



THE ENTERPRISE

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

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

Electric transmission rates may decrease

Appalachian Power last week filed a request with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) to lower the electric transmission cost for customers. The transmission rate adjustment clause, known as the T-RAC, is the portion of a customer's bill that recovers costs for transmission services, fees and new construction.

Transmission costs to improve grid reliability and accommodate load growth are determined by PJM, the independent regional

transmission organization that manages the electric grid in 13 states, including Virginia. Costs allocated to Appalachian Power decreased and the lower cost is being passed on to customers.

Appalachian Power is currently recovering about \$413.2 million annually in its T-RAC as approved by the SCC in 2023. In its filing, the company requested to decrease that amount by \$37 million. If approved by the Commission, the change would decrease the monthly bill for

a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours by \$2.12. The new rate would become effective in early October.

"Appalachian Power works hard to manage costs and ensure filings are made in a timely manner," said Aaron Walker, Appalachian Power president and chief operating officer. "When costs allocated by PJM were lowered, we took the necessary steps to update the commission and request a change to customer bills."

This report made by American

Electric Power and its Registrant Subsidiaries contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Although AEP and each of its Registrant Subsidiaries believe that their expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, any such statements may be influenced by factors that could cause actual outcomes and results to be materially different from those projected.

(See Transmission Rates p. 3)

From lessons at DeHart Park to the Olympic trials

By Pat Delaney

For Ella Menear, it's been quite a journey. From learning to swim at the DeHart Park pool in Stuart, to Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, where she will compete in the 2024 Olympic swimming trials, June 15-23, with a chance to go to the Paris Olympics.

Menear, a rising sophomore at the University of Alabama (UA), got her start at the DeHart Park pool.

"When I was super little, my mom always taught lessons, so I kind of grew up around water all the time. She was actually the one who taught me how to swim," said Menear. "I spent every summer at DeHart, so that's where I learned to swim."

It was also at DeHart Park that Menear



Ella Menear will swim in the 100M backstroke. (Contributed)

got her first experience swimming competitively.

"When I was about four or five, I started swimming competitions at DeHart, like summer league, little meets, and that sort of thing. I continued doing that until second or third grade, but once I got old enough, I trained with a team in Martinsville, the Martinsville Marlins."

She continued with (See Olympic Trials p.3)

the Marlins until moving to Pennsylvania, where she was a highly decorated swimmer in high school, winning multiple state championships. She also played volleyball for her school from seventh to twelfth grade, but said, "I always knew that swimming was my passion and I wanted to continue swimming in college."

During Menear's



The Historic Star Theatre is available for private rentals.



One Family Production Executive Director Chris Prutting and at-large member Kristin Hylton hope the theater will be a space where the community feels welcome and accessible.

Star Theatre open for private rentals, entertainment

By Taylor Boyd

After reopening for events earlier this year, the Star Theatre is providing a space to offer entertainment to the community.

The Town of Stuart, which owns the theatre, selected a non-profit organization called One Family Productions, to operate the theatre.

Chris Prutting, executive director, said there have been six shows held in the space since January, and several other shows are lined up.

The facility also is available to rent for a variety of events, Prutting said, such as private meetings, the Patrick

County Chamber of Commerce's Economic Summit, and Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead's one man show, "Mr. Lincoln's Office: A Meeting with the President."

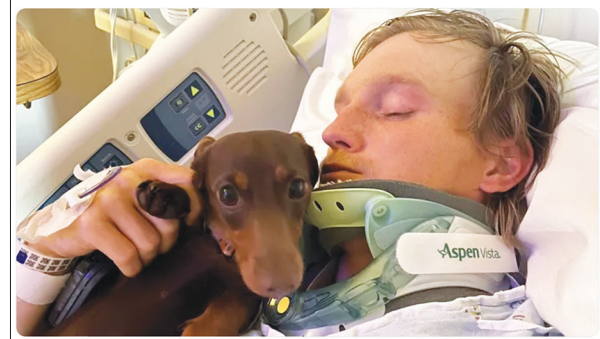
There also have been birthday rentals and other events offered by the Reynolds Homestead, Prutting said. The town also hosted its annual Beer & Wine Festival there.

Prutting said he expects events may slow down over the summer, but pick back up in the fall and winter. One Family has also scheduled events at the theatre until the end of the year.

(See Star Theatre p.3)

Donations sought to help family

Support Aaron Radford's Road to Recovery



\$3,355 raised of \$25,000 goal

40 donations

Share

Donate now

This fundraiser is located near you

William Worley \$50 · 2 d

Brandon Radford \$500 · 3 d

Anonymous \$50 · 4 d

Greg Radford is organizing this fundraiser.

Greg Radford started a GoFundMe fundraiser called "Support Aaron Radford's Road to Recovery" to help his son, Aaron Radford, with medical bills following his May 1 motorcycle accident.

By Taylor Boyd

An Ararat area man is hoping to raise funds for his son who was injured in a motorcycle accident last month.

Greg Radford said his 25-year-old son, Aaron Radford, who works as a carpenter in King, N.C., was injured in a motorcycle crash on May 1.

"His biggest issue is the left brachial plexus, which is the left main nerve from the neck down into the left arm. It was damaged along with cervical vertebrae (neck), broken collar bone, and shoulder blade. Many other issues are healing, thanks to many prayers," he said.

Radford said his son was released from the hospital after a 28-day stay. In early June, he went in for an appointment to check his big toe on left foot, which was amputated, and was readmitted for surgery.

"They went in, and the surgeon said she removed all of the dead tissue and that everything underneath looks good," he said, adding his son was released from the hospital for the second time on Monday, June 10.

Radford said his son had a wound vacuum that was put in his amputation that will stay in for a few weeks. This will allow the wound to heal from the inside out.



Aaron Radford was hospitalized for 28 days following a motorcycle accident. He will be unable to return to work for a minimum of six to 12 months.

"We got a lot of people praying and that going on. I talked to a friend of mine yesterday down in Ararat that's going to have a softball tournament for him," he said.

Aaron Radford will have a long road to recovery, and it's estimated he will not be able to work for at least six months to a year.

To help with the medical bills, Radford started a GoFundMe entitled "Support Aaron Radford's Road to Recovery."

"He is going to have a long recovery and any help will be appreciated to pay bills and recovery efforts," Greg Radford said.

As of Friday, June 7 the GoFundMe has raised \$3,355 of the \$25,000 goal.

Republican Primary Election Set

Voters participating in the Republican Primary Election will head to the polls on Tuesday, June 18. All polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A sample ballot is printed in this newspaper showing the names of the candidates.

Voters are also reminded to bring an acceptable form of identification with them on Election Day, because Virginia law requires that all voters present an acceptable form of identification when voting. Any voter who does not have an acceptable ID may sign an ID confirmation statement.

A registered voter needing to vote early may do so in person in the Registrar's Office, located at the Patrick County Veterans' Memorial Building, 106 Rucker St, Rm 216C, Stuart, VA 24171. The office is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The final day for early voting is Saturday, June 15, at 5 p.m. For additional information contact the Registrar's Office at 276-694-7206.

Patrick County polling places and their locations are:

Dan River District
Ararat - Ararat Ruritan Bldg. 4711 Ararat Hwy.

Claudville - Claudville Community Bldg. 1828 Red Bank School Rd.

Willis Gap - Willis Gap Community Center 144 The Hollow Rd.

Peters Creek District
Dry Pond - Peters Creek Community Bldg. 2130 Dry Pond Hwy.

Patrick Springs - Patrick Springs Fire Station 181 Spring Rd.

Russell Creek - Russell Creek Community Bldg. 1808 Ayers Or-

chard Rd.

Mayo River District
Critz/Stella - Hardin Reynolds Elementary School 3597 Dogwood Rd.

Liberty - Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department 3125 County Line Rd.

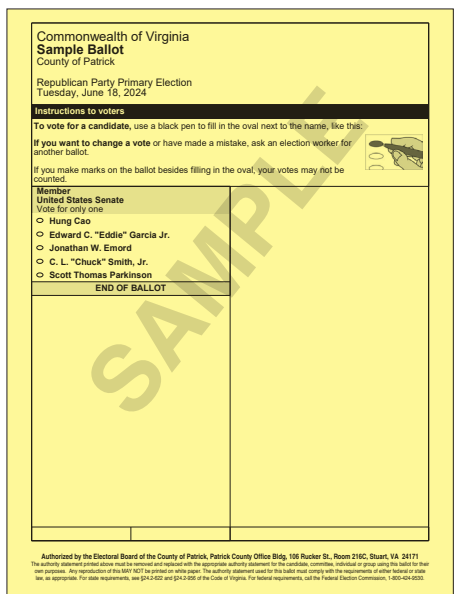
Blue Ridge District
Meadows of Dan - Meadows of Dan Community Bldg. 2858 Jeb Stuart Hwy

Stuart Fairgrounds - Hooker Building, Rotary Field, 420 Woodland Dr.

Stuart Community - Stuart Community Center (Patrick Henry Community College, Patrick Site) 212 Wood Brothers Dr.

Smith River District
Elamsville - Fairystone Fire Station 6687 Fairystone Park Hwy.

Woolwine - Smith River Rescue Squad Bldg. 9962 Woolwine Hwy.



Firefly Festival to be held at High Bridge Trail State Park

The Firefly Festival will be taking place at High Bridge Trail State Park on June 14 and 15 from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m.

This event provides guests with the unique view to experience the fireflies' light from the iconic High Bridge. The event will include food trucks, insect displays and souvenirs will be available to purchase.

"The Firefly Festival is a popular event and has sold out before, so be sure to purchase a ticket while you can," said Daniel Jordan, High Bridge Trail State Park manager. "Kickoff summer with us and experience the Bridge after dark to see these fireflies in flight."

Tickets must be purchased in advance on EventBrite and will not be sold at the gate before the event.

The festival parking and event access will be at the Camp Paradise entrance located at 1466 Camp Paradise Road, Rice, Va.

Gates for the event will open at 7 p.m. for festival attendees. The Camp Paradise entrance will be closed during the day on both days for the event.

This event will be held rain or shine.

For more information about the Firefly Festival, visit the park's website.

Milloy named P&HCC Head Men's Basketball Coach

Patrick & Henry Community College has named Dan Milloy to head the Men's Basketball program as its next head men's basketball coach.

Before joining P&HCC, Milloy was an assistant coach for NCAA Division III Ferrum College. During his tenure with the Panthers, Milloy played an integral role in the turnaround of the Ferrum program - improving the Panthers record from 6-19 to 10-17 with a playoff win in the ODAC Tournament during his first season. In his second year with the team, Ferrum jumped to a 16-11 overall record with wins over top 25 opponents, a playoff victory and multiple votes in the DIII National poll.

Milloy played a large role in the development of three second team All-ODAC players during his time at Ferrum (Shone Hicks & Calvin Washington in 2023, Jikari Johnson in 2024). Hicks would later sign a professional contract with Raiders Basket in Finland, and was named Offensive Player of the Year in his league.

"We are excited about the future and continued success of Patriot Men's Basketball as we welcome Dan Milloy to our Patrick & Henry PHamily," said Assistant



coaching staff, Milloy handled various aspects of the program, including film and scouting, team workouts, practice planning, as well as strength and conditioning. Milloy also oversaw the program's summer league team.

While at Bethel, Milloy coached several players that would later play NCAA Division I basketball, including Dajour Dickens (Hampton University), Cam Bacote (Georgetown), Aaron Bacote (ODU), Marcus Banks Jr. (UMBC) and Obinnaya Okafor (VCU). He also coached current Cleveland Browns (NFL) linebacker Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah.

"I am extremely thankful and excited to be joining the P&H PHamily and continue the Patriot Way. It's time to get to work! Go Pats!" said Milloy.

Milloy has also worked as a camp leader and skill development coach at the University of Dayton, University of Richmond and Christopher Newport University Basketball camps. Milloy graduated from Concord University, earning his bachelor's degree in Recreation and Tourism Management in 2011. He also completed his master's degree in special education from Radford University in 2019.

Vice President of Student Engagement and Athletic Director, Brian Henderson. "After a thorough and timely review of each candidate, Coach Milloy stood out as the right person to lead our men's basketball program on and off the court."

Before his stint at Ferrum, Milloy served as an Assistant Boys Basketball Coach at Bethel High School in Hampton, Virginia under Head Coach Craig Brehon, beginning in 2011. Milloy's highlights at Bethel include finishing with a 24-6 record and a Division 5 state runner-up finish in 2017. While a member of the Bruins

Pets of the Week



These two kittens are social, calm and sweet. They also are available for adoption now! Make plans to meet them.

This sweet girl is available for adoption now. She loves to talk and snuggle.

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.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Each year, the US draws attention to the pernicious crime of elder abuse in our country. Elder financial exploitation – generally involving a known person who is deceiving and manipulating an older adult to steal from them, is a multi-billion dollar, and often unreported, crime. To connect into World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, it's good to remember that there are things we can do to identify and stop elder financial exploitation.

Encourage your loved one to designate someone they trust to help them with financial decisions. The federal government's Eldercare Locator can help you find free or low-cost legal assistance. Suggest they add a trusted contact for their financial institutions if they are unreachable or if questionable

activity is detected. A trusted contact is not able to make transactions, but the financial institution can disclose some account information to them.

Also, watch out for someone — even someone you thought you or your loved one could trust — who discourages contact with family and friends, exerts pressure on financial decisions or asks for large sums of money.

Most importantly, financial exploitation is a crime and should be reported to your local police or sheriff or to 911 if the target is in danger.

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/fraud-watchnetwork.

Norris Memorial Services
 1500 Kings Mtn Rd.
 Martinsville, VA,
 276-638-2778

Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com

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 Boogie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email BoogieD@yahoo.com

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Electric Transmission

(cont. from page 1)

Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements are changes in economic conditions, electric market demand and demographic patterns in AEP service territories; the economic impact of increased global trade tensions including the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and the adoption or expansion of economic sanctions or trade restrictions; inflationary or deflationary interest rate trends; volatility and disruptions in the financial markets precipitated by any cause, including failure to make progress on federal budget or debt ceiling matters, particularly developments affecting the availability or cost of capital to finance new capital projects and refinance existing debt; the availability and cost of funds to finance working capital and capital needs, particularly if expected sources of capital such as proceeds from the sale of assets, subsidiaries and tax credits, and anticipated securitizations, do not materialize or do not materialize at the level anticipated, and during periods when the time lag between incurring costs and recovery is long and the costs are material; decreased demand for electricity; weather conditions, including storms and drought conditions, and AEP's ability to recover significant storm restoration costs; limitations or restrictions on the amounts and types of insurance available to cover losses that might arise in connection with natural disasters or operations; the cost of fuel and its transportation, the creditworthiness and performance of fuel suppliers and transporters and the cost of storing and disposing of used fuel, including coal ash and spent nuclear fuel; the availability of fuel and necessary generation capacity and the performance of generation plants; AEP's ability to recover fuel and other energy costs through regulated or competitive electric rates; the ability to transition from fossil generation and the ability to build or acquire renewable generation, trans-

mission lines and facilities (including the ability to obtain any necessary regulatory approvals and permits) when needed at acceptable prices and terms, including favorable tax treatment, and to recover those costs; the impact of pandemics and any associated disruption of AEP's business operations due to impacts on economic or market conditions, costs of compliance with potential government regulations, electricity usage, supply chain issues, customers, service providers, vendors and suppliers; new legislation, litigation and government regulation, including changes to tax laws and regulations, oversight of nuclear generation, energy commodity trading and new or heightened requirements for reduced emissions of sulfur, nitrogen, mercury, carbon, soot or particulate matter and other substances that could impact the continued operation, cost recovery, and/or profitability of generation plants and related assets; the impact of federal tax legislation on results of operations, financial condition, cash flows or credit ratings; the risks associated with fuels used before, during and after the generation of electricity and the byproducts and wastes of such fuels, including coal ash and spent nuclear fuel; timing and resolution of pending and future rate cases, negotiations and other regulatory decisions, including rate or other recovery of new investments in generation, distribution and transmission service and environmental compliance; resolution of litigation or regulatory proceedings or investigations; AEP's ability to efficiently manage operation and maintenance costs; prices and demand for power generated and sold at wholesale; changes in technology, particularly with respect to energy storage and new, developing, alternative or distributed sources of generation; AEP's ability to recover through rates any remaining unrecovered investment in generation units that may be retired before the end of their previously projected useful lives; volatility and changes in markets for

coal and other energy-related commodities, particularly changes in the price of natural gas; the impact of changing expectations and demands of customers, regulators, investors and stakeholders, including focus on environmental, social and governance concerns; changes in utility regulation and the allocation of costs within regional transmission organizations, including ERCOT, PJM and SPP; changes in the creditworthiness of the counterparties with contractual arrangements, including participants in the energy trading market; actions of rating agencies, including changes in the ratings of debt; the impact of volatility in the capital markets on the value of the investments held by AEP's pension, other postretirement benefit plans, captive insurance entity and nuclear decommissioning trust and the impact of such volatility on future funding requirements; accounting standards periodically issued by accounting standard-setting bodies; other risks and unforeseen events, including wars and military conflicts, the effects of terrorism (including increased security costs), embargoes, wildfires, cyber security threats and other catastrophic events; and the ability to attract and retain the requisite work force and key personnel.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP's approximately 17,000 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 225,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.6 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation's largest electricity producers with nearly 29,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including approximately 6,100 megawatts of renewable energy.

Olympic Trials

(cont. from page 1)

freshman year swimming for Alabama, she made the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) championships. "I went best times in both of my events, which are the 100M and 200M backstroke, and I placed top 35 in both events."

Looking ahead toward the Olympic trials, Menear said, "Honestly, I just kind of want to take in the experience. Not many people get to do that. I'm just excited to be with my team. I'm just excited to be there with my family and my old club teammates and old club coaches."

"I'm just excited for the experience and hopefully go best times, but it is super hard to make the Olympic Team," said Menear. "I don't think a lot of people understand that. They only take the top two-to-four on the Olympic Team in each event."

The location of this year's Olympic trials is unlike anything the swimmers have seen. They will compete in a temporary pool above what is normally the home field of the Indianapolis Colts. It will be a unique venue for all the swimmers competing in the trials.

"I think it's going to be super cool," said Menear. "I can't imagine a pool being" in the middle of an NFL stadium.



Ella Menear will swim in the 100M backstroke. (Contributed)

When asked about the opportunities that come from swimming, Menear said, "I'm super blessed. Coming from a small town like Stuart, and learning to swim at DeHart, moving to Pennsylvania, it's crazy where a sport can take you. I'm just super grateful that my mom decided to put me in this sport."

In the fall, Menear will continue her studies at UA, where she will have a busy schedule of "2 to 4 hours a day in the pool plus dry land training three days a week, on top of school work."

She is majoring in kinesiology with plans for a



Ella Menear will compete in the swimming Olympic Trials. (Contributed)

career in sports medicine.

For those youngsters swimming at DeHart park these days, Menear has simple advice: "I'd say nothing is impossible. Just keep pursuing your dreams and if you work hard, anything's possible."

Maybe even the Olympics.

Star Theatre

(cont. from page 1)

While One Family is still working on a rental package, Prutting said he calculated a full-day rental for \$300. A half-day rental is \$150, but for non-profit organizations it's \$200.

"Then it's like an a la carte kind of thing. Like our tables and chairs are included, but like if you want pub tables, if you want to use the popcorn machine, if you want to use our drink dispensers, if you want to use any of our sound equipment, you know it's kind of like you pick and choose that stuff," he said.

Prutting said he also works with people on pricing as he's "not a stickler" for the pricing rules.

The half day rent, at \$150 "for a birthday party to me, is about as reasonable as you can get around here. I mean I know it's about \$100 for the Rotary Building, but the atmosphere's not the same," he said.

Prutting said the goal is for the theatre to be a space for anybody to visit, whether it's locals or those outside the county. All are welcome to partake in any and all of the many good ideas coming down the pipeline.

"So many people have good ideas too, like it's not only us, but people just having ideas, like a kid's night where they just come and play video games or whatever on the big screen, glow party, Superbowl party. I mean when you have these screens, you know, why not," he said.

Prutting said he also wants to make the Star a prominent scene that will kick off Stuart's downtown revitalization.

Kristin Hylton, an at-large member of the organization, said that speaks to what Town Manager Bryce Simmons' original goal for the theatre.

"That he envisions the Star being an anchor for the downtown's arts district area. He has talked a lot about uptown being more commerce and downtown being more arts, especially with Calliope and things like that coming in as well," she said.

Hylton said another goal is to just ensure the theatre is a space where the community feels welcome and is accessible.

Prutting said Stuart received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds during the COVID-19 pandemic, and "basically, they purchased everything that they needed on their wish list at that point before they were

even communicating about the Star. To a point where ARPA and the federal government were going to start taking these funds away because you're not spending it anymore," he said.

Prutting said Simmons put a proposal in to invest in the Star with only ARPA funds and no taxpayer money.

The Town Council approved purchasing the theater in mid-summer 2023, took the lease over, and then put out a request for proposals (RFPs) at the end of September.

Ultimately, One Family Productions' presentation was selected, and the group became custodians of the Star in November.

"We officially signed the lease on January 5, and have just been kind of going ever since," he said.

The organization pays \$300 rent each month for the first year. The rent will increase to \$500 per month in the second year.

"In the grand scheme of it all, you walked into a diamond. I mean this place was really well-taken care of after remodeling in the early 2000s. Never has been a real issue," he said.

While there's nothing One Family has had to work on regarding the building, Prutting said the organization does have a short list of things it wants to improve.

"We just recently had the front soft washed and it looks really good, almost brand new. We have got a quote to update the facade, not to change it, but to update it. For years and years, the sun has just bleached that color. I mean it was such a dark color if you look at old newspaper clippings when they first put it back up there," he said.

Prutting said the organization also wants to update the marquees on the entrance's side walls, potentially digitally, and soundproof the area.

"One of the biggest in the business, Stagetown, came here to give a quote to see about putting sound damping in here, putting up really nice theater curtains, projector, new screen, new speakers, new sound system, update lighting, and things like that," he said.

Prutting said none of the upgrades will aesthetically change the historic feel of the building. He added his dream is that the theatre would become a place for art-

ists to record music and release albums.

"We've had such a positive response from every band that's played here so far, about how great this spot is," he said.

Hylton said Peter Holland, who performed the "Mr. Lincoln's Office" play, also noted the theatre would be a great space to record live theater "because the ambiance here is so good. You know, in a lot of places, even with photography but especially with videography, you've got eyesores in the background. He was like, with some theatre curtains and stuff, this would be a really amazing space," she said.

Hylton said the Beasley family originally opened the theatre on June 6, 1942. "The first show that was here was 'Carnival in Costa Rica,' and then they had movies here very frequently and music and a really wide variety," she said.

The theatre operated into the 1950s but closed sometime in the early 1960s. Since then, "it was a laundromat, apartments, and then a furniture store. We know that the furniture store was the last thing, but I'm not sure what order the apartments and laundromat were in," she said.

Tom and Carol Beasley acquired it in 2004, and reopened the theatre as the Historic Star Theatre in October 2005.

"I think the coolest thing that Tom told me the other night was when he was a kid, he remembers coming in and being able to watch a matinee, get his popcorn, and get a fountain soda for .25 cents. So, that would have been in the late '50s, early '60s when he did that," she said.

Hylton said the most surprising find was that the theatre also screened some not so family-friendly material.

"In 1953, we can confirm that the Star was showing movies that we may not show today. I found an ad in October 1953 for a movie called 'The Side Streets of Hollywood,'" she said.

Those interested in renting the theatre may visit www.OneFamilyProductions.org and look under the event calendar, or contact Prutting at cprutting@onefamilyproductions.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fauci and the Case for Lab Leak

On June 3, the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) held a hearing with Dr. Anthony Fauci.

This was my second time in 2024 participating in a meeting with Fauci.

Fauci was a leading public health official during the pandemic, as head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Fauci was looked to by many of the American public and news media organizations as a trusted source to navigate the virus.

What's less known about Fauci is his agency's role in coronavirus research that was conducted before the pandemic.

I have been dedicated to getting evidence on the origins of COVID-19.

As discussed in a previous column, I participated in a hearing with EcoHealth Alliance President, Dr. Peter Daszak.

Two weeks after the hearing with Daszak, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that it would suspend EcoHealth from receiving any federal funds for its projects and has proposed debarment of the company.

I believe my exposure of Daszak's lies may have been the straw that broke the camel's back on EcoHealth.

However, government agencies, particularly NIAID, who were allocating taxpayer-funded research grants to EcoHealth, were not adequately monitoring their activities.

According to Politico, Fauci's recent testimony was his first public appearance on Capitol Hill since retiring at the end of 2022.

As I have discussed, the makeup of the virus is unique. SARS-COVID-2 contained a furin cleavage site with a twelve-nucleotide insertion, highly unusual features for a virus that purportedly comes from nature.

The furin cleavage site is what made the virus so contagious.

A furin cleavage site had never existed before in any known coronavirus, as noted by the online publishing platform Medium in an article.

The article also highlights that Wuhan was already testing MERS CoV, a related coronavirus, as early as 2018.

Another issue with the NIAID grant concerned humanized mice.

EcoHealth's experiments in Wuhan involved infecting humanized mice with chimeric viruses. According to an MIT Technology Review report, Dr. Ralph Baric's lab at the University of North Carolina shared his highly modified humanized mice with Wuhan. NIAID and National Institutes of Health (NIH) approved Baric's lab to do this.

Prior to this, the Chinese did not have access to these high-tech mice.

Giving the Wuhan lab humanized mice allowed them the capability to reproduce their own mice and test viruses.

Laboratory mice can reproduce fast.



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Additionally the Chinese have not turned over lab notebooks from the tests of coronaviruses on these humanized mice.

The lab notebooks were contractually required to be provided to NIAID!

And remember EcoHealth's required September 2019 report was nearly two years late and was altered after the pandemic struck!

The Chinese were already researching Mers CoV and experimenting with adding a furin cleavage site in that virus.

Let's examine the battle over competing theories between animal transmission and the lab leak.

For natural transmission: you must assume some unknown animal in some unknown location got a coronavirus from a bat, that virus then mutated to have a furin cleavage site with a twelve-nucleotide sequence within a few months or years, then that still unknown animal was sold at a wet market.

For lab leak: we gave sophisticated humanized mice to Wuhan to do coronavirus research for NIAID. Wuhan was working on putting a furin cleavage site into MERS CoV. And then a coronavirus with a furin cleavage site shows up in Wuhan.

Did Wuhan do non-NIAID coronavirus research?

Fauci said it was possible. I think it's likely.

Occam's razor states that the theory with the fewest assumptions is usually correct.

According to that principle, a lab leak makes the most sense.

I am not saying EcoHealth, NIH or Fauci did this intentionally.

But remember that Wuhan never gave EcoHealth the lab notebooks NIAID was entitled to!

Fauci is unable to rule out the theory that COVID-19 originated from a lab leak. He could not account for other research that might be going on in China, and recognized that a lab leak was possible.

The sad truth is we gave the Chinese the tools and ability to experiment with dangerous viruses.

We did this with a Chinese lab that my investigation indicates didn't meet U.S. safety standards.

With the tools we gave them, I believe the Chinese created one of the deadliest pathogens of the modern world.

EcoHealth is being held accountable for its negligence.

Congress should hold federal agencies that were involved accountable too.

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

Biden's border executive orders 212 F and 215 A

(Fox, Newsmax, BillOrielly.com, Center for Immigration Studies)

The Biden administration is in deep trouble in the polls for the following two main reasons, the economy, and the border. Biden signed a proclamation that will temporarily suspend the entry of illegals across the southern border. Once the border patrol in its computer system receives more than 2,500 asylum requests, everything shuts down, no more requests taken for that day. But then it starts up on the next day, so it is basically a "come on over" card for 2,500 illegals on a daily basis. There are 365 days in a year, which means 912,500 illegals will still be allowed in the country on a yearly basis. Of course, Biden says he needs more money to hire more help at the border. However, he did not need it 3 years ago. This not a solution because Biden does not want a solution.

According to The Center for Immigration Studies, Biden allowed approximately 10 million illegals to come across our border. 6.2 million of those requested asylum and Biden allowed them to disappear, with no federal supervision at all. Nobody knows where they are. This is the most irresponsible policy of any U.S. President in history that has been instituted.

The order includes a number of exceptions. It will not apply to visa holders, unaccompanied children, victims of a "severe form" of trafficking, as well as those who face an acute medical emergency or an imminent threat to life or safety. It also does not apply to those seeking entry to the U.S. via ports of en-

try using the CBP One app — of which around 1,500 migrants are allowed in each day. The Executive action does nothing to end parole abuses.

Biden says he had a broken system when he entered office. That is not true. That is not a partisan comment, it is a fact. During the last year of Trumps term, 835,000 illegals made it into the U.S. On Bidens first day of his presidency, he dismantled all of Trump's restrictions and the deluge began.

The question is why did Biden take a border that was contained and blow it up? Because the progressive base that has controlled Biden during his presidency does not want any restrictions on immigration. They want the country to be flooded with illegals to destroy the white patriarchy that is in place. White men hold most of the power in America. They also want massive entitlements given to illegals who earn a certain amount of money. Why? They want socialism.

From his first day in office, Biden implemented a failed open border agenda which created a historic humanitarian and national security catastrophe. He has turned every American community into a border community and opened our country to violent criminals, terrorists, cartels, and poisonous drugs. This is nothing but a desperate political stunt to try and stabilize his plummeting poll numbers ahead of the November election.

Pray for our country.
William Salser,
Stuart

GOP Posts Ho Chi Minh City instead of Milwaukee

I always note a weekly letter to the editor writer whose opinions I routinely disagree with, but I wanted to echo his usual closing of "Pray for our Country."

That is certainly appropriate as the GOP and Convicted Felon Trump are certainly trying to destroy it. Trump's kids and associates are now chairing and running the GOP, and the convention is to be held in Milwaukee. I was told that the GOP site contained a photo of Ho Chi Minh city rather than Milwaukee. I couldn't believe that so

checked it out. I found it was correct, but as soon as enough complaints were filed the photo was changed to Milwaukee. It leaves me really wondering about the GOP and its real objectives. Maybe the prayers should be for the destruction of Felon Trump and his MAGA Cult GOP.

For verification, visit <https://www.newsweek.com/republicans-trolled-ho-chi-minh-city-image-milwaukee-democrats-1908444>

William S. Rodgers,
Brentwood, TN

The Pitfall of Worry

By Bryan Golden

Everyone is conditioned to worry. Our conditioning begins as soon as we learn to speak. Since we see everyone around us worrying, we emulate their behavior. There are no limits to what you worry about. You worry about the past. You worry about the present. You worry about the future.

You worry about what might happen. You worry about what might not happen. You worry about what other people think, say, or do. You worry about the opinion others have of you. You worry about making mistakes. You worry about what you say. You spend so much time and energy worrying that you feel something is wrong if you're not worrying.

Although worry accomplishes nothing, there are many negative impacts. Worry wastes time and energy. All the effort that goes into fretting about an issue is useless. You become drained without anything to show for it.

Worry causes elevated levels of stress. Since worry is ineffective, it provides no resolution for any problems. Your stress level rises, as you expend energy with no positive results. You then begin to start focusing on exactly what you don't want. This progression is a downward spiral, which attracts the opposite of what you do want.

There are two categories of situations you will face. There are those circumstances beyond your control, and those you can influence. There is a strong tendency to worry about issues you have absolutely no control over. This causes additional frustration because you aren't able to have any positive impact whatsoever.

There is nothing you can do to change situations beyond your control. Let go of issues you can't do anything about. Instead, focus your actions on those situations which can be improved by your actions.

Worry has a negative impact on the people around you. Those who care about you are concerned about your stress and frustration. When your

nerves become frayed, there is an increased likelihood you will become increasingly irritable and angry. Taking your frustration out on others only makes your situation worse.

Worry must be replaced by action. Action is the only thing which can make a positive difference. However, the time and energy you spend worrying diminishes your ability to take action. So, not only are you burning yourself out by worrying, you are missing opportunities for improving your situation by taking appropriate action.

Here are some strategies to avoid the pitfall of worry. Start by cutting free from the past. There's no point worrying about it. It's over. Learn from the past. Don't repeat the same mistakes. Do repeat those strategies which produced desirable results.

Don't worry about other people. You can't control them. You can't change them. The only things you have control over are your thoughts and actions. This is how you overcome a basic pitfall of worry; focus on what you are thinking about, and what you are doing, instead of what others are doing.

You have been worrying about things all of your life. It's virtually impossible to instantly stop worrying. A more effective approach is to stop worrying in small increments. First, don't worry about anything for just 15 minutes. It's OK, you can do this. Next, don't worry for an hour at a time. As you progress, you can get to the point where you stop worrying for an entire day.

You will experience how nice it feels to be worry free. You can train yourself to have a worry-free life. Since worry doesn't accomplish anything positive, there is no rational reason to worry. Put your effort into taking whatever positive action is necessary to deal with the issues you face.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columunist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2024 Bryan Golden

Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy

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

Patrick Pioneers

Defenders of Bataan (Part One)
By Beverly Belcher Woody

This is the story of five young men with Patrick County ties who were imprisoned at Camp Cabanatuan, a Japanese-run prisoner of war camp in the Philippines; the horrors they endured; and the comfort of being with Virginians over 9,000 miles away from their beloved home.

Camden Ross Bryant (1916-1944) was born to Homer Orlando Bryant and Martha Magdaline Via Bryant. Camden's paternal grandfather was Reverend Alexander Bryant, founder of Fairview and Rock Castle Church and pastor of Sycamore Baptist Church for many years, and grandmother, Sarah Jane Ross Bryant. Camden's maternal grandparents were Peter Lee Via and Dacey Elizabeth King Via from the Dodson community of Patrick County.

2nd Lt. Reid "Stanley" Aaron (1918-1945) was born to John Reid Aaron and Jessie Stanley Aaron of Martinsville. Stanley was the nephew of Virginia Governor Thomas Bahnsen Stanley, Sr. and Stanley's brother, Jacob Crockett Aaron married Camden Bryant's sister, Era Marie Bryant in 1948.

James Walter Trent (1919-1963) grew up in the area between Patrick Springs and Critz. James was the son of Walter Cole Trent and Nannie Virginia Witt Trent, the paternal grandson of Abe Trent and Nancy Spencer Trent, and the maternal grandson of Charles Richard Witt and Nancy Reynolds Witt of the Carter's Store area of Henry County.

Ralph Jefferson Turner, Sr. (1922-1990) was born at Buffalo Ridge, Virginia to Abram Columbus Turner and Allie Walker Turner. Ralph was the paternal grandson of John Francis Turner and Nancy Adeline Nolen Turner and the maternal grandson of James Lincoln Walker and Mary Bowling Walker of the Elamsville district of Patrick County.

In 1940, Hayne Wesley Dominick, Jr. (1920-1995) was working as a car salesman at Burrough-White Chevrolet in Martinsville. In 1946, Hayne married Betty Ruth Critz, the daughter of William Russell Critz and Anna Ruth Tatum of Nettle Ridge. In November of 1945, Sgt. Hayne Dominick related his experiences in WWII to Kay Thompson who recorded them in chapter form. Thompson submitted them to the

War Department, and they were released for publication. For the next few weeks, we will look at excerpts from Hayne's account where he describes time spent with our Patrick (and Henry) County boys.

Chapter One, published on November 21st, 1945, Hayne recalled "I have two main reasons for telling you the facts. These were the best buddies a man ever had. In the Army, they talked about such fellows as describing them as 'stock' which means they were gentlemen: brave; unselfish; fine; patient; friendly; and enduring as any man who has fought under the Stars and Stripes. They were Stanley Aaron and Camden Bryant, two Martinsville heroes with whom I went to war and with and whom I shared a similar prison existence for more than two years."

Hayne, "I also want to tell the story, too, in praise of Ralph Turner, of Stuart, who lived with us in the prison camp for more than two years in the Philippines and was later sent to a camp in Japan, where he was severely burned just before his liberation. I want no credit or sympathy for what I went through, but people should know what these boys gave to their country. They should know the undying hope that they had for another day in the land where they were born. I was the lucky one, Stanley and Camden were not. Both died when the Japanese moved them out of the Philippines. I had already gone ahead to Japan because Camden Bryant persuaded me to go. And the same I feel towards Stanley Aaron, the only officer among us. He used to share his extra pay with Camden and me in the hope that we might be able to supplement our daily rice rations with purchases from the Filipino people."

Chapter Two, published on November 22, 1945, Hayne remembered, "On Friday, June 21, 1941, Camden R. Bryant, son of Homer O. Bryant, of Ranson Road, of Martinsville was given his discharge as a selective service private at Camp Lee for reenlistment in the Air Corps. He was assigned to the 47th Bombardment Squadron at Hamilton Field, Fresno, California. He was 25 at the time. In due time, I ran across Camden and though I had not known him well in Martinsville, we became fast friends. In the same month of the same



Camden Bryant (Photo from Richard Presnell)



Reid Stanley Aaron at VMI

year, Reid Stanley Aaron, son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Aaron of 300 Starling Avenue, Martinsville was commissioned a second lieutenant and made his way presently to California. Camden and I ran into him at Fort McDowell, to which he had been transferred on October 28th, for overseas shipment. Stanley and I were old friends and we talked for hours there at McDowell about home and the dates we used to have there together. He was 22 years old when he got inducted. At noon, November 1st, 1941, Stanley, Camden and I sailed from San Francisco to the Philippines aboard the USS President Coolidge on its' second run as a government-operated transport. Camden and I were in the same outfit-the 34th Pursuit Squadron. Stanley was an administrative officer with the 48th Material Squadron. On arriving at Manila, we were separated. Stanley was assigned to Fort McKinley and Camden and I were sent to Nichols Field overlooking Manila Bay. On the night of December 7th, 1941, Camden and I went to the neighboring town, and we each ordered a whole fried chicken. Little did I know, this would be Camden's last fried chicken and my last one for four years."

Chapter Three, published on November 23, 1945, Hayne recounted, "On the morning of December 10th, 1941, Japanese planes first arrived on the fields we occupied at Del Carmen. Camden and I slept by our guns-on the ground. I was at Gun Position Number 1 and Camden was nearby at another position. Only three of the 28 planes at our field had been equipped with oxygen tanks, so the pilots had no chance

of flying higher than 10,000 feet or they would black out from lack of oxygen. The Japanese were flying at a much higher altitude and were having a field day. The retreat order came on that bleak Christmas Day 1941. It was a blow to our morale.... On January 4, 1942, after General MacArthur had evacuated Manila, our five remaining planes were ordered to report to another squadron and Camden and I's group to Little Baguio, 40 miles deeper in Bataan's jungles. Our outfit was ordered to take up the defense of Agaloma Bay and Camden and I were put on machine guns. We slept by our guns, in torrid heat, pestered by mosquitos and other insects. There was no shelter from the rain. During those days and nights, Camden and I hardly slept. We stayed glued to our machine guns. After March 10th, the Japanese made no further attempts to land at Agaloma Beach and that was the last actual engagement that Camden and I had on the battlefield against the enemy. We were supposed to go to the front lines on April 10th but on April 9th, General Jonathan Wainwright surrendered all forces on Bataan, saying that the action was taken to spare the lives of American boys under his command."

For the next few weeks, we will look at excerpts from Hayne's account of his time spent as a POW with his friends from Patrick and Henry County. Thank you so much to Joshua Martin, Darlene Thielman, and Richard Presnell for their help with this story. 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 "guaranteed" annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)

Dear Rusty: I've been reading a lot lately about speculation on what next year's benefit increase will be, and it seems like most of the experts are suggesting a range of 2.5% to 3%. My neighbor says don't worry about it, because there will always be some level of increase come January. It's guaranteed, right? Signed: Retired But Questioning

Dear Retired: You've brought up a common belief about the annual Social Security COLA, one that we hear often. Let's start with some back-

ground. Each year's COLA results from comparing the third quarter average Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) each year to the same average from the preceding year. The result of dividing the current year's average by the previous year's average produces the COLA for the following year. For 2024's adjustment, the 2023 third-quarter average was 301.2 and the comparable figure for 2022 was 291.9, producing the 3.2% benefit addition.

It's not always the case that the year-to-year CPI calculation produces a positive result, as was the case three times so far this century. As recently as 2016, for example, the 2015 third-quarter average was 233.3 and the comparable figure for 2014 was 234.2, producing a negative change. Fortunately for beneficiaries, Social

Security law prohibits a negative COLA, so the negative result was ruled out and the COLA for 2016 was zero.

So, the rumor that there will always be a benefit increase in January is untrue, although having only three zero COLA years since the start of automated adjustments in 1974 leads folks to assume there will always be a boost in the new year. The size of the adjustment fluctuates with economic cycles and has ranged from a high of 14.3 percent in 1980 to 0.3% in 2017 (excluding, of course, the zero years). Incidentally, the historical average since automatic COLAs began is 3.8%, so the 2024 adjustment of 3.2% isn't that far from the average.

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, via email at SS-Advisor@amacfoundation.org or call 1.888.750.2622.

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

Activated Charcoal for Insect Bites and Stings

Summer is a wonderful time of the year. The warm weather beckons us to enjoy the sandy beaches, sparkling lakes, and forested trails around the country or close to home. But as we have learned from personal experience, summer also brings an abundance of encounters with biting, stinging critters! As we learned in a previous article, activated charcoal has many different medicinal applications—you may already be aware of some of them—but today we're going to elaborate on these insect bites and stings.

Natural Remedy for Fire Ant Bites

Anyone who has ever been bitten by fire ants knows it is a painful, itchy experience. These symptoms are not caused by the actual bite, but rather by the venom these industrious little creatures inject. This venom triggers swelling, itching, and even destroys a tiny area of tissue around the injection site. Yikes!

An effective and inexpensive solution is to

take a self-adhesive bandage and apply a little water to the gauze—just enough to dampen it. Next, sprinkle some powdered charcoal on the damp gauze or rub it with a charcoal pill until it is black. Put this small poultice over the sting to counteract the symptoms from the venom. If there are multiple bites, make a larger poultice by cutting some gauze or a sheet. Cover it with plastic (like cling wrap if available) to keep it moist. To find an online supplier of charcoal poultices/dressings, try "activated charcoal dressing" as a search term.

If mosquito and chigger bites are what ail you, don't worry, because these applications will work wonders for those too! Even poison ivy rash can be effectively treated with activated charcoal.

Activated Charcoal for Stings

The ideal treatment for bee, hornet or wasp (like a yellow jacket etc.) stings is again, a charcoal poultice. If present, remove the

stinger with your fingernails, a credit card, or tweezers to gently scrape away or pull out the stinger. Cut a piece of gauze or a sheet. Use water to dampen the material and then add activated charcoal. Place the poultice over the sting site and then cover it with plastic (like a plastic cling wrap) to keep it moist. You may also use the bandage application mentioned above.

So, whether you're planning to enjoy the great outdoors by taking a vacation or just relaxing at home, be sure to have a supply of activated charcoal on hand. You'll be glad you did!

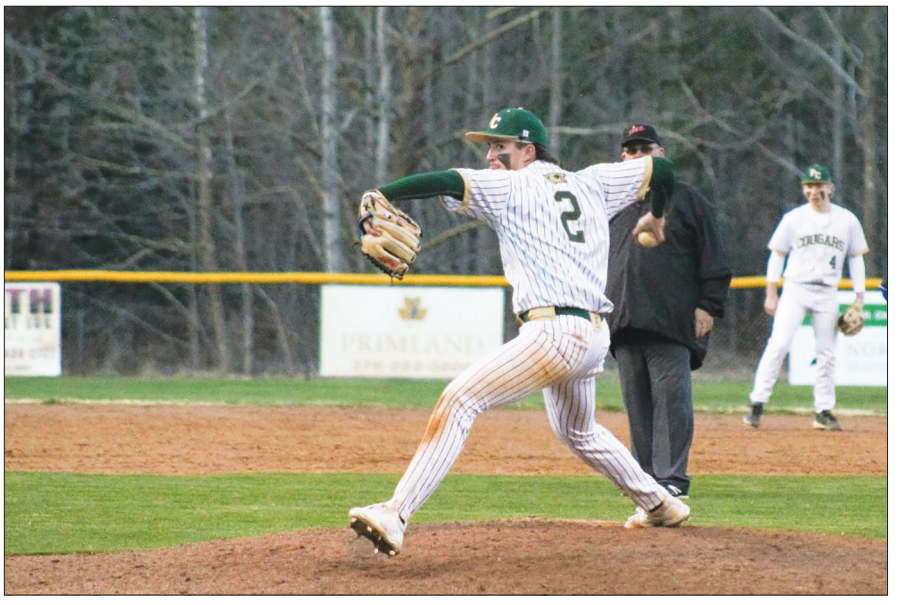
Note: Although most insect bites and stings can be treated at home, some people have severe allergies to venom and will require emergency medical attention.

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

Journey Moore, Tucker Swails earn All-Region Player of the Year honors



Region 2C Softball Player of the Year Journey Moore.



Region 2C Baseball Player of the Year Tucker Swails.

Two Patrick County High School athletes were named player of the year in their respective sports.

Journey Moore was named Region 2C Player of the Year, as well as earning 1st Team All-Region honors at catcher.

For Tucker Swails, it was his second consecutive year being named Region 2C Player of the Year. In addition, Tucker was named to the 1st Team All-Region team as a pitcher and shortstop.

Below are all of the Patrick County athletes named to all-district and all-region teams.

BASEBALL

All Region 2C Team

Tucker Swails - player of the year, 1st team- pitcher, 1st team - shortstop
Stuart Callahan - 1st team - outfield, 2nd team - pitcher

Broc Taylor - 2nd team - pitcher
Jackson Horton - 2nd team - 3rd base

Gavin Fain - 2nd team - outfield

SOFTBALL

All Three Rivers District Team

Journey Moore - 1st team - catcher
McKenzie Holt - 1st team - pitcher

Lilly Hazelwood - 2nd team - 2nd base
Lauren Hazelwood - 2nd team - 3rd base

Lauren Fulcher - honorable mention
Bryley Pike - honorable mention
Maria Turner - honorable mention

All Region 2C Team

Journey Moore - 1st team - catcher, Player of the year
McKenzie Holt - 2nd team - pitcher

BOYS SOCCER

All Three Rivers District Team

Reyli Martinez-Tejada - 1st team - midfielder
Daniel Betancourt - 1st team - forward

Austin Hylton - 2nd team - defender
Reynaldo Quiroz - 2nd team - midfielder

All Region 2C Team

Daniel Betancourt - 2nd team - forward
Reyli Martinez-Tejada - 2nd team - midfielder

GIRLS SOCCER

All Three Rivers District Team

Kyra Titular - 1st team - forward
Kendall Williams - 2nd team - midfielder

Dakota Ashworth - 2nd team - defender
Raeli Moran - 2nd team forward

Madi Heath - 2nd team - midfielder

All Region 2C Team

Kendall Williams - 2nd team - midfielder

Lady Cougars fall in state quarterfinal

By Pat Delaney

The Patrick County Lady Cougar softball team saw their season come to an end in the state quarterfinals, falling to Central Wise, 6-4 on June 4.

Down a run heading into the top of the third, the Lady Cougars tied the game at 1-1. Back-to-back two-run innings for Central Wise allowed them to increase their lead to 5-1 heading into the fifth inning. Patrick County put up three runs, closing to within a single run. Central Wise added an insurance run in the sixth, and would close out the game with a 6-4 win.

McKenzie Holt pitched a complete game for the Lady Cougars, striking out seven.

Leading the way at the plate was Journey Moore with two doubles and a triple. Maria Turner hit a solo home run. Bryley Pike scored a run and Lilly Hazelwood and Lauren Fulcher each had one RBI.

The Lady Cougars ended the season with a 16-7 record, finishing runner-up in the Three Rivers District regular season. Their 9-3 district record was just one game back of Carroll County. The Lady Cougars also reached the Regional championship game.



McKenzie Holt prepares to pitch.



McKenzie Holt struck out over 300 batters in her PCHS career.

McKenzie Holt reaches strikeout milestone

By Pat Delaney

Lady Cougar McKenzie Holt surpassed the 300 strikeout mark for her career. Holt, a senior at Patrick County High School, reached the milestone despite only playing varsity for three years, but averaging over 100 strikeouts each of those seasons.

"We had to have her pitch JV in ninth grade because we didn't have anybody else or she would have been pitching for us, even in 9th grade," said head coach Ryan Pendleton.

Holt's achievement is even more impressive when how much she has pitched in those three years. "She pitches half of the game," said Pend-

leton. Some teams "run the same girl out there all game, every game. We try not to ruin their arms and split it up for them."

When asked if she thinks about reaching 300 strikeouts, Holt responded, "not really." Her focus is on the team going deep into the playoffs. "I think we can make it far if we hit."

Of her career at Patrick County High, Holt said, "it feels like I just started yesterday, now it's pretty much over."

But it's a career that will end with over 300 strikeouts.

"That's a lot of strikeouts," Coach Pendleton said.

PCHS Track and Field Competes at State Level

By Ashlee Mullis

The PCHS Track and Field was well represented at the VHSL Class 2 State Championships, May 31-June 1. Sadie Martin placed 3rd in the state in the 3200 Meter Run and 4th in the 1600 Meter Run. Shauntel Hill finished 9th in the 400 Meter Dash.

The Girls 4x800 team, consisting of Martin, Mackenzie Williams, Callie Wood, and Eliza Clifton, finished 8th in the state. The Girls 4x400 team, Clifton, Williams, Wood, and Hill, finished 11th. The Boys 4x800 team, consisting of Hunter Martin, Fisher Martin, Noah Hiatt, and Moises Cisneros, finished 5th in the state. Kyle Handy came home with a 12th place finish in Discus. Hunter Martin placed 14th in the 1600 Meter Run, and Hiatt placed 20th.

In the 800 Meter Run, Cisneros placed 15th and Fisher Martin finished 16th. Sadie Martin, Mackenzie Williams, Callie Wood, Eliza Clifton, Hunter Martin, Fisher Martin, Noah Hiatt, and Moises Cisneros all received All State Honors in their respective categories.

Club awards scholarships



Lisa Allen received a scholarship award from the Red Bank Ruritan Club in Claudville. She earned a Master's Degree from Radford University. She is pictured with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bishop.



Scholarship awards also were presented by the club to Mayson Cline and Carol Adams by Roger Gammons, president.

Genealogy club to meet

The Carroll County Genealogy Club will hold a business meeting on Thursday, June 20th at 5 p.m. in the club's library on the left side of the Historical Courthouse in Hillsville.

Following a brief business meeting, the group will have a special presentation by Tina Brentwood, local genealogist, entitled "Understanding common mistakes that one

might encounter when doing their own genealogical research."

Plenty of parking is available on Main Street or at the back of the court house. All are invited to attend. The public is invited to visit the club's library on Tuesday or Wed. of each week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Call (276) 231-8234 or email at carroll.va.genealogy@gmail.com.

AEP Foundation supports Appalachian youth in foster care

The American Electric Power Foundation (AEP Foundation), at the recommendation of Appalachian Power, awarded a \$25,000 grant to Comfort Cases, an international 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing hope and dignity to youth in foster care.

Comfort Cases™ are new backpacks or duffle bags filled with several essential items for children transitioning into foster care. The AEP Foundation grant will allow Comfort Cases to distribute several hundred Comfort Cases™ backpacks across Appalachian Power's three-state service territory.

"Youth in foster care want to know that number one, they have a community that loves them," said Rob Scheer, Comfort Cases founder. "That's why we give them brand new pajamas, all the toiletries they need, a book, a blanket, a stuffed animal. We want them to know we believe in them."

Funding from the AEP Foundation is making nearly 500 Comfort Cases™ possible for organizations supporting youth in foster care across Appalachian Power's service territory, including Western Regional CASA and West Virginia CASA for Children. Appalachian

Power employees from Charleston and Huntington and volunteers from both organizations spent time filling nearly 200 Comfort Cases™ with items during a Packing Party.

"I volunteered myself because the children I adopted were previously in West Virginia's foster system," Misty Clark, Appalachian Power distribution work planning manager, said. "While it was unplanned for them to volunteer with me at the Packing Party, they were excited, telling me how happy they were knowing they were helping kids like them."

"There are approximately 438,000 youth in foster care nationwide, with over 10,000 in our service area alone," said Aaron Walker, Appalachian Power president and chief operating officer. "As a company committed to helping improve the lives of those in the communities we serve, we were proud to help further the mission of Comfort Cases by working together to fill backpacks with needed items."

Additional Comfort Cases™ will be distributed to CASA4KIDS, Inc., in Kingsport, Tenn., Children's Trust in Roanoke, Va., and The Bair Foundation in southwest Virginia.



Savannah Bound

Girl Scout Troop 1302 (with 50 girls and adults) made their way to Savannah, GA from June 5-8. The main reason for the trip was for the girls to see where Girl Scouting with Juliette Low all began. The girls toured the house and also did a couple sessions in the house. Many adults took a tour of the house then all met in the courtyard for a pinning ceremony for the girls. They were pinned with a special pin they could only receive if they visited Juliette Low's house.

The next day found all meeting at Tybee Island and taking a dolphin cruise. Many dolphins were sighted as well as seeing lighthouses and enjoying many jokes with the tour guide.

Then, there were different sites to see and tours to take in Savannah

and beach time on Tybee. Also, while on Tybee, some of the girls got a closer view of the lighthouse as well as time on the beach. Then headed back in Savannah, where there were tours of the city, ghost tours, visits to the cemetery to see Juliette's gravesite, strolls along the riverside, some good food (and ice cream) throughout the city and just getting an appreciation for a new city and learning about the past.

Many thanks to the leaders for organizing the trip. Also, thanks to all who supported the scouts with buying their sales of nuts, candy and cookies. The girls returned home and will now start planning ways and events to save for their next trip with their troop.

Clinic offers free online healthcare for all Virginia

Lackey Clinic, a free and charitable healthcare center, launched its brand-new program Lackey Virtual Care—an online medical diagnosis and treatment service operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The clinic is offering it free of charge for all Virginians aged 18 years or older, no matter if they are current Lackey Clinic patients or not.

"This is a huge breakthrough," said Dr. Jill Cotel, the clinic's medical director, "because Lackey Virtual Care gives anyone the opportunity to start the process online for a doctor's visit anytime from anywhere in Virginia. This helps anyone with symptoms such as colds, fevers, dental pain, and more to have direct access to a provider without having to make an

appointment or wait in a patient waiting room. Thanks to the support of our donors to cover our current costs, we are able to provide high-quality care free of charge—saving uninsured Virginians both time and money."

Using the platform, powered by the clinic's partnership with industry leader Fabric Health, a patient starts their online visit just if they were explaining their symptoms to their doctor or nurse. One of the clinic's licensed providers reviews the information, makes a diagnosis, and creates a treatment plan.

Within four hours during the clinic's business hours (and often even within minutes) the patient receives their care plan and can select their pharmacy if a pre-

scription was given. If the provider needs more information, they can reach out to the patient via live chat or live video.

"I had a bad cough and a very sore throat for several days," said Sonia, one of the clinic's virtual care patients. "I was getting concerned and thought I should seek care. I work full-time, and it's difficult to take off from work. I got on the Lackey Virtual Care site, and it went very well. I answered the questions, and then the doctor made a video call with me so she could learn more. I was prescribed medicine, and shortly after the visit I felt better. I am grateful for the help, and I was very relieved I had somewhere to turn so quickly for care."

"Lackey Virtual Care is a gamechanger for us because it is helping us expand the impact of our mission to serve the medically disadvantaged by providing better healthcare access for more people and hopefully improving their health outcomes," Cotel said.

The clinic is a faith-based non-profit providing free and charitable healthcare to uninsured adults in Virginia. It provides a full range of high-quality healthcare services for free, including primary and specialty medical care, dental care, eye care, virtual care, free and low-cost prescriptions, behavioral health services, diabetic education, and spiritual care.

For more information, visit lackeyclinic.org.

Large receives Perry Scholarship

The 2024 Perry Family Scholarship recipient is Nathan "Nate" Andrew Large, the son of Jonathan and Joy Large. Nate's paternal grandparents are the late Roy and the very much alive Sylvia Large. Nate's maternal grandparents were Charles and Rosemary Moore. Nate's siblings are Christian Ruscelloni, Elleigh Large, and Aubreigh Large, who live on Raven Rock Road in Ararat, Virginia.

Nate is the eighth recipient of the Perry Family Scholarship started by Thomas D. "Tom" Perry to honor his parents in 2021. \$3,500 has been donated to Patrick County High School Seniors from the Dan River District, where Erie Perry taught and was Principal at Blue Ridge and Red Bank Schools. The student must author a 1,000-word essay on the historical topic of their choosing. Nate wrote about "The Civil War and Virginia's Role Within It." Tom Perry hopes to publish all the essays submitted to raise money for the scholarship.

Nate plans to study engineering at Virginia Tech. He graduated PCHS with his associate's degree from Patrick Henry Community College, where he was on the Dean's List and was a member of the Beta Club at PCHS. Boyd's Restaurant hosted Nate and Tom Perry for lunch to present the scholarship to Large, where Nate's grand-



Nate Large is pictured celebrating with Tom Perry (above), and his grandmother, Sylvia (right), at Boyd's Restaurant.

mother Sylvia joined them. Thanks to Rodney Boyd and his family for supporting the Perry Family Scholarship.

On January 22, 1889, Thomas B. and Mary Jane Barnard, Nate Large's ancestors, donated two acres of land to the North Carolina Friends or Quakers for education, a church, and a cemetery. Today, the Fellowship Church and Blue Ridge Elementary School are the descendants of that donation. It is a great honor that the Perry Family Scholarship could remember the donation by the Barnard Family by giving this year's scholarship to Nate.



Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Michael Lewis Quinn, 41, no address available, was charged May 30 with probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Griffith Coy Goodyear, 34, of Stuart, was charged June 1 with destruction of property. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Katelyn Grace Mangrum, 18, of Bassett, was charged June 1 with one count each assault and destruction of property. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Amanda Marie Webster, 38, of Lawsonville, N.C., was charged June 3 with destruction of property. Senior Deputy D. Dillon was the arresting officer.

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Natural Bridge

State Park hosts special event celebrating anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's purchase of Natural Bridge

July 5 marks 250 years since Thomas Jefferson purchased the Natural Bridge, an act that would set the stage for the 200-foot-tall natural wonder to be preserved for all to experience.

To celebrate, Natural Bridge State Park is hosting a special event on July 5, A Bridge to Revolution. Local and state officials, community leaders and historians will discuss what July 5, 1774, meant to a young Thomas Jefferson and the impact his actions had within Rockbridge County and beyond.

A Bridge to Revolution is presented by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250), Natural Bridge State Park, the

Rockbridge Historical Society and Lexington & Rockbridge Area Tourism.

The event begins at 11 a.m. with a recognition ceremony at the Bridge. Then, Fourth of July cook-out-style food will be available for purchase at the Cedar Creek Pavilion starting at noon. Ranger-led programs and presentations by historians and art historians will follow at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the Bridge and visitor center.

For the general public, A Bridge to Revolution is free to attend with the purchase of admission to the Bridge. Admission on July 5 will be discounted by \$2. You can learn more about the event at virginia-stateparks.gov/va250. For more information, please call the park at (540) 254-0795.

Branch Group expands in NC through acquisition

Branch Group, Inc. (Branch), a heavy-highway and building contractor headquartered in Roanoke, Va., has announced the acquisition purchase of Burnsville, N.C.-based Young & McQueen, a contractor specializing in heavy civil, highway, site work, bridges, and structures construction. The 37-year-old contracting firm was founded by Sam and Kim Young, who wanted to transition the business to employee-ownership. The Youngs are local entrepreneurs and have other holdings that were not part of this sale.

Entry into the western region of North Carolina has been a strategic priority for Branch. The growth of programs in the region and its proximity to both its headquarters in Roanoke, Va., and current work in central North Carolina allows Branch to better serve its current customers and reach into new markets.

"This is a great move for both companies," said Branch CEO Donald Graul. "Young & McQueen's culture aligns perfectly with Branch. Their strong reputation and work quality in western North Carolina will continue the suc-

cess of both companies. Branch's strong balance sheet and expertise in large projects and alternative delivery will enable our combined companies to perform larger more complex projects for our clients."

Branch is an employee-owned company and was recently ranked number 172 on Engineering News & Record's Top 400 Contractors list. For decades, Branch has had a transportation foothold in eastern and central North Carolina and has delivered award-winning projects such as Jamestown Parkway in Highpoint, CF Harvey Parkway in Kinston, US 17 Maysville Bypass in Craven and Jones counties, and is currently building the I-295 outer loop in Fayetteville, and Triangle's Interstate 540, segments A&B.

Young & McQueen will be integrated into Branch operations and will continue to execute current contracts and pursue new work out of the Burnsville, N.C., office. Branch brings extensive design-build expertise, safe and modern heavy equipment programs, and will expand the number of services offered to clients and partners in the region.

Initial unemployment filings decline

The 1,998 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending June 01, 2024, is 3.3 percent lower than last week's 2,066 claims and 13.8 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,317), according to Virginia Works. Nearly 82 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (63 percent) were Accommodation and Food Services (213); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (193); Health Care and Social Assistance (182); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (165); and Retail Trade (143).

Continued weeks claims (15,923) were 0.1 percent higher than last week (15,907) and were 25.5 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,685). 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 (2,410); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,188); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,489); Retail Trade (1,335); and Manufacturing (1,293).

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.

Wheat tour reveals promising crop progress

Grain buyers, mill representatives and Virginia Cooperative Extension staff got a firsthand look at Virginia's wheat quality and yield potential during an annual spring tour on May 30.

Organized by Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Extension, this year's tour participants visited 12 farms across the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. Buyers, end users and others in the industry reviewed wheat production practices, estimated yield quality, sampled test weights and checked for signs of disease.

This is the ninth year that Virginia fields were included in the multi-state Mid-Atlantic wheat tour, which also surveys farms in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Designed to offer stakeholders an idea of what to expect from this year's crop to assist with purchasing and milling decisions, the tour also promotes relationships between buyers and farmers.

"We try to bring the industry people together, get the buyers out to the farms to see what they have the chance to buy, and show off all the good work our members have been doing since October," said Robert Harper, VFBF grain division manager.

He noted that this year's tour revealed adequate conditions and minimal disease. The yield is estimated to average 60-65 bushels per acre in the Middle Peninsula and 70-75 on the Northern Neck.

Projected yields are down from

last year's record-high ones because a vast majority of wheat farmers cut back on their acres this season while others left the market entirely due to lack of potential profitability—continuing a 30-year trend in Virginia.

"The surprising part was how dramatic the drop in acres was as producers responded to the low futures price and grappled with the difficulty of growing milling-quality wheat in Virginia," Harper explained.

Last year, growers contended with excessive rainfall leading up to the June harvest, which resulted in lower-quality wheat—taking a "significant amount of price off the table."

The tour showcases the costs and challenges associated with raising wheat as a "pat on the back" to growers.

"Our hope is that by doing our small part of bringing people together around the wheat crop, that maybe we can generate enthusiasm among the producers to keep producing it," Harper added.

Virginia farmers expect to harvest 7.19 million bushels of winter wheat this year, according to the Virginia field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. That forecast represents a 33% decrease when compared to the 2023 harvest. Wheat growers seeded 155,000 acres last fall; 100,000 acres will be harvested for grain, and the other 55,000 acres will be used as cover crop or will be cut for silage or hay.

Student Briefs

John Dellenback and Rachel Michelle Russo, both of Ararat, were among students named to Surry Community College's (SCC's) President's List. Students qualifying for the President's List must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours of college level coursework and maintain a 3.8 grade point average for the semester with no final grade lower than a "C." Students on the President's List receive a congratulatory letter.

Joel Gutierrez-Vargas, of Ararat, was named to SCC's Dean's List, which honors those students who achieve significant academic status in their classes. Students qual-

ifying for the Dean's List must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours of college level coursework and maintain a 3.5 grade point average for the semester with no final grade lower than a "C." Students on the Dean's List will also receive a congratulatory letter.

Shae Ashleigh Cardwell, of Stuart, received a master's degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement ceremonies held May 4, 2024, on the UT Martin campus in Martin, Tennessee. Some 600 students participated in UTM's spring commencement ceremonies.

One charged in connection with death

The Craig County Sheriff's Office and Craig County Emergency Medical Services responded to a residence on Sage Brush Lane in New Castle for the report of an unresponsive 4-month-old baby on June 3. When EMS arrived, they found the child was deceased. The child's remains were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Western District for examination.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined that the cause of death was a homicide and contacted the Craig County Sheriff's Office with the findings.

At the request of Sheriff Craddock on June 5, the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Salem Division, began the investigation into the homicide.

Also on June 5, the Virginia State Police arrested Trevian Demalle Carruth, 26, of Francisville, LA and charged him with second degree murder.

Carruth was processed by the Craig County Sheriff's Office and was charged with possession of a controlled substance. He was transported to the Botetourt County Jail, where he was held without bond.

The incident remains under investigation.



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PATRICK PULPITS

Everyone needs hope

Dr. Glenn Mollette

There is much you and I can't do anything about.

If you live, you can't stop aging. The only way to stop aging is to die.

We can't make ourselves younger. The eighteen-year-old may wish to be a few years older for various reasons. Once you turn nineteen you can't go back to eighteen. You can look young for a long time but looking young and actually being young are two different things.

There are many illnesses you can't do much about. You can see the finest doctors in the country and obtain the latest medications and procedures, but they aren't always a silver bullet for health. Cancers have a way of invading and growing in spite of the best treatments. Multiple sclerosis has a way of being relentless in attacking the body. Dementia has a way of robbing a person slowly of his or her health.

Hope keeps us going. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "I know the plans I have for you declares The Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." The passage was written to thousands of Jewish people exiled to Babylon under the siege of Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C... The writer of the words was giving the people a word of encouragement, help and hope to not give up but to keep living life and to go forward with their lives in spite of their circumstances. Things would eventually change, and they would return to their homeland but it would be seventy years before it would occur.

It's not easy to go forward in spite of the circumstances. We often face challenges that cause us to lose hope. When we lose hope, we give up. The smallest ray of hope keeps us going. We hold on to that small ray of sun-

shine hoping for a breakthrough. Every day, sick people hope that the latest chemo or radiation treatment will bring some relief, extension of life, and maybe a little better quality of life. The hope keeps them trying one more time.

When we have a little bit of hope, we are willing to get up in the morning. When we have hope, we are willing to try a little longer.

People lose hope in their health. They lose hope in people. They lose hope in their marriages or families. People lose hope in their jobs or careers and try something else or just quit altogether.

The will to keep seeking answers, searching for a cure, or a reason to stay committed depends on one key factor. Is there any hope? Sometimes hope comes from the doctor who says, "We won't give up. We will try something else." Often the hope comes from some discovery we have made online. Maybe we have done our own research and come up with some answers. Maybe the hope has come from a person who has assured us of their love and devotion.

Many years ago, the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah had a word for God's people. The word was his message from God to them. The message was a coming prosperity, hope, and a future. Everyone needs some of this today regardless of who you are. I hope in the months ahead that you can see some financial breakthroughs in your life. That your inner being is filled with optimism and that you feel there is some future for you in this world.

May this be true for us all.
Learn More about Mollette's books, columns and music at GlennMollette.Com. Enjoy his music on Facebook at Glenn Mollette Music

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of 2 Samuel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 1 Corinthians 16, on which day did Paul tell believers to put aside money for their offerings? First, Third, Fifth, Sabbath
3. Which book begins, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly"? Judges, Ruth, Ezra, Psalms
4. What was Matthew's occupation before becoming a disciple? Tentmaker, Tax collector, Fisherman, Shepherd
5. In Esther 2, who foiled a plot to assassinate King Ahasuerus? Neco, Amaziah, Mordecai, Joshua
6. What did Ruth and Boaz name their son? Obed, Hushai, Abner, Jehu

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) First, 3) Psalms, 4) Tax collector, 5) Mordecai, 6) Obed
 "Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.
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Many veterans unaware of eligible housing benefits, survey shows

Edwin J. Viera

Virginia News Connection

A recent survey showed Virginia and other U.S. veterans are unaware of housing benefits to which they are entitled.

AARP's survey found 60% of veterans 45 and older did not know about the availability of Department of Veterans Affairs grants to modify their homes. Almost a quarter of them need financial assistance to make necessary modifications to age in place.

Philisa Johnson, associate state director of community outreach for AARP Virginia, said the programs are not well known because some veterans did not realize how service may affect the later years of their lives.

"You know if you're discharging at 25, 28, let's say if you were on the younger end, you may say, 'Well I feel fine, I don't have any hearing loss at that time. You know, I don't have PTSD.'" Johnson explained "Effects are not apparent at that time. It's a lot of different reasons, so they might have just discharged and not even felt or knew that something was going on with their bodies."

To help veterans learn more about these programs, AARP launched the Veterans Home

Modification Benefits Guide. It provides information on the millions of dollars in funding available to help veterans and service members buy, build, or modify their homes. A Facebook Live event will be held June 7 to answer questions about the guide.

Other survey findings showed 91% of veterans surveyed said it is important for them to age in place if they need long-term care. More than half of caregivers said bathroom modifications are necessary to continue providing care. Johnson pointed out the programs also benefit veterans' caregivers.

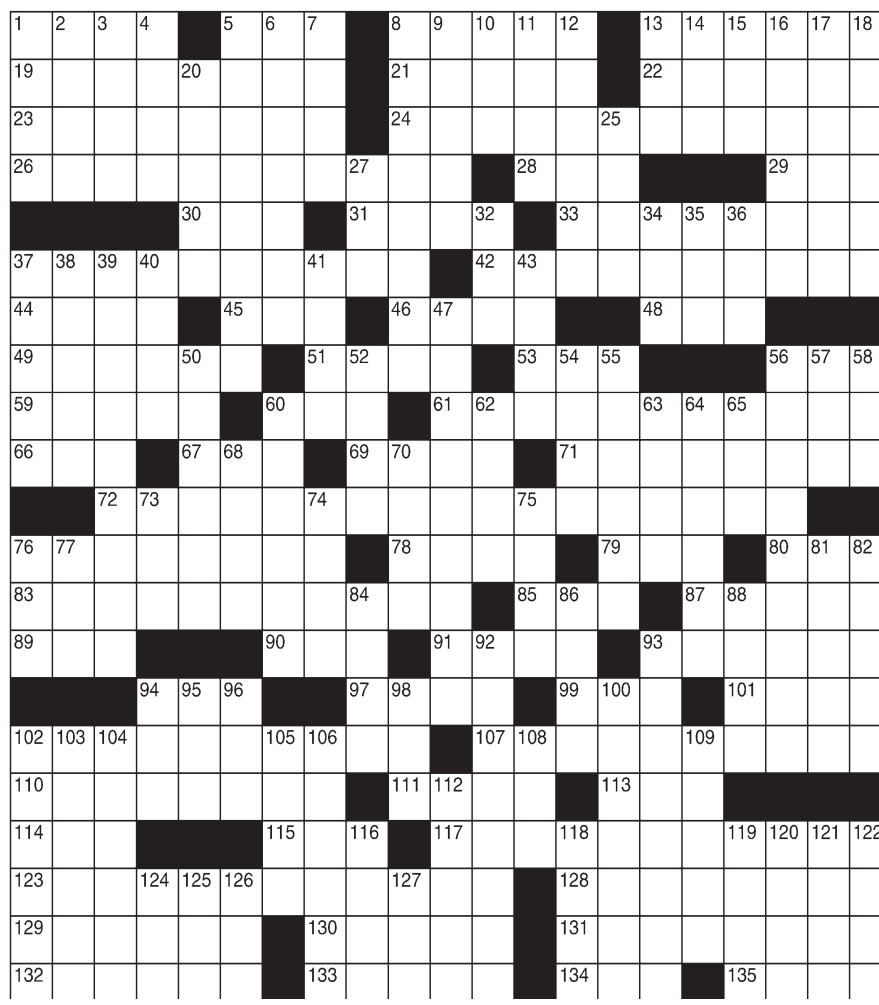
"Let's say your mother moves in with you, and in order for her to age in place, she may need to make modifications to your living space," Johnson outlined. "You as the caregiver can apply for some of this funding to make modifications to your home for a family member."

Almost half of veterans, aged 45 and older, need bathroom modifications to age in place or provide care for a loved one at home. This helps caregivers since research finds family caregivers of veterans spent an average of \$11,500 on caregiving, up from a 2021 figure of around \$7,200.

Super Crossword

SUITABLE ACTIVITIES

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 46 Waterproof canvas cover | 90 Lead-in to glottis or Pen | 135 Agenda unit | 38 "Heaven help —!" | 81 Deficient |
| 1 Saudi, say | 48 — out an existence | 91 Stadium level | DOWN | 39 Security ticker symbol | 82 Donkeys |
| 5 Raptors' gp. | 49 Founder of Taoism | 93 Employed for the purpose of | 1 Jewish month | 40 "Ciao!" | 84 Sow's sound |
| 8 In a stupor | 51 Hair removal brand | 94 "Help us!" | 2 Totally fix up | 41 "... — baked a cake" | 86 Opera song |
| 13 GMC cross-over SUV model | 53 Gmail | 97 Light in signs | 3 With, in Paris | 43 On — with | 88 Lima's land |
| 19 Reduces the worth of | 55 Competitor | 99 "Son of," in 1-Across names | 4 Pitcher's goof | 47 Takes care of | 92 Very troubled |
| 21 Lead-in to a bit of bad news | 56 Teensy | 101 Russo of "Big Trouble" | 5 Pain in the neck | 50 Ancient Greek city | 93 Opened, as a wine bottle |
| 22 What "I" and "y" are, for short | 59 Yosemite peak, in brief | 102 Architect Gehry speaks? | 6 Accessory for a meal fit for a queen? | 52 Morales of "Rapa Nui" | 94 — cone |
| 23 Capital of South Australia | 60 "... — my brother" | 107 Singer Aiken wows someone? | 7 Far offshore | 54 Baseball's Hershiser | 95 Approved |
| 24 Actress Dennis leaps? | 61 Quarterback Bradshaw dries himself off? | 110 Helicopter or glider | 8 Mild aversion | 55 Greek harp player of yore | 96 Sow's home |
| 26 Boxer Marciano begins? | 66 Reindeer king | 111 Whittle down | 9 Make — buck | 56 "Crawling" internet bot | 98 Psychic skill |
| 28 — Canals | 67 Jurists' org. | 113 Lovey | 10 Buddhist branch | 57 Kay-em link | 100 From memory |
| 29 Thurman of film | 69 Emmy winner Baldwin | 114 Tatty cloth | 11 Actor George of "CSI" | 58 Ending for Peking | 102 Outrageous comedies |
| 30 Saloon | 71 Like whiteboards | 115 "-ology" kin | 12 Dehydrate | 60 Pain in the neck | 103 Rise on the hind legs |
| 31 "I could — horse!" | 72 Actor Slater goes on vacation? | 117 Dancer Rogers loses control? | 13 iPhone extra | 62 Cave effect | 104 Sock pattern |
| 33 Newspaper based in McLean, Va. | 76 Most thickset | 123 Singer Gayle plays tenpins? | 14 Freeway sight | 63 "Look what I just did!" | 105 Indigo dye |
| 37 Racing driver Wallace does some hammering? | 78 Huge hero | 128 Niagara River source | 15 Actress Meyers | 64 Missouri tribespeople | 106 Sappho's Greek island |
| 42 Singer Benatar replies? | 79 Sink down for short | 129 Oration of adulation | 16 Make bare | 65 System | 108 Writer Deighton |
| 44 This, in Lima | 83 Comedian Buttons gains a lot of weight? | 130 10th-century German king | 17 Filmmaker Bergman | 68 Jessica of "7th Heaven" | 109 Opening |
| 45 Dancer Charisse | 85 "True —!" ("Yep!") | 131 Ester in plastics | 18 Analyzes | 70 Reclined | 112 Shining |
| | 87 Heroic tales | 132 Money in the form of coins | 20 Put away for the future | 73 Wheel center | 116 Closet pest |
| | 89 Ending for duct or infant | 133 Reveals | 25 Slugger Sammy | 74 Sporty auto roof | 118 Pasty stuff |
| | | 134 JFK guess | 27 Islam, e.g.: Abbr. | 75 Ye — Shoppe | 119 Classic soda brand |
| | | | 32 Fourth mo. | 76 — Lankan | 120 "I smell —!" |
| | | | 34 Meth- ending | 77 Phone no. | 121 Fir relative |
| | | | 35 "Bad boy!" | | 122 Appear |
| | | | 36 Have debts | | 124 Part of SSN: Abbr. |
| | | | 37 Gen. at Gettysburg | | 125 — Fridays |
| | | | | | 126 Vote in favor |
| | | | | | 127 Global commerce gp. |



Puzzle answers page 13

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College Access Collaborative shows Patrick County high schoolers 'what college can be'

On a rainy morning in April, Patrick County High School senior Nathaniel Whitaker clambered down the steps of a school bus and set foot on a university campus for the first time.

He and about 15 classmates looked around and marveled at the buildings clad in glistening Hokie Stone before making their way to meet with faculty, alumni, and students from the Pamplin College of Business' top-ranked Howard Feiertag Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

"Virginia Tech is beautiful and also very big," Whitaker said. "But most of all, being on campus definitely has opened my eyes to what college can be."

He and the other students were touring Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus as part of the university's College Access Collaborative, a department within Enrollment Management that aims to increase academic preparation for and access and affordability to college for underserved and underrepresented students.

Sarah Wray, who organized the tour, said Nathaniel's experience is not uncommon among high schoolers in Patrick County, about an hour south of Blacksburg.

"Plenty of rural high school students are blazing trails as the first in their families to aim for college," said Wray, who leads community engagement efforts at the Reynolds Homestead, part of Outreach and International Affairs, and is also the College Access Collaborative's regional outreach coordinator. "Students like Nathaniel might never have even stepped foot on a campus before. It's not about lack of interest, but more about the distance and the unfamiliarity, leaving them to carve their career paths without those campus tours," she said.

Patrick County has some of the highest on-time high school graduation rates in Virginia, at 92 percent. However, it also has some of the lowest rates of students who go on to pursue postsecondary education, at just 28.8 percent, lagging far behind the state average of nearly 60 percent.

Since 2014, Wray has been working to change that.

"We have a high rate of potential first-generation college students who need additional awareness and knowledge of how the higher education process works. Many of these students are facing barriers such as a lack of reliable transportation or the inability to take time off from work. That combined with the distance they must travel makes attending campus tours difficult," she said.

The Reynolds Homestead's work with the community and local schools sets a solid foundation for a college



Since 2014, Sarah Wray has been helping high schoolers from rural Patrick County and the surrounding region to find a pathway to higher education through her community engagement work at the Reynolds Homestead and as a regional outreach coordinator for the College Access Collaborative. Photo courtesy of Sarah Wray.

access program in the region. For more than 50 years, the homestead has been helping the university fulfill its land-grant mission by helping the community identify and address needs and serving as a gateway to the vast resources of Virginia Tech.

In 2014, Wray started taking interested high schoolers in groups of 14 — the number that would fit in the Reynolds Homestead's bus — on college campus tours. Meanwhile, she built a partnership with a local company to fund a yearly trip to Blacksburg for Patrick County ninth graders. In 2016, when Virginia Tech launched the College Access Collaborative, Wray became an outreach coordinator, aligning the Reynolds Homestead's work with the larger university initiative and bringing more investment and services — and therefore a greater impact — to the region.

The collaborative has had measurable success in creating a pathway to college for first-generation, underrepresented, and underserved high schoolers. Applications to Virginia Tech from the collaborative's 24 partner high schools have risen 134 percent, while enrollments from accepted students soared by 78 percent. Meanwhile, its initiatives are reflected in Virginia Tech's more than 30,000 undergraduate students, of whom 36.8 percent identify as underrepresented or underserved.

In addition to college visits, the collaborative educates students and their families about financial aid, helps with the application process, and provides fee waivers. VT GPS, a new multiyear collaborative effort to recruit and retain students who have demonstrated financial need, will include not only outreach to high schoolers, but also STEM tutoring and financial and academic support for students as they transition to college.

"In the spirit of our motto, Ut Prosim



The University Club at Virginia Tech's general manager, Ali Halatayi (at far right), and executive chef, Scott Watson (at far left), talk with hospitality and culinary arts students from Patrick County High School, including Nathaniel Whitaker (center), during a tour of the Blacksburg campus. Photo by Diane Deffenbaugh for Virginia Tech.

(That I May Serve), and our identity as a land-grant institution, it is most important to serve students and families throughout the commonwealth — especially students who are from underserved communities and are underrepresented in higher education and whose access to information and resources to best prepare for postsecondary education may be limited," said Mary Grace Campos, College Access Collaborative director. "We know from research that postsecondary education leverages social capital for students — not only in terms of employment and salary earnings, but also in terms of health and civic engagement. That social capital is directly aligned with our university mission to be an inclusive community of knowledge, discovery, and creativity dedicated to improving the quality of life and the human condition within the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout the world."

For teachers, the collaborative offers continuing education units through workshops and other trainings that help educators better prepare their students for the rigors of college.

"Our work directly supports Virginia Tech Advantage, a commitment to offer a broad educational experience to undergraduate students from Virginia who have financial need," Wray said. "By partnering with communities that typically graduate a lower number of college-bound high school students, we are bringing the opportunity to consider college as a realistic next step to students who otherwise may not have thought it was an option."

Connecting interests to careers

On this trip, the Patrick County students met with professors, alumni, current students, and hospitality professionals working on campus at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, including hospitality and tourism management alumni Hillary Simpson '22,

who is the inn's conference planning manager, and General Manager Damon Strickland '99.

They also visited the University Club of Virginia Tech, where they met Executive Chef Scott Watson, Director of Restaurants Sheldon Mooney, and general manager Ali Halatayi to learn about the ins and outs of managing a members-only club.

Tom Duetsch, assistant head of the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management gave an overview of the program and the many career paths available to graduates. "Our hospitality and tourism management students don't just understand hospitality but also how to lead. This is a career that can take them around the world or back to their hometowns," he said.

The goal is to give the high schoolers a way to start thinking about their interests and connect them to careers available right at home that they may not have considered before. Some students were doing just that. Nathaniel, for example, said he had never thought about how data analytics are used in the hospitality and tourism industry, such as when setting hotel room rates.

For Wray, that lightbulb moment was a big win.

"Helping students understand that they've got opportunities — regardless of the circumstances at home, regardless of money, regardless of any other barrier that might be in the way — and giving them the information they need to decide for themselves is life-changing."

Supporting college access for all

Wray is a first-generation college student from Patrick County herself and is finishing her master's degree in urban and regional planning from the School of Public and International Affairs. She has a special understanding of the barriers many rural students face.

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FOR PUBLIC NOTICE:
The Town of Stuart will hold a Planning Commission Meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Stuart Town Office, located at 100 Patrick Avenue. The Stuart Planning Commission will consider a property rezoning request and other business.

Those that are interested in providing comment to the Planning Commission, but are unable to attend, please contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager by phone at (276) 694-3811 or by email at bryce.simmons@stuartva.org.

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL21000281-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
PATRICK CIRCUIT COURT

101 W. BLUE RIDGE STREET/PO BOX 148, STUART, VA 24171
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* MICHAEL DEANGELO HAIRSTON

The object of this suit is to:
GIVE NOTICE TO DEFENDANT FOR HEARING AUGUST 26, 2024 AT 3:00 PM

It is ORDERED that MICHAEL DEANGELO HAIRSTON appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before AUGUST 26, 2024.

JUNE 4, 2024

[Signature]
Clerk

Meetings

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

Tuesday, June 18
 The Patrick County Planning Commission will hold its regular business meeting at 6 p.m. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the Patrick County Board of Supervisors. The meeting will be held at the Patrick County School Board Administration Building, 132 N. Main St., Stuart.

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

Events

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 to all attendees. Attendees are requested to bring side dishes and/or desserts to share with the group.

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

Fairy Stone State Park has several events planned:

Whiskey Run Hike, 8:30 a.m. at Iron Mine Parking Lot; Fairy Stone Hunt, 11:30 a.m. at Visitors Center; Turtle Time, 1 p.m. at Visitor Center and 'Who Made Those Tracks While You Slept?' 3 p.m. at Shelter 4.

Friday, June 14
 Fairy Stone State Park has several events planned:

Moonshine Hollow Hike, 10 a.m. at the Visitor Center; Fairy Stone Hunt, 12:30 p.m., Visitors Center; ADA Trail Hike, 1:15 p.m. (reservation required); Fayerdale: The Missing Town, 2:30 p.m., Shelter 4; Native Plants and Pollinators, 4 p.m. at Shelter 4; Canoeing with Ghosts, 8 p.m., Beach Breezeway.

Saturday, June 15
 Fairy Stone State Park has several events planned:

Old Hickory Trail, 10 a.m., Shelter 4; Fairy Stone Hunt, noon, Visitors Center; Turtle Time, 1 p.m., Visitor Center; Fairy Stone Workshop, 2 p.m., Shelter 4; Magic Trees, 3 p.m., Shelter 4; CSI: Creek Scene Investigation, 4:30 p.m., Shelter 4; Coyote: The Newcomer, 8 p.m., Shelter 4.

Sunday, June 16
 Fairy Stone State Park has several events planned:

Moonshine Hollow Hike, 10 a.m., Visitor Center; Fairy Stone Hunt, noon, Visitors Center; Moonshine Murders, 2:30 p.m., Shelter 4; Insect Safari, 4 p.m., Shelter 4; Nature's Invaders, 5 p.m., Shelter 4.

Monday, June 17
 Fairy Stone State Park has several events planned:

Woodland Mindfulness, 10 a.m., Shelter 3; Fairy Stone Hunt, noon, Visitors Center; Monday Market, 5-7 p.m., Shelters 3 & 4.

Wednesday, June 19
 Fairy Stone State Park has several events planned:

Stuart's Knob Hike, 8:30 a.m., Iron Mine Parking Lot; Fairy Stone Hunt, noon, Visitors Center; Moonshine Murders, 2:30 p.m., Shelter 4.

Thursday, June 20
 The Patrick County Republican Committee meeting will be at 6 p.m. in the Motorsports Hall of Fame Auditorium.

Friday, June 21
 The community food pantry will be at the Fairy Stone VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 22
 Virginia DWR will hold a 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 dinner served nightly for children. Songs, crafts, games, and Bible lessons and a family fun night on Wednesday, June 26. 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.

Thursday, July 4
 The Bluegrass and Old Time Music Competition will be held at the Vesta Community Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If it rains the competition will be held on July 5. Bring your own lawn chairs and join the celebration, as well as banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bands, vocals, and flat footing competitions - each with three levels: children, teen, and adult. Everyone is welcome to compete, but must be signed in by 12 p.m. There will also be a quilt show by the Mountain Top Quilters. Hotdogs, BBQ, lemonade, soft drinks, and dessert will be for sale.

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.

Virginia to exit California Electric Vehicle Mandate at end of year

The California electric vehicle mandate is ending in Virginia, effectively at the end of this year when California's current regulations expire, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said last week.

An official opinion from Attorney General Jason Miyares in response to a request by the Governor and Senate Republican Leader Ryan McDougle confirms that Virginia is not required to comply with expansive new mandates adopted by the unelected California Air Resources Board (CARB) set to take effect January 1, 2025.

"Once again, Virginia is declaring independence - this time from a misguided electric vehicle mandate imposed by unelected leaders nearly 3,000 miles away from the Commonwealth," said Youngkin. "The idea that government should tell people what kind of car they can or can't purchase is fundamentally wrong. Virginians deserve the freedom to choose which vehicles best fit the needs of their families and businesses. The law is clear, and I am

proud to announce Virginians will no longer be forced to live under this out-of-touch policy."

"Today, I've issued an official Attorney General Opinion that confirms that Virginians are no longer legally bound to follow the emission standards of California," said Miyares. "EV mandates like California's are unworkable and out of touch with reality, and thankfully the law does not bind us to their regulations. California does not control which cars Virginians buy and any thoughts that automobile manufacturers should face millions of dollars in civil penalties rather than allowing our citizens to choose their own vehicles is completely absurd."

In 2021, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation authorizing Virginia's Air Board to adopt California's "Advanced Clean Cars I" regulation pursuant to Section 177 of the federal Clean Air Act. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) recently adopted "Advanced Clean Cars II," set to take effect January 1, 2025, which would require 100% of new cars sold in Model Year 2035 to be electric vehicles. An opinion from Attorney General Jason Miyares confirms the law, as written, does not require Virginia to follow ACC II. Therefore, the Commonwealth will follow federal emissions standards on January 1, 2025.

"Throughout CARB's 'Advanced Clean Cars II' regulation are references to California Governor

Gavin Newsom's executive orders and the unique environmental circumstances facing California. Virginia's laws should not be determined by California politicians. Instead, our laws should be decided by Virginians who are elected to serve Virginia and address issues that face our Commonwealth, not a state nearly 3,000 miles away," said McDougle, who co-patroned legislation to repeal CARB's mandate during this year's legislative session along with Sens. Richard Stuart and John McGuire, and Dels. Lee Ware, Tony Wilt, and Buddy Fowler.

Under Advanced Clean Cars II, beginning in Model Year 2026, 35% of the new cars sold would have been required to be electric vehicles, moving up to 100% in 2035. If an auto manufacturer sells a standard automobile out of compliance with California's mandate, they may be required to pay a fine upwards of \$20,000 per vehicle sold. Given that EVs only amounted to 9% of vehicles sold in Virginia in 2023, application of the misguided mandates could have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in penalties. Virginia auto consumers and dealers could be forced to bear these costs. Not only would this leave auto dealers with less money to pay staff, offer raises, and grow their businesses, it could force many small auto dealers to permanently close their doors.

Weekly SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

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Report shows VA seniors' physical, behavioral health declines

Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

A new report showed Virginia's older residents face worsening physical and behavioral health and looks at the possible reasons.

The America's Health Rankings Senior Report finds Virginia has seen sweeping declines in behavioral health and health outcomes of its older population. It said 38% more seniors in the Commonwealth are in "frequent mental distress," which mirrors a national trend.

Dr. Rhonda Randall, chief medical officer and executive vice president of UnitedHealthcare Employer and Individual, said economic factors are also worsening and may be at least partly

to blame.

"We see some challenges in some economic measures like poverty, in worsening housing cost burden," Randall outlined. "More seniors saying that they have food insecurity, that they're worried about getting access to food."

The report also showed some bright spots, including a national increase in senior health care providers. Virginia also has seen an increase in home health care workers. Randall noted unpaid family caregivers boost the state's services but need support.

In 2023, the General Assembly considered a bill to establish a tax credit of up to \$1,000 for eligible family caregiving expenses, but it failed in committee.

The report found Virginia has improved

the quality of care for seniors with increases in cancer screening and flu and pneumonia vaccinations for people 65 and older. Randall emphasized a national increase in high-speed internet access also benefits people in the senior age group.

"Eighty-five percent of seniors in our country have access to high-speed internet," Randall noted. "This is significant because it helps us connect with our family and our friends. It helps us connect with our health care providers, whenever we need to see a doctor or access care remotely."

But as high-speed internet use increases, so do internet crimes. The report showed the percentage of online scams reported by Virginians was slightly higher than the national average of almost 11%.

Several named in indictments

Grand jurors handed down more than 40 indictments on June 3, according to records in the Patrick County Court Clerk's Office.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt, but a grand jury's determination that enough evidence exists to warrant a trial.

Those named in the indictments are:

*Jody Wayne Adkins, Jr., 23, of Stuart, elude, October 13, 2023.

*Teresa Lynette O'Neal, 50, of Rocky Mount, drive under the influence (DUI) after being convicted of a felony DUI, May 6, 2023.

*Everton Campbell, 60, of Ararat, malicious wounding, November 19, 2023.

*Felton Lewis Mayfield, Jr., 44, of Bassett, grand larceny, September 14, 2023.

*Tisice Lorriane Blankenship, 53, of Stuart, elude law enforcement, December 23, 2023.

*Dionte Morris Nowlin, 22, of Stuart, elude, January 31.

*Jason Jarmain Younger, 39, of Stuart, one count each unauthorized use of vehicle and petty larceny, December 18, 2023.

*Taylor Lynn Bowman, 25, of Martinsville, one count each grand larceny of a motor vehicle and possession of Schedule I or II drugs, January 6-7.

*David Travis Walker, 23, of Patrick Springs, domestic assault and batter - 3rd or subsequent offense, December 10, 2023.

*Jakeyse Tychon Bostick, 23, of Collinsville, one count each forgery and uttering, September 29, 2023.

*Nyzah Antonio Bradley, 22, of Martinsville, one count each uttering and forgery, October 3, 2023.

*Logan Eugene Beville, 25, of Stuart, three counts grand larceny, two counts burglary, and one count each attempted grand larceny of a motor vehicle, possession with intent to distribute 28 grams or more of methamphetamine, and possession with intent to distribute, December 20, 2023 through December 24, 2023.

*Deborah Lee Dipasquale, 69, of Patrick Springs, drive while intoxicated - 3rd offense within 5 years, January 15.

*Jadakiss Finney-Martin, 21, of Martinsville, one count each uttering and forgery, September 29, 2023.

*Michael David Knox, 44, of Ararat, prisoner - tamper/disable fire suppression equipment, December 11, 2023.

*Vershonda Tamika Renne Lewis, 40, of Martinsville, one count each identity fraud and obtain money by false pretense, credit card fraud, conspiracy commit credit card fraud, and false statement to obtain credit, on or between December 1, 2023 and February 29, 2024.

*Kevin Allen Robinson, 34, of Ararat, unlawful wounding, November 25, 2023.

*Carl Danny Shelhorse, Jr., 51, of Bassett, unauthorized use of vehicle, December 30, 2023.

*Oscar Eduardo Vidrio, 31, of Floyd, one count each drive while intoxicated maiming and drive while intoxicated maiming with victim permanently impaired, December 16, 2023.

*David Travis Walker, one count each armed burglary, and use of a firearm in commission of a felony, December 10, 2023.

*Dustin Lee Lawson, 24, of Spencer, two counts each use of a firearm in the commission of felony and maliciously shoot at an occupied vehicle, and one count each wearing body armor while committing crime, malicious wounding, attempt to commit attempted aggravated murder, attempted 1st degree murder, and maliciously shoot in occupied dwelling, January 15.

*Jenny Marie Holt, 42, of Lawsonville, N.C., possession of Schedule I or II drug, July 13, 2022.

*Darehyon Monte Rucker, 22, of Martinsville, one count each uttering and forgery, October 9, 2023.

*James Michael Terry, Jr., 38, of Stuart, elude, July 26, 2023.

*Betsy Lynn Irvin, 37, of Stuart, one count each forgery, uttering, and grand larceny, on or between July 23, 2023 and March 26, 2024.

*Christopher Lee Rhodes, 41, of Stuart, identity fraud and conspiracy to commit credit card fraud, on or between December 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024.

*Tiffany Ann Younes, 43, of Stuart, three counts each uttering and forgery, on or between August 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023.

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

Super Crossword
Answers

A	R	A	B	N	B	A	D	A	Z	E	D	A	C	A	D	I	A			
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			S	O	S		N	E	O	N	I	B	N	R	E	N	E			
F	R	A	N	K	T	A	L	K	S	C	L	A	Y	C	O	U	R	T	S	
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Order will establish data sharing protocols to voter list maintenance

Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order 31 to strengthen Virginia's voter rolls and ensure better data accuracy. This initiative builds on the administration's robust improvements to list maintenance, including establishing one-to-one data-sharing agreements with seven states, conducting two National Change of Address mailings, and streamlining the process for removing deceased voters through an audit of Virginia deceased records.

Executive Order 31 will require the Department of Elections to update data-sharing agreements with several state agencies within 90 days. Additionally, it establishes an interagency work group to improve the quality and security of voter registration data. Based on the work group's recommendations, the Department of Elections will develop and review data-sharing standards for list maintenance processing.

"I am issuing this Executive Order to ensure

the accurate, transparent, and reliable use of data among state agencies, aiming to achieve best-in-class voter list maintenance processes for the Commonwealth," said Youngkin. "As we transition to a new statewide voter registration system, it is imperative that every state agency provides accurate and valid data. This Executive Order continues our improvements to list maintenance processes, providing a reliable election system for voters."

Warner among those calling for fentanyl testing in ERs

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) cosponsored Tyler's Law, a bill directing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide hospitals with guidance on how emergency rooms can implement fentanyl testing in their routine drug screens. The bill is named for Tyler Shamash, a teenager who died of an overdose in part because — unbeknownst to the physician — he was not tested for fentanyl upon being checked into the emergency room.

"We know fentanyl is deadlier than other substances. After hearing that a Fairfax County teenager's family had to learn from the medical examiner after his death instead of when he was alive in the emergency room that he was experiencing a fentanyl overdose, I'm proud to cosponsor Tyler's Law," said Warner. "While this law will never bring back Malcolm Kent, Tyler Shamash, or the thousands we've lost too soon to overdoses, in their memory I am glad to push to save more lives by instituting more robust guidance on testing for fentanyl during a suspected overdose."

In January 2023, Malcolm Kent, a 17-year-old Fairfax County resident, went to the emergency room while experiencing an overdose but was not tested for fentanyl. He died of a fentanyl overdose shortly after being discharged. His mother, Thurraya Kent, has advocated for robust measures to test for fentanyl in emergency rooms and expand access to treatment.

Tyler's Law would direct the Secretary of HHS to:

Complete a study to determine how frequently emergency rooms are currently testing for fentanyl when patients come in for an overdose, as well as the associated costs and benefits/risks, and

Issue guidance to hospitals on implementing fentanyl testing in emergency rooms.

In 2022, 1,967 Virginians died due to overdose of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, accounting for nearly 79% of all drug overdose deaths in Virginia. Nationally, fentanyl and other synthetic opioids were responsible for just over 63% of all drug overdose deaths that year. Since the start of the COVID pandem-

ic, fentanyl has more than doubled overdose deaths among children ages 12 to 17.

Warner has consistently pushed for robust action to address the opioid epidemic, particularly by expanding telehealth so more Virginians experiencing substance use disorder can access treatment. He leads the TREATS Act, which would permanently (and without any special registration) allow telehealth prescribing of controlled substances to treat opioid use disorder, such as buprenorphine. He also repeatedly pushed the DEA to preserve pandemic-era telehealth flexibilities and create a special registration so that quality providers can permanently prescribe controlled substances safely via telehealth. To address trafficking, he recently celebrated passage of the FEND Off Fentanyl Act, a sanctions and anti-money laundering law that targets fentanyl traffickers. He also introduced the Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act, legislation that would increase staffing capacity and technology to detect drugs that are being smuggled through points of entry.

Get your creative juices flowing in preparation for State Fair competitions

What do cut flowers, duct tape, grilled cheese and Plymouth Rock have in common?

They are all part of the competition categories at this year's State Fair of Virginia, which will be held Sept. 27 through Oct. 6.

Competition guides for both adult and youth creative and culinary arts, horticulture and field crops, as well as 4-H and FFA competitions and some of the livestock shows are posted on the State Fair's website, StateFairVa.org.

Most entries are due in the beginning of September, but it's not too early to start tapping into your creativity.

"We're excited about the diversity of all the competition categories, and we know our competitors enjoy the creative outlet that these contests afford them," said Sarah Jane Thomsen, SFVA manager of agriculture education. "We also are happy to offer some of them ribbons or prize money, but all of them get bragging rights!"

Cut flowers are one of the horticulture categories, and entrants will be judged live on Oct. 2. Participants can submit cut flower specimens in clear vases, or create flower arrangements with homegrown flowers. Plymouth Rock is a breed of chicken that will be part of the poultry shows this year; and duct tape creations are one of the many categories in the youth creative arts competitions.

This year's culinary contests include a live grilled cheese judging on Sept. 29. Sponsored by the Virginia State Dairyman's Association, the event is part of "Dairy Days"

at the fair, celebrated the first weekend. Twelve contestants will prepare and cook a grilled cheese sandwich using their choice of bread, cheese and any additional ingredients they want to add.

Another Dairy Days culinary category is charcuterie boards. Entrants will prepare a charcuterie board on Oct. 2 using at least six items that are grown or processed in Virginia. Last year's winner, Michelle Duggins, owner of Michelle's Table in Fredericksburg, incorporated local goat cheese and caramel apple jam on her board.

A new food competition this year is the Virginia Potatoes Recipe contest sponsored by Dublin Farms' Virginia's Finest Potatoes. Dublin Farms is a fifth-generation family farm in Accomack County on the Eastern Shore, where 80% of Virginia potatoes are grown. Contestants must prepare a dish where the potatoes (white, red or yellow but not sweet) are the "star of the show." They are encouraged to use Dublin Farms' potatoes from their local grocery store. Entries will be judged on Oct. 1.

The Virginia Peanut Growers Association is once again sponsoring a peanut competition. This year's theme is "Grab & Go," and contestants are encouraged to create snacks—hot or cold, sweet or savory—using Virginia peanuts or peanut butter.

Creative arts categories include traditional jewelry making, painting, photography, quilting, sculpture and woodcrafts. But other unique divisions include the new shoebox house or habitat. Youth entrants

are required to create a diorama depicting a scene from a house or outdoor venue using a shoebox.

Other Virginia Outdoors craft categories include antler art, and deer, fish or bird mounts. Other divisions cover jewelry crafted with wildlife parts like antlers or feathers, and floral arrangements made with similar components.

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

The SteelDrivers bring progressive bluegrass to center

Grammy-winning bluegrass group The SteelDrivers and folk trio The Wilder Flower will perform as part of the Deep Roots, Many Voices: Summer Outdoor Concert Series at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 15, at the Blue Ridge Music Center's outdoor amphitheater on the Blue Ridge Parkway just south of Galax, Va.

The SteelDrivers have become one of the biggest names in progressive bluegrass since making their debut in 2008. Band members Tammy Rogers (fiddle, vocals), Richard Bailey (banjo), Mike Fleming (bass), Brent Truitt (mandolin), and Matt Dame (guitar, vocals) braid their bluegrass roots with country, soul, blues, and other contemporary influences to create an unapologetic hybrid of new music with old feeling.

Rogers is a founding member and band-leader of The SteelDrivers. Her expert fiddle playing and powerful vocals solidify the group's unique sound. A classically trained violinist, Rogers decided to focus on bluegrass and country music after graduating from Belmont University in Nashville. She joined backing bands for Patty Loveless, Trisha Yearwood, and Emmylou Harris before taking off as a session musician



The SteelDrivers

supporting artists like Kieran Kane of The O'Kanes and collaborating with performers like Buddy Miller.

The SteelDrivers have been nominated for numerous awards, including four Grammys and the Americana Music Association's New Artist of the Year award. The group took home the International Bluegrass Music Association's Emerging Artist of the Year award in 2009 and their album The Muscle Shoals Recordings won a Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album in 2015.

The Wilder Flower will open the show. This all-female trio from the Carolinas grew up in the thick of bluegrass and old-time tradition. Members Danielle Yother



The Wilder Flower

(guitar), Molly Johnson (banjo), and Madeline Dierauf (fiddle) all began playing music at a young age in YAM/JAM (Young/Junior Appalachian Musician) programs. The group's sound flexes between folk, Americana, bluegrass, and old-time, with its members mixing vocally on three-part harmonies, two-chord ballads, and modern melodies. Their unique sound is centered around thoughtfully arranged original songs that are adapted to showcase each member's instrumental sensibilities.

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and younger. Advance tickets are available at BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org. Tickets can be purchased on the evening of the show at the admission gates.

Parking opens at 5:15 p.m. and is free. The gates open at 5:45 p.m. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

The Bluffs Restaurant will offer homestyle food and beverages for purchase during the concert. Visitors may bring their own food and beverages into the amphitheater. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

This performance in the series is sponsored by Yes Weekly! The 2024 Presenting Sponsors are W.L.A. Trucking and Yadkin Arts Council.

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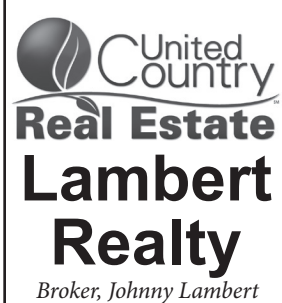
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DRIVE! VSB

The theme of the Stuart Church of Living Waters' Vacation Bible School last week was DRIVE! and participants were treated to a visit from the Wood Brothers 21 NASCAR vehicle, along with a few pointers from Giselle and London Hicks, daughters of Jordan Wood Hicks.



Several youngsters participated in the Vacation Bible School held at Stuart Church of Living Waters last week.

Stay safe, and minimize losses during potentially volatile hurricane season

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting a busy, above-average hurricane season, and residents are urged to stay vigilant and plan for emergencies.

The Atlantic hurricane season kicked off June 1 and runs through Nov. 30, and forecasters say this could be the busiest hurricane season in 25 years, with 17 to 25 named storms. Of those, eight are predicted to become hurricanes with winds of 74 mph or higher.

Forecasters also are predicting four to seven major hurricanes at Category 3 or greater, with winds reaching 111 mph or higher.

According to weather experts, the busier-than-normal season is attributed to a perfect storm of warmer-than-average ocean temperatures combined with La Niña. The warm ocean temperatures fuel storms. La Niña lessens wind shear in the tropics, allowing storms to develop and intensify in the Atlantic basin.

"Severe weather and emergen-

cies can happen at any moment, which is why individuals and communities need to be prepared today," said FEMA deputy administrator Erik Hooks. "Already, we are seeing storms move across the country that can bring additional hazards like tornadoes, flooding and hail."

Homeowners should prepare their homes in advance by inspecting roofs, clearing gutters and sealing any cracks or gaps on your home's exterior to avoid water damage. Trim or remove weak trees and branches near the house and structures to protect your property from high winds. Ensure sump pumps and drains are working properly, and test generators and power backups.

If a storm is imminent, residents should secure their property by boarding up windows with plywood and batten down or move inside any outdoor furniture and items that could become flying projectiles during storms.

"Take the time to do a household inventory," to have on hand



Giselle Hicks (center), and her sister, London (left) treated VSB participants to a behind-the-scenes look at the work and dedication involved in racing and then going on to win a race.



Many VSB participants honed their skills behind the wheel of the Wood Brothers 21 car.

in case a claim needs to be filed, advised Laurie Gannon, vice president of claims for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. "And review your insurance policies with your agent beforehand to ensure you're properly covered."

Keep your family safe by monitoring weather reports and establishing a family communications plan. Virginia Farm Bureau's Hurricane Preparedness Central provides a free family communications plan for download and has

other tips for hurricane preparation.

And as always, have an emergency kit ready, and ensure your car has a full tank of gas in case of an evacuation. Emergency kits should include essential items like a 3- to 5-day supply of food, change of clothes, a first-aid kit, battery powered radio, flashlight and batteries, medication, cash and credit cards. Secure important documents in a watertight container.

The Patrick County Agricultural Fair - A History of Service
By the Rotary Club of Stuart

DEADLINE JULY 1

For five magical days each September, Rotary Field in Stuart, Virginia is home to the Patrick County Agricultural Fair. The excitement of thrilling rides, local music, and candy apples fill the air and the imaginations of children and adults alike. The games of skill and dining and the special amphitheater events, such as the Demolition Derby and tractor pulls, bring squeals of delight. Beautiful displays of canned goods, quilts, garden produce and so much more provide onlookers with a sense of country pride. With the many types of horses, cattle, rabbits, chickens, pigs and goats, the animal barn is always a treat for young and old, and the exhibits give everyone an opportunity to see the many local clubs, services and organizations in our county. There is always something for everyone at the fair!

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PATRICK County Magazine
FALL 2022

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