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

Board to look at feasibility of relocating WWII Memorial

By Taylor Boyd

A woman who lives in the Dan River District wants to have a World War II Memorial currently situated at the Patrick County Circuit Court, moved to a location where it can be better viewed and appreciated.

Brenda Scales told the Patrick County Board of Supervisors on June 10 that she learned about the memorial before a recent trip to the area.

The memorial, she said, includes “not deceased, but residents who served. So, I came looking for that memorial and I attempted to view it. I thought it was on the inside of the courthouse, the World War II Memorial is actually on the outside doors of the county courthouse,” she said.

Scales said she was told that the public is not allowed to traverse the steps due to leaks in a building underneath.

“I have to tell you the steps were dangerous anyway, and I probably wouldn’t have attempted to go up those anyway,” she said.

Scales said she wanted to view the memorial because her father and three of his brothers fought in WWII.

“I have been told that his name is on that, and one of his brothers, and the other two are not,” she said.



Brenda Scales asked for the World War II memorial to be moved to a location where it can be better viewed by the public.

She has also tried to find out information about when the memorial was placed on the outside second floor of the Patrick County Courthouse, but to no avail.

“It’s history, and in its current location it’s not viewable by the public. I am bringing this issue to the board’s attention in an effort to find out what can be done to relocate this piece of our history to a suitable location that will honor our veterans,” she said.

County Administrator Beth
(See WWII Memorial p. 3)

County’s attempt to improve healthcare access has multiple layers

By Taylor Boyd

While Patrick County searches for a company to help with the construction of its mobile health units, Connect Health + Wellness of Henry County, has stepped up to assist the community with its healthcare needs.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator Scottie Cassell said two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have been put out for bid, with no bid received that would sufficiently cover the necessary equipment for the mobile units.

“Because it has to have certain things to be compliant with” the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) “and everything like that, that’s what we’re having trouble with getting everything that needs to be in the trailer right design wise,” he said.

To be compliant, Cassell said the trailers need to have a bathroom, ramps, and other items.

“To find somebody that will build that specific unit in a trailer is real hard,” he said, adding the county is preparing to put the project out for another round of bids.

Cassell said no local funds were used for the project. “This is all fed-

eral money. This is a federal grant we applied for, and I think it was \$600,000 we received” in August 2022.

“There is no county money going into this at all. This is all federal grant money to help rural America get healthcare access,” he reiterated.

A check for the \$600,000 was presented by U.S. Senator Mark Warner, D-Alexandria; Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart; and 9th District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, to county officials at a ceremony at the former Pioneer Community Hospital of Patrick County in August 2022.

County Administrator Beth Simms said the federal funds were then placed into the county’s budget.

Cassell said the project started before he became the EMS coordinator.

“We’re trying to wrap it up and try to make it successful. We’re actually partnering with several of the food banks in the area to get information out about where it’s going to be,” he said.

Since it will be mobile, Cassell
(See Healthcare Access p.3)



Members of the Patrick County School Board recognized several retirees, including Cecelia Coutu (center). Board members (left to right) Walter Scott, Shannon Harrell, Amy Walker, Rob Lawson, and Superintendent Jason Wood.

School board approves revised budget

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County School Board approved its revised fiscal year 2024-25 budget at a meeting on Thursday, June 13.

Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the revised budget sees an increase of Required Local Effort (RLE) and Required Local Match (RLM) of \$225,806 from the county to the school system.

“That has been communicated to the county administrator. We had a discussion about the current compromised budget, which we’re working under where we provide a SRO (School Resource Officer) reimbursement,” he said.

In the revised school budget, Wood said there is an increase of SRO reimbursement by an additional \$100,000, “which would

bring the SRO reimbursement up to \$375,000.”

This adjustment makes the county’s new RLE and RLM to the school system \$7.2 million instead of the \$6.98 million that it previously approved.

“So, you can see that increase of \$225,000. We’ve increased our SRO reimbursement, so it should not be as large as a financial burden for them to adjust their budget to meet that Required Local Effort and Required Local Match,” he said.

The new net contribution from the county after the SRO reimbursement is \$6,831,79.

Wood added a budget amendment letter will be sent to the county administrator to notify them about the new school budget.

(See School Board p.7)

Free Little Library installed on Mayo River Rail Trail

By Taylor Boyd

A little free library was installed on the Mayo River Rail Trail on June 7 as a way to enhance, and hopefully expand, the trail.

Rebecca Adcock, executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, said she was inspired to install the little library after visiting Alabama with other county representatives for the Gateway Community Initiative.

“I had just run into Nelson McConnell (former teacher and track coach), and he reminded me that he still had one that he had built, and it was sitting in his basement, and he was looking for a place to put it,” she said.

Adcock said she thought the Mayo River Rail Trail would be a perfect location for it.

“We talked with the county, and the county Parks and Recreation helped to dig the hole and helped us install it,” she said.

The “take a book, leave a book” small library is located next to the kiosk near the gravel parking area,



A free little library was installed on the Mayo River Rail Trail to enhance the trail and increase literacy in the county. It was built and donated by Nelson McConnell, a retired Patrick County High School English teacher.

off Commerce Street.

Adcock said the location was chosen because she and others didn’t want to put it out in the middle of a

(See Little Library p.3)

None of the Above to headline PCMA show

By Taylor Boyd

None of the Above is set to headline the Saturday, June 22 show hosted by the Patrick County Music Association (PCMA). The event will be held at the Rotary Building in Stuart. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the music will start at 6 p.m.

Charlie Chaney and some of his music students will start the show during the ‘Charlie’s Corner’ segment and before None of the Above and Corn Meal Revival take the stage.

PCMA President Denny Alley said None of the Above is from the Westfield – Mount Airy, N.C. area.

They do “a little bit of everything, a mixed variety. They’re all excellent, one of the top bands around really,” he said.

While he doesn’t know much about Corn Meal Revival, Alley said the son of one of its members plays



None of the Above, a five-piece group from North Carolina, will headline the Saturday, June 22 Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) show.

fiddle for Third Time Out, a band that’s toured all over the United States.

Following the June show, Alley said the PCMA plans to take a

break from the monthly shows.

“We may do another Songwriter show at the Star (Theatre) in September,” but for female songwriters. “But we can’t find any women,

that’s the problem,” he said.

Alley added he’s only found three female songwriters thus far.

“We got to do better than that,” he said.

Alley said the men’s Songwriters Circle Series show held in early April was well attended.

“We had to go out and get more chairs, and it still wasn’t enough. Some people stood throughout the entire show,” he said.

Admission is a \$5 donation at the door. Prizes will be awarded throughout the night.

Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds going to teach children in the area firearm safety.

For more information or to watch past music performances, visit [Facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation).



Tourism Talks

Hello Patrick, Are you sweating yet? If you love warm weather, congratulations, you got it. I lean toward mild temperatures with low humidity but don't control the weather. This week, I want to share an event that is all about community and unity, an event you will be hearing more about as we get closer to this July 4th. The State VA250 committee invites all communities to participate in a statewide bell-ringing ceremony. This year, on July 4th at precisely 5:00 pm, we aim to create a powerful moment of unity by having bells ring across the state, echoing the celebratory bell-tolling that marked the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783. The bells are requested to toll 13 times, and it will begin at the State Capitol in Richmond, at the historic Bell Tower. Our local government, Fire stations, and Churches have always played a vital role in our community. Participating in this ceremony would be an excellent way to Honor Our Heritage: The ringing of bells is a cherished tradition, symbolizing freedom and the birth of our nation. Unite the Community: This statewide event will showcase the spirit of unity and pride that binds us all. Engage our Residents: This is a unique opportunity to connect with our community

and offer a memorable experience on this special day. Raise Awareness: This is a good way to raise community awareness about the nation's 250th anniversary and local commemorative activities. You Can Help Make History! Ring Your Bell: If you have a functional bell, we encourage you to sound it at 5:00 pm sharp on July 4th. Spread the Word: Please share this information. Encourage everyone to participate by ringing bells from their homes or visiting participating locations. Promote the Ceremony: Help us publicize the event! Share this information on your website, social media, or community bulletin boards. By joining forces, we can create a truly unforgettable Fourth of July celebration that resonates throughout the state. Imagine the joyous sounds of freedom echoing from iconic landmarks like ours, reminding us of the shared history and values that make America great. We look forward to your participation! If you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to contact us at jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us. And remember, "Come get lost and find yourself here."

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

Fraud Alert - Moving Scams

Summer seems to be the season for moving. Whether you're relocating for work, downsizing or sending a child off to college, who you hire to help with the move matters a lot. Cutting corners to save money on your move could lead you right to a criminal scammer.

Moving scams are committed by rogue operators that exist primarily online. They solicit business by offering lowball estimates, often without so much as laying an eye on what's to be moved. They might demand a hefty deposit, or even full payment in advance.

With your deposit in hand, the "movers" might simply not show up at the appointed time and

place. Or they'll try to change the deal at the last minute by raising the price. Worst of all, some companies will pick up your belongings but then demand more money to deliver them.

To avoid these scams, make sure to get multiple quotes and check the references of any company you hire. While we are all looking to save money, when it comes to moving your personal goods safely and securely, cheaper isn't always better.

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

Congressional staff to hold local office hours

Congressman Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available in the City of Martinsville and Patrick County on June 26.

Staff will be in Martinsville from 10 - 11:30 a.m., in City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 55 W. Church Street.

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

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

Pets of the Week



This black and white cutie pie was found on Archies Creek in Claudville. He would be a great guy for a family with some kids.

Whiskey is a sweetheart and was an owner surrender. He is 1 year old and neutered. How can you resist this face?

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.

Currently, there are so many nice dogs at the PCPAS that it was hard to choose who would be in the paper. Please visit the shelter if there is room in your heart for a special dog or cat.

Clark's latest book in running for People's Choice Award



Martin Clark's "The Plinko Bounce," is among those on a short list for the Library of Virginia's People's Choice Fiction Award.

The nearly 300 page book is a byproduct of the nearly 30 years Clark served as a circuit court judge.

Voting is simple and easy. To cast a ballot for the book, visit <https://lvafoundation.org/peopleschoiceawards/>, enter your name and email, from the dropdown Fiction category, click on "The Plinko Bounce" and then click submit.



Hodges offers highlights of P&HCC's Year

By Dr. Greg Hodges

As president of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), I am delighted to provide our community with a year-end report highlighting another successful academic year (2023/2024) for our institution.

We are thrilled that our enrollment growth continued this year with a 1.5% increase in academic enrollment over the previous year, coupled with a 51% surge (as of June 3) in workforce/short-term credential enrollment. This marks the first time in fourteen years that P&HCC has experienced two years of back-to-back academic enrollment growth.

The college also had a strong year of bringing on new programs and initiatives. These include a new powerline program (in conjunction with Wytheville Community College), which has already celebrated the completion of two cohorts. Thanks to funding from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, P&HCC is honored to partner with the Franklin Center in Franklin County to launch healthcare certification programs as well.

Additionally, the college celebrated in December the grand opening of the second building of our Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology (the MET) Complex, a 103,000-square-foot facility that is dedicated to good-paying jobs in our service region. This new building triples our welding capacity and also includes precision machining, virtual welding, and robotic welding.

The success of the college has been noticed across the community, Commonwealth of Virginia and country. In November, P&HCC was named the Entrepreneurial College of the Year by the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), awarded to us because of our StartUp and Grow programs delivered in conjunction with the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Just a few weeks later, P&HCC was awarded the prestigious title of Leader College of Distinction with Achieving the Dream, an honor bestowed on only six colleges this year and provided to us because of our ability to help students achieve economic mobility. In February, we were elated to learn that P&HCC had for 2023 awarded the most Festo National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) Industry 4.0 certifications of any college in America.

We were equally overjoyed to learn that Patrick & Henry Community College was named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to the Great Colleges to Work For® program. The college won honors in six categories this year: Job Satisfaction & Support, Professional Development, Compensation & Benefits, Mission & Pride, Faculty Experience, and Confidence in Senior Leadership. P&HCC was also named to the Great Colleges Honor Roll, a status granted to only 42 colleges each year who are highlighted most across the recognition categories.

