could lend a little hand here and there," she said.



Jane Fulk was selected to fill the vacant Dan River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors. A special election is set for the Nov. 5 contest.

Fulk, who previously served in the post from 2018-2021, said her

(See Fulk p.3)

More than \$60,000 awarded in scholarships

By Taylor Boyd
 The Stuart Rotary Student Loan and Scholarship Foundation, Inc., awarded scholarships totaling \$61,500 to 31 graduating Patrick County High School's (PCHS) seniors at a May 9 awards program.

Since its creation in 1968, organization Treasurer Judy Lacks said the loan program has provided 144 loans totaling \$170,375 to students.

"A student can apply each year they are in school for a maximum of \$1,500 as a loan, and the interest rate right now is 3.5 percent. Interest is not added on, and the student does not start paying their loan back until six months after they graduate with their bachelor's degree," she said.

Lacks said the loan program was the first component that was added when the foundation was created in 1968 with the main purpose to receive donations of money and property in order to offer low interest loans to Patrick County graduates to pursue their education beyond high school.

"It gave low-interest loans to students, and then in 1976 was when they added the scholarship" component, she said.

Since 1976, 393 scholarships worth \$385,950 have been awarded to graduating seniors.

Lacks said 20 of the scholarships are provided through perpetual memorial scholarships funded by family members

wishing to honor and remember their loved ones.

"One of the 31 scholarships is funded by the Stuart Rotary Club in honor of one of its deceased members, Judge John D. Hooker. Six designated Stuart Rotary scholarships are funded from proceeds from special projects conducted by the Stuart Rotary Club members," she said.

In 2019, Lacks said the foundation began its First-Generation Scholarship program to support those who are their first in their families to attend college.

"The First-Generation Scholarship program provides a \$2,000 scholarship annually for a maximum of four years, totaling \$8,000, or until a bachelor's degree is received," she said.

Four students were chosen for the 2024 First-Generation Scholarship.

Lacks said funding for two of the \$8,000 scholarships were provided by the Pauline H. and W. Blair Clark, Sr. and Family Scholarship account. The other two scholarships were funded by the Stuart Rotary Club.

All resources donated to the foundation are invested and managed by a board of directors. Current board members are Anna Clark Lester, President; Dayna Bobbitt, Vice-President; Lacks, Secretary/Treasurer; W.B. Clark, Jr., Director; Pam Craig, Director; Melanie Culler, Director; Susan Gasperini, Di-

(See Scholarships Awarded p.3)

Beach Music Festival kicks off Thursday

By Staff Reports
 If you love beach music, that old shaggin' kind of music, head over to Wayside Park Thursday, June 6 to Saturday, June 8 for the 42nd annual Beach Music Festival in Stuart.

The Band of Oz and The Catalinas are among the scheduled performers during 'Hot Fun In the Summer-time,' along with Special Occasion Band, The Pizazz Band, Jim Quick & Coastline and EnVision.

Thursday, the Special Occasion Band is scheduled to take the stage, followed on Friday by The Pizazz Band.

Saturday's lineup includes The Band of Oz at 12:30 p.m., The Catalinas at 2:30 p.m., Jim Quick and Coastline at 4:30 p.m. and EnVision, from 6:30 p.m. until. Showtimes are approximate.

Concessions will be available for sale, and other vendors will be on-site.

The Rotary Club of Stuart will host the festival, with sponsors that include Patrick County Tourism.

For more information, to buy tickets and view lodging options, visit www.beachfestival.com or email beachmusicinfo@gmail.com.

(See Beach Music p.3)

Tourism Talks

Pets of the Week



This handsome guy was picked up on Oak Wood Lane in Woolwine.

This pretty lady looks like she may have some Heeler in her background. She was picked up on Hatchers Chapel Road in Stuart.

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

Hello Patrick, It's been quite some time since we last connected. Time seems to have flown by, and we've already enjoyed some remarkable events, festivals, and get-togethers. I hope you had the chance to indulge in some strawberries at the festival. Despite the rain, we managed to enjoy three good hours thanks to the outstanding effort of Ray, Bryce, Billy, Susan, Daniel, and the Town Crew.

The Star Theater has been hosting fantastic shows, and the First Fridays at the Farmers Market Amphitheater in downtown Stuart have been fantastic. Don't forget to check out the regular music events at the Willis Gap Community Center and what the Patrick County Music Association is up to.

This week, the Beach Music Festival kicks off on Thursday, marking its 42nd year of bringing beach vibes to the mountains. The Rotary Club and Danny Hazelwood do an amazing job every year. There's something for everyone happening in our county. Whether exploring the Parkway, visiting the shops in Meadows of Dan, checking out the historic Mayberry Trading Post, enjoying music at Mabry Mill, or indulging in family-friendly adventures at Fairy Stone State Park, there's no shortage of things to do. The Reynolds Homestead offers summer art classes, history lessons, and tours, as well as the Bushels



and Barrels Festival and a Juneteenth Celebration coming up. And let's not forget the town of Stuart, where you can find good food, fellowship, country swag, and plenty of things that will make you say, "Wow."

You can explore more activities and events on our events calendar at <https://visitpatrickcounty.org/events/>. Whether hiking, biking, delving into history, enjoying outdoor recreation, savoring delicious food, seeking amusement, or just having old-fashioned fun, there's something for everyone.

Our door is always open at the visitors' center. Feel free to drop by, say hello, pick up the latest Patrick County Magazine, and grab a free sticker; we would love to see you! Blessings to you, Patrick. Remember to spread the word and invite your friends and loved ones to come and discover Patrick County – the one and only! And yes, "Google it," you'll be amazed!

Talk to you soon, love ya!
James Houchins
jhouchins@co.patrik.va.us
Director of Tourism

JUNE						PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY						2024	
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday			
Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352.												1	
*Registration required.												Family Movie 11:00 The Goonies	
Summer reading begins on June 3 rd .													
3		4		5		6		7		8			
Yoga 10:00*		Stop in and get help registering for Summer Reading		Walking Club 9:00		Chair Exercise 10:15		Storytime at the Farmer's Market 10:00		Board Game Day			
Chair Exercise 1:30				Paint Like Monet* 10:30								Yoga 1:15*	
LEGO Club 4:00				Legal Aid 5:00 Protective Orders								Sit & Stitch 11:00	
10		11		12		13		14		15			
Yoga 10:00*		Summer Reading Program 11:00		Walking Club 9:00		Chair Exercise 10:15		Storytime at the Farmer's Market 10:00					
Chair Exercise 1:30		Intro to Zen 1:30		Book Bingo 10:30		Teen Program 11:00							
LEGO Club 4:00		Decorative Journaling 5:00*		Yoga 1:15*		Herb Garden Workshop 2:30*							
17		18		19		20		21		22			
Yoga 10:00*		Summer Reading Program 11:00		CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH		Chair Exercise 10:15		NO Storytime					
Chair Exercise 1:30		Medicare Lunch & Learn 12:00*				Teen Program 11:00		Sit & Stitch 11:00					
LEGO Club 4:00		Books & Bakes 5:00				Open Art Studio							
24		25		26		27		28		29			
Yoga 10:00*		Summer Reading Program 11:00		Walking Club 9:00		Chair Exercise 10:15		Storytime at the Farmer's Market 10:00					
Chair Exercise 1:30		Intro to Zen 1:30		Yoga 1:15*		Teen Program 11:00							
LEGO Club 4:00						Cookbook Showdown 2:30*							

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

ONLINE AUCTION Ends Thursday, June 20th at 3 PM
Country Home & Recreational Land for Sale in Patrick County VA
311 Shortcut Dr., Woolwine, VA 24185
Bid NOW at VAAuctionPro.com



Are you searching for recreational property with good building sites in Patrick County, VA? Look no further than these 6 tracts that are being sold at auction. Properties feature a mixture of open and wooded land with beautiful streams and creeks. Land tracts offer multiple building sites, hunting and recreational opportunities. There is also a 2 story, 3 bedroom, 2 bath farmhouse that is move in ready! Purchase 1 or multiple tracts. All tracts are perked for a 3 bedroom home.

- Offering #1: +/- 12.552 acres
- Offering #2: +/- 25.731 acres
- Offering #3: +/- 42.530 acres & Home
- Offering #4: +/- 37.693 acres
- Offering #5: +/- 15.3285 acres
- Offering #5: +/- 54.972 acres

Terms & Conditions: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per offering is required on the day of sale. Close on or before August 5th, 2024. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on June 20th, 2024. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com

CONTACT: Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Booie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email BooieD@yahoo.com

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STUART FARMERS MARKET

JUNE MARKET EVENTS
Every Friday 8 am to 12 pm

- June 7: Tool sharpening. Bring those dull blades and have them sharpened while you shop. fee. • Library with storytime at 10am.
- June 7: 6pm First Friday Summer Jam Series Concert
- June 14: Blood pressure checks by The Landmark Center Library with storytime at 10am
- June 21: Rise & Shine Youth Market
- June 28: Master Gardeners on site to answer your questions. Library with storytime at 10am

Open every Friday with locally grown Fruits & Vegetables, Meats, Baked Items, Eggs, Crafts & More

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

Memorial Day

(cont. from page 1)

Memorial Day ceremonies.

He said there are different historical accounts of the first Memorial Day, with some stating the first honor was held in 1866 in Georgia to honor the Sons of the Confederacy.

"An ugly time in our national history, but ultimately ensuring freedom of all no matter their race or color," he said.

"On the 30 of May 1886, Memorial Day was proclaimed by General J.A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in Waterloo for those that served in the Civil War up to World War I. It was observed for all that fell previously in the nation's conflicts," he said.

In 1968, Clark said Congress changed Me-

morial Day to be the last Monday in May "as with three others to create a three-day weekend for all federal employees." This took effect in 1971.

Clark said Memorial Day ceremonies are a solemn recognition of all the men and women who give their all in combat services to the nation's calling. He added the most notable ceremony is held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, which was dedicated on November 11, 1921.

"It was dedicated to the unknown lost from World War I, for which the remains of one soldier were entombed in the memorial. Later, two others were laid to rest there. The army

has a dedicated team looking for unmarked graves for our service members who have not been identified and returned, mainly in Southeast Asia," he said.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Douglas Dunlap discussed D-Day and Honor Guard member Richard Cox gave a history on the POW/MIA Remembrance Chair. Honor Guard member John Reynolds read out the list of funerals the Honor Guard participated in last year.

Jackie Belcher sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Name on a Wall." Honor Guard Chaplain Harless Belcher performed the opening prayer, and Thomas also read "Arlington" by Trace Adkins.

Fulk

(cont. from page 1)

goals involve working with the rest of the board.

"I know they have concerns and maybe things they want to work with, I've talked a little bit about that with them," she said. "I told them that in the time I'm there, we might not accomplish the goals, but if we could have some solid ideas to go forward with, that would be good."

She noted a board can have a lot of ideas, but it's necessary to look at them and see if they're feasible.

"Or can you do them, or what do you need to have to do them. Hopefully, we can make some

of those ideas into a concrete plan that even if I'm not there, they can go forward with," she said.

Fulk said she would like to look at getting some type of medical establishment.

"We may never have a hospital again, but I'm a little worried over Dr. Cole's clinic because he's retirement age. So, that's one thing that we need to talk about, is can we do something about that," she said.

While she doesn't yet know what the board is concentrating on, Fulk said if she had gotten

onto the board before it approved the budget, she would have worked on that with them.

"So, I just need to see where they are to start with," she said.

Fulk hopes she can help the county out during her short tenure on the board.

"I hope we can find somebody who has a really good interest who will run for the position. I think maybe some of the other candidates that applied" to be the interim "will run, but I'm not sure," she said.

Scholarships Awarded

(cont. from page 1)

rector and Barry Taylor, Director.

Photos and information about all of the scholarships awarded to the Class of 2024 can be found on pages 16-18.

Below is a list of the 31 students receiving 2024 scholarships through Stuart Rotary Student Loan and Scholarship Foundation, Inc.:

- Pauline H. and W. Blair Clark, Sr. and Family Memorial Scholarship - Draiden Archambo
- Pauline H. and W. Blair Clark, Sr. and Family Memorial Scholarship - Hannah Wood
- Pauline H. and W. Blair Clark, Sr. and Family Memorial Scholarship - Sabrina Rorrer
- Pauline H. and W. Blair Clark, Sr. and Family Memorial Scholarship - Andrew Taylor
- Pauline H. and W. Blair Clark, Sr. and Family Memorial Scholarship - Aniya Penn
- Pauline H. and W. Blair Clark, Sr. and Family Memorial Scholarship - Kali Craig
- Pauline H. and W. Blair Clark, Sr. and Family Memorial Scholarship - Madeline Heath
- James C. and Margaret S. Hiatt Memorial

- Scholarship - Ananiah Jenkins
- James C. and Margaret S. Hiatt Memorial Scholarship - Kyle Handy
- Richard, Cornelius, and Vera Stanley Memorial Scholarship - Cheyenne Clifton
- Ann Belcher and Orea G. Rakes Memorial Scholarship - Kylee Joyce
- Fern E. Pino Memorial Scholarship - Levi Viperman
- Dorn O. and Gaynelle Spangler Memorial Scholarship - James Brintle
- Dorn O. and Gaynelle Spangler Memorial Scholarship - Cecilia Cisneros
- Susan Allen Huff Memorial Scholarship - Ethan Cobbler
- Fred Allen Memorial Scholarship - Gina Rubio
- Jesse Wood Sheppard Scholarship - Matthew Allen
- Mary Jane Taylor Senior Beta Memorial Scholarship - Hunter Meade
- Alfred Brammer Memorial Scholarship - Ma-

- ria Turner
- Patty Hazelwood Memorial Scholarship - Curtis Busick
- John D. Hooker Scholarship Heather - Edwards
- Stuart Rotary Scholarship - Luke Cutchins
- Stuart Rotary Scholarship - Montana Oxendine
- Stuart Rotary Scholarship - Stephen Spencer
- Stuart Rotary Scholarship - Brandy Quesinberry
- Stuart Rotary Scholarship - Marissa Brown
- Stuart Rotary Scholarship - Lauryn Williams
- First Generation Scholarship - Clark Remi Miller
- First Generation Scholarship - Clark Caleb Morris
- First Generation Scholarship - Rotary Nathan Large
- First Generation Scholarship - Rotary Bobbijo Roberts

Beach Music

(cont. from page 1)

VIRGINIA IS FOR MUSIC LOVERS

Beach Music Festival
the best time you'll ever have.

PATRICK COUNTY Virginia

Rotary Club of Stuart, VA

Marriage Licenses

Marriage Licenses processed in April/May

According to records in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's office, the following marriage licenses were processed in April/May:

April marriage li-

censes brought into the clerk's office after April 30:

Matthew Blevins - Tiffany Cox

Melvin Dolan - Megan Styers

Nicolas Harbour - Megan Collins

Freddie Setliff - Sarina Johnson

Marriage Licenses processed in May:

Myles Harriman - Jessica Childress

Timothy Lowe - Tasha Hale

William Martin - Kelly Chandler

Benjamin Royster - Jessica Clark

Brett Stovall - Kaitlin Bryant

Abigail Williams - Joel Easter

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Wednesday: Chicken Alfredo\$13.99
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with rice and salad

Friday: Bay Scallops Alfredo Fettuccini...\$14.99
with salad

Saturday: Fresh Grilled Tilapia\$12.99
with mashed potatoes and salad

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Are you Prepared for the 2024 Hurricane Season?

Hurricane season is quickly approaching, officially starting June 1 and lasting until November 30. Researchers are predicting that the 2024 hurricane season is going to be extremely active. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) predicts above-normal hurricane activity in 2024, with 17 to 25 named storms.

The USDA encourages producers to prepare and protect their family and agricultural operations.

1. Develop an Emergency Plan - Ensure your household and employees know your hurricane plan, including meeting points, emergency contact lists, and alternate evacuation routes in case infrastructure is damaged.
2. Remove Debris and Secure Large Objects - Clean out culverts, ditches, and other drainage areas, especially before and during peak hurricane season to reduce water damage. Most injuries to animals, people, or structures during a hurricane are caused by flying objects. To lessen the risk, minimize the presence of equipment, supplies, and debris that may become airborne during high winds or encountered in floodwaters.
3. Secure Important Records and Documents- Pre- and post-hurricane documentation is extremely important for insurance compensation and recovery assistance. You'll want to have thorough records of damages and losses sustained on your farm as well as documentation of your cleanup and recovery efforts.

It is critical to document inventory of farm buildings, vehicles, equipment, and livestock before a disaster occurs. Take photos, videos, or make written lists with descriptions. Keep copies of

this inventory in multiple places: computer, off-site in a safe location, and on a cloud-based server where information is transmitted and saved weekly.

4. Know Your Insurance Options- Regularly review your insurance policies with your agent to be sure you have adequate coverage, including flood insurance, for your facilities, vehicles, farm buildings, crops and livestock. Note, there are limitations on how soon insurance coverage will take effect. Generally, insurance policies will not cover damage if the policy was not in place before a disaster.
 5. Gather Supplies - Have drinking water, canned food, a generator, batteries, a flashlight, and fuel available in case you lose power. For widespread outages, credit and debit cards may not work, so have cash handy.
 6. Access Real-time Emergency Information- Download the Federal Emergency Management Agency smartphone app for free on the App Store and Google Play for safety tips on what to do before, during, and after disasters. Subscribe to our text message and email service to receive real-time, local operational and recovery information from the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency.
- On farmers.gov, the Hurricane Webpage, Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Loan Assistance Tool can help producers and landowners determine program or loan options. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent. For FSA and NRCS programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Higher Electric Rates Possible!

In May, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a landmark rule related to regional electric transmission.

FERC is the independent Federal agency that regulates most hydropower dam licenses and the wholesale rates and delivery contracts for the interstate transmission of electricity.

Traditionally, cost allocation for interstate transmission projects was relatively straightforward. The state that benefitted the most from the transmission paid for it.

This new transmission planning and cost allocation rule, Order No. 1920, requires transmission planners to consider multiple forward-looking benefits over at least twenty years when they develop their plans. The vague "benefit" definition is geared towards connecting wind and solar facilities to the power grid.

FERC approved Order No. 1920 by a 2-1 vote.

The dissenting vote came from Commissioner Mark Christie.

I have known Commissioner Christie for many years from my service in the Virginia House of Delegates. He was an advisor to a governor and then two speakers of the Virginia House. Subsequently, the legislature elected him to serve on the Virginia State Corporation Commission, a state agency responsible for regulating public utilities, insurance, state-chartered financial institutions, securities, retail franchising, and railroads.

Now a Senate-confirmed member of FERC, Commissioner Christie penned a seventy-seven-page dissent explaining his "no" vote.

"This is not about promoting reliability. This rule is a shell game designed to disguise its true agenda, which is about the money. It's a 1,300-page vehicle to socialize the trillion-dollar cost of the rule's sweeping policy agenda."

"The final rule clearly intends to socialize trillions of dollars of costs for the transmission necessary to pursue this transformational agenda...the final rule removes the principle that the states must consent to how and whether these massive costs are imposed on their consumers."

The final rule then requires transmission providers "to socialize the costs of these projects across the entire region, even when states in a region have never consented for their consumers to bear the costs of such projects."

The concern here is that consumers will bear the costs of these renewable energy projects, even if a state's ratepayers do not consent.

For example, states with lofty climate goals, such as California and New York, rely on the development of wind and solar farms to generate power.

However, these states face constraints in building capacity. Therefore, they turn to other states to generate clean power, and wheel that energy back home.

For this to work, other states



Morgan Griffith

Representative

would have to build new power lines and necessary infrastructure.

Accordingly, the energy created at these new facilities would be at the expense of the ratepayers of the other states. In other words, that could be you! You could be paying money to create energy in Virginia that only benefits New York.

Monitoring Analytics of PJM Interconnection finds that transmission now constitutes almost one-third of wholesale power costs, with the cost of transmission service exceeding the cost of capacity for the first time in 2020.

As if American households were not already being squeezed by high power bills!

Solar and wind projects like these are potentially making their way to Virginia's Ninth District.

According to an article by the Washington Post, for the United States to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, one potential option would require over 260,000 square miles of land designated to wind and solar farms.

That is twenty-five times the size of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District!

Among the conflicts that arise from the development of solar and wind farms is environmental disruption. Land conflicts can disrupt landscapes, inhibit productive farmland and harm animals. For example, a 2013 Biological Conservation study on the estimates of bird collision mortality at wind facilities in the contiguous United States found an approximate average of over 200,000 bird fatalities per year.

While Order No. 1920 is a poor rule, I believe something must be done to address regional electric transmission.

Given projections of rising energy demand, we will not be able to use existing power lines to take energy from a facility in one region and move it to another without additional high-capacity lines. While there is broad agreement that the one-hundred-year-old sections of the grid need to be replaced, permitting streamlined, and more regional power lines constructed, making Ohio consumers pay for a line just because Pennsylvania wants Iowa's wind power makes absolutely no sense.

This rule, coupled with the Biden administration's egregious regulations on fossil fuels, including coal, will further drive up electricity costs. These additional costs make it hard on American families to make ends meet.

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

Rollins selected to represent 21st Judicial Circuit

In a close race, Circuit 21 selected O. Randolph "Randy" Rollins as its representative on the Virginia State Bar (VSB) Council. The circuit encompasses the city of Martinsville and Henry and Patrick counties.

A former partner at McGuire-Woods LLP in Richmond and former Secretary of Public Safety under Governor Doug Wilder, Rollins now works in private practice and runs his farm in the Leatherwood area of Henry County.

Rollins previously served on the VSB Council for the 13th Judicial Circuit from 2009 to 2015. He created the nonprofit Drive-To-Work, the only statewide organization that assists low income and previously incarcerated persons with restoring driving privileges so they can drive to work.

Rollins, who is a graduate of Duke University and Duke School of Law, was selected to fill a three-year term.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

U.S. Military Strength

(Todd Starnes, MRCTV, Washington Examiner, NY Post, American Military News, The Federalist)

The Heritage Foundation's 2023 Index of U.S. Military Strength found "that the military is weak and at risk of not being able to meet the demands of defending America's vital national interests" marking the first time in the index's nine-year history that the country has been rated so low. The Marine Corps received a strong rating, the Air Force very weak rating, the Navy and Space Force were rated as weak, and the Army was considered marginal.

Almost immediately after assuming office, President Biden signed an executive order rescinding Donald Trump's restriction on CRT. Under Bidens leadership, the military resumed its indoctrination of DEI.

Problems that DEI created: "Black Lives Matter" flags, shirts, and hats were permitted. "All lives matter," and "Make America Great Again" were banned.

Servicemembers are forced to participate in race-based seminars that state, as a fact, "America is Racist" and that all white people are "privileged."

Servicemembers are being instructed to spy on one another and report anyone reading or displaying "white supremacist" paraphernalia.

Antifa and BLM were not mentioned in training about "extremists." When soldiers asked leadership why these groups were excluded as extremists, they were told that the US government does not "acknowledge them as hate groups."

Results of DEI: Chronic recruitment shortages are forcing the Army to cut 16,500 vacant positions. The Air Force has reduced 8,000 troops after missing recruit-

ing goals for the first time in over 20 years. The Navy is short 9,000 sailors.

Decline in white recruits. According to Military.com, in fiscal year 2018, the Army recruited 44,042 new white recruits, 56% percent of the total. In 2023, that number plummeted to 25,070, or 44 %. In the Navy, white recruit losses accounted for an overall drop of about 9,000 new recruits. White men do not want to join where they are not wanted.

Department of Defense requires gender-neutral pronouns for the highest awards in the military.

The U.S. Military Academy dropped "Duty, Honor Country," from its official mission statement. Without duty, honor, or country, all we are left with is disloyalty, dishonor, and treason. A cross dressing and gender norms class is also being taught to cadets.

The U.S. Navy will enlist applicants who have not graduated from high school or obtained a GED. The Navy has also appointed a drag queen, Joshua Kelly, who identifies as non-binary for help in recruitment in order to attract a "talented" and "diverse workforce."

The Army is recruiting retired soldiers to address critical manpower shortages.

There are real threats in the world, but the Bidens malignant ideology is more focused on promoting its leftist social agenda in the military instead of countering China, Russia and Iran or creating an effective counterterrorism plan. When China and Russia military schools see that our troops are learning from drag queens and about cross-dressing instead of how to protect our nation, they will no longer fear our military.

Pray for our country.
William Salser,
Stuart

It's the stupid economy

A recent table labeled "Bidenomics" made me wonder how Patrick County measured up. National figures like this are not uncommon - and often lifted from government reports. None go down to county level.

So, I planned a quest. But Patrick County is large, with some areas closer to Mt. Airy and Martinsville than to Stuart. The reach of my survey was extended accordingly, in a nod to those whose gas budgets dictate minimum miles.

For the two days after Memorial Day, I strolled the aisles of five grocery stores. There were bound to be discrepancies between the January and June prices, mostly due to the seasonality of produce. Plus, many food companies have been downsizing their packaging.

Coffee's down-sizing was easy to detect. The original chart specified a 12-ounce container. There weren't any. But across the board, 9.6-ounce containers were at all stores. I stuck to the same brand (Folgers) and later calculated the per-ounce price for each.

Using brand names helped insure other head-to-head comparisons. The precedent was set in the original table's specification of Cheerios. I added Campbells brand for the soup and Oscar Mayer Original for the bologna.

And then there's orange juice. The original chart specifies 128 fl. oz. That's a gallon. And there it was, in the refrigerator section: "100% orange juice made from concentrate." It may

not be as nutritious but it's cheaper than frozen concentrate.

Onward. What grade of ground beef? Unspecified. I chose ground chuck, 80% lean. Similarly, I assumed they bought whole milk. (Note: Food Country had no milk in its refrigerator when I visited but the shelf label gave a price.) I also assumed the originators bought white rice instead of brown. Again, availability complicated things: Walmart Mt. Airy had no 1-pound bags when I visited late that last afternoon. So, I pro-rated the 1-pound price from a 5-pound bag, proving that bulk buying is usually a savings.

Heads of iceberg lettuce vary widely by weight, making comparison is a real guessing game. A head-to-head comparison (pardon the pun) at Kroger's was worse. They only had torn leaves in 1-pound bags.

Further along the produce aisles, packages of four tomatoes weren't always available. Some had only 3, others had 5. And two stores offered white potatoes in 5-pound, rather than 3-pound, bags. Do the math yourself for a stricter comparison.

Do your own calculations as well for the percentage change for each basket of foodstuffs. The real lesson: mind the variables, buy large amounts if there's freezer space or use it all before spoilage; check the farmers markets for produce; and learn the quality of alternate brands.

Judy Ferring,
Stuart

Patrick County Economics							
Item	Jan 2020 (hist. nat'l)	Jan 2024 (hist. nat'l)	Walmart Stuart	Food Country	Walmart Mt. Airy	Kroger's Martinsville	Food Lion Mt. Airy
Orange juice (1 gal)	\$2.99	\$4.29	\$7.48	\$9.99	\$7.49	\$7.29	\$7.49
Coffee	\$6.99 (\$0.58/oz)	\$8.99 (\$0.74/oz)	\$4.96 (\$0.52/oz)	\$5.79 (\$0.60/oz)	\$4.92 (\$0.51/oz)	\$5.99 (\$0.62/oz)	\$4.49 (\$0.48/oz)
White bread (20 oz)	\$1.49	\$1.99	\$1.42	\$3.99	\$1.42	\$1.49	\$1.59
Eggs (1 doz.)	\$1.49	\$2.99	\$3.56	\$2.79	\$1.88	\$2.09	\$2.09
Chicken breast (2lbs)	\$4.99	\$7.99	\$5.34	\$5.98	\$5.34	\$9.98	\$4.48
Ground beef (1 lb.)	\$4.99	\$6.99	\$5.23	\$4.49	\$5.97	\$3.99	\$4.99
Rice (1 lb.)	\$0.99	\$1.49	\$0.92	\$0.99	\$0.73	\$1.39	\$1.59
Iceberg Lettuce	\$0.99	\$1.49	\$1.94	\$2.49	\$1.94	\$3.99	\$1.99
Tomatoes (4)	\$2.99	\$3.99	\$1.98 (3)	\$1.99 (3)	\$2.64 (4)	\$3.69 (4)	\$3.29 (4)
Potatoes (3 lbs.)	\$2.99	\$4.49	\$3.24	\$2.99 /5lb	\$4.98	\$3.99	\$4.99/5lb
Milk (1 gal)	\$2.99	\$4.49	\$3.13	\$4.29	\$2.93	\$3.19	\$3.29
Butter (1 lb.)	\$3.99	\$5.49	\$2.26	\$4.99	\$7.24	\$7.49	\$3.99
Bananas (2 lbs.)	\$0.99	\$1.49	\$1.16	\$1.38	\$1.32	\$1.10	\$1.06
Cheerios (18 oz)	\$2.99	\$4.29	\$4.93	\$7.29	\$4.93	\$5.99	\$4.99
Bologna (1 lb.)	\$2.99	\$4.29	\$2.87	\$4.99	\$2.87	\$3.29	\$3.19
Cream of Mushroom Soup (10.5 oz)	\$0.99	\$1.49	\$1.72	\$1.99	\$1.72	\$1.89	\$1.89
Total	\$39.28	\$53.74	\$52.14	\$66.42	\$58.32	\$66.84	\$55.40

Patrick Pioneers

Blue Ridge Mission School
By Beverly Belcher Woody

We have looked at the Blue Ridge Institute that was begun in Vesta by Professor G. W. Owens and the Friends Blue Ridge Academy founded in Ararat by the Quakers. This week, we will look at the Blue Ridge Mission School established in 1916 in Buffalo Ridge.

According to the late historian Virginia Ware, the school was supported by the Virginia Baptists and especially by the Blue Ridge Baptist Association. The first principal was Mr. W. W. Townsend and the first student to register for high school (as a day student) was Minnie Akers (Burnett). Minnie was the daughter of Charlie and Laura Wright Akers, the paternal granddaughter of Samuel and Loucinda Ross Akers, and the maternal granddaughter of Columbus and Elizabeth Morrison Wright. Many local students attended the boarding school, plus students from all over Virginia.

I thought it would be fun to examine some Virginia newspapers for articles related to the Blue Ridge Mission School; I discovered the school and students were vibrant and active members of the community...

From the *Altavista Journal*, 18th December 1924, "Altavista High opened her basketball season by barely defeating the Blue Ridge Mission School of Stuart by the close score of 16 to 15, here Friday night. The visitors clearly outclassed the locals in passing in the first half, and they were counting more from the field than the locals did in this period, the period ending Blue Ridge 13, Altavista 9..."

From the *Altavista Journal*, 11th June 1925, "Dr. and Mrs. W. O. Smith, Mrs. F. M. Peerman, and Miss Louise Vaughan, motored to Blue Ridge Mission School near Stuart Sunday, returning Monday. They were accompanied by Miss Mamie Smith, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Smith. Miss Mamie is a member of the faculty of the above-named institution."

From *The Buchanan News*, 16th December 1926, "Miss Ruby Comper who teaches English and Latin at the Blue Ridge Mission School, will arrive home Friday to spend the Christmas holidays."

From the *Virginia Union Farmer*, 8th June 1928, "Rev. W. T. Henderson attended the graduating exercises held at Averett College, Danville, last Monday night. His daughter, Virginia, graduated that night and will return there shortly to take a course in the summer school. She has accepted a position at the Blue Ridge Mission School in Stuart."

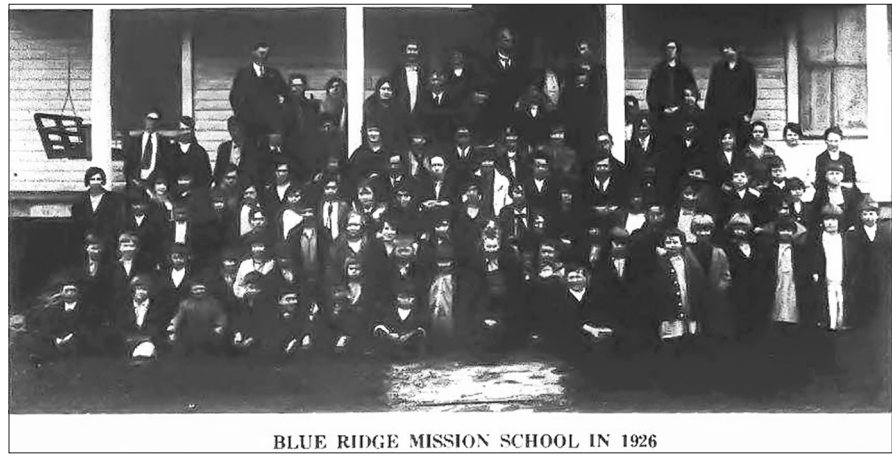
From the *Bedford Bulletin*, 6th of June 1929, "Miss Ola Wright, who has been teaching at the Blue Ridge Mission School is spending her vacation with friends and relatives in Vinton, Roanoke, and Bedford."

From the *Floyd Press*, 8th June 1933, "Commencement exercises began at the Blue Ridge Mission

School with a sermon to the graduating class by Dr. E. A. McDowell, pastor of the Vinton Baptist church, Sunday night, May 28th, in Sycamore Church. Commencement proper was held in Sycamore Church on Tuesday night, May 30, at eight o'clock. The graduating class consisted of seventeen members, ten boys and seven girls. Florence Agee was Salutatorian and Kenneth Dyches Valedictorian. In addition to their addresses, Dr. George T. Waite, executive secretary of the Virginia Baptist Board of Missions and Education delivered a strong address on "The Things That Make for Success." The graduates were as follows: Iva Ross, Juanita Ross, Lillian Wright, Grace Pace, Dot Conner, Florence Agee, Vergie Gusler, Hobert Gusler, Woodrow Wood, Kenneth Dyches, Woodrow Pilson, Jetter Doss, Luther Martin, Hugh Pendleton, Clyde Conner, George Turner, and Tyler Thomas. After the diplomas were handed to the graduates, medals were delivered as follows: Scholarship, Kenneth Dyches; Reading, Winifred Cox; Declamation, Kenneth Dyches, Orthography, Lillian Wright; and Bible, Kenneth Dyches. A prize consisting of a beautiful Bible was presented to Cecil Belcher for the second highest mark in Bible study. Awards were made as follows: Certificates of Merit (on honor roll each month of session) Anna Ogburn, Christine Pilson, Dorothy Hopkins, Christine Morrison, Mae Hopkins, Anita Hopkins, Josephine Morrison, Alver Ogburn, Dorothy Baliles, and Judith Craddock. Neither absent nor tardy, Dovalee Ross, Alver Ogburn, and Effie Pilson. Honor Roll For May. First Grade:—Mae Hopkins, Glenn Wood, Irene Pilson. Second Grade:—Anita Hopkins, Josephine Morrison. Third Grade:—Alver Ogburn, Clay Wood, Dorothy Mae Baliles, Gladys Pilson. Fourth Grade:—Anna Ogburn, Christine Pilson, William Catron. Fifth Grade:—Christine Morrison, Dorothy Hopkins, Barbara Blackard, Ralph Turner, Warren Wright, Frank Walker. Eighth Grade :—Howard Pilson. Ninth Grade:—Cecil Belcher, Judith Craddock. Tenth Grade:—Frances Pilson.

From the *Franklin News-Post*, 8th April 1938, "An Associational Sunday school convention will be held at the Sycamore church on the Blue Ridge Mission School grounds, Tuesday morning, April 12, at 10 o'clock. Superintendents and teachers from all departments of the several Sunday schools in the association are expected to attend and aid in planning for one hundred percent association in organizations, and for enlistment of all available material in the schools now organized. State workers will be present to add their help and encouragement. The members of the Sycamore church, the faculty and pupils of the Blue Ridge Mission School, and the officers of the associational convention extend a cordial invitation to the public."

Rappahannock Record, 28th August 1930, "Dear Mrs. Marsh, Sec-



BLUE RIDGE MISSION SCHOOL IN 1926

Blue Ridge Mission School students and faculty (from Henry County Journal).

retary of the Claybrook-Dunaway Group. I wish to thank you sincerely for your letter in which you tell me of the purpose of your group of societies to give assistance to the Blue Ridge Mission School next session. Please hear my thanks and appreciation to the different societies represented and the individual members thereof for this kind thought of us. You ask about our greatest need and my reply is for money for scholarships. We already have applications from seventeen girls and a number of boys for permission to work their way through school here. A full scholarship of \$136.50 pays board and tuition for a full session of nine months. We allow a number of boys and girls to pay one-half of this amount with their service at odd times here, but some benevolent minded person, society, group of societies, or Sunday School must pay the balance in money, This for several reasons: First, because we must have something with which to secure meat and bread, as the little work the children do around this place does not bring in anything of this kind; and second, because we do not have enough work to do to give them full employment; and third, they have but little time to work if they do much in school. I suggest that your group give us a half scholarship for some boy or girl, the beneficiary to pay the balance with his or her work. I always use discretion in dispensing the funds put in my hands for this as in all other purposes. My plan of having each pupil help himself has met the hearty approval of Brother Garland and works well. It makes the pupil more self-reliant and self-respecting when he feels the responsibility to some extent and makes him more appreciative also. I make the above suggestion because the best investment we can make is in a boy or girl. I always have more applicants for aid by worthy, needy pupils than I can take. This is on account of a lack of funds. If, however, you prefer to help in some other way, we have lots of other needs and I shall be glad to write you about them, if you wish it. If you decide to assist a boy or girl as I suggest above, let me know as early as you can and I will assign one to you and let you keep in touch with him or her, as the case may be. Again, thanking you for your desire to help, and trusting that my suggestions will meet with your approval. I am sincerely yours, J. W. H. Dyches."

Dr. J. W. H. Dyches was the prin-

incipal of the Blue Ridge Mission School for the last fifteen years of its' existence and from the evidence of the above letter, was a caring and noble leader of the school. In 1941, Patrick County consolidated all the neighborhood schools and the need for the boarding school dwindled away.

The picture shown above is the entire student body and faculty of the Blue Ridge Mission School in 1926. First row, seated — left to right — Irvin Lawless, Irene Morrison, Edward Pilson, Posie Pilson, Homer Foley, Charles McKenzie, Ophus Foley, John Turner, and Howard Pilson. First row, kneeling — Russell Roy, Moir Pilson, Francis Turner, Eugene Pilson, Roy Pilson, Bertha Pilson, Katherine Lawless, Margaret Lawson, Betsy Ross, Syrus Baliles, Virginia Pilson, Clyde Pilson, Arnold Wright, Clay Morrison, Clara Morrison, Clara Lawless, Dollie McAlexander, Maude Lawless, Judy Lee Turner, Lora Hopkins, Wilma Lawless, Lillian Pilson, and Elbridge Hopkins. Third row, standing — Edith Pilson, Lloyd Sawyers, Harry Foley, Juanita Ross, Edna Foley, Lois Lawless, Aileen Lawless, Noel Morrison, Kenneth Dyer, Raymond Dykes, Iva Ross, and Curtis Bryant. Third row, seated — Roy Bryant, Martha Elgin, Isbella McGary, Ruth Yeats, Betty Coleman, Mary Turner, and Nancy Hopkins. Fourth row seated — Alma Thrift, Eva Dell Dykes, Alice Turner, Carrie Baliles, Rose Thacker. Fifth row — Rebeccah Hedgepath, Rachel Tatum, Zander Foley, Irene Pendelton, Lillie Mae Lawson, Guy Hopkins, Ophus Pilson, Lula Lawson, A. C. Turner, Cecil Akers, and Beatie Lawson. Sixth row, seated on porch — Delma Pendleton, Gordon Pilson, Alvis Wright, Ralph Hagner, Peg Dykes, Dissie Bowers, Mary Sue Williams, Joe Atkins, Louise Coleman, Iva Hash, Lloyd Hopkins. Russell Seevy, Louise Ross, George Turner, Ester Foley, Edith Bryant, Harold Ross. Standing — Mr. Clanton, Noel Weaver, Sarah Jane Williams, Pattie Handy, John Bryant, Blanche Coleman, Dorothy Roy, Garland Dykes, Chester McKenzie, Grace Conner. Back row — Miss Campbell, Miss Comper, Dr. Dykes, Miss Wright, Miss Franklin, Miss King, and Miss Massie.

(Author's Note: I am sorry that the photograph is not clearer; I copied it from a 98 year old newspaper.) 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 - About Social Security's Earnings Test and Cost of Living Adjustments

Dear Rusty: Is there a limit on earnings when you're fully retired? Also, should all retirees receive COLA or is there an exception? Signed: Retired But Wondering

Dear Retired: Your questions are fairly simple but, nevertheless, often perplexing to those wishing to apply for Social Security, because the SS rules are many (over 2,700 of them) and those about to apply for their benefits may be simply unsure and want to avoid a costly mistake. I'm happy to answer your questions and, hopefully, clarify any uncertainties you have on these topics.

Social Security imposes an earnings limit on anyone who collects Social Security before reaching their full retirement age (FRA). If you haven't yet reached your FRA (somewhere between 66 and 67, depending on the year you were born), and you continue to work, there is a limit to how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. So, the answer to your first question is, yes, there is an earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024) if you hav-

en't yet reached your full retirement age. If the annual earnings limit is exceeded, Social Security will take away some of your benefits (\$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit, up to the year you attain FRA when the assessment is less). However, if you have already reached your full retirement age the earnings limit no longer applies, and you can earn as much as you like without consequence. And here's a nuance to be aware of: if you work and exceed the earnings limit, and have some benefits withheld as a result, when you reach your FRA, you will get time credit for any months you didn't get benefits, which will result in your monthly amount being a bit higher after your FRA.

Regarding COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment), everyone, without exception, who has earned a Social Security benefit and reached eligibility age (62) receives the annual COLA increase whether they are already collecting their benefits or not. If you're not yet collecting, the COLA is added to your "primary insurance amount" or "PIA," on which your benefit will be based when you claim. If you are already collecting SS, COLA will be added to your gross monthly SS benefit amount. However, since there was a \$9.80 increase in the 2024 Medicare Part B premium, and since the Part B premium is taken from everyone's SS

benefit payment, Social Security recipients enrolled in Medicare Part B will not see the full 3.2% COLA in their net monthly Social Security payment. Everyone will receive the COLA increase, but no one enrolled in Medicare Part B will get the full COLA increase in their net SS payment because some of the COLA increase is used to pay their increased Medicare premium.

Social Security's rules are myriad and often confusing, but no question is too simple to be asked. The AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service is available, at no charge, to answer all your Social Security questions - SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org via email, or call 1.888.750.2622.

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Lady Cougars fall to Appomattox in Regional Final



Hayden Lawless reaches out for the catch in left field.



Journey Moore fires in a pitch.



Many Cougar fans made the drive to support their team.

By Pat Delaney

The Patrick County Lady Cougars fell to Appomattox, 7-1, in the regional championship game played at the Botetourt Sports Complex on May 30.

Coming into the game, Appomattox had not given up a run in ten games, and early on, showed why, retiring the first twelve Lady Cougar batters.

Early errors in the field hurt the Lady Cougars, allowing three unearned runs and helping Appomattox build an early lead.

"It was a tough start," said Lady Cougar head coach, Ryan Pendleton. "I don't know if it was jitters or what, but our defense let us down some tonight. We've been playing pretty good defense all year. We were making silly mistakes. Some of it was they forced our hand. We made mistakes we normally don't make."

But "I thought our pitching was pretty good. They really didn't have that many hits. We just made several errors at bad times," said Pendleton. Journey Moore pitched the first three innings, allowing three earned runs. McKenzie Holt finished the game, giving up one earned run.

Down by six heading into the sixth inning, the Cougars bats came alive. Hayden Lawless led off with a single. A walk by Chloe Hubbard and a Journey Moore single loaded the bases for Lilly Hazelwood to drive in the first run for the Lady Cougars.

Hayden Lawless, McKenzie Holt and Journey Moore each had a hit for Patrick County on the night.

Appomattox closed out the Lady Cougars in the seventh inning, giving them the regional championship.

The season isn't over for the Lady Cougars. As



McKenzie Holt finished out the game for the Lady Cougars.

regional runner up, the Lady Cougars moved on to the state tournament, opening play at Central Wise on June 4.

"I told the girls, it's not over," said Pendleton. "At least we get to live to fight another day."

Local college anglers compete against 250 teams at Lake Guntersville, Alabama

The King University duo of Tyler Altizer and Landon Lawson won the MLF Abu Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI event on Lake Guntersville with a five-bass limit weighing 25 pounds, 6 ounces.

Representing Patrick and Henry county respectively with the Patrick & Henry Community College Bass Fishing Team were David Bryant, Zach Heath, Nash Thompson, Gavin McGhee and Shelby Rigney. They were among a full field of close to 250 teams that competed on Lake Guntersville, Alabama. The top 12 percent of teams in the tournament qualified for the National Championship. A total of 486 anglers competed, so the top 29 teams advanced

to the National Championship. Congratulations to Nash Thompson and Gavin McGhee for qualifying for the National Championship. They finished in 32nd place with 17.10.

The Abu Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI event on Lake Guntersville was hosted by Marshall County Tourism and Sports. The next tournament for MLF College Fishing anglers will be the Abu Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI event on Lake Havasu in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. There are three MLF tournaments to go to get the other P&HCC teams qualified for nationals.

The 2024 MLF Abu Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI season features col-

lege teams from across the country competing in nine regular-season tournaments. The top 12 percent of teams from each regular-season tournament advance to the 2025 Abu Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI National Championship.

Proud sponsors of the 2024 MLF Abu Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI include: 7Brew, Abu Garcia, B&W Trailer Hitchers, Berkley, BUBBA, E3, Epic Baits, Fishing Clash, General Tire, GSM Outdoors, Lew's, Mercury, Mossy Oak, Onyx, Phoenix, Polaris, Power-Pole, REDCON1, Strike King, Suzuki, Tackle Warehouse, T-H Marine, Toyota, WIX Filters and YETI.

Austin Cindric breaks 85-race drought with NASCAR Cup win at World Wide Technology Raceway

By Reid Spencer

NASCAR Wire Service

Surprise and elation were the watchwords for Team Penske driver Austin Cindric, who won Sunday's Enjoy Illinois 300 at World Wide Technology Raceway at the expense of teammate Ryan Blaney.

The race was Blaney's to win—until the reigning NASCAR Cup Series champion ran out of fuel on the next-to-last lap and handed the lead to his teammate. Cindric charged past Blaney at the start/finish line and completed the checkered-flag lap as Blaney rolled agonizingly slowly to a 24th-place result.

The victory was Cindric's first since he won the 2022 DAYTONA 500 as a rookie, a dry spell that lasted 85 races. Nevertheless, Cindric expressed conflicting emotions after he climbed from his No. 2 Ford.

"This weekend was a great weekend for everybody involved," Cindric said. "But, yeah, to have two cars in the fight, eventual 1-2. Heartbroken for those guys."

"This is huge for me. This is huge for this team. I'm so glad I was able to get a win with Brian (Wilson) as my crew chief in the Cup Series. You never know when it's going to happen again. Just drove my butt off, hope for the best."

All three Team Penske drivers—Cindric, Blaney and Joey Logano—made only three pit stops to at least four for all other competitors. They stayed out under caution for the Stage 2 break and restarted 1-2-3 on Lap 149.

After pitting early in the ensuing cycle (Blaney on Lap 176, Cindric on Lap 177 and Logano on Lap 179, Blaney gained a spot on Cindric and began working his



Austin Cindric, driver of the #2 Freightliner Ford, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Enjoy Illinois 300 at WWT Raceway on June 02, 2024 in Madison, Illinois. (Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images)

way through the field, improving his position as cars ahead of him came to pit road.

On Lap 217, when Kyle Larson pitted, Blaney assumed the lead, but with the race's fastest car—the No. 20 Toyota of Christopher Bell—in hot pursuit. Bell soon caught Blaney and pulled alongside several times before engine issues caused Bell to slow dramatically.

"I'm blowing up, I'm blowing up," Bell radioed to his crew.

But Bell, who had won the first two stages, nursed his car to the finish with help from Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Martin Truex Jr. Three laps down and mired in 34th place, Truex repeatedly pushed Bell's Camry in the closing laps.

Then it was Blaney's turn to suffer game-changing misfortune.

"Never thought in my mind we were short," Blaney said. "One of those things. Gosh, proud of the 12 boys. We were fast. Had my work cut out for me holding off

Christopher. That was a fun battle. I don't know what happened to him.

"Yeah, one lap short, which just stinks. Congrats to the 2 team. They did a good job all day. Props to them, Austin. Proud for Team Penske and Ford."

"Really happy with our showing today. I don't know what I've got to do to get some luck on our side. Gosh, wrecked the last two points races. Thought we had a great shot to win today. Ended up bad."

Bell was fresh from victory in the rain-shortened May 26 Coca-Cola 600 and had a car that was dominant from the outset. He passed pole winner Michael McDowell on Lap 41 to win Stage 1 and stayed on the track under

caution for Josh Berry's collision with the Turn 3 wall to win Stage 2.

In the closing laps, it seemed inevitable that Bell would overtake Blaney, until Bell's engine turned sour.

"I have no idea what happened," said Bell, who rolled to a seventh-place finish. "Some sort of motor issue. I'm surprised that I made it to the end. Glad we were able to salvage something out of it."

"You don't get race cars like that very often. Whenever you do, you need to take advantage of it. Disappointing day."

Tyler Reddick finished fourth and Logano fifth, followed by Austin Dillon, Bell, Sunoco rookie Carson Hocevar (a career-best eighth), Justin Haley and Larson.

On Lap 140, the final circuit of Stage 2, Kyle Busch and Larson were battling in close quarters for the seventh position when Larson's No. 5 Chevrolet broke loose underneath Busch's No. 8 Camaro, sending both cars sliding into the outside wall.

Busch's car was damaged beyond repair and exited the race in the 35th position—the first DNF of the season for the two-time Cup champion. Larson, on the other hand, was able to salvage the 10th-place result.

"We can't afford days like this," said Busch, who is winless this year and squarely on the bubble for a Playoff spot. "Yeah, he got loose and wiped us out."

Come July 1, agriculture-focused laws may affect some consumers

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's grassroots advocates are celebrating the advancement of agricultural legislation to support the commonwealth's farmers in generating high-quality food and fiber. Some of that legislation will have an impact on rural Virginians and other residents as

well. In April, Gov. Glenn Youngkin completed action on 1,046 bills during the 2024 General Assembly session, signing 777 bills, amending 116 and vetoing 153. Bills and amendments addressed in 2024 include verified meat labeling, streamlining farm-to-school food opportunities and studying large-animal veterinarian

shortages.

Youngkin signed legislation allowing for the creation of a Virginia Verified Meat certification, which prohibits labeling products as Virginia Verified Meat if they do not meet the definition of that term in the bill.

"This label is intended to help consumers to readily identify meat from livestock born, bred, raised and processed in Virginia," said Martha Moore, senior vice president of VFBF governmental relations. In addition, she said, "it will also help our school systems to identify local meat products when making purchasing decisions."

Youngkin also signed a bill establishing a farm-to-school program task force that will aim to increase student access to high-quality farm-to-school programs throughout the commonwealth. Farm-to-school programs strive to increase student access to school meals prepared with locally produced foods. They also involve experiential learning opportunities relating to local food and agriculture, including school and community garden programs and farm visits.

"This program update will go a long way in getting locally grown food into Virginia schools, and exposing more youth to agricultural production," Moore noted.

A nationwide downward trend in large animal veterinarians also persists in Virginia, causing concern for a safe food supply, and contributing to a decline in the economic vitality of rural communities. A joint resolution to study the shortage of large animal veterinarians is intended to result in recommendations for appropriate legislation over the next two General Assembly sessions.

The farm veterinarian shortage, exacerbated by soaring tuition costs and low pay in rural regions, affects livestock farmers as well as rural economies.

"The state veterinarian has identified areas in the state that are in part veterinary deserts," Moore continued. "For horse and livestock owners in those areas, they may not be able to wait for a vet to travel three hours depending on the medical condition of their animal. And because agriculture is the foundation of many rural economies, farmers not having access to large veterinarians means that local food sources are in danger of not existing."

Collins named to JMU Dean's List

Ararat resident Freedom Collins has been named to the Dean's List at James Madison University for the spring 2024 semester. Collins is majoring in Health Sciences - BS. Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899.



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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2024 RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) PLAN UNDER § 56-585.5 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA AND RELATED REQUESTS CASE NO. PUR-2024-00020

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 1193 (HB 1526) and 1194 (SB 851) of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly. These duplicate Acts of Assembly, known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA"), became effective on July 1, 2020. The VCEA, inter alia, establishes a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard ("RPS") for Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") in § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"). Subdivision D 4 of Code § 56-585.5 requires APCo to submit annually to the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") plans and petitions for approval of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity ("RPS Filing"). The RPS Filing must also include the Company's plan to meet the energy storage project targets of Code § 56-585.5 E. The Commission must determine whether the RPS Filing is reasonable and prudent, giving due consideration to the following factors: (i) the RPS and carbon dioxide reduction requirements in Code § 56-585.5; (ii) the promotion of new renewable generation and energy storage resources within the Commonwealth, and associated economic development; and (iii) fuel savings projected to be achieved by the plan. The Commission's final order regarding any RPS Filing is required by Code § 56-585.5 D 4 to be entered by the Commission not more than six months after the date of such filing.

On April 25, 2024, APCo filed its annual RPS Filing to the Commission ("2024 RPS Filing" or "Petition"). In its 2024 RPS Filing, APCo requests that the Commission:

- (i) Approve the Company's annual plan for the development of new solar, wind, and energy storage resources pursuant to Code § 56-585.5 D 4 ("2024 RPS Plan");
- (ii) Approve a revenue requirement of \$16,503,258 for the rate year of November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025 ("Rate Year") to be recovered through the mechanisms and methodology previously approved by the Commission in the RPS Cost Allocation Order;
- (iii) Approve Rider VCEA – Net of Benefits Cost Rider ("Rider NBC"); and
- (iv) Approve the Company's request to be relieved of the requirement to conduct a retirement analysis of Mountaineer and Amos in future VCEA filings.

The Company states that to meet the requirements of the VCEA, its 2024 RPS Plan includes multiple scenarios to help inform future requests for proposals for renewable and storage resources, and that "[a]ll scenarios meet both the RPS goals (Subsection C), Virginia-domiciled renewable generator requirements (Subsection D), and the energy storage requirements (Subsection E)." APCo states that the 2024 RPS Plan continues to support a balanced and diverse portfolio of resources consisting of solar, wind, and market renewable energy certificate ("REC") purchases.

APCo states that in developing the 2024 RPS Plan, the Company ran multiple portfolio optimizations with different resources available. The Company further states that each of the portfolios modeled for this RPS analysis was least cost, VCEA compliant, and demonstrated an optimal selection of diverse resources. According to APCo, its action plan under the 2024 RPS Plan is to:

- Issue requests for proposals for onshore wind, solar, and energy storage resources;
- Pursue lowest cost compliance options consistent with the allocation percentages for construction or purchase described in Subsection D of Code § 56-585.5; and
- Make market REC purchases when advantageous.

Additionally, APCo states that it has an application pending before the Commission for approval to construct and operate a battery energy storage system, the Glade-Whitetop Project, which the Company states is in compliance with the VCEA and the interim targets established by the Commission's Regulations Governing the Deployment of Energy Storage.

Revenue Requirement and Rate Impact

APCo seeks approval to recover the Rate Year revenue requirement, through the RPS rate adjustment clauses ("RACs"), of \$16,503,258. The Company states that this revenue requirement consists of: (1) the under-recovery of costs through December 2023 in the amount of \$7,042,124; (2) the Bridge Period credit of \$9,812,605 for the period January 2024 through October 2024; and (3) the VCEA Rate Year revenue requirement of \$19,273,739.

APCo included in the revenue requirement a request to recover \$1,008,260 in costs associated with two solar facilities (Firefly and Bedington) that the Commission approved in its Final Order in the Company's 2021 RPS proceeding, but that were canceled shortly thereafter. The Company represents that: (i) these costs include engineering and legal costs associated with developing the purchase-sale agreements and evaluating the site, interconnection requirement assessments, and technology performance estimates; and (ii) the Company abandoned each project for reasons beyond its control, including the rapidly escalating costs of components and labor.

APCo states that the cost allocation methodologies and mechanisms used in this Petition are those approved by the Commission in the RPS Cost Allocation Order, which are as follows:

- (1) A.5 RPS RAC to recover \$13,880,179, the non-energy, non-ancillary services, non-capacity costs for all owned facilities, power purchase agreements ("PPA"), and REC purchases;
- (2) A.5 RPS-PCAP RAC to recover \$1,427,767, the costs of the capacity purchased through PPAs; and
- (3) A.6 RPS RAC to recover \$1,195,313, the costs of capacity and energy from facilities owned by the Company.

APCo estimates that the bill impact of the 2024 RPS Filing on a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month would be an increase of \$0.05, or 0.03% compared to rates in effect on March 31, 2024.

Rider NBC

In this 2024 RPS Filing, APCo proposes a new additional rider, Rider NBC, which will apply to a subset of the Company's shopping customers switched pursuant to Code § 56-577 A 5 and that take service from the Company's Open Access Distribution tariff. The Company asserts that because shopping customers are not subject to the fuel factor, the energy component of PPAs, which are the VCEA costs that are assigned to the fuel factor under the approved cost recovery framework, cannot therefore be collected from shopping customers. The Company proposes a single rate mechanism, Rider NBC, to be true-up annually that both collects the energy component of VCEA PPA riders and returns the energy benefits of the VCEA resources whose costs are collected through the Company's three VCEA RACs.

Relief from the Requirement to Model Retirement of Amos and Mountaineer

APCo states that, pursuant to prior Commission directive, the Company again modeled a portfolio sensitivity to evaluate the customer impacts of potential early retirement of the Amos and Mountaineer facilities. The Company represents that, in this analysis, all four units at these facilities were modeled as individual generators available for economic retirement selection, and that all assumptions and inputs used were the same as those used for modeling the least-cost plan for achieving RPS Program compliance and the proposed plan for achieving RPS Program compliance.

The Company asserts that under this analysis, the model selected all the Amos and Mountaineer units to continue operations until 2040 as part of the least cost plans. According to APCo, this result reflects the Company's assumption that both units will run through 2040, consistent with orders from the Commission and the Public Service Commission of West Virginia. Consequently, the Company requests that it be relieved of the requirement to conduct this analysis in future VCEA filings.

The foregoing is not an exhaustive list of all the proposals contained in the Company's Petition. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Petition and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's 2024 RPS Filing. On July 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before July 17, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on July 25, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On July 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Company's 2024 RPS Filing from the Company, any respondents, and Staff.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings unless they contain confidential information and requires electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Company's 2024 RPS Filing may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: James G. Ritter, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or jritter@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before June 27, 2024, any interested person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent shall send a copy of the notice of participation to counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00020. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before June 27, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be sent to Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, including 5 VAC 5-20 140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00020.

On or before July 17, 2024, any interested person or entity may submit comments on the 2024 RPS Filing by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00020.

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

The Company's 2024 RPS Filing, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

Living areas equipped with video visitation access

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) and partners ViaPath and Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOD) have expanded video visitation at Sussex I State Prison and Cold Springs Correctional Unit. The expansion took effect on May 29.

Every living area at each facility is equipped with video visitation equipment, allowing inmates to conduct visits from their living areas.

For Cold Springs Correctional Unit, hours of operation for the general population will be 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on weekends.

For Sussex I State Prison, hours of operation for the general population will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

Any previously scheduled visit outside of those hours will need to be rescheduled once the new hours are implemented.

If two inmates in the same living area are scheduled for a visit simultaneously, one visit will remain and the other will be canceled. For the canceled visit, the visitor can reschedule their visit in the Visitation Scheduler.

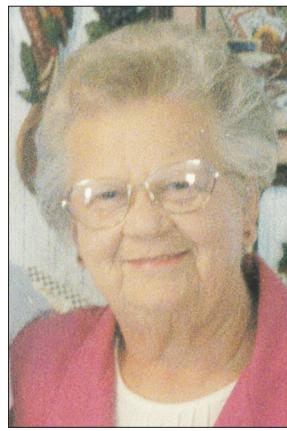
Video visitation will not be available when facilities are operating on lockdown status.

Keen Mountain Correctional Center expanded its visitation in April, following Deerfield Correctional Complex (April 3) and Pocahontas State Correctional Center (April 9). Earlier this year, the VADOC expanded video visitation at Virginia Correctional Center for Women (January 29) and Baskerville Correctional Center (February 6). In late 2023, video visitation expanded at Green Rock and River North correctional centers.

Additional information about visitation is available on the Visiting an Inmate section of the VADOC website.

Dorothy Dalton Craddock

Mrs. Dorothy Dalton Craddock, age 91 of Lawsonville, NC, passed away Saturday, June 1, 2024, at Surry Health Center in Mt. Airy, NC. She was born in Stokes County, NC on January 31, 1933, to the late Leonard Dalton and Trudie Wright Dalton. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Lincoln Craddock. Dorothy was a member of Russell Creek Primitive Baptist Church and had retired from Bassett-Walker. She loved gardening, canning, tending to her



flowers, and traveling.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Ronnie and Wendy Sheppard, Darryl and Lisa Sheppard all of Lawsonville, NC; one granddaughter, Hailey

Sheppard; and four step grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 11:00 AM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Elder Lowell Hopkins officiating. Burial will follow in the Aarons Corner Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends Tuesday night from 5 to 7 at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Aarons Corner Church Cemetery Fund. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

email us
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Milepost Music brings live music to Mabry Mill in June Free concerts held Sunday afternoons at iconic Parkway destination

Milepost Music is bringing live mountain music to Mabry Mill, located at milepost 176 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Meadows of Dan, Va. Free outdoor concerts will take place from 2 to 4 p.m., on the first and third Sundays in June.

The Glenwood Choppers will perform on Sunday, June 16. Band members Molly Stouten, Alan Teichman, and Randy Johnson play blues, early country and traditional acoustic music from the North Carolina piedmont and southern Appalachians.

Upcoming Milepost Music concerts at Mabry Mill:

July 7: Cedar Ridge

July 21: Ashlee Watkins & Andrew Small

Aug. 4: Mac Walker Duo

Aug. 18: Lovely Mountaineers

Sept. 1: Erynn Marshall & Carl Jones

Sept. 15: Slate Mountain Ramblers

Visitors should bring a chair or blanket for seating. Food and drinks are allowed on site, but alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

Milepost Music at Mabry Mill is sponsored by Skyline National Bank and Visit Patrick County.



The Glenwood Choppers

Eleven Students Complete SCC Truck Driver Training Class at the Yadkin Center on May 16

Surry Community College held a program completion event for the most recent truck driving class on May 16. Eleven students were recognized in front of a standing room only crowd at the event which was held at SCC's Yadkin Center.

All eleven students in the class completed their driving test with a first attempt pass rate of 100 percent.

The graduates include Hayden Adams, Christian Flippen, Thomas Masters and Daniel Moore, all of Mount Airy; Michael Loera of Galax, Va.; Steven Miller of Harmony; Michael Hollis of Lewisville; Dean Taylor of Pilot Mountain; Anthony Burchette of State Road; Keon Rowe of Wilkesboro and Tierra Porter of Winston-Salem.

Surry Community College will be offering another section of Truck Driver Training begin-

ning July 29, with a mandatory orientation class on July 2 at 10 a.m. at The Yadkin Center, 1001 College Dr., Yadkinville. To register for the orientation, visit surry.edu/truck-driving.

Median pay for truck drivers is \$47,100 per year, according to the United States Department of Labor. Drivers with experience can make more than \$50,000.

With a shortage of up to 12,000 truck drivers in North Carolina and as many as 200,000 nationally, CDL-certified drivers will easily be able to find jobs. The U.S. Department of Labor says the profession is expected to keep growing – by 6 percent during 2020-2030.

The SCC Truck Driver Training Program teaches proper driving procedures, safe driver responsibility, commercial motor vehicle laws and regulations, and the basic principles and

practices for operating commercial vehicles. The coursework includes motor vehicle laws and regulations, map reading, vehicle maintenance, safety procedures, daily logs, defensive driving, freight handling, security and fire protection.

Highway driving training exercises and classroom lectures are used to develop the students' knowledge and skills. Graduates are qualified to take the Commercial Driver's License Test and are employable by commercial trucking firms. They may also become owner-operators and work as private contract haulers.

Special admission requirements include official driving record; physical examination; reading placement test score of 40 or higher; disclosure form; high school transcript; and drug testing.

For more information about SCC's Truck Driver Training Program, contact the Yadkin Center at (336) 386-3580. The tuition is \$1,999.00. You may qualify for a tuition scholarship. To see if you are eligible, please visit www.surry.edu/funding.



Eleven students completed the Surry Community College Truck Driver Training Program at The Yadkin Center on May 16. Pictured with their instructors are front row (left to right) Hayden Adams, Michael Loera, Tony Barlow – SCC Lead Instructor, Bill Scutt – SCC Range Instructor, and Keon Rowe; Middle row (left to right) Thomas Masters, Dale Myers- SCC Road Instructor, Dean Taylor, Michael Hollis, Tierra Porter, and Charles Jester – SCC Road Instructor; Back row (left to right) Daniel Moore, Christian Flippen, Anthony Burchette and Steven Miller.

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Kindness Pays

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

Luke 6: 38 states "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap." NIV In other words, what is given back to us will be more than what we gave.

Two students were working their way through Stanford University in California. They were having a hard time paying their expenses. Then one of them had a bright idea. Why not engage Ignace Paderewski, the celebrated Polish pianist, to give a piano recital? They would sell tickets to all those who would attend. And with the profits they could pay off their debts to the school. The young men approached Paderewski's manager with their proposal and the manager agreed on condition that they guarantee Paderewski \$2,000.

The young men were sure that they could easily raise more than this amount and proceeded to stage the concert. But when the recital was over and the proceeds were totaled, they amounted to only \$1,600. Going to the great pianist in great embarrassment, the young men handed him the \$1,600 with a promissory note for \$400. They gave their word that they would redeem the note at the earliest possible moment.

"No, boys," said Paderewski, "that will never do." Tearing up the

note, he returned the money to the young men and said, "Take out of the \$1,600 all your expenses, keep for each of you 10 percent of the balance for your efforts, and let me have what is left."

The young men couldn't believe what they were hearing.

Years passed. At the end of World War 1 Paderewski, now premier of Poland, found himself struggling to feed millions of his starving compatriots. He appealed to Herbert C. Hoover, who at the time was in charge of America's relief effort, and soon tons of food began to pour in to feed Poland's starving population.

Soon after, Paderewski traveled to Paris to thank Mr. Hoover. "You are more than welcome, Mr. Paderewski," replied Hoover. "You probably don't remember me, but you once helped me when I was a poor college student at Stanford University."

Yes, it's amazing how kindness pays. Sometimes, like this experience, kindness shown has great returns. And at other times we may not see the return for our kindness until we get to heaven when someone comes to us saying that their being in heaven was a result of our kindness shown to them. We will feel that was an immense return for our kindness.

So, let's show kindness to others and see what returns we get from the Lord.

Free grief camps offered for youngsters, teens

When children experience the loss of a loved one, they often grapple with complex emotions and challenges as they navigate grief and try to make sense of their feelings. Mountain Valley, a local hospice and palliative care organization, is here to help. Through the Love's PEAK program, which stands for "Providing Empathy and Assurance for Kids," the organization offers both pediatric hospice services and bereavement support for children who have experienced a loss.

This year, Mountain Valley's Love's PEAK grief camps are being offered in two locations - Jack Dalton Park in Collinsville, (July 12) and Dobson First Baptist in Dobson, NC (July 19). The grief camps are a fun, free day for children (5 - 12) and teens (13 - 16) who have experienced a loss or expect a loss in the near future. Through art, music, and other fun activities kids come together in a

therapeutic environment, learning that mourning is not a process of forgetting but a way of remembering with less pain.

"Grief Camp is important because it provides a relaxed, fun-filled environment where a child can express their sorrow while making connections with other children who have experienced similar loss," said Kristie Byrd, director of patient advocacy.

Love's PEAK camps are free to all families with children and teens who have or are experiencing grief. Learn more about the camps and register through the Mountain Valley website at <https://www.mt-valleyhospice.org/camp2024/>.

In the meantime, the Love's PEAK program also offers continuous support for young individuals who are grieving over the loss of a loved one. For more information on Love's PEAK, contact Kristie Byrd or Stephanie Tilley at 1-888-789-2922.

Online decision tool launched to help producers in emergencies

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, in partnership with FarmRaise, has launched a new, online Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) Decision Tool. The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) tool is designed to help agricultural producers who have been impacted by natural disasters access available program support.

This new tool, a component of a broader disaster assistance program educational module, further expands the library of online FSA disaster and farm loan program reference resources and decision aids currently available to agricultural producers on the FarmRaise FSA educational hub. The Decision Tool is a resource only and is not an application for benefits or a determination of eligibility.

ELAP is designed to address losses not covered by other FSA disaster assistance programs. The program provides recovery assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bee, and farm-raised fish losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including drought, blizzards, disease, water shortages and wildfires. ELAP covers grazing and feed losses,

transportation of water and feed to livestock and hauling livestock to grazing acres due to an eligible loss condition. ELAP also covers certain mortality losses, due to an eligible condition, for livestock including honey bees and farm-raised fish as well as honey bee hive losses.

Through use of the ELAP Decision Tool, producers can segment by loss type (honey bee, farm-raised fish and livestock). This enables easier navigation, as guided by the tool, to assistance available to meet specific disaster recovery needs. After entering the type of loss, identifying the loss condition and entering their inventory and loss information, producers are guided through a worksheet that helps identify required loss documentation — documentation (i.e., pictures, receipts, truck logs, etc.) that can be uploaded through the ELAP tool and sent directly to the producer's local FSA county office, or producers can provide a copy of the tool-generated worksheet summary document when they visit their local FSA county office to complete and submit the required ELAP application.

Visit the FarmRaise | FSA Educational Hub often to access all available educational resources.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Deuteronomy (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From John 20, by what other name was the apostle Thomas known? Caleb, Naaman, Omri, Didymus
3. Which book begins, "And the Lord spake unto Moses in the wilderness"? Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Joel
4. What did Jesus and Peter pay for with a coin found in a fish's mouth? Tax,

Bread, Lodging, Sandals
5. From Proverbs 11, what word did Solomon use to describe soul winners? Warm, Wise, Wealthy, Wonderful
6. What prophet was saved from death by a talking donkey? Balaam, Ezekiel, Joel, Samuel
ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Didymus, 3) Numbers, 4) Tax, 5) Wise, 6) Balaam
Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.
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Rev. Tommy Gosnell
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Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm
Food Distribution Ministry:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
"To Ignite a Passion to Follow Jesus Christ"

Stuart Baptist Church
Bringing the World to Christ
108 W. Blue Ridge St. 9:45 Sunday School
276-694-3440 11:00 Worship Service
www.stuartbaptist.org office@stuartbaptist.org

Risen Lord Catholic Church
59 Mountain View Loop
Stuart
(actually in Patrick Springs)
276.236.7814
Office Hours (Tue-Thu 8 am-3 pm)
Mass Schedule
Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.



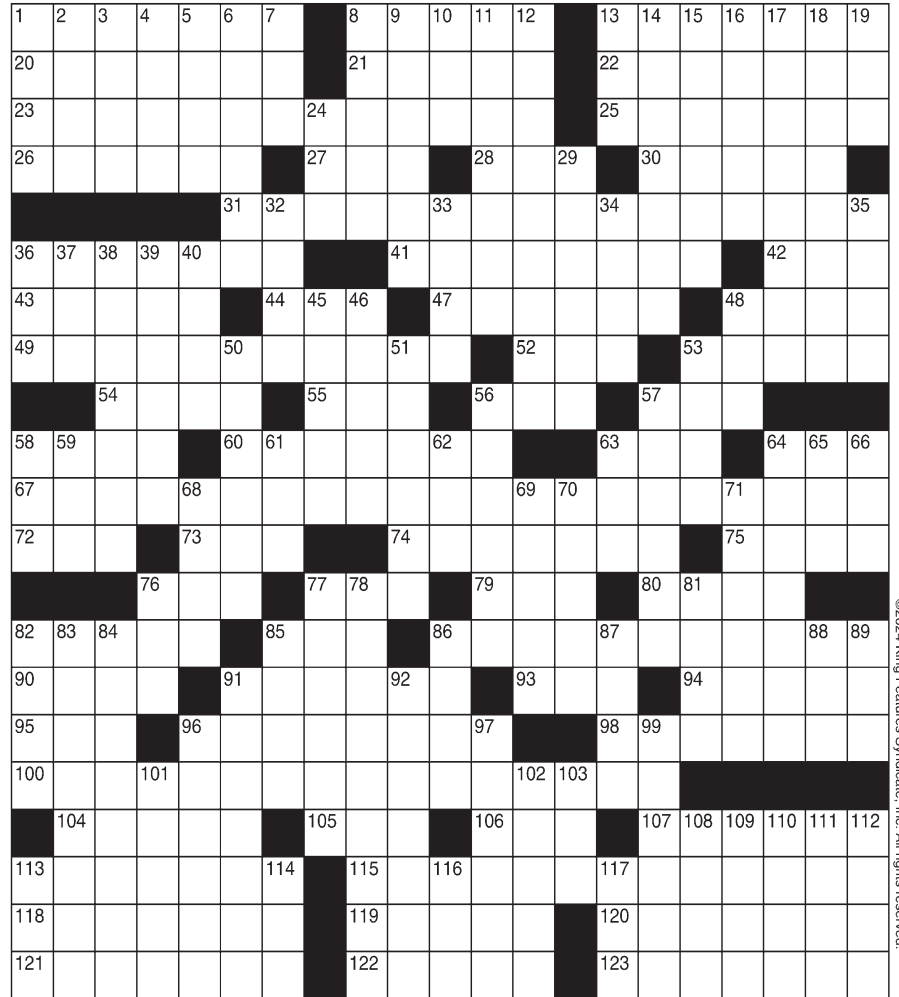
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Proper food handling ensures safe summer cookouts

It's the season for backyard barbecues, picnics and potlucks. But before firing up the grill or setting out the deviled eggs, it's a good idea to brush up on summertime food safety.

With its blazing sun and hot weather, summertime can bring risk of serious food-borne illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that rates of food poisoning rise during the warm summer months as bacteria flourish and grow faster.

"Safe food handling when eating outdoors is critical," said Melissa Wright, a food safety expert with Virginia Tech's Food Science and Technology department.

To keep family, friends and yourself from getting sick, Wright emphasizes four food safety principles—clean, separate, cook and control.

Always keep hands and surfaces clean, especially when outdoors. Before beginning any food preparation, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, and clean food prep surfaces and eating areas.

"If the surface isn't cleanable, consider

using disposable tablecloths," Wright suggested.

Fruits and vegetables should be rinsed before preparing, but meat should not. Washing raw meat can cause water and juices to spray—spreading bacteria onto other foods, surfaces and utensils.

Keep raw meat and seafood separate from other foods to avoid bacteria cross-contamination. Separate dishes and utensils should be used for handling, and marinades and sauces that touch raw meat or seafood should be thrown away.

When cooking, keep a food thermometer on hand and ensure food is cooked thoroughly to kill germs.

Steaks, roasts, pork and fish should be cooked to an internal temperature of at least 145 degrees; ground meats like hamburgers and hot dogs to at least 160 degrees; and poultry to 165 degrees or higher. Visit bit.ly/4bxduMr for a detailed food temperature chart.

Finally, control the temperature. Raw meat should be kept cool at 40 degrees or below until ready for grilling. After grill-

ing, keep it hot by moving it to the side of the grill rack, away from the coals.

"Use coolers with ice or ice packs," to keep cold dishes cold, and cover the food, advised Tammy Brawley, chef and owner of The Green Kitchen and host of Heart of the Home culinary segments on Virginia Farm Bureau's Real Virginia television program.

Dishes like cut fruits and vegetables, deviled eggs, potato salad and desserts should maintain a temperature of 40 degrees or below. When serving chilled foods, keep the containers in a shallow container set in a deep tray filled with ice.

"Even if in a shaded area or under a tent or porch, put it on ice," Brawley said.

Hot dishes like casseroles and dips can be kept in an insulated carrying case while serving to ensure they stay at or above 140 degrees.

And finally, refrigerate any leftovers within two hours. If it's an especially hot day and food is exposed to temperatures 90 degrees or higher, refrigerate within one hour.

Crypto ATMS -- What to Know

If you're like most Americans, you walk right past a tool used to steal a reported \$35 million from US consumers last year each time you go out for groceries.

Cryptocurrency ATMs are often colorful kiosks that are popping up in supermarkets, convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, liquor stores and even laundromats across the U/S. There are more than 49,000 crypto ATMs in the United States, up from only about 1,200 at the end of 2017.

Criminal scammers are always looking for the quickest way to get money from their victims. As awareness and protections around other payment methods increase, crypto ATMs have become their tool of choice. Because these kiosks look similar to regular ATM machines, they seem more legitimate to victims who are directed to them. The AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline has heard from countless victims who have been directed to insert thousands of dollars

in cash into these machines to address an "urgent" financial matter.

While there are many different scams, there are only a handful of ways that criminals can get paid. If you are directed to a crypto ATM to address an urgent financial matter, it is a scam.

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

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Ashley Mabelle Muncy, 38, of Barren Springs, was charged May 24 with probation violation. Senior Deputy E. Sain made the arrest for Wythe County.

*Timothy Wayne Wheeler, Sr., 46, of Barren Springs, was charged May 24 with one count each probation violation and provide false information to law enforcement. Senior Deputy C. Gilbert was the arresting officer and made the arrest for Wythe County.

*Seth Harmon Wade, 34, of Stuart, was charged May 24 with one count each malicious wounding and abduction by force. Inv. T. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Daryl Denell Speas, 52, of Claudville, was charged May 25 with unauthorized use of vehicle. Senior Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Dale Anthony Helms, 27, of Meadows of Dan, was charged May 27 with one count each buy/receive stolen goods and drive mo-

tor vehicle while license revoked/suspended. Deputy C. L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Haley Rose Gallagher, 29, address not available, was charged May 28 with drive motor vehicle while license revoked/suspended. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Charles Alfred Dawson, 67, of Ararat, was charged May 26 with two counts pointing or brandishing firearm, and one count each malicious shoot at occupied motor vehicle and destruction of property. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*Tony James Dupree, 55, of Lowgap, N.C., was charged May 29 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy D.A. Ullring was the arresting officer.

*Russell Lee Varner, 25, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged May 29 with assault. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

CORRECTION

Smith defends budget

In an example he cited in last week's edition, Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith said a deputy lost control of a vehicle while responding to an emergency because the suspension in the vehicle broke. The deputy involved was not suspended or otherwise disciplined, as reported.

"It's a wonder the deputy wasn't hurt or killed," Smith said. "That vehicle should have never been on the road. It had long outlived its safe lifespan."

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Meetings

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

Thursday, June 13
The Patrick County School Board will meet 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

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.

Mountain View Counseling will hold an open house from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 23002 Jeb Stuart Highway in Stuart.

Saturday, June 22

Basic Hunter's Education Class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Smith River Wildlife Building. Lunch will be provided. You must register for the class online at dwr.virginia.gov (search hunters ed classes near me and click on the Patrick County class). You must have this class if you are 12 years old or older to obtain a hunting license. For questions call Jonathan Scott at (276) 229-1700.

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
Monday Market at Fairy Stone State Park, Mondays 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 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 Stuart Elementary School Running Club will hit the pavements along the sidewalks in town on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 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.

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 at Willis Gap Community Center, Friday nights. Doors open at 6 p.m. for hotdogs, chips, candies, popcorn, coffee, and assorted sodas. Old time country, bluegrass, and gospel music from 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.

Blood and platelet donors needed now

The American Red Cross critically needs blood and platelet donors now following a concerning decrease in donations as the country has experienced an increase in severe weather systems and historic travel. In fact, over the past month about 20,000 fewer blood donations were collected than needed to maintain the Red Cross national blood supply.

According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), five of the busiest travel days ever happened this month and more record-breaking travel is expected this summer — a busy time when many regular donors may be unable to give. Additionally, as the U.S. approaches what AAA calls the “100 deadliest days” of summer for auto accidents, it is critical hospitals have lifesaving blood products on hand for all trauma and accident victims who count on transfusions when there is no time to waste. In some of the most-dire situations, medical teams may need to use hundreds of blood products to save a life.

Storm response efforts The Memorial Day weekend brought the busiest severe weather day of the year so far, with 26 reported tornadoes across 10 states. For example, in western North Carolina, strong storms and high winds in counties like Madison and Clay resulted in dozens of homes and structures being destroyed and over 130 people needing assistance, including over 30 overnight stays in an emergency shelter. Red Cross teams continue to provide food, aid, and assistance to residents affected

by the severe storms.

Just three weeks ago, an EF-1 tornado hit Cleveland and Gaston Counties, causing thousands to lose power and resulting in at least one death. An intense hail storm in Rock Hill, S.C. in April toppled trees and damaged numerous homes and cars, causing millions of dollars in financial damage according to local officials. Recovery efforts for these individuals and families affected by the disaster continue.

With the most active year for tornadoes since 2017, hundreds of Red Cross disaster workers and partners are working around the clock across multiple states to make sure people affected by this severe weather have a safe place to stay, food, relief supplies and emotional and spiritual support. Emergency shelters are open in some of the hardest hit areas.

Meanwhile, in the North Carolina region and across the country, Red Cross disaster workers are continuing to help assess the damage where it is safe to do so with preliminary reports indicating nearly 3,000 homes either destroyed or with major damage.

The Red Cross is monitoring the weather and standing by to open additional shelters if needed. Should new communities be impacted, the organization will be on the ground providing help in the days and weeks to come.

How to help Individuals are urged to help those facing emergencies — whether a need for a lifesaving blood transfusion or a need for shelter from the storm.

*Make a blood donation appointment by downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in

most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

*Help people affected by disasters like flooding and countless other crises by making a financial donation to Red Cross Disaster Relief today at redcross.org or via 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small.

*Put on a red vest and join us as a volunteer today to provide relief and hope when it matters most. Visit redcross.org/volunteertoday to sign up for local opportunities. With the NOAA prediction of an active hurricane season for 2024, the North Carolina Region is especially welcoming those interested in the following volunteer opportunities:

*Sheltering — Volunteers are trained to help provide aid, support, and assistance to individuals and families at Red Cross emergency shelters. Opportunities for deployment are available.

Disaster Relief — Volunteers are trained to provide immediate aid, support, and assistance in the field to those individuals and families affected by disaster.

The Red Cross has teamed up with Tetris, creators of the iconic, best-selling video game, to celebrate their 40th anniversary and build the blood supply for patients in need. In commemoration, all who answer the call to help May 20-June 9 will get an exclusive Tetris® + Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to New York to meet Tetris creator, Alexey Pajitnov. See RedCrossBlood.org/Tetris for details.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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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Commission funds to benefit local initiatives

The Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission held its second of three scheduled meetings for the year on May 22, in Ewing with committee meetings held the day before in Wise.

The commission approved a total of 19 funding requests in support of a variety of organizations and initiatives across Southwest and Southern Virginia, including a \$75,000 grant to the VT Foundation Operating as Reynolds Homestead.

The funds will be used as a Planning Grant for Reynolds Homestead Food - based Business Incubator, and specifically spent to complete an environmental assessment, market analysis, and business and operations plans for a shared-use, licensed, and fully equipped kitchen.

The Pittsylvania County Southern Virginia Megasite Natural Gas Gate Engineering and Permitting Loan received a \$500,000 grant to provide funds for the engineering and design of an improved natural gas gate at the Southern Virginia Megasite.



The Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission is a 28-member body created by the 1999 General Assembly. The May 22 meeting was hosted in Lincoln Memorial University's DeBusk Veterinary Teaching Center, marking the first time in the commission's history that meetings were held in Lee County.

The commission also approved 11 Workforce Financial Aid requests to increase access to educational opportunities and job readiness across the footprint. Locally, the Patrick & Henry Com-

munity College Foundation and Danville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc., will each receive \$240,000 for use in their respective 2024-25 workforce programs.

Digital campaign hopes to attract recent nursing school grads

Each year, the arrival of spring brings warmer days, blossoming plants, and cap and gown season. The annual crop of graduates typically includes thousands of new nurses seeking clinical roles. To encourage recent nursing school graduates to establish their careers in Virginia, On Board Virginia has launched a geographically targeted marketing campaign showcasing hospital employment opportunities in the Commonwealth.

The campaign is centered on promoting hospital nursing career opportunities to

graduates of nursing programs at Virginia-based colleges and universities as well as nursing programs at educational institutions in neighboring jurisdictions such as Maryland, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. This initiative is the latest project of On Board Virginia, an effort the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) and its members established in 2022 to promote health care workforce recruit-

ment and retention amid ongoing workforce shortages across clinical roles. In the past year, the On Board Virginia website has been viewed more than 46,200 times. Meanwhile, the targeted digital ads focused on recent nursing school graduates have reached nearly 60,000 people in the target audience in the past month.

Health care staffing shortages have been a persistent challenge that were further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As aging segments of the U.S. population transition into retirement, health care service utilization is expected to grow in the years ahead, resulting in greater demand for trained professionals to occupy clinical roles. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects registered nurse employment growth of "6 percent from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations" with a forecast of "193,100 openings for registered nurses...each year, on average, over the decade" due to rising demand for health care services among older patients and the need to replace nurses who retire or transition to other roles.

"Nurses are essential members of patient care teams and the heart and soul of the health care delivery system," said VHHA President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton. "Today, there are more than 9,100 open hospital jobs in Virginia, including more than 3,400 nursing roles. Filling those positions with trained, compassionate caregivers is vital to ensure patients in need can access timely care. This On Board Vir-

ginia marketing campaign will run during the spring and summer with an emphasis on reaching new nursing graduates to make them aware of the many great career opportunities available in Virginia."

In addition to On Board Virginia efforts, VHHA and member hospitals and health systems have worked with the Virginia General Assembly and Governor Glenn Youngkin to strengthen health care workforce development efforts in the Commonwealth through public policy, educational opportunities, and other programmatic initiatives. One example of that is the Virginia Earn to Learn (ETL) Nursing Education Acceleration Program funded by the General Assembly to support education and health care facility partnerships to provide registered nurse and licensed practical nurse students with paid employment during nursing studies to increase clinical education opportunities and the number of practice-ready new graduate nurses.

Virginia is currently home to nearly 128,000 licensed registered nurses, 107,355 of whom are active in the workforce, according to the Virginia Department of Health Professions. The median age of nurses is 44 and 27 percent of the population is 55 or older. Further information about Virginia health care openings, including the average time to fill nursing positions, the educational credentials required, and more can be accessed through the interactive Virginia Health Care Workforce Data Dashboard.

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Weekly Sudoku Answers

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

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Answers

H	A	S	B	E	E	N	M	I	S	H	A	U	R	G	I	N	G	S							
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Federal fraud charges levied in alleged pandemic unemployment benefit scheme

A federal grand jury in Abingdon on May 21 indicted 17 with conspiring to defraud the United States by filing fraudulent claims for pandemic unemployment benefits.

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

The grand jury has charged Josef Ludwig Brown, Crystal Samantha Shaw, Jonathan Scott Webb, Christopher Kirk Webb, Stephanie Amber Barton, Haleigh McKenzie Wolfe, Terrence Brooks Vilacha, Cara Camille Bailey, Jessica Dawn Lester, Brian Edward Addair, Russell Eric Stiltner, Joseph Frederick Hass, Daneil Wayne Horton, Justin Warren Meadows, Jason Dale Worley, Jeremy Blake Farmer, and Clinton Michael Altizer with conspiring to defraud the United States, fraud in connection with emergency benefits, and conspiring to commit mail fraud.

"The COVID-19 global pandemic significantly influenced the world economy and caused increased unemployment and jobless claims throughout our country," United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said. "Many Virginians who lost their jobs due to the pandemic were able to endure because of the CARES Act."

He alleged that "some cheated the system and diverted resources intended to help those most affected by the pandemic, and my office remains committed to not only recovering fraudulently obtained funds, but also vigorously prosecuting

those responsible."

Court documents allege that in March of 2020, Josef Brown, Jonathan Webb, and Crystal Shaw began a scheme to steal money intended for legitimate victims of the severely impacted Virginia economy by gathering the dates of birth, social security numbers, and other personal identification information of friends and acquaintances incarcerated at Haysi Regional Jail in Dickenson County, and then filling out pandemic unemployment claim forms for each of the ineligible inmates via the Virginia Employment Commission's website dedicated to pandemic relief.

In all, the group allegedly received \$341,205 in pandemic relief to which they were not entitled. "Special agents from our office teamed up with our federal and local law enforcement partners and the United States Attorney to take down a conspiracy of incarcerated individuals alleged to have defrauded the unemployment insurance benefits program under the CARES Act," said Brian D. Miller, Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery. "SIGPR will remain dedicated to holding accountable those who targeted pandemic recovery funds."

"These defendants took advantage of a global pandemic that caused immense suffering across the country and exploited relief programs intended to help those in dire need. We remain committed to holding criminals accountable for their crimes," said FBI Richmond Special Agent in Charge Stanley M. Meador. "We are proud

to have worked this investigation with our law enforcement partners and the United States Attorney's Office to bring justice to these victims."

"Bad actors seized on the opportunity to exploit the chaos and uncertainty brought on by the pandemic and shamelessly pocketed CARE Act funds intended to support unemployed Virginians whose lives were uprooted by COVID-19," said Attorney General Jason Miyares. "Collaboration among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies yield results, and I'm proud to be one step closer to justice."

As part of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) Task Force, this investigation was conducted by the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery. The PRAC's 20-member Inspectors General identified major risks that cross program and agency boundaries to detect fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in the more than \$5 trillion in COVID-19 spending.

Agencies that assisted with this investigation included the Dickenson County Sheriff's Office, the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney M. Suzanne Kerney-Quillen, a Senior Assistant Attorney General with the Virginia Attorney General's Major Crimes and Emerging Threats Section, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Danielle Stone are prosecuting the case for the United States.

Former EDA Director sentenced last week

The former executive director of the Economic Development Authority of Front Royal and Warren County (EDA), who was convicted in November of stealing more than \$5 million dollars in authority funds, was sentenced last week to 14 years in federal prison.

Jennifer Rae McDonald, 45, of Front Royal, Virginia, was convicted following a 9-week jury trial in November 2023 of seven counts of wire fraud, six counts of bank fraud, sixteen counts of money laundering, and one count of aggravated identity theft.

"For more than four years, Jennifer McDonald used EDA funds as her personal piggy bank, diverting public funds to purchase real estate and to pay her personal expenses" United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said. The "sentence reflects how serious this office takes fraud and the misuse of public funds. I am thankful to the FBI and the Virginia State Police for the tireless work they did to untangle the web of lies spun by this defendant."

"The FBI is committed to investigating elected officials who abuse their positions for personal gain," Special Agent in Charge Stanley Meador of the FBI's Richmond Division said today. "I am proud of the work our team and partners did to uncover Ms. McDonald's complex fraud scheme and to bring her to justice."

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, McDonald was the Executive Director of the EDA, a public entity designed to attract and support businesses in Warren County and the Town of Front Royal. The EDA was overseen by a Board of Directors and supported by an administrative assistant, but at the center of the EDA was McDonald.

Beginning in 2014, McDonald began stealing money from the EDA and, for more than four years, McDonald used the bank accounts and credit facilities of the EDA to divert public funds to purchase real estate and to pay for her personal expenses. She falsified documents in order to mislead the EDA's Board of Directors, ex-

ternal auditors, and Warren County and Front Royal government officials so she could continue her scheme.

When confronted by law enforcement and others, McDonald drafted fake loan documents, encouraged others to lie before a grand jury and fabricated an outrageous story, alleging the fraud was part of a "secret settlement" and invented more fake documents to cover-up her fraud.

In the end, McDonald pilfered the EDA's bank accounts and is responsible for \$5,201,329 in losses.

At trial, evidence was presented that at least \$2.4 million of the money McDonald stole was used to fund her gambling - including net losses of more than \$750,000.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Virginia State Police investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sean Welsh and Rachel Swartz and Trial Attorney Andrea Broach are prosecuting the case for the United States.

Groups want Biden to reduce shipping emissions in VA, U.S.

Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

Environmental groups want to reduce shipping emissions at ports in Virginia and nationwide, urging President Joe Biden to sign an executive order decarbonizing maritime shipping and offer recommendations on best practices.

International shipping accounts for 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions but the International Maritime Organization wants international shipping to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Antonio Santos, federal climate policy director for the nonprofit Pacific Environment, recommended having ships at anchor only use shore power.

"That they effectively not use their auxiliary engines, those diesel engines. That

they're plugged in, to shore power," Santos explained. "Shore power is the connections where ships can use onshore electrical power instead of their auxiliary engines."

Other recommendations include establishing a goal-based fuel standard for ships using U.S. ports, and supporting shipbuilders and maritime stakeholders to build low- and zero-emission ships. Santos pointed out it could all be in place by 2040. The Biden administration has already begun work to decarbonize shipping no later than 2050 through the Ocean Climate Action Plan.

Technologies to decarbonize ships are already in the works, albeit at a much smaller scale. Famous boats such as the Maid of the Mist in Niagara Falls went electric in 2020 with little issue. Santos acknowledged full finds electrification

will not be the best way forward for cargo ships, noting other clean fuels will be sought out.

"Bigger ships, of course, because of the weight of the batteries, not a likely big player in the long-term solutions," Santos observed. "Which is why they're looking at some of these other fuel options like ammonia or hydrogen, whether that's burned in an internal combustion engine or used in a fuel cell."

Decarbonizing shipping can improve health outcomes in port communities. A National Institutes of Health report showed the highest air pollution concentrations were along major shipping routes. Other studies found 400,000 premature deaths per year worldwide are attributed to air pollution from shipping.

Initial claims decrease in latest reporting period

Virginia Works announced that 2,066 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending May 25, 2024, which is 7.1 percent lower than last week's 2,224 claims and 14.0 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,401).

Nearly 84 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (62 percent) were Accommodation and Food Services (287); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (244); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (208); Health Care and Social Assistance (187); and Retail Trade (153).

Continued weeks claims (15,907) were 0.4 percent higher than last week (15,851) and were 24.1 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,821). 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 (2,440); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,175); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,483); Retail Trade (1,321); and Manufacturing (1,313).

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.

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The Stuart Ruritan Club celebrated its first year with cake.



Dan River District Ruritan Foundation Chairman Barry Sides presented the Tom Downing Award to Pamela Roberson Smith. Fewer than 5 percent of Ruritan club members receive the award.

Stuart club celebrates first year

The Stuart Ruritan Club has turned a year old. The club was chartered on May 16, 2023, and celebrated its milestone at its May monthly meeting on May 21, Ruritan National's 96th birthday.

In just a short time, the club has held three fundraisers and provided lots of community service.

A cash raffle helped to get the club some seed funding, along with a Mental Health Awareness Walk and Bowl-A-Thon, which were also dubbed as community service projects.

The club had representatives manning a booth at the Town of Stuart street festivals and the county Ruritan Club fair booth. This aided in getting the Ruritan name out more in the community and members were able to share their experiences with the club.

The club strives to honor local fire, police and rescue personnel and veterans. Members collected items for the Tuggles Gap Wildfire and have provided meals for the Patrick County Recovery Ministry. Members have also participated in food drives and roadside cleanup in Patrick County.

One of the proudest moments for the club is coming very soon, as it will be giving its first ever scholarship to a second year student at Patrick & Henry Community College. The club participates in the Ruritan National Foundation and in return is one of the five of six county Ruritan clubs that help in furthering the education of its local students.

During its anniversary meeting, the Dan River District Ruritan Foundation Chairman Barry Sides, praised the club with its participation in the Foundation Fund and presented one of its club mentors, Pamela Roberson Smith with the Tom Downing Award. This award is given to less than 5% of Ruritan members for their distinguished volunteerism with Ruritan. Pamela and her husband, Kevin, were instrumental in chartering the Stuart Ruritan Club and the Woolwine Community Ruritan Club.

The Stuart Ruritan Club is looking for more members and fresh ideas to help with its projects to help the Stuart Community thrive. The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. and begins with a covered dish meal. For more information on the Stuart Ruritan club, visit its Facebook page or contact them via email at StuartRuritans@gmail.com.

Faculty, staff recognize student achievements

The faculty and staff at Patrick County High School (PCHS) recognized their students' academic achievements for the 2023-2024 school year.

Course	Award Recipient	Course	Award Recipient
Health & PE 8	Martina Hubbard	Physics	Owen Nutter
Health & PE 8	Cole Coffey	English 8 Foundations	Cody Boyer
Health & PE 8	Meredith Wood	English 8 Foundations	Neveah Teague
Health & PE 8	Ethan Errichetti	English 8 Yearlong	Soledad Huerta
Health & PE 9	Lacey Sutphin	English 8 Yearlong	Leah Kendrick
Health & PE 9	Jacob Spencer	English 8 Advanced	Carson Farrar
Health & PE 9	Addisyn Hall	English 8 Advanced	Maggie Rutledge
Health & PE 9	Jason Day	English 9 Business Writing	Kathryn Fodrell
Health & PE 10	Jayden Callahan	English 9 Business Writing	Braxton Harold
Health & PE 10	David Lawson	English 9	Myhia Ballenger-Mijes
Health & PE 10	Kendra Worley	English 9	Allison Gonzalez-Barajas
Health & PE 10	Carter Gregory	English 9 Advanced	Fisher Martin
Sports Training Female beginner	Jazmyne Reynolds	English 10 Business Writing	Joselin Hernandez
Sports Training Female beginner	Brandy Ponce	English 10 Business Writing	Zoe Wooden
Sports Training Female Advanced	Heather Edwards	English 10	Ben Knight
Sports Training Female Advanced	Journey Moore	English 10	Hunter Roberts
Sports Training Female Advanced	Journey Moore	English 10 Advanced	Samantha Nester
Sports Training Male Beginner	Wheeler Helms	English 10 Advanced	Kathryn Wood
Sports Training Male Beginner	John Hicks	English 11	Chelsea Lawson
Sports Training Male Beginner	John Hicks	English 11	Isabelle Turner
Sports Training Male Advanced	Nick Pell	English 11 Advanced	Emma Dellinger
Sports Training Male Advanced	Noah Jessup	English 11 Honors	Mary Beth Williams
Sports Training Male Advanced	Noah Jessup	English 11 Honors	Emily Eastridge
Advanced PE	Calvin Lancaster	English 12	Hannah Wood
Spanish I	Drayson Maselli	English 12	Hannah Janey
Spanish I	Savannah Lawrence	English 12 Advanced	Remi Miller
Spanish II	Paige Whitt	English 12 Honors	Maria Turner
Spanish II	Skye Ayers	Yearbook	Cheyenne Clifton
Spanish III	Jaxon Ayers-Rosas	Yearbook	Elizabeth Rose
Spanish III	Abigail Bryant	Creative Writing	Aiden Lester
Spanish IV	Kendall Williams	Sports Marketing	Sadie Knight
Spanish IV	Darlyn Combs	Principles of Business and Marketing	Jacob Lester
Spanish V	Elizabeth Rose	Career Connections	Brayden Hylton
Spanish V	Maria Turner	Career Connections	Conner Wood
Spanish V	Kali Craig	Drafting I	David Lawson
Art I	Danyel Koger	Drafting I	Jason Day
Art I	Ashly Madrid	Drafting II	Johnathan Harbour
Art I	Anna Witt	Drafting III	Curtis Bussick
Art II	Kaitlyn Puckett	Engineering Drawing	Richard Hazlewood
Art II	Danyel Koger	Technical Drawing	Johnathan Harbour
Art III	Journey Moore	Turf Grass Est. and Maint.	Greely Terry
Art III	Riley Bell	Horticulture	Aiden Handy
Art IV	Lindsey Jones	Landscaping 1	Kendra Worley
Art V	Kali Craig	Landscaping 2	Colt Easter
World History I	Evan Hancock	Greenhouse Plant Production	Wesley Fulcher
World History I	Carson Farrar	Ag Fabrication	Dakota Moore
World History I	Aiden Slate	Small Animal Care	LeMia Lemons
World History II	Mason Fain	Small Animal Care	Emma Dellinger
World Geography	Melissa Barker	Livestock Production Mgt.	Kieran Rodriguez
World Geography	Alexia Shuff	Foundations of Ag	Caleb Vaughn
Sociology	Kali Craig	Intro to Animal Systems	Paige Whitt
Psychology	Mary Williams	Intro to Health Outstanding Achievement	Gina Rubio
US History	James Riley Hodges	Intro to Health Outstanding Achievement	Bryan Clark
US History	Seth Adkins	Nurse Aide 1 Outstanding Achievement	Sasha Campos
US History	Alysha Copening	Nurse Aide 2 Outstanding Achievement	Sasha Campos
US History Honors	Owen Nutter	Award	Sasha Campos
US History Honors	Dante Belcher	Auto Tech I	Devon Booth
US History Honors	Mason Dellenback	Auto Tech 2	Caleb Hostetter
US Government	Elijah Rogers	Auto Tech 3	Chase Hylton
US Government	Bobbijo Roberts	Auto Tech 3	Bailey Bolt
US Government	Remi Miller	Welding I/Sheet Metal I	Will Vernon
US Government Honors	Maria Turner	Building Trades I	Eli Wood
US Government Honors	Heather Edwards	Building Trades II	Hunter Heath
African American History	Tessa Johnson	Intro to Culinary	Kendra Worley
20th Century History	Jewel Iacovone	Independent Living	Kinley Morrison
Math 8	Alex Periban-Crispin	Culinary Arts I	Sabrina Rorrer
Math 8	Jimmy East	Intro. to Fashion Design Careers	Abigail Jackson
Algebra I-8 yearlong	Jonathan Walton	Child Development/Parenting	Novella Nester
Algebra I-8 yearlong	Jake Bryant	Child Development/Parenting	Raegan Kingsley
Algebra I Readiness	Nathaniel Bright	Sports Medicine/Athletic Training 1	Cecilia Leon Cisneros
Algebra I Part II	Taylor Lawless	Sports Medicine/Athletic Training 1	Jewel Iacovone
Algebra I Advanced	Caleb Vaughn	Sports Medicine/Athletic Training 2	Cindy Leon Cisneros
Algebra I Advanced	Maggie Rutledge	Electrical 1	Parker Roop
Geometry Advanced	Paige Whitt	Electrical 1	Austin Errichetti
Geometry Advanced	LeMia Lemons	Personal Finance	Lexi Cutchins
Geometry Yearlong	Myhia Ballenger	Personal Finance	Whitley Kruse
Geometry Yearlong	Wyatt Westmoreland	Into to Early Childhood Ed.	Hannah Janey
AFDA	Kade Williams	Into to Early Childhood Ed.	Amber Barnett
AFDA	Chloe Hostetter	Intor to Hospitality and Tourism	Kaydence Harman
Algebra II	Greely Terry	Intor to Hospitality and Tourism	Emily Whitaker
Algebra II	Draysin Maselli	Office Mgt.	Remi Miller
Trigonometry	Emma Dellinger	Business Mgt.	Paige Whitt
Trigonometry	Greely Terry	Cosmetology 1	Lexi Cutchins
Pre-Calculus	Dante Belcher	Cosmetology 2	Breanna Hall
Pre-Calculus	Xavier Torres - Seda	Digital Applications	Martina Hubbard
Calculus	Madeline Heath	Cyber Security	Vishal Somasundaram
Calculus	Nate Large	Programing	Nathaniel Whitaker
Biology	Isaac Boyer	Mrs. Gammons's eleven students in the Nurse Aide Program passed the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program Examination (NNAAP) and received their Nurse Aide Certification. Those students are Alyssa Callahan, Sasha Campos, Carrie Cassell, Amelia Clement, Kendall Epperly, Kalynn Jones, Emily Trent, Levi Vipperman, Haley Lawson, Cherilyn Lopez-Gonzalez, and Kijah Rothrock.	
Biology	Benjamin Knight	Four students passed the Personal Fitness Trainer assessment through the National Academy of Sports Medicine. Those students are Jonah Byers, Jewel Iacovone, Reyli Martinez-Tejeda, and Jermaine Penn.	
Biology	Hunter Roberts		
Advanced Biology	Kathryn Wood		
Advanced Biology	Jacob Lester		
Environmental Science	Lilliana White		
Environmental Science	Adam Edwards		
Ecology	Hannah Wood		
Advanced Chemistry	Xavier Torres-Seda		
Advanced Chemistry	Eliza Clifton		
Anatomy & Physiology	Jonah Byers		
Physical Science	Brisan Scott		
Physical Science	Martina Hubbard		
Advanced Earth Science	Fisher Martin		
Advanced Earth Science	Paige Whitt		
Forensic Science	Zachary Letchworth		
Forensic Science	Remi Miller		
Honors Biology	Kali Craig		
Honors Biology	Heather Edwards		
Chemistry	Mary Beth Williams		
Chemistry	Aiden Lester		

Firewater

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Scholarships presented at ceremony

By Ashlee Mullis
 More than \$1,240,390 was awarded in four-year renewable scholarships and grants to Patrick County High School students during a recent ceremony at Patrick County High School.

Those to receive scholarships and their presenters were:



Albert John Bozenmeyer - Allannah Mitchell and Presenter Norma Bozenmeyer



Excellence in Nursing - Levi Viperman, Bryley Pike



Fern E. Pino - Levi Viperman and Presenter Pam Craig



Fred Allen Memorial - Gina Rubio and Presenter Denise Clark



George Rigney Scholarship - Presenter Phyllis Eastridge and Gina Rubio



GRASP - Audrey Young



Alfred Brammer - Maria Turner and Presenter Judy Lacks



Hardin Reynolds Memorial PTO - Haley Gilley, Presenter Virginia Nutter



Honorable Gerald L. Baliles Memorial Public Service Scholarship- Lillian Cobbler, Presenter Courtney Williams (Not pictured Katelyn Johnson)



Jesse Wood Sheppard - Matthew Allen and Presenter Eric Sheppard



John D Hooker Scholarship - Heather Edwards and Presenter Judy Lacks



Mary Jane Taylor Memorial Senior Beta Scholarship - Hunter Meade and Presenter Judy Lacks



American Legion Post 105 - Heather Edwards and Presenter Gary Griffith



P&HCC Foundational Scholarship & Commonwealth Legacy - Elizabeth Rose and Presenter Courtney Williams



Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard- Draiden Archambo, Presenter Richard Cox



Patty Hazelwood Memorial Scholarship - Curtis Busick and Presenter Judy Lacks.



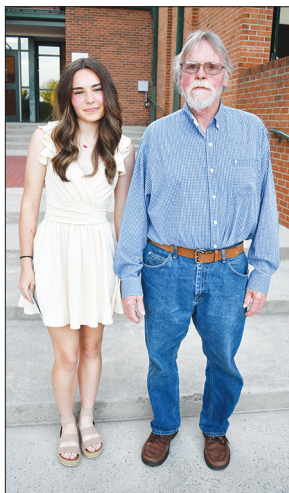
Ann Belcher & Orea G Rakes - Kylee Joyce and Presenter Pam Craig



Patrick County Retired Teachers- Cheyenne Clifton and Presenter Revonda Gilbert.



Richard, Cornelius, and Vera Stanley- Cheyenne Clifton and Presenter Pam Craig.



Ross Harbour United Methodist Church - Jewel Iacovone and Presenter Dickie Wood



Spencer Penn Scholarship - Kaylee Joyce, Luke Cutchins.



Stan Parker Memorial Scholarship - Stephen Spencer.



Stuart Elementary School PTO- Presenter Brittany Harbour and Aniya Penn.



Stuart Elementary School- Cheyenne Clifton and SES Principal Annie Baker.



Stuart Rotary First Generation - Nathan Large, Presenter Anna Lester, Bobbijo Roberts.



Superintendent Scholarship Trades - Presenter Libby Wood, Will Vernon.



Bill Dillon Scholarship - Will Vernon



Susan Allen Huff- Ethan Cobbler and Presenter Denise Clark.



Virginia Retired Teachers Association District E - Bobbijo Roberts, Presenters Nancy Peters and Revonda Gilbert.



Woolwine PTO- Bobbijo Roberts, Maria Turner.



Woolwine United Methodist Church - Bobbijo Roberts and Presenter Nancy Peters.



Woolwine Elementary School Warriors - Bethany Goode.



Cougar Leadership Award - Colt Easter



Delta Kappa Gamma - Presenter Rozina Turner and Bobbijo Roberts



(See Scholarships p. 17)

THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

Scholarships

(cont. from page 16)



Doris Wood Memorial - Allannah Mitchell, Presenter Virginia Nutter, Heather Edwards



Dorn O Gaynelle Spangler Memorial - Avery Brintle, Presenter Pam Craig, Cecelia Cisneros



James C and Margaret Hiatt Memorial - Ananiah Jenkins, Presenter Pam Craig, Kyle Handy



Gail Harding - Draiden Archambo, Presenter Stephen Henderson, Ethan Cobbler



Meadows of Dan Ruritan Club - Hannah Wood, Presenter Aaron Shelor, Sabrina Rorrer



Dr. Houston B Roberson Scholarship - Presenters Olivia Givens, Teresa K. Roberson, Aniya Penn



Hardin Reynolds Alumni - Lauryn Williams, Cecilia Cisneros, Lindsey Jones, Haley Gilley, Sabrina Rorrer, Heather Edwards, Miranda Hall- 2nd row- Luke Cutchins, Lillian Cobbler, 3rd row- Kali Craig, Lauren Fulcher, Aniya Penn, Audrey Young, Montana Oxendine, Emily Trent, Remi Miller; Back Row - Will Vernon, Lauren Worley, Hunter Meade, Kyle Handy, Jermaine Penn, Quentin Perkins, Ethan Cobbler.



Nancy Susan Reynolds - Front(left-right) Presenter Saray Wray, Audrey Young, Lindsey Jones, Cheyenne Clifton, Gina Rubio, Bobbijo Roberts, 2nd row- Haley Ann Gilley, Marissa Bentley, Marissa Brown, Madi Heath, Maria Turner, Kali Craig; 3rd row, Will Vernon, Chris Cain, Caleb Morris, Draiden Archambo, Jermaine Penn.



Meadows of Dan Elementary School PTO - Kole Klisiewicz, Presenter Jennifer Montgomery, Hannah Wood



Nathaniel and Nannie Ruth Cooper Terry Scholarship - Madi Heath, Presenter Stephen Henderson, Aniya Penn



PCPS Family Educator- Marissa Bentley, Presenter Libby Wood, Elizabeth Rose.

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Patrick County Historical Society - Marissa Brown, Presenter John Reynolds, Aniya Penn



Patrick County Fire and Rescue - Will Vernon, Presenter Scottie Cassell, Bethany Goode

(See Scholarships p. 18)

Scholarships

(cont. from page 17)



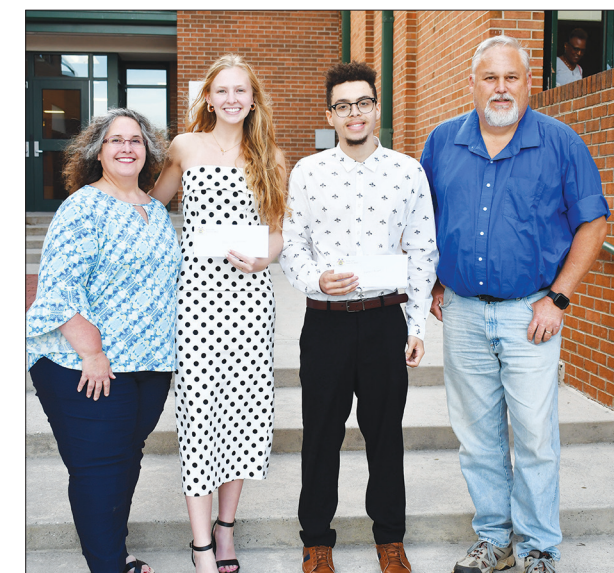
Providence United Methodist Church - Will Vernon, Presenter Doris Craighead, Aniya Penn.



Patrick Springs Ruritan Club - Haley Gilley, Kyle Handy, Dakota Ashworth.



Corporal Jonathan W. Bowling Memorial Scholarship - Levi Vipperman, Bethany Goode, Presenter Courtney Williams



Ararat Ruritan - Presenter Pamela Smith, Marissa Bentley, Rashawn Sawyers, Jr, Presenter Kevin Smith



Smith River Church of the Brethren- Maria Turner, Presenter Nancy Griffith, Luke Cutchins.



Superintendent Scholarship - Maria Turner, Madi Heath, Heather Edwards, Presenter Libby Wood.



Pauline H & W Blair Clark Sr. Scholarship - Front (left-right) - Presenter Anna Lester, Draidren Archambo, Sabrina Rorrer, Hannah Wood, Back Row Presenter Blair Clark, Broc Taylor, Kali Craig, Madi Heath, Aniya Penn.



Stuart Rotary First Generation - Presenter Blair Clark, Remi Miller, Caleb Morris, Presenter Anna Lester.



Stuart Athletic Boosters Club- Elizabeth Rose, Broc Taylor, Stephen Spencer, Marissa Brown, Presenter Lindsey Puckett.



Patrick County Scholars- front (left-right) Lindsey Jones, Miranda Hall, Lauryn Williams, Presenter Courtney Williams, back Avery Brintle, Moy Cisneros, Jackson Barbour, Stephen Spencer, Jonah Byers, Luke Cutchins.



Patrick County Sheriff's Office - front (left-right) - Elizabeth Rose, Cecilia Cisneros, Madi Heath, Emily Trent, Lauryn Williams, back Sheriff Dan Smith, Hunter Meade, Nate Large, Stephen Spencer, Matt Allen.



Nation's Best Cares & Patrick Building Supply - Presenter Joe Aguilar, Will Vernon, Chris Cain, Morgan Cambron, Nate Large (not pictured- Patrick Taylor)



PCHS Class of 75- Kylee Joyce, Maria Turner, Presenter Rickie Fulcher, Lauren Fulcher, Dakota Ashworth, Emily Trent, Cheyenne Clifton, Presenter Della Fulcher.



Stuart Rotary - Marissa Brown, Montana Oxendine, Stephen Spencer, Brandy Quesinberry, Luke Cutchins, Lauryn Williams, Presenter Judy Lacks.



Meadows of Dan Women's Club - Kole Klisiewicz, Sabrina Rorrer, Brandy Quesinberry, Hannah Wood, Presenters Mary Locke and Betty Banks



Patrick County Alumni - Kyle Handy, Elizabeth Rose, Remi Miller, Presenter Rickie Fulcher, Jayden Diehl, Madi Heath, Bryley Pike, Presenter Della Fulcher.



PCHS Class of 76- Maria Turner, Presenter Rickie Fulcher, Dakota Ashworth, Kali Craig, Caleb Morris, Presenter Della Fulcher.