We are also extremely proud of the ac-



Dr. Greg Hodges, president of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

complishments of our student athletes. P&HCC boasts the NJCAA Region 10 and Atlantic District soccer champions, earning the team their second appearance at nationals. Additionally, both outdoor track & field and wrestling sent students to nationals. Finally, the women's softball team swept their region and district en route to becoming the national champions in their first appearance.

As always, the highlight of the year is celebrating the accomplishments of our students at our annual graduation ceremony. For many, they are not simply graduating; they are walking into a world of financial stability for themselves and their families. To that end, we are thrilled to announce that 460 students earned 650 academic credentials this year, with 220 of these students participating in our graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 11. These numbers mean that more students are getting the education, skills, and training they need to acquire good paying jobs in the communities served by our college.

The economic renaissance in our region is very real, and P&HCC is a critical part of this resurgence. An economic impact study by Lightcast reveals that the college contributes \$75 million annually to our service region while athletics programs contribute an additional \$2.5 million. With this kind of impact, it is no surprise that The Chronicle of Higher Education (the nation's leading college publication) heavily featured P&HCC in its article entitled "Building the Rural Work Force: How Rural Colleges Meet the Needs of Nontraditional Students."

For 62 years, P&HCC has been this community's college. Now, more than ever, we are singularly dedicated to our mission of economic mobility for our students and their families. We accomplish this goal by providing our students with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful employees and employers.

It is indeed the honor of my lifetime to serve as the president of Patrick & Henry Community College.

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WWII Memorial

(cont. from page 1)



The WWII Memorial is currently situated on the portico on the second floor of the Patrick County Courthouse.

Simms suggested the Circuit Court Judge Marcus Brinks and/or local veterans groups.

"We can talk to relevant parties and get back to you next month," Simms said.

Scales said she was told approval to change the memorial location would be needed from the board, Simms, Brinks, and Circuit Court Clerk of Court Morgan Boothe.

"I was disappointed when I couldn't go and look at it. I was told that in eight years that someone had worked there, nobody had asked to see it," she said.

Interim board chairman Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, said the board will look into moving the memorial.

"It's a very good point, thank you for bringing it to us. It should be viewable where people can see and appreciate and honor our history," he said.

In other matters, the board:

*Heard from Valerie Loy, who asked questions about the amount of the county's debt, a \$500,000 appropriation for the county's mobile health units, how citizens sign a petition to have anything brought into the county as a major resource like solar farms, and where the county's comprehensive plan can be viewed.

Loy asked how much in debt the county is and noted the rumor it's in the \$40-\$60 million range.

Simms said the county's audit and financial analysis are available on the county's website.

"But how did our county get this way," Loy asked.

Perry said the debt is less than \$40

million and includes everything from school improvements of years ago, the one percent sales tax increase, building the jail, and others.

"We have a payment schedule just like you would on your mortgage with your house. It's under \$40 million, I want to say roughly \$35-\$36 million," he said.

Loy said people would like to know how the county got this far in debt.

"We're 17,000 people in this county," she said.

Simms said those were decisions voted on years ago.

"I don't think the county's taken on any additional debt in the last" few years. "Once again, you could refer back to minutes," she said.

If one were to look at the county's audit, Finance Officer Lori Jones said more than half that debt is not true debt.

"It's what the state says we owe IRS retirement. It's the value of if everyone quit today, what you would have to pay them out in leave and sick, and things like that. So, it's more than just true debt money that we borrowed," she said.

Simms said local governments, state governments, and federal governments carry debt.

"I'm not going to say anything to have an opinion on it, but that's just kind of the fact of the matter. I don't know of any governments that don't carry some sort of debt," she said.

*Heard from Trena Anderson about solar energy and the statutory authority Perry quoted regarding the rules of public comment before the meeting.

Perry said the county follows Rob-



Valerie Loy inquired about the county's total amount of debt.

ert's Rules of Order.

"I believe you overstepped your boundaries on some of that, and I'm going to seek legal advice of my own for the residents of Patrick County," she said.

Anderson said she originally attended the meeting to speak about a solar company which put the brakes on a project. She filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request trying to find out why it pulled out of Moscatto but was told there was none.

"I'm sorry. I'm 64-years-old, I've worked in government and for governments all my adult life since I was 18. You don't just drop something and there's no paper trail," she said.

Simms said for clarification, she got a call on Wednesday, June 5 from an Energix representative.

"She said they were currently not moving forward with the Moscatto project. I did not ask any follow up questions," she said.

For another point of clarification, Simms said in communities where development regularly happens and planning commissions regularly have to act, land use decisions are the local government land use is the first check on developers and investors checklist.

"A lot of times a developer or investor, they will come to the planning commission or board of supervisors before they even purchase the property because they need to know why



Trena Anderson discussed solar projects and solar panels.

would they invest money in ENS plans, building plans, etc. not knowing if they have permission to use that property for that reason," she said.

Simms said she does not know why the company pulled the project, and did not ask.

"If the board would like me to call back and inquire on why they pulled it, I would be happy to," she said.

Simms added she believes Energix officials have shared their contact information at the various town halls and meetings held locally.

Anderson also asked the board to rescind its approval of the Fairystone solar project.

*Approved the May 13 and May 28 meeting minutes.

*Approved the bills, claims, and appropriations.

*Discussed purchasing new chairs for the board and audience, a podium, and cameras for the Patrick County Administration Building parking lot with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

*Heard the administrator's report.

*Heard the supervisors' reports.

*Appointed Chris Prutting to the Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) to serve as the Blue Ridge District representative.

*Heard from Simms about the difference between the county's mobile health units and Connect Health + Wellness.

Healthcare Access

(cont. from page 1)

said when an area of need is identified, the trailer will be moved there.

Once the project is finished, Cassell said there will likely be two trailers - one will be retrofitted for mobile health and primary health while the other would be "more of a screener type thing where we can take it to festivals and to businesses to do physicals and stuff of that nature."

Cassell said the screener-type trailer will be smaller, but will have a respiratory test, fit test, and other equipment.

"Until we get ours built," Cassell said the county is partnering with Connect Health + Wellness from Henry County to bring one of their mobile units to the county.

"They come up and they are actually a primary physician, a mobile one," he said, adding that Connect Health +Wellness has offices in Bassett and Ridgeway.

"What they do is they'll see wellness patients, they'll see sick patients, whatever the need. As a matter of fact, on June 24, there will be a dental clinic. So, three days of mobile primary care and one day of dental care available this time," he said.

Simms said the mobile health units and the Connect Health +Wellness activities are completely separate initiatives from the county's units.

"The county is very grateful that they have stepped up and expanded their services because healthcare is, of course, a critical need."

The organization "provides much needed healthcare services to Patrick County," she said.

Connect Health + Wellness Marketing Director Brittant Anthony said the organization is continuing to raise awareness in the county as it works diligently to help increase additional access to healthcare services in that community for everyone, regardless of insurance status or any other barrier that residents may be facing that could prevent them from accessing the healthcare services they need.

"Our mobile clinic is still visiting on a weekly basis. We will be set up at Walmart on Wednesday, June 19, and after June 19, we will be moving the mobile clinic days to the parking lot across from Spring Drug in Patrick Springs. We ask the community to stay tuned for those updates coming soon," she said.

Since it began earlier this year, Anthony said there has been a small increase in patients who visit and are seen on the mobile clinic. However, she noted there is still plenty of availability on each mobile clinic day and the organization wants to have more people who need their primary healthcare services access visits through the mobile clinic program.

"We will continue to partner with other organizations and agencies in Stuart and Patrick County to assess the health needs of the community as we continue to adapt and de-

velop solutions that drive our mission day to day," she said.

Anthony said Connect Health + Wellness accepts all patients, even if they work or live in Martinsville, Henry, Patrick, or the surrounding areas. The mobile health clinics are primarily walk-ins.

"We welcome all ages, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Patients can be seen by us if they have insurance, including Medicare or Medicaid; if they are underinsured or if they don't have insurance," she said. "We have a sliding fee discount program (based on household income) available, and we encourage all our patients to apply for it."

Anthony said Connect Health + Wellness is a federally qualified health center (FQHC), which are non-profit community-based, patient centered organizations that deliver comprehensive, integrated primary care and preventative health care services to everyone in the community, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

"We receive federal grant funding, which supplements revenue that we receive from operations and allows us to continue providing access to cost-effective care for individuals in our community. We also receive various grants and welcome donations as well," she said.

For more information about Connect Health + Wellness, visit www.ConnectHealthVa.org, or call (276) 638-0787.

Little Library

(cont. from page 1)

field that could cause an obstacle issue for county maintenance mowing the fields.

"We also put it there because a lot of people park there, so they would be seeing it getting in and out of their vehicles. I believe it was the Homestead Hikers who had money in their funds, and they installed a really nice bench right down by the river in that area. So, we thought it would be nice if you could grab a book and go sit on the bench and read a little bit," she

said.

Adcock said all the books in the little library are donated. She also stocked it with a lot of children's books.

"Since we did the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, we stocked it with a lot of children's books because we know that area gets a lot of use by families with young children," she said.

Adcock said she hopes the community will enjoy the free little library and will help by keep-

ing it stocked with books that have been read and can be enjoyed by others, "and encourage literacy in the county.

"The county offers the Imagination Library for children ages 0-5, and as long as they register, the kid can receive a free book each month from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library," she said.

Those interested in this program can register on the chamber website at www.patrickchamber.com.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Chevron Doctrine

The U.S. Supreme Court has decided some notable cases in 2024.

Donald J. Trump v. Anderson was a unanimous decision by the justices to allow President Trump on this year's ballot, despite efforts from states like Colorado and Maine to remove him.

National Rifle Association v. Vullo arises from a New York state official accused of coercing banks and insurers into cutting ties with the NRA by threatening regulatory action.

The justices voted 9-0 to protect the NRA's right to free speech and allow the NRA to move forward with their lawsuit against the New York official for First Amendment violations.

Among Supreme Court cases set for decision this summer are Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo and Relentless, Inc. v. Department of Commerce.

Loper and Relentless, Inc. represent commercial fishing groups whose operations encompass the Atlantic herring fishery. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requires the fishermen to abide by a litany of regulations.

Amongst these regulations are ones requiring the commercial fishermen to alert regulators before they set out to fish. The fishermen's locations are tracked. Sometimes, the fishermen have to allow a government-mandated federal observer to be present on the boat to collect data and information about their catch!

But wait, there's more!
NOAA's budget from Congress did not provide funding for NOAA to do on-the-boat observation of the fishermen's activities.

So what did NOAA do?
They forced the fishermen to hire third-party monitors and made the fishermen pay the third-party monitors' salaries!

USA Today states this rule costs the fishermen up to \$700 a day. If they do not pay, they are further penalized.

NOAA Fisheries justifies these actions as "necessary and appropriate" for the "conservation and management" of fisheries.

Even though Congress never specifically authorized these actions to be a part of "conservation and management", the fishermen bear these burdensome requirements because they were upheld under the "Chevron Doctrine" at the appellate level.

This rule comes from Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, 467 U.S. at 842-43.

The "Chevron Doctrine" states if an agency asserts that it has jurisdiction to take action in order to fulfill its overall purpose, that deference would go to the agency unless a claimant could prove that the action was not a "permissible construction." This is true if Congressional language is in any way ambiguous.

Apparently a "permissible construction" allows NOAA to force commercial fishermen to pay to have NOAA third-party agents aboard their ships.

The "Chevron Doctrine" at one



Morgan Griffith

Representative

time even saw the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) try to claim that trailers for a tractor-trailer were self-propelled motor vehicles, notwithstanding there is no motor. The EPA backed down, but it shows just how far some activists inside agencies will push the boundaries of the "Chevron Doctrine."

I have long advocated for the 1984 Chevron ruling to be overturned or legislatively eliminated. The original 1984 ruling was an improper shift of authority from Congress to administrative agencies.

When Congress delegates regulatory authority to agencies, it should be clear and authoritative. When the authority is unclear or not specifically granted to an agency, the Courts should rule against the agency. Congress will then either let the Court decision stand or take action to grant the agency specific authority.

In 2016, I was an original co-sponsor of H.R. 4768, the Separation of Powers Restoration Act, a bill to restore the balance of power between all three branches of government and codify measures to rein in the executive branch, including a reversal of the Chevron rule. It passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2016 but no action was taken in the U.S. Senate.

This Congress, I voted for similar legislation, H.R. 288, the Separation of Powers Restoration Act. The legislation passed in the U.S. House of Representatives last year. The U.S. Senate should take up this bill and send it to President Biden's desk.

Because of Chevron, activist bureaucrats can interpret statutes according to their political agenda, expanding their bureaucracy's powers without Congressional approval.

The outcome of Loper will have tremendous implications for the American people and our government.

Duke Law Journal estimates that the Supreme Court has cited Chevron 238 times and invoked the rule in over one hundred decisions.

Litigation cases generally cost a small fortune and take years to decide. Even if the Court overturns an agency action, many times companies have already complied with expensive and egregious regulations. These regulations cost consumers.

We will see if the 239th instance where the Court cites Chevron restores balance of power between our branches of government.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lowering standards

(References: Epoch Times, Fox, Daily Signal)

The purpose of high school is to prepare kids for adult life. Real life includes failures. It also includes disappointment, which teaches perseverance. We do kids no favor by creating a utopian "no fail" bubble that cannot be sustained in the real world.

Progressive policies that harm children are being installed around the country, but according to leftist philosophy, traditional grading is racist because minority students are deprived and cannot compete with privileged white children.

The progressive solution is to eliminate "A to F" evaluations. Many schools are under pressure to promote kids even if they do not know anything and the teachers know it. Those who embrace this approach justify it by citing slavery, societal bias, and anti-American grievance.

But the real reason so many minority children do not compete well in school is poor parenting. The same goes for white and Native-American students. In fact, children of any race cannot succeed academically if they live in chaotic homes with parents who do not care about them. That is the sad hard truth.

And unless the public school system acknowledges that truth, children in terrible circumstances will not prosper. How can they compete in the marketplace? And if young Americans cannot compete, what is likely to happen? You can do the math on that question.

In Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown signed a bill that removed all proficiency requirements in reading, writing and arithmetic for high school students to graduate. Several other cities, in-

cluding San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C., have made similar changes within their schools. In New York City, classroom attendance is no longer even required for academic evaluation.

According to government statistics, America's education system is failing. The average fourth grader has a 41% proficiency level in mathematics. By the eighth grade, the proficiency level drops to 34 percent. By the twelfth grade, math proficiency level is only 24%. In reading, fourth graders have an average proficiency rate of 35%. By eighth grade, the proficiency level drops to 34%, and by the twelfth grade, America's average student shows only a slight proficiency improvement to 37%. In writing, the proficiency levels are 28% in fourth grade with eighth and twelfth graders sharing a score of 27%.

In science, fourth graders have only a 36% proficiency rate and eighth-graders 35%. Twelfth graders have only a 22% rate of proficiency in science. The worst scores come in history, with fourth graders starting out with only 20% proficiency and dropping to 15% by the eighth grade. By grade 12, America's students have a paltry 12% proficiency level in history.

The cold reality is that just like the equity based criminal justice system progressive educators are playing the race card and setting up deprived kids for lifelong failure. There is no skin color factor when it comes to native intelligence. Under disciplined circumstances, every child can learn and develop their talents.

Pray for our country.

William Salser,
Stuart

Funds donated in memory of Patrick County man

Franklin (Frank) D. Lewis' passion was volunteering for Special Olympics in any and every aspect. He loved helping every child and adult in Special Olympics regardless of their ability or disability so they felt loved and whole, and did so for 43 years.

Despite his achievements, not only with Special Olympics, but in all he did, he remained humble. Even throughout the years his son, daughter, grandson and granddaughter followed in his footsteps over the years with Special Olympics.

To continue his mission, Special Olympics gave their approval to the family to do this fundraiser. This has

never been done before. It would have been so much easier to write a family check and be done with it, but they felt they needed to do more in his memory and for Special Olympics.

Rather than linger with the hole let in their hearts, they needed to celebrate who he was and what he did, and to do their very best to carry on his legacy with Special Olympics, and \$4,000 donated in Frank's memory to Special Olympics of Virginia.

The family is incredibly grateful for your generosity, support and love. A heartfelt thank is extended to all.

Barbara Lewis,
Organizer

Poor Judgement or a Compromised Background?

Ideally American politicians should make national security a higher priority over politics. For that reason, Joe Biden's record on national security should be considered.

Fact One. Joe Biden opened our borders and used Central America media to invite illegal immigration. He willfully abandoned the most basic duty of the head of state, to protect the nation's citizens from invasion. The unvetted ten million illegal aliens include known terrorists, drug dealers and human trafficking rings. Chinese and Mexican cartels are marketing fentanyl, addicting millions of American men and women of military age, who are now in now shape to defend America. Biden's most recent "solution" is an attempt to gain more votes in the upcoming election by merely encouraging illegal immigration to "just" 912,500 unvetted, unemployed people per year.

Fact Two. In Afghanistan, Joe Biden abandoned American citizens, loyal allies, military K-9's, advanced weapon and communication systems and facilities. One former air base has one of the longest runways in the world, and thus is capable of landing any type of aircraft. The weapons and communications systems had some of the most advanced hardware and software on the planet. The Chinese Communist Party have reverse-engineered the communications gear. Under previous administrations, American allies, K-9's and communication systems were flown out before facilities were abandoned and weapons that could not be flown out were destroyed. Previous administrations valued keeping promises.

Fact Three. Joe Biden allowed a Chinese spy balloon to fly across the United States while it transmitted

information to China in real time. After the balloon achieved its mission, Commander-in-Chief Biden then ordered the balloon be shot down over the Atlantic Ocean. Now China knows, among other things, where to buy American farmland within easy reach of American military bases.

Fact Four. Twice in his Presidency, Joe Biden has drawn down the strategic fuels reserves below critical levels. The reason: to lower gasoline prices temporarily in order to buy votes.

Fact Five. The USA is in an economic war with China. Biden has weakened our position by approving, if not encouraging, legislation that current taxation levels cannot fund. This has increased the national debt (to \$52 trillion if you count both on and off-the-books expenses). Foreign governments are beginning to unload US Treasury bonds, favoring investments in riskier sovereign debt. Record levels of inflation are increasing the costs of defense expenditures.

Even if the House were to impeach Biden, thanks to a Senate that voted not to try the impeached head of Homeland Security (for the first time in history), it is doubtful that the Senate would have a trail. Doing their Constitutional duty is apparently beyond this Senate. The Senate Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer, is more concerned about who is leading Israel.

Can the country really afford to risk five more months, let alone four plus more years, having a Commander-in-Chief who values politics over national security, and has cognitive deficits and a long record of poor judgement? To re-elect Joe Biden would be suicidal.

Joe Cadrin,
Stuart

Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy

The Enterprise welcomes letters to the editor and/or reader viewpoints of 500 words or less. Submissions may be edited for clarity, length, legal ramifications or general taste at the editor's discretion. We reserve the right to refuse to publish submitted letters for the same reasons. All letters must be signed by an individual and include community. Verifiable sources for information cited must be forwarded to the editor. Letters that do not meet these guidelines will not be considered for publication.

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 Two)
By Beverly Belcher Woody

Before we begin our next installment of the Patrick County defenders of Bataan, we need to reintroduce the subjects of our story. These first few paragraphs are a repeat of the introduction from last week. When we left off last week, General Wainwright had surrendered all American forces in Bataan on April 9th, 1942.

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 Bryant. Camden's maternal grandparents were Peter Lee Via and Dicey 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 Bahnon 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 in the Martinsville Bulletin. 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 Four, published on November 24th, 1945, Hayne recalled, "Just before the surrender, I contracted malaria on April 3rd, and my temperature went to the unbelievable high of 106.2 degrees. We hung on to the hope that General



2nd Lt. Reid Stanley Aaron (Photo from Dwight Anderson)

MacArthur had left the Philippines for Australia on orders of President Roosevelt and that he was going there to gather a mighty sea armada and thousands of troops and guns, tanks and planes for the immediate rescue of our beleaguered forces. We were told that we must hold Bataan no matter what the cost...Despite being greatly outnumbered and expected to outmaneuver an experienced army trained since they were children, the thought of surrender hadn't even remotely been part of our thinking. I am certain if any man in Bataan had known what was in store for him, he would have never laid down his arms. Camden and I discussed if people back home would think that we fought hard enough."

Hayne recalled, "For six days, and way into the night, these cruel Japanese soldiers marched us without food-150 miles of tortuous footsteps, staggering, stumbling, pushing, grumbling, and wishing at each step for a cool drink of water or a bite of food. We averaged 25 miles a day without one bite of food to eat; occasionally they would allow us to drink from creeks, ditches, or mud puddles. One night they marched us to 10pm and then woke us up at 3am and ordered us on our dismal way. Camden and I were together the first three days of the march, but one night, they herded us into a field, and under the cover of darkness, we got separated....The thirst drove many men crazy, and I witnessed one man shot to death for attempting to get this necessity of life. In the six days of the march, I witnessed at least twenty men get bayoneted and left to die in ditches by the side of the road, including the beheading of one young Filipino soldier."

Chapter Five, published on November 26th, 1945, Hayne begins, "On April 16th, we were given the first food we had since April 9th, (before the Death March). It was a bowl of rice, provided by the Filipinos. We were loaded aboard a train, 100 men to a box car, and headed toward Camp O'Donnell... Five days after arriving at the camp, I saw 2nd Lt. Stanley Aaron and a few hours later, I saw Camden Bryant. All three of us were in bad shape physically, losing about 40



Camden Bryant in happier times with his father and nephew Sammy. (Photo from Darlene Thielman)

pounds apiece by the time we arrived at camp. Camden and Stanley both had malaria by that time too."

Hayne stated, "Camden and I volunteered for burial detail, and we buried at least 100 American boys in a cemetery beyond the prison gates. We walked out each morning under guard and dug the graves-7 feet wide and 12 feet long. About 20 men were put into each grave, which could be dug no deeper than three feet because of the marshy terrain. If we dug deeper, we buried our buddies in water." For the 8,000 Americans imprisoned at Camp O'Donnell, there was one water tap. Men stood in line for three to five hours to get one canteen of water. One day, I was the 10th man from the tap when the Japanese cut the water off for the day. By the time I learned that I was being sent to Camp Cabanatuan, my weight had dropped to 110 pounds. Camden had already been sent out on a bridge building detail, leaving three days ahead of me. I hated to leave Stanley, but I had no choice, I had to go."

Chapter Six, published on November 27th, 1945, Hayne recalled, "After arriving at Camp Cabanatuan, I volunteered for burial detail again and we were burying 30 to 50 American boys per day. Camden and Stanley arrived at the camp within one week of each other and being together again was a boost to the morale of each of us. We swapped stories, planned for the future, and talked about going home."

Hayne, "I became ill with cerebral malaria on June 20th, 1942. I was unconscious or semi-conscious for two weeks and didn't recognize anyone from my outfit, or Stanley or Camden, as they visited me when they could slip away. An American doctor managed to hide some quinine and administered it to me.... In April of 1943, I was struck down with beriberi of the cardiac. Camden and Stanley came to see me about once each week...About two months after coming into camp, the Japanese put Camden to work cutting hair, even the Japanese soldiers' hair...Under the Geneva Convention, officers did not have to work, but 2nd Lt. Stanley Aaron volunteered to work on farm detail. These men went into the fields at

daybreak, worked until dark, and watched the cucumbers, peppers, and sweet potatoes they had planted grow into full maturity. The Japanese had the soldiers load the harvest onto trucks and carry it away to market, without getting to eat any of what they had grown."

I recently had the honor and privilege of learning more about Camden Bryant from his sister, Darlene Thielman, and his niece, Sandy Taylor. Sandy shared the following childhood memories of her Uncle Camden, "I was only 3 or 4 years old at the time and not entirely sure of what was happening. However, I clearly recall seeing the family (my parents, grandfather and aunt) rush each afternoon to retrieve the Martinsville Bulletin and pour over the war news. I knew something serious and bad was happening because I saw how distressed they were. Once, they were preparing a package on the kitchen table to send to Cam who was in a Japanese POW camp. They worried about the items they were sending, fearing that if it was questionable, his captors might not let him have the box. They said, 'Should we put this in?' and 'I wonder if they would let him have this?' When it was finally wrapped up in brown paper, I put my finger on the twine while my dad tied the knots. We never knew whether or not he got the packages, but we did receive a couple of POW cards from Cam in which he tried to reassure us that he was okay. Later, when we learned that Cam had died, I knew that something really terrible and life-changing had happened. When we were older, my cousin Sammy Frazier and I often talked about our Uncle Cam. We liked to imagine that he had escaped and was living happily on a tropical island! But we knew it wasn't true. I still feel the grief of this loss and believe it was a major event in my young life. I even wrote a poem about that idea many years ago!"

Next week, we will meet the other two Patrick County soldiers at camp, James Walter Trent and Ralph Jefferson Turner, Sr. Thank you so much to Darlene Thielman and Sandy Taylor for sharing precious memories of Camden. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty - I'm Already Collecting Social Security - How Will My WEP Reduction be Calculated?

Dear Rusty: I don't understand exactly how the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) works for my situation. I turned 62 in 2017 and am currently still working in a "non-covered" job, not paying into Social Security, but from which I will get a government pension when I retire. I began collecting Social Security at my full retirement age in 2021 and am now collecting \$1507 per month thanks to the cost of living adjustments since I started. Will my Social Security benefit be reduced by \$587 if I retire this year? Signed: Confused by WEP

Dear Confused: You're certainly not alone to be confused by WEP, and your situation is somewhat special because you started your SS benefits before taking your "non-covered" government pension. And, unfortunately, most tools and charts which suggest how much WEP will reduce your Social Security benefit don't accommodate that nuance very well.

In your case, when you claimed Social Security at your full retirement age (FRA), you were awarded the full benefit you were entitled to, unreduced by WEP because you were not yet collecting your non-covered government pension. You were able to collect your full SS amount and receive each year's full cost of living adjustments (COLA) to those higher amounts. What actually happens is that each person's Primary Insurance Amount (PIA) is first determined at age 62, and Social Security applies an annually awarded COLA to their PIA (primary insurance amount), even if they're not yet receiving benefits. You received your full PIA, including COLA, because you claimed at your full retirement age. But when you start collecting your pension from your non-covered government job, the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) will kick in and reduce your Social Security benefit.

The amount of WEP reduction depends on how many years you had contributed to Social Security from "substantial" earnings but, with 20 or fewer years, the maximum WEP reduction is determined by the year you turn 62 and doesn't change. Since you turned 62 in 2017, your maximum WEP re-

duction, according to Social Security's process, is \$442.50 - lower than the \$587 you suspect.

Nevertheless, due to the way Social Security calculates the WEP reduction, the reduction from your current amount will seem larger than the WEP maximum. And that's because of the way Social Security applies the WEP reduction to your benefit. They start by first removing all cost-of-living increases since you were 62 from your primary insurance amount (PIA). They will then take your PIA (sans COLA) and subtract \$442.50 (if you have more than 20 years of substantial SS-covered earnings they will subtract less), and then they will reapply all the cost-of-living increases since you were 62 to your WEP-reduced PIA. What just happened, in effect, is that your previous (pre-WEP) COLA increases were removed from your PIA, and those same COLA percentages were reapplied to your smaller WEP-reduced PIA, to arrive at your new monthly benefit amount under the Windfall Elimination Provision. And that new amount will be lower than your previous SS benefit amount by more than the published maximum WEP reduction for the year you turned 62.

A word of caution: Timely notification to Social Security of your non-covered pension is very important. As soon as you receive your non-covered pension award letter, deliver it to your local Social Security office and request a WEP recalculation of your SS retirement benefit. The WEP recalculation will likely take months to process, during which time you will continue to receive your higher non-WEP SS benefit. That means you will be overpaid for the period between when your non-covered pension started and the month your new WEP SS payment began, and that overpayment must be refunded to Social Security.

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Cougars named to All-State Teams

By Pat Delaney

The accolades continue for several Patrick County High athletes with the announcement of the Class 2 All-State baseball and softball teams.

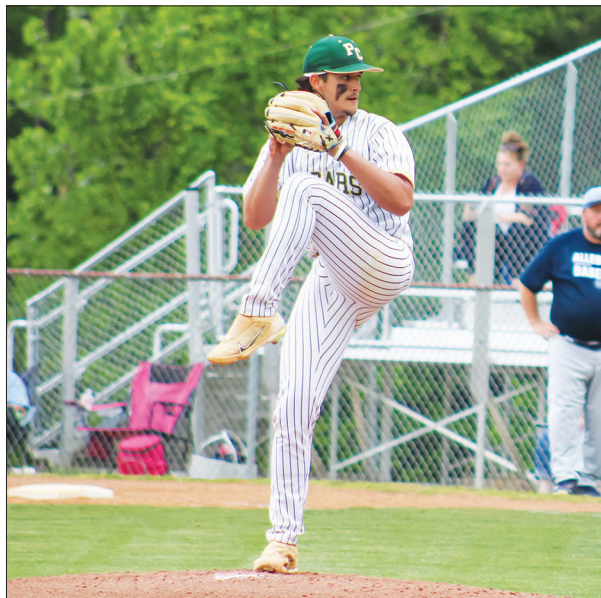
For Tucker Swails, it's back-to-back years being named to the All-State first team as a pitcher,

capping off a senior season that also saw him named district and region player of the year, in addition to being named 1st Team all-region and all-district at pitcher and shortstop.

Stuart Callahan was named 1st Team All-State as an outfielder. In addition, Callahan was named to the district and region 1st team

as an outfielder and 2nd team all-district and all-region as a pitcher.

Lady Cougar Journey Moore capped off her terrific season being named 1st Team All-State as a catcher. Moore was named Region 2C player of the year and 1st Team All-Region and 1st team all-district at catcher.



Tucker Swails



Stuart Callahan



Journey Moore

Martin Truex Jr. announces retirement from full-time NASCAR Cup Series racing

By Reid Spencer

NASCAR Wire Service

Martin Truex Jr. felt it was time to regain control over his own life and his own schedule.

"I'm obviously here to let y'all know that I won't be back full-time next year," Truex said Friday in a press conference with team owner Joe Gibbs, confirming the widely reported news that he will exit the No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota at season's end.

"It's been incredible. It's been a hell of a ride. I'm excited about the future, and I'm not really sure what that looks like yet," Truex added.

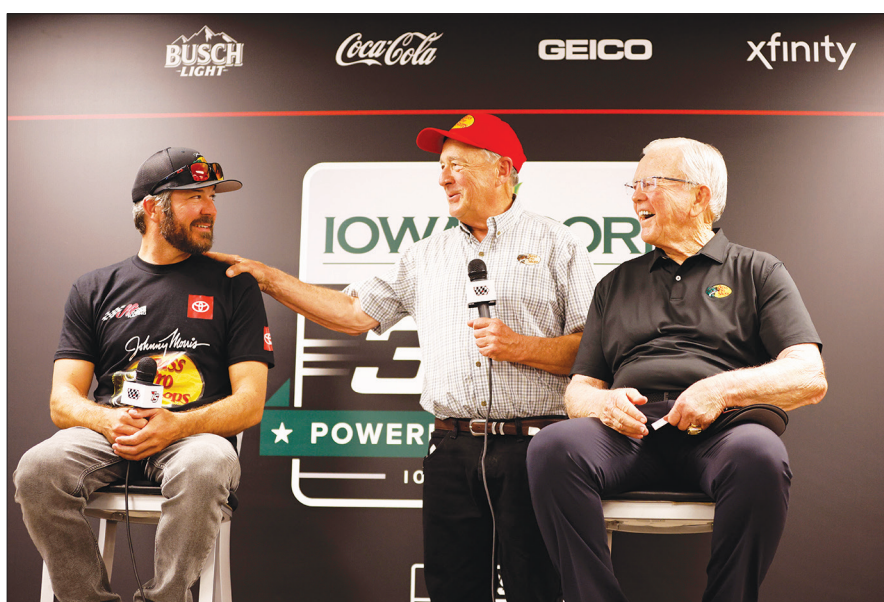
There are several issues, however, that are already settled. The 2017 NASCAR Cup Series champion will continue with JGR in what is vaguely defined as an "ambassadorial capacity." He likely will compete in an occasional NASCAR Xfinity Series race for the organization.

And Truex will fulfill a stated purpose of reclaiming his time as his own.

"It's the right time for me. I've thought about it a lot for the last few seasons — just waited for that feeling in my mind to be positive, like 'This is OK, I'm good, and I want to do something else,'" Truex said.

"In the 21 years that I've done this, I've never missed a race. I've never missed a practice. I've never been late for anything. I've never missed an appearance. You live your life by a schedule that somebody makes for you, and it's just time for me to make my own schedule.

"That's really what it boils down to. I want to go do the things I want



Martin Truex Jr., driver of the #19 Reser's Fine Foods Toyota, speaks to the media announcing his retirement prior to practice for the NASCAR Cup Series Iowa Corn 350 at Iowa Speedway on June 14, 2024 in Newton, Iowa. (Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images)

to do, and I don't want anyone to tell me when I can and when I can't do those things. I still love racing. I'm still going to race some — I don't know what, when, how, why — but I feel very fortunate to be in this position to make this decision."

Gibbs said he had a sense of what Truex's decision would be. Truex will turn 44 on June 29. That makes him the elder statesman of JGR by less than five months over teammate Denny Hamlin, a three-time winner so far this season.

"I did everything I could to keep it going," Gibbs said of his efforts to retain Truex for another season. "I think we've got two 43-year-olds that are at the top of their game."

Now in his 19th season of full-time Cup racing, Truex has accumulated 34 victories, 23 poles, 146 top fives and 287 top 10s in 673 starts

in NASCAR's top series. He also won consecutive NASCAR Xfinity Series titles in 2004 and 2005 with Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s Chance 2 Motorsports.

Truex's high-water mark in the Cup Series came in 2017. Driving for Furniture Row Racing and paired with crew chief Cole Pearn, he scored career bests in victories (eight) and top 10s (26) en route to the series championship, which he claimed with a win in the season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

After stints with Dale Earnhardt Inc., Earnhardt-Ganassi Racing, Michael Waltrip Racing and Furniture Row, Truex joined Joe Gibbs Racing in 2019. He won seven times that season and finished second in the final standings for the second straight year.

Though winless so far this season, Truex currently is fifth in the Cup Series standings, despite running out of fuel and finishing 27th in last Sunday's road course event at Sonoma Raceway.

NASCAR President Steve Phelps acknowledged Truex's achievements in a statement extolling his successes as a competitor and a person.

"Martin Truex Jr. has been a consistent figure over the last two-plus decades in NASCAR — a consistent winner, champion and fan-favorite," Phelps said. "Though he especially excelled on NASCAR's biggest stages, Martin performed his craft with a quiet tenacity, allowing his immense success tell his incredible story."

"On behalf of the France Family and all of NASCAR, I congratulate Martin on a wonderful career and wish him the best of luck for the remainder of his final full-time season."

As he plans his exit from full-time racing, Truex has few, if any, regrets.

"I would say I've achieved more than I ever thought I would," he said. "That being said, there's a lot of heartbreakers. There's a lot of things you go back and think about like, 'Man, if that had turned out different.'

"But a championship and three runners-up in this (elimination) format, I feel like that's really good. I'm proud of what I've done. I feel like I gave it everything I had, and I feel I'm really, really good at what I did, so I'm happy with that—I'm content."

Two-tire call helps Ryan Blaney find Victory Lane at Iowa Speedway

By Reid Spencer

NASCAR Wire Service

This time, there was no unpleasant surprise waiting for Ryan Blaney near the finish line of a NASCAR Cup Series race.

Grabbing the lead on crew chief Jonathan Hasler's two-tire call under the final caution of Sunday night's Iowa Corn 350, Blaney led the final 88 laps of the inaugural Cup race at 0.875-mile Iowa Speedway.

In front of a large contingent of family and friends, the reigning series champion crossed the finish line 0.716 seconds ahead of runner-up William Byron, who was racing on four new tires after a pit stop under caution for Chris Buescher's accident on Lap 260.

The victory was Blaney's first of the season and the 11th of his career. Blaney now has won at Iowa Speedway in all three NASCAR national series, having triumphed in the CRAFTSMAN Truck Series in 2012 and the Xfinity Series in 2015.

All told, the race winner led four times for 201 of 350 laps on a track that was repaved in the bottom two lanes in the corners.

"What a cool way to win here. This place means a lot to me and means a lot to my mom (Lisa, from Chariton, Iowa)," said Blaney, who was leading June 2 at World Wide Technology Raceway at Gateway outside St. Louis before running out of fuel on the white-flag lap.

"We had a lot of people here tonight cheering us on, so they willed us to that one. Overall, I really appreciate the whole (No. 12 team). I mean, our car was really fast all night and we got a little bit better through the night, and two tires was a good call there.

"I didn't know how well I was going to hold on. I started to struggle a little bit at the end but had

enough to hang on. I'm super proud of the effort."

Byron wasn't surprised Blaney won the race on two fresh tires, given the quality of the Team Penske driver's No. 12 Ford.

"No, he had a really good car, so he was up front and contending a lot, and him and the 5 (pole winner Kyle Larson) were really good," Byron said. "So, we were just a step off of that, you know?"

"I feel like I just needed to turn the center just a hair better and still kind of maintain the long run. Proud of the effort. It was a really good night, and I feel like we can learn from this and build from it to be a little bit better."

In a race that featured eight cautions for 49 laps, Chase Elliott finished third, followed by Christopher Bell, who started from the rear of the field in a back-up car after blowing a right front tire and crashing in Friday's practice.

Ricky Stenhouse Jr. came home fifth, with Joey Logano, Josh Berry, Alex Bowman, Daniel Suarez and Brad Keselowski completing the top 10.

The restart after the second stage break changed the entire dynamic of the race. Larson had just taken the green/checkered flag to claim his eighth stage victory of the season.

But on lap 220, one circuit after the final stage went green for the first time, contact from Suarez's Chevrolet sent Larson's Camaro spinning into the outside wall on the frontstretch, pinching Denny Hamlin's Toyota into the barrier in the process.

Larson's crew eventually repaired the wounded machine, but not until the 2021 champion had lost 31 laps in the garage. Larson finished 34th, 36 laps down and lost the series lead to Elliott, his Hendrick Motorsports teammate.

Larson, who led 80 laps on Sunday before the accident that waylaid him, trails Elliott by eight points

with nine races left in the regular season. Next up for the Cup Series is the June 23 USA Today 301 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway (2:30 p.m. ET on USA, PRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).



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Summer Activities to Get Kids Moving

Activity is very important for children. One of the contributors to the obesity epidemic is lack of activity. There are multiple factors that contribute to children not moving: lack of safe playgrounds, parents working until late at night, video games, and decreased PE programs in the public school system, to name just a few.

Noncompetitive sports are an excellent way to get kids moving. Swimming, biking, hiking, backpacking, and camping are wonderful ways to introduce children to the world of nature and develop a love for God's wonderful world. In addition, noncompetitive sports have less risk of injury and developing a "competitive spirit" which can be a handicap to working well with others. Our family recently went on our first backpacking adventure with our 4- and 6-year olds. We have been camping with them for years, but this was our first foray into a world without toilets and showers and cell phones. I was pleasantly surprised at how well they

did on the trip. They loved having mom and dad's undivided attention. I enjoyed having a conversation with them without my cell phone interrupting with a "ping" to signal a text message or page. I hadn't realized how much technology had intruded into time with my children until it was removed.

For those parents who aren't able to take their children out due to work or other life issues, a carefully chosen sports program can help keep your child moving. Risk of injury depends on child's age, size, and maturity level. This article by Physiopedia is excellent and summarizes childhood sports and risk of injury. I'll briefly summarize the findings:

The highest rates for pediatric sports injuries occur in boys aged 10-14 years and are more likely to occur during team sport activity. Girls are more likely to suffer an overuse injury and are also more likely than boys to tear the ACL ligament of their knee (especially in soccer or basketball).

Pre-pubertal children's bones are still growing. The ends of the bones of something called a "physeal plate." This is where new bone is made. It is more vulnerable to fracture as the bone hasn't calcified yet. It is important if a fracture does occur that your child seek prompt medical attention as untreated injuries to the physeal plate can damage the growth potential of bones—leading to limb length discrepancy. Children who have completed puberty are less likely to have fractures and more likely to have a sprain or strain injury.

Sports injuries are common in child-athletes but should not deter parents from keeping your child playing. The risks of inactivity and obesity far outweigh the potential for a sport's related injury. However, prudence in choosing a coach and sport that best fits the needs of your child can help prevent injuries.

Today's Parent has an excellent article on how to pick the right coach for your child. In brief:

1) Look at the coach's approach. Is the focus on fairness or competition? Does the coach focus on team building or developing an elite set of players that will win no matter what? A coach can have a huge impact on your child. Choose one that has a coaching style you want your child to emulate.

2) Does the coach welcome beginners? This is especially important for children who are just beginning a physically active sports program. It is vital for them to not get discouraged and feel that they are thought of as "clumsy or dumb."

3) Is the sport right for your child? Sometimes this will take trial and error. Sign up for a limited time period. This allows your child to complete what was started, but gives them an out if the sport is really not what they enjoy.

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

School Board

(cont. from page 1)



Mary Martin



Denise Clark



Carol Green



Shelia "Cookie" Lawson



Ella Pilson



The Patrick County School Board approved a resolution honoring Woolwine Elementary School staff for receiving the Highest Achievement Exemplar Award.

"The rest, we've updated the revenue sheets so you can see a year-to-year comparison. The state, after COVID, has made a conscious effort to invest more money in public education, and I think that is a great and wise investment to meet the needs of all students, especially the students we have here," he said. "They should not be shortchanged or receive anything less than other school divisions are getting."

Noting there's always discussions on how the school division is actually using its budget, Wood said the division follows state recommendations.

"Instruction should be 60-65 percent, and I'm proud that ours is 65 percent. We're putting more money in instructing kids," he said.

The state recommends 10-15 percent should be used for facilities and maintenance, and county schools use 11 percent, Wood said, adding that the transportation budget is seven percent, higher than the state recommended of 3- to 5- percent.

"Your funding's based on enrollment. You can imagine a school division that has a similar enrollment is in nine square miles outside of Richmond, they get the same amount of funding we do for all the square miles we have to cover in Patrick County. So, yes that is over the guidance, but it has to be due to our geographic con-



Walter Scott, vice chairman and of the Smith River District, presented Shelia "Cookie" Lawson with flowers to celebrate her retirement.

straints," he said.

The division's technology category is six percent, higher than the recommended 3- to 5- percent.

"We are a one-to-one school division, so that is slightly above," he said.

The administration category should be 6-10 percent of the total budget. The county's school system is at six percent.

"I'm proud to say ours is at the bottom end of that. We are not heavily staffed with administration and positions that would fall into that category," he said.

Rob Martin, chairman and of the Dan River District, said he gets a lot of



Some of the retiring staff members.

questions from the public about budget increases.

"That again is kind of out of our control. That is based on the total enrollment of students that we have and then based on the guidelines that Richmond sends to us. This is not a number we're pulling out where we're wanting more money or anything. This is the bare state basics for the enrollment that we have for the Required Local Effort and Required Local Match," he said.

"We are actually reporting a decline in enrollment," Wood said.

In other matters, the board:

*Recognized retiring staff who have worked in the division for a combined total of 241 years.

*Approved a resolution honoring Woolwine Elementary School for receiving the Highest Achievement Exemplar Award. Woolwine is one of the 37 schools in the state to receive this award.

*Heard the superintendent's report.

*Approved the consent agenda.

*Approved the 2024-2025 consolidated federal programs application as presented.

*Approved the 2024-2025 Title III statewide consortium application.

*Approved permission for the superintendent to authorize payment of any invoices received that are necessary to close out the 2023-2024 school year.

Frances Gunter Bowling

Frances Gunter Bowling, 84, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Monday, June 10, 2024. She was born on May 16, 1940, in Stuart, VA to the late Glenn W. Gunter, Sr., and Vada Gilbert Gunter.



Frances graduated from Stuart High School in 1958 and attended Radford College. She graduated from Winston-Salem Baptist Hospital Program of Practical Nursing in 1962. Frances loved being a nurse and worked at the former Martinsville General Hospital and later at Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County, as well as several doctor's offices in Martinsville. She was a former member of the Snow Creek Rescue Squad and the Order of

the Eastern Star. Frances was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

She is survived by her children, Jeff Bowling (Faye), Will Bowling (Teresa) and Cindy Bowling Jefferson (Ronald); grandchildren, Tabitha Bowling, Gunter Bowling, Christian Naff, Spencer Jefferson, and Lindsay Hughes; great-grandchildren,

Nathaniel Eggleston and Nolan Naff; brother, Bill Gunter (Emily) and sister, Nancy Gunter Hopkins (Clint).

Visitation will be held from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at Trinity Baptist Church, Martinsville, with funeral service to follow at 1:00 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church with Rev. Glenn Stinnett officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donation to Trinity Baptist Church, 2370 Snow Creek Road, Martinsville, VA.

Norris Funeral Services, Inc. and Crematory, Martinsville, VA is serving the Bowling family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Myra Lacy Grier Nunn

Mrs. Myra Lacy Grier Nunn, age 79, of Ararat, Virginia passed away on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at the Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Mrs. Nunn was born on May 16, 1945, in Elmore County, Alabama to the late Lacy Grier and Mary Wingard Grier Combs. Myra was a loving wife, mother, sister, and friend. She enjoyed working in her flower and vegetable gardens, watching birds, and most of all spending time with her family. For many years Myra

worked as a florist; and she will be missed by all who knew. Surviving is her daughter, Marlow "Tina" McGill of Tacoma, Washington; sons, James "Jamie" Nunn of Rural Hall, North Carolina, Edwin "Ed" McGill of Sacramento, California; two brothers and sister-in-law, Stanley Combs and Shelia, David Combs; several nieces and nephews; and a special caregiver Morgan Nunn. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Nunn was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert Everette Nunn; three sisters, Jean Gri-

er Meeks, Linda Grier Nicholas, and Denise Combs Nunn. A celebration of life will be held at a late date. The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff of Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home for the loving care provided for Mrs. Nunn. Moody Funeral Services in Mount Airy has been entrusted with the arrangement.

Moody Funeral Services in Mount Airy is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Elizabeth Kathleen Greer Compton

Elizabeth Kathleen Greer Compton passed away peacefully on June 3, 2024, in Milton, Florida at the age of 77, with her family by her side. She was born on October 22, 1946 in Patrick County, Virginia to her loving parents, Samuel and Ethel Gay Hall Greer.

Elizabeth was a devoted sister and a cherished member of her family. Preceding her in death were her brother, David Greer; brother-in-law, Junior Alley, and sister-in-law, Peggy Greer.

She is survived by her siblings, Almeda Alley, Roy Greer, Sue Cox (Richard), Alfred Greer

(Sharon), and Velvet Wyatt (Kevin).

In her role as a loving mother, Elizabeth leaves behind her beloved children, Bridget Chavez (Tony) and Virginia "Ginny" Fulford (Cory), three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Ina "Daisy" Vest Wood

Mrs. Ina "Daisy" Vest Wood, age 94 of Meadows of Dan, passed away Monday, June 10, 2024, at Laurel Meadows Nursing Center in Laurel Fork. She was born in Christiansburg on December 3, 1929, to the late James Clarence Vest and Nina Burgess Vest. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert Carter Wood; one sister, Claudine Haynes; three brothers, Harless, Alton, and Freddie Vest; three sisters-in-law, Ruby, Christine, and Shelby Vest; and one brother-in-law, Don Haynes. Daisy was a member of Meadows of Dan Baptist Church where she sang in the choir. She was a gifted musician and loved music. She enjoyed knitting and tending to garden.



Daphne Wood, Timberlynn Bailey, Rachel Phillips, Kyleigh Plott, Breanna Phillips, Ethan Phillips, Nikkilee Pack, Coty Pack; two great grandchildren, Ro-

salie and Gunner Pack; one sister and brother-in-law, Lorine and David Huff of Floyd; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Friday, June 14, 2024, at 1:00 PM at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church with Pastor Clinton Phillips and Pastor Shawn Carter officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Glendel William Cock

Glendel William Cock (Glen) was born February 7, 1932 in Meadows of Dan, Virginia, near the Blue Ridge Parkway, to William Taylor Cock and Glennie (Banks) Cock.



He was baptized in the Dan River near his hometown at age 9. He attended Meadows of Dan High School where he lettered in basketball and was on the 1949-50 team that won state championship. He grew up on a farm milking cows and feeding chickens. He was in 4H, received awards in Future Farmers of America (FFA) for showing and judging dairy cows. He also raised Hereford hogs to make spending money. Glen graduated from Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1954 with a degree in electrical engineering. He deferred his military service for a year and was hired by Tampa Electric Company (TECO) specializing in

distribution engineering. He then went into the Air Force as a first lieutenant, attained the rank of Captain and was a pilot flying C119's. He went back to TECO and worked there for 41 years until he retired. During this time, he became a Professional Engineer (PE), and was a life member of Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). He was renowned as a National Electrical Code (NEC) expert and served as a witness in many court cases including at the Supreme Court. He was a member of the

First Baptist Church of Brandon for over 60 years. He served as a member of the Sertoma club for over 60 years, Glen passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus, surrounded by family, on June 6, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Elizabeth (Connell) Cock. He is survived by his son, David, (Christine), son Robert 'Bob' (Kimberly) and daughter, Jean (Joe) White and granddaughter Kaley.

A funeral service will be held Friday, June 28 at 11:00 A.M. at the First Baptist Church of Brandon, 216 N Parsons Avenue, Brandon where the family will receive friends at 10:00 A.M. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to MacDonald Training Center, 5420 W. Cypress Street, Tampa, FL, 33607-1706 or at <https://macdonaldcenter.org/donate>. Expressions of condolences at www.HopewellFuneral.com.

Ralph Eugene Hunt

Mr. Ralph Eugene Hunt, age 91, of Spencer, Virginia traded this earthly life for his heavenly reward on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at the Blue Ridge Nursing Center in Stuart. He was born in Bassett, Virginia on May 3, 1933, to the late Melvin Hunt and Katherine Clifton Hunt. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia "Pat" Wright Hunt; and one brother, Ross Hunt. Mr. Hunt was a devout Christian for 65 years and a faithful member of Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church. He never missed a Sunday church service, when on vacation, he would always find a church to attend. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army. He loved to fish and hunt. Ralph will be remembered as a loving, humble, and kindhearted husband, daddy, and "Pa."



Left to cherish the special memories of Mr. Hunt are his three children, Tim Hunt, Teresa White (Jerry), and Larry Hunt; eight grandchildren, Andy Hunt (Erika), Alex Hunt (Christina), Austin Hunt (Kelsie), Ashton Hunt, Christy Foley (Jeff), Shannon Cassell (Eric), Heather Hunt, Shane Hunt; six great-grandchildren, Brett Foley, Addy Foley, Carrie Cassell, Cameron Cassell, Natalie Hunt, Zoe Hunt; one brother, Edward Hunt; special friend, Cindy Carr; several nieces and neph-

ews; and many dear friends.

A funeral service for Mr. Ralph Hunt will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church with Pastor Samuel Leonard and Pastor Jonathan Goins officiating. The burial will immediately follow the funeral service in Patrick Memorial Gardens. The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard will provide military rites. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the funeral service on Saturday afternoon at the church. Memorial donations in memory of Mr. Hunt may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1079C Spruce Street, Martinsville, VA 24112. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Hunt family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

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PATRICK PULPITS

Embrace a global consciousness

By Van Yandell

John 20: 31 "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Our planet is shrinking. A trip across an ocean just 200 years ago took weeks. Now that we can be in Europe or Asia in a matter of hours should awaken us to a new global consciousness our ancestors could not imagine.

A trip from New York to England took six weeks by sailing ship. Today we can be in London in six to seven hours.

The population of our planet has exceeded the eight-billion mark, and the mixing of cultures has increased hostilities among the intolerant. Some may view a global culture by the mixing of cultures as a positive thing. A question may be; how long is it going to take for this mixing to be completed?

The world population has increased exponentially since the two and one-half billion mark in 1950. Based on current growth, the estimate of U.S. population is to be ten billion by 2050.

The masses explain the pollution, body waste and garbage that accumulate in so many places. The excessive population also is responsible for the conditions stated in Matthew 24: 6-7 "And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places."

When food shortages exist, famines are a result. The mobility of humans (Daniel 12: 4) transfers diseases (pestilences) across borders. The variances in political ideologies create an environment for violent protests which elevate into war type conditions.

The UN claims conditions of famine currently exist for forty-one million people. World Vision research states starvation exists for over forty-five million people in the world today. The UN also tells us 25,000 die daily from starvation, malnutrition or related conditions.

It certainly appears everything is falling into place for the fulfillment of prophecy in the Book of Revelation chapter thirteen. If we were seeing only one prophecy happening, we could easily shrug it off. But when several are developing or happening, it becomes increasingly difficult to ignore.

There are many in our world promoting a global economy and a one world government. They will succeed because these are prophesied in the Holy Bible (Revelation 13).

Apparently, many think a new world order will lead to world peace and prosperity. This goal is admirable but unlikely to happen.

Civil wars have made up a large number of the wars in our modern day in time. The America Civil War claimed about 620,000 lives. Tribal uprisings and skirmishes have not been classified or even been considered newsworthy but have caused mass casualties in recent years. Being a single country worldwide will not prevent wars.

Prosperity will not become a reality because greed will continue as always. The rich (and "smart") will get richer and the poor will get poorer (Mathew 26: 11). For every problem there is a simple solution that won't work.

Revelation 13: 8a "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him." There are certainties in life and then there are speculations. Given the fact that so many Bible prophesies have already come to pass, we may be sure the statement in Revelation 13: 8 is in our future.

The New World Order as promoted by many in governments around the world will eventually be a reality. With the illusion of a perfect world and a perfect society, the efforts of the proponents will continue. As misguided as this attitude is, Biblical verification or this attainment is assured.

Local wars and violent protests will continue as always because people have become less compromising and extremely divided in political and religious ideologies. These trends will not likely change as the populations increase and the mixing of cultures continues.

Many of the Biblical prophesies imply or at least suggest a new world order and/or a one world government. To implement a one world currency would seem to require a single government. The prediction of the mark of the beast (Revelation 13: 16) to enable one to buy or sell could be regarded as requiring a single currency.

Many are promoting the idea of a cashless society and that will work for some things and as long as the electricity stays on. I shudder at the thought of an electrical power failure for whatever reason. The world would be immediately thrown into chaos and the results would be catastrophic.

Matthew 24: 9 "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." This prophesy directly from our Jesus points to a condition that is evolving daily in our world.

Christianity is under fire not only physically/violently, but also from an accusatory point of view. Many (like me for example) are being called Christian Nationalists simply because we promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the scriptures tell us to do.

Many in our world resent the concept of forgiveness of sin based on confession, repentance and belief. We may take note, these are the same reasons Jesus was rejected by the first century Jews.

We must acknowledge Christianity is being rejected by many because the world seems to hate that which is good and embrace that which is evil. Have we not noticed news reports specifically target crime and disasters as they know that is what people want to see and hear?

Isaiah 5: 20 "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Our world has become so misguided and the distancing from Christianity is a contributing factor. Jesus taught us to love one another. He did not say love other white people, Asians or blacks; He said "one another."

John 13: 34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

If we are to adopt a global consciousness, it must be with understanding and love as Jesus would have us to do. We cannot expect a global perspective to peacefully exist without a Biblical focus on our behavior.

Acts 1: 8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The "uttermost" covers the entire earth. Everywhere is the "uttermost" to someone. If Christians do not tell the world about Jesus, no one is going to.

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

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Bethel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Moses and Aaron were instructed to sacrifice what color of heifer without blemish? Red, White, Gold, Green
3. Which book begins, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God"? Mark, Romans, Galatians, Ephesians
4. What Old Testament woman was buried in a cave in the field of Machpelah? Eve, Ruth, Sarah, Esther
5. How many righteous people did Sodom need to keep God from destroying the city? 1, 2, 10, 20
6. From 2 Kings 17, who was the god of the men of Cuth? Succothbenoth, Nergal, Hamath, Ashima

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Red, 3) Ephesians, 4) Sarah, 5) 10, 6) Nergal
 Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.
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| ACROSS | 52 Knitters' supplies | 99 Completely destroy | 7 Catch a glimpse of | 42 Detached roughly | 76 Glove thread |
| 1 Biblical figure slain for being a G.P.'s gp. | 53 Greek herald of the gods | 100 "Reckless" actor Quinn | 8 Soccer Hall of Famer Lalas | 43 Accumulate, as debts | 77 Have |
| 8 G.P.'s gp. | 54 Perilous thing to live on | 101 Above | 9 Prized mushroom | 44 "Well, — you special!" | 79 Major train terminals |
| 11 Dangerous snake | 58 Big antelope | 103 Flaring dress | 10 Clear as — | 45 Take part in a parade | 80 Rowlands of "Hope Floats" |
| 14 Detest | 59 Position while batting | 104 Noise from a beehive | 11 Intention | 46 Via | 81 Hurt badly |
| 19 Actress Bertinelli | 61 Bristly swine | 106 Riddle's answer | 12 Reading digitally | 47 Deaf school co-founder | 82 Initial input to be processed |
| 20 Throw slowly in a high arc | 62 Always, to bards | 110 Country east of Fiji | 13 18th-century powdered hairpiece | 48 Body blinker | 83 Level of command |
| 21 Cola-cooling cubes | 63 Riddle, part 4 | 111 Geisha's sash | 14 — chili (pepper variety) | 50 "Why Can't I?" singer Liz | 84 Having a big smile |
| 22 Novelist Zora — Hurston | 68 Academic URL ender | 112 Old sitcom cousin | 15 See | 51 "Hey Deanie" singer Cassidy | 85 Apply with a bristly tool |
| 23 Start of a riddle | 69 Person not telling the truth | 113 Opening in some helmets | 16 Transporting trucks | 54 Hurry-scurry | 88 Luau paste |
| 25 Blemish | 70 Liam of "Schindler's List" | 114 Unsettled feeling | 17 David Mamet play or film | 55 Protects | 89 Singer Murray |
| 26 Gave hints to | 71 Above, to bards | 115 Hush-hush intel org. | 18 Antares or Arcturus | 56 18th-century English king | 91 Salad bar utensil |
| 27 With | 72 Dangerous snakes | 116 Baggage inspection org. | 19 Like some permed hair | 57 Have it wrong | 92 Gripper on a shoe bottom |
| 15-Down, no higher than | 74 Met, as the challenge | 117 32 Beethoven piano pieces | 20 — Mae (loan provider) | 59 French river | 93 "Start playing the song!" |
| 28 Skating feats | 76 Jargon | | 21 The Windy City, for short | 60 "— not to be" | 94 Revises |
| 30 "Jolly old" saint | 78 Pro vote | | 22 Tylenol targets | 61 Particle in quantum mechanics | 95 Crimean resort port |
| 32 Riddle, part 2 | 79 Riddle, part 5 | | 23 Barak of Israel | 62 Lively spirit | 96 Kind of yoga |
| 37 "Hello, sailor!" | 82 Up one's auction offer | DOWN | 24 Like some permed hair | 63 Sir Andrew — Webber | 97 "Some Like —" |
| 38 58, to Nero | 85 Starting charge, as on a utility bill | 1 Brand of sneakers | 25 CD — (PC inserts) | 64 Hurry-scurry | 98 Cash, informally |
| 39 Viral gene material | 86 Enters warily | 2 U.S.-Can.-Mex. treaty | 26 Political columnist Molly | 65 Lrk | 102 Corp. honcho |
| 40 Silvery metallic element | 87 Master pilot | 3 Choir parts | 27 "Wahoo!" | 66 Knot anew | 105 Soccer Hall of Famer Hamm |
| 44 Moseying | 88 Former | 4 First prime minister of India | 28 "Wahoo!" | 67 Linen fabric | 107 Marks, as a ballot box |
| 47 TV "dog whisperer" Millan | 89 Dark blue dye | 5 Fury | 29 "Wahoo!" | 73 "Bali —" | 108 Philosopher — tzu |
| 49 Riddle, part 3 | 90 End of the riddle | 6 Breathed-in stuff | 30 Awful event | 74 Put new turf on | 109 Mafia's code of silence |
| 51 Sneaky | | | | 75 Mafia's code of silence | 109 Big vase |

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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

LEGAL

TRUSTEE SALE 1088 Peters Creek Dr, Stuart, VA 24171 Patrick County

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$56,193.88, dated July 9, 2002 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Patrick County, Virginia, in Document No. 020002198, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, on July 18, 2024 at 12:00 PM the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as: Lot 4, containing 2.0008 acres, more or less, as shown on a plat of survey titled "J. H. Horton and W. E. Edwards and A. A. Edwards", prepared by J. L. Bolt, LLS, # 1703, dated January 18, 1999, in the Current Plat Cabinet of the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, with any improvements thereon Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property. TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than \$10,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the validity of the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.c., Substitute Trustee

This is a communication from a debt collector. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C. (88713) 448 Viking Drive Suite 350 Virginia Beach, VA 23452 757-457-1460 - Call Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit our website at www.siwpnc.net

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

www.theenterprise.net

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Publisher Michael Showell Editor Debbie Hall

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

Land Transfers in March

The following land transfers were processed in the Parick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in March:

Kathy L. Simmons Anderson and others to Hansel A. Lyda and other, lots, Mayo River District.
 Harold Ted Barbee to Singh Brothers Investments LLC, 0.2471 acres, Mayo River District.
 Sonya Barnwell to Kevin Daniel Reynolds and other, 37 acres, Mayo River District.
 Jeff W. Carpenter and wife to John P. Newby, 1.332, 1.444, and 20.706 acres, Smith River District.
 Kristin Compton and others to Austin M. Compton, 5.85 acres, Smith River District.
 Allison L. Elizalde to Kurt Bozenmayer and wife, 17/100, 1/15, 1/10 and 1 acre, Smith River District.
 James R. Evans to Ricky Cole Walton and other, 2.393 acres, Smith River District.
 Federal National Mortgage Asso to Leslie Marsh, 1.789 acres, Mayo River District.
 Chasidy Leighann Foley to Michael Stevens, 0.6174 acres, Peters Creek District.
 Foresight HS Property Holdings to Wolf of Wabash LLC, 10.078 acres Mayo River District.
 Four Fifty Five LLC to Kacy Gail Draughn, 5.000 acres, Dan River District.
 Brenda B. Gray to Thomas M. McCaully and wife, lot, Blue Ridge District.
 Barran Harbour, admin, to Douglas E. Lefler and wife, lots, Mayo River District.
 Joel A. Holderman to Michael T. Connell

and wife, 5.9529 acres, Smith River District.
 Gary Randal Hunt to Angela Miller, 6.686 acres, Mayo River District.
 Timothy R. Hutchens and other to Dwayne Pierre Eckman and wife, 13.689 acres, Peters Creek District.
 Timothy R. Hutchens and other to Ashley Crutchfield Wilbourne, 44.559 acres, Mayo River District.
 Brenda Lea Hylton and others to Samuel D. Jackson and wife, 2.46 acres, Smith River District.
 Gareth I. Jones and other to Papa Macks Cottage LLC, 0.401 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Kripalu Abodes LLC to Dale R. Alford and wife, tract, no district given.
 James E. Litten and wife to Warren L. Rodgers and wife, tract, Mayo River District.
 Tammy Marsh and others to W D Smith, lots, Mayo River District.
 Rory D. McTighe and other to Jerry W. Smith, 2.484 acres, Smith River District.
 Kenneth L. Miller and wife to Southwest Virginia Suites LLC, 0.47 acres, Mayo River District.
 Patrick County Rentals LLC to Brian A. Chitwood and other, 1.97 acres, Mayo River District.
 Ronnie Pauley to Elion Leon and other, 2.096 acres, Mayo River District.
 Travis Gene Phelps and wife to Edward Albert Evans III, 1.0 acres, Smith River District.
 Iris Parker Pope and other to Michael Steven Rorrer and wife, 2.502 acres, Peters Creek

District.
 John P. Porter and other to Andreas Steude, TR, 31.85 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Raced LLC to Mark D. Pavlinko and wife, 2.9385 acres, Peters Creek District.
 David L. Richardson and other to Michael A. Willard and other, 11.006 acres, Smith River District.
 Jason Christopher Stewart to Christine K. Hoskins, 2.020 acres, Dan River District.
 Michael R. Sumner and other to Linda Louise Barrera and others, 2.2340 acres, Dan River District.
 Town of Stuart Virginia to Singh Brothers Investments LLC, 5.794 acres, Mayo River District.
 Thomas Turner and other to David Shane Haden, 3.2358 acres, Smith River District.
 James Vipperman and other to Elizabeth Bateman, tract, Dan River District.
 Laura Walsh to Brian Keith Freitag and other, 16.000 acres, Smith River District.
 Teresa S. White and other to Lance R. Knight, 2.796 acres, Mayo River District.
 Amber Willard to Faith A. Bailey, lots, Smith River District.
 Lorene D. Williams to Tommy B. Haley, Jr. and wife, 1.427 acres, Mayo River District.
 Kelly L. Witt and other to Paul Lawrence Payton and wife, 81.742, 6.5 and 26 acres, Peters Creek District.
 Virginia Zahn to Paul Lawrence Payton and other, 288.3100 and 15.5397 acres, Peters Creek District.

Land Transfers in April

The following land transfers were recorded in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in April:

Douglas Bryan Andrews; by atty to Midtown Three LLC, 0.1420, 0.2901 and 0.8891 acres, Mayo River District.
 Bailey Financial LLC to Amy Terrill Newbern, unit, Blue Ridge District.
 Cynthia Baum and other to Edward Andrew Holthof and wife, 25.957 acres, Peters Creek District.
 Darlene Blake to Mark Ludington, tract, Mayo River District.
 Wesley J. Boles and others to Robert Bentley Newberry II and wife, 0.907 acres, Mayo River District.
 Allen A. Bouldin Jr. and other to Mark R. Cummings, lots, Smith River District.
 Dalton Bouldin and other to James Irby Eggleston, 5.018 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Daniel Leon Bowman and wife to Richard Alan Burnham and wife, 8.42 and 1.00 acres, Dan River District.
 Edwin Boyd and other to Christopher N. Hatcher and wife, lots, Mayo River District.
 Buffalo Ridge Timber Company to Daniel Lee Lawson, Jr., 91.1654 acres, Smith River District.
 Olivia Faith Cochran to Jesse Boyd, 22.25 acres, Dan River District.
 Linda Sharon Ellis Coleman to Billy Ray Collins, 1.169 acres, Mayo River District.
 Harold R. Comer to Blue Ridge Parkway Love LLC, 5.471 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Christopher D. Courey to Phillip Neale Davis III and wife, 0.51 acres, Smith River District.
 Clarence Edwards Davis and other to Rob-

ert Richard Sterner and wife, 5.006, and 15.855 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Omar L. Dibe and other to Singh Brothers Investments LLC, lot, Peters Creek District.
 Gregory A. Hairston to David Brian Johnson and other, tract, Mayo River District.
 Jimmy D. Harold and wife to S & S Properties & Rentals LLC, 1.0001 and 1.64 acres, Dan River District.
 Michael J. Hartman and other to Tammy Price Smith, 1.65 acres, Mayo River District.
 Melvin Elmo Hubbard, Sr. and others to Sherry N. Plasters, 4.3953 and 2.5945 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Katherine Sands Jennette and others to Shirley Van Doorn and husband, 0.478 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Seth R. Konopasek; special comm, to Jamie Hugh Adams, lots, Smith River District.
 Seth R. Konopasek; special comm, to Teresa Marie Overfelt and other, lot, Mayo River District.
 Benjamin T. Lahn to David M. Litwa; Trustee, 2.82 acres, Smith River District.
 James S. Lawson and wife to Colin Roughley and wife, 12.03803 and 4.08293 acres, Smith River District.
 Terry Franklin Martin and others to Tyler Belcher and other, 3.8438 and 0.4669 acres, Mayo River District.
 George Edward Millsaps, Jr. and wife to Charles Foster Gwinn, 2.004 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Robert S. Mitchell II and other to Thomas Joseph Fillenwarth; TR, 18.2383 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Daniel Glenn Mullins to Roger Dale Lovins and other, 1.376 acres, Mayo River District.
 Rhonda Terry Nelson to Bernice P. Simmons, 1.6682 and 1.183 acres, Peters Creek District.
 Rhonda Terry Nelson to Alan Barbour,

1.183 acres, Peters Creek District.
 RE New III and wife to Dylan Baer, 1.1562 acres, Mayo River District.
 Amy Terrill Newbern to Lee Clack and wife, unit, Blue Ridge District.
 Patriot Land Group LLC to Sheryl Semmes and other, 2.0978 acres, Dan River District.
 Charles L. Pearce III and other to Hoyte Michael Martin and wife, 18.2014 acres, Mayo River District.
 Gary Pruitt to Joshua Michael Myers and wife, 1.688 acres, Dan River District.
 Winston Falus Puckett and wife to Joshua Daniel Blankenship and other, 2.10 acres, Dan River District.
 Brandon J. Simmons and other to John Leonard Danley and wife, 1.486 acres, Dan River District.
 W D Smith to Cody Spence and wife, 2.117, 2.207, 2.271 and 2.225 acres, Mayo River District.
 Spectre Bonifield LLC to Tony Adel Kattan and wife, 1.845 and 3.000 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Tammy Renee Spence to Jacob W. Spence, 9.5968 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Tammy Renee Spence to Jacob W. Spence, 0.045 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Curtis R. Tedder to James T. Lockhart and wife, 22.711 acres, Smith River District.
 Danette Kathleen Vernon to Andrew Jacob Coyle, 40 acres, Smith River District.
 Amy Lynn Warner; exor, to Carlos J. Diaz and wife, 1.980 acres, Mayo River District.
 Joseph Daniel Watkins to CMH Homes Inc, 5.0701 acres, Mayo River District.
 Samuel Blake Weiss to Arnold Stevens Lawson, 7.2929 acres, Mayo River District.
 Zist Mortgage Corporation to Scott D. Kerner, 1.595 and 0.077 acres, no district given.

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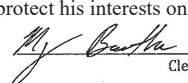
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LEGAL

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  Clerk

Meetings

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

Monday, July 8
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Thursday, July 11
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the School Board Office.

Events

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
Meadows of Dan Baptist Church will host its annual Homecoming at 11 a.m. with guest speaker, the Rev. Charles DeHart. A meal will follow.

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.

pastor@ravenrockchurch.org.

Saturday, June 29
The Patrick County Democratic Committee will meet at 11:00 am at the Patrick County Library. Business cards, yard signs and more will be available.

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.

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

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

Saturday, July 13
The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club will hold a fish fry dinner from 4-7 p.m. at the Patrick Springs Park to help raise funds and sponsor community service projects. The meal will include fried fish, beans, corn, slaw, hush puppies, a drink, and dessert. There will be a dessert auction of pies and cakes after the meal.

Saturday, July 23
Mayo Mountain Church will hold a Vacation Bible School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ongoing

Free Community Meal, every 4th Wednesday, 5 p.m., Raven Rock Wesleyan Church, 1912 Raven Rock Road, Ararat. Take out or dine in. Call Scott or Nann Phillips at (276) 773-6004 or email

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 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 Willis Gap Community Center Members Meeting is the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The Willis Gap Community Center "Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam" is every Friday, with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. for food. Music and Dancing will be from 6:30-9 p.m., and "Golden Oldies Open Jam" will be the last Tuesday in the month, with doors opening at 6 p.m. for food. Music and Dancing will be from 6:30-9 p.m.

The Ararat Ruritan Club holds Rook games every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m.

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

Farms affected by new federal law that requires reporting of beneficial ownership

Virginia farmers who operate as a corporation, LLC or limited partnership should be aware they now are required to report additional small business entities in which they have an ownership stake.

The Corporate Transparency Act is a federal law passed in 2021 under which new reporting requirements are being implemented in 2024. The law was created to curb illicit financial transactions and money laundering, and it requires most registered companies to complete Beneficial Ownership Information Reports. The U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network will build a national registry of beneficial owners.

"It certainly creates more burdensome paperwork for farmers," said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm

Bureau Federation. "But thankfully there is no filing fee. We encourage our state's farmers to get this done before the deadlines."

Companies are now required to provide operational information, including details about each beneficial owner. A beneficial owner is anyone who owns at least 25% of the company or has "substantial control" over the business. The online registry will collect names, dates of birth, home addresses and photo IDs.

"Farms are among the businesses included in this law to report information about their beneficial owners," explained Ben Rowe, VFBF director of national affairs. "Congress' intent was to try to make it harder to illegally hide assets and to prevent financial crimes, particularly through the use of shell companies. However, because of the additional regulatory burden the law would place on farmers, the American Farm Bureau Federation opposed the bill."

Entities registered before Jan. 1, 2024, have one year to file their first BOIR. Those created and registered after that must file their BOIR within 90 days of receiving no-

tice from the Secretary of State. Entities created after Jan. 1, 2025, will have 30 days to upload reports.

The law's 23 reporting exemptions generally apply to large businesses that already disclose that information. For example, banks and accounting firms are exempt. Most tax-exempt entities are not required to file reports. In March, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama held the CTA unconstitutional. Some relief was granted, limited to the National Small Business Association—plaintiffs backed by AFBF.

The court's decision could pave the way for further challenges to the CTA.

"It is advisable for agricultural enterprises to consult with their financial advisers to better understand how the CTA impacts their business," Banks recommended.

Failure to report may result in civil and criminal penalties of up to \$10,000 and up to two years' imprisonment.

Visit the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network website portal at fincen.gov/boi to file reports and updates.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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NPS seeks 10 year food and beverage for Mabry Mill

The National Park Service (NPS) will issue a prospectus to receive offers for a 10-year concession contract to provide Food & Beverage and Retail Services at Mabry Mill, on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

All offers must be received by the NPS by the date listed on the inside front cover of the prospectus, which is August 23, no later than 2 p.m.

to be evaluated and considered for an award of a concession contract. The prospectus describes the business opportunity and includes the terms and conditions under which the NPS will award the concession contract.

Visit <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/concessions/blri009-25.htm> for more information.

Ruritan club to host Fish Fry

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club will have a fish fry dinner from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday, July 13. The event will be held at Patrick Springs Park in Patrick Springs, Virginia. This fundraiser will help the club to sponsor community

service projects including scholarships for high school graduates. The meal will include fried fish, beans, corn, slaw, hush puppies, drink and a dessert. There will be a dessert auction of pies and cakes after the meal.

Student Briefs

Vernon named to Dean's List
Caroline Vernon from Stuart, VA was recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the spring 2024 semester. To achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking under-

graduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

Summit to be held in Critz

The Women Impact Virginia: Rooted in Rural Summit will be held from 10 a.m. till noon on Wednesday, July 10 at the Reynolds Homestead in Critz.

The Reynolds Homestead is hosting its annual regional workshop to invite professionals from across the area to come together in community to network, learn from one another, and explore the unique assets and challenges of our rural

region. The program aims to showcase the skills and tools needed to find success as a woman in leadership in the rural context and will feature a facilitated panel discussion as well as time for question and answer and networking. To RSVP, go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYsQ-jPIkf2e_IefEsHeLAGQUMZ-KqV0fGG4VnbxDVBF8QO9w/viewform.

P&HCC releases academic lists

The following Patrick County students were named to the Dean's and Honors Lists at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) this spring:

- Dean's List:**
Ararat: Jackson Horton, Michael Nelson
Claudville: Melinda Gonzalez, Gina Rubio
Meadows of Dan: Dante Belcher, Daryl Combs
Patrick Springs: Ethan Curry, Emily Helms, Emily Nelson, Dhritik Tanna, Katie Vernon, Josilene Williams
Spencer: Matthew Bowman, Leandra Carson, Kansas Cutchins, Kursten Hylton, Raegan Lane, Sheena Mabe, Qualeak Pride, Nash Thompson, Mary Williams
Stuart: Hannah Anderson, Aleyah Becker, Daniel Betancourt, Sasha Campos-Pineda, Kayla Corns, Emilea Harbour, Sydney Hopkins, Hannah Hughes, Raeli Moran, Caleb Morris, Nubia Penn, Amber Smith
Woolwine: Nathanael Blessman,

- Moises Cisneros, Daniel Silva
Honors List:
Ararat: Morgan Cambron, Jocelyn Carson, Eliza Clifton
Claudville: Seth Beasley, Benjamin Sutphin
Critz: Jalen Hagwood, Xavier Torres
Laurel Fork: James Brintle
Meadows of Dan: Sabrina Rorer, Somer Luna, Isaac Wood
Patrick Springs: Braedon Augustine, Zachary Letchworth, Codie Marion, Sadie Martin, Aniya Penn, Courtney Sharpe, David Smith, Andrew Taylor, Haley Underwood
Spencer: Allie Brown, Hayley Deshazo, Joshua Graham, William Marshall, Lauren Murphy
Stuart: Marissa Bentley, Marissa Brown, Lillian Cobbler, Madison Collins, Haley Day, Heather Edwards, Dreama Foley, Zachary Heath, Allison Hughes, Ashley Martin, Andrew Rakes, Valerie Shough, George Stovall, Mia Stowe, Andrew Taylor, Maria Turner, Devin Walker, Kendall Williams
Woolwine: Samantha Harris

DOC's Mental Health Program to serve as a model

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) Community Mental Health Program has been selected as one of 10 inaugural sites that will serve as model examples for the national Criminal Justice-Mental Health Learning Sites Program.

The VADOC's Community Mental Health Program is a groundbreaking initiative that will be facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchanges, fostering innovation, and serving as mentors for other agencies who are passionate about criminal justice and behavior-

al health reform. Strategies will also be offered for issues including crisis response through courts, jail, reentry, and community supervision.

The program was launched in 2023 as part of the Council of State Governments' Justice Center, to serve as a peer-to-peer learning program for law enforcement agencies seeking to build collaborative responses for people with mental health needs.

"This selection as a Criminal Justice-Mental Health Learning Site is a well-deserved recognition of VADOC's innovative approach to

addressing the mental health needs of people on community supervision in the Commonwealth," said VADOC Director Chad Dotson. "We are very proud of the work being done by our qualified mental health professionals here in our Department."

"The VADOC is honored to have been selected to share our best practices and experiences with other states who are interested in developing community mental health supports via district and regional mental health clinicians through the Council of State Governments," said Dr. Denise Malone, VADOC Chief of Mental Health and Wellness.

To learn more about the Criminal Justice-Mental Health Learning Sites, visit <https://csgjusticecenter.org/projects/criminal-justice-mental-health-learning-sites>.

More information about VADOC Mental Health and Wellness services can be found on the VADOC website.

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

Super Crossword
Answers

A	N	A	N	I	A	S	A	M	A	A	S	P	A	B	H	O	R
V	A	L	E	R	I	E	L	O	B	I	C	E	N	E	A	L	E
I	F	T	H	E	R	E	W	E	R	E	M	A	R	C	L	O	E
A	T	O	R	A	X	E	L	S	N	I	C	H	O	L	A	S	
A	S	U	P	E	R	V	I	L	L	A	I	N	W	H	O	L	E
A	H	O	Y	L	V	I	I	I	R	N	A						
Y	T	T	R	I	U	M	A	M	B	L	I	N	G	C	E	S	A
A	R	O	U	N	D	S	P	R	A	Y	I	N	G	S	L	Y	
Y	A	R	N	S	H	E	R	M	E	S	T	H	E	E	D	G	E
G	N	U	S	T	A	N	C	E	B	O	A	R	E	E	R		
P	E	O	P	L	E	W	I	T	H	A	P	R	O	D	U	C	T
E	D	U	L	I	A	R	N	E	E	S	O	N	O	E	R		
P	Y	T	H	O	N	S	R	O	S	E	T	O	L	I	N	G	O
A	Y	E	R	E	M	O	V	I	N	G	M	I	L	D	E	W	
R	E	B	I	D	B	A	S	E	F	E	E	E	A	S	E	S	I
A	C	E	P	R	I	O	R	A	N	I	L						
W	H	A	T	C	O	U	L	D	T	H	E	Y	N	A	M	E	H
D	E	M	O	L	I	S	H	A	I	D	A	N	A	T	O	P	
A	L	I	N	E	H	U	M	T	I	L	E	X	L	U	T	H	O
T	O	N	G	A	O	B	I	I	T	T	E	A	R	H	O	L	E
A	N	G	S	T	N	S	A	T	S	A	S	O	N	A	T	A	S

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Virginia Land Conservation Foundation opens \$13.5 million grant round

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation is now accepting applications for \$13.5 million in land conservation grants.

The foundation, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, provides grants to support conservation in the following categories: farmland preservation, forestland preservation, historic area preservation, natural area preservation, and open spaces and parks.

A total of \$16 million for fiscal year 2025 was approved in the state budget adopted in May. Of that amount, \$4 million automatically goes to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, leaving \$12 million for VLCF grants. Another \$1.5 million from interest and previously awarded VLCF projects that came in under budget or have been withdrawn was added to that amount.

The program provides 50-50 matching grants for localities and nonprofit conservation entities. State agencies and federally or state-recognized Indian tribes may receive 100%.

The deadline to apply is by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 28.



Highlands-Lonesome Pine



Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve, DCR

A virtual workshop for potential applicants is planned. Details about the workshop, the grant manual and application are posted at www.dcr.virginia.gov/vlcf.

In Nov. 2023, the board awarded a record \$14.7 million for the fiscal year 2024 grant round to fund 29 conservation projects and protect a record 55,575 acres of land across the common-

wealth. Highlights of projects funded over the past 25 years can be viewed on this interactive map.

VLCF board members are appointed by the Governor, Senate and House of Delegates. The board includes the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, who serves as chair, and the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. DCR provides staff support to the board.

DRBA plans to Paddle on Talbott Reservoir

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) will paddle on Talbott Reservoir near the Blue Ridge Parkway for its July 6 First Saturday Outing. Meeting at 9 a.m. at the Meadows of Dan Baptist Church, 77 Baptist Church Lane, Meadows of Dan, participants will carpool to the put-in near Talbott Dam.

The coordinator for the out-and-back paddle is Wayne Kirkpatrick. "Talbott Lake is an experience you don't want to miss. Crystal clear water, lush mountain scenery and great fishing. It is not unusual to spot an Eagle gliding by."

The History

Located in the wild Dan River Gorge south of Meadows of Dan in Patrick County, Virginia, the reservoir is the primary catchment and storage area for the water that drives the Northbrook Pinnacles Power Plant at the head of Kibler Valley. The hydro-electric plant, built in 1938, and the surrounding 3600 acres, was owned by the City of Danville for 80 years. Visitors to the area are required to have a permit, which DRBA will secure, and for safety reasons, park regulations do not allow swimming, camping, hunting, firearms, pets, or alcohol.

Water released from Talbott Dam, referred to locally in Meadows of Dan as the Upper Dam, spills into a natural stream bed before being diverted six miles downstream by Townes Dam, known as the Lower Dam. Both reservoirs, with Talbott being the larger, are located near the scenic Pinnacles of Dan mountain peaks rising from the Dan River Gorge.

At over 2,600 feet of elevation, Talbott Reservoir, called a "well-kept secret," offers some spectacular scenery that few people ever see. Access is gated and restricted to hand-carry boats, assuring a clean, quiet, and undisturbed setting for paddlers.

Only a short distance upstream from Talbott Dam is the Great Bend of the Dan, just one of the many meanders of the river through the gorge. A few meanders further upstream is Big Ivy Creek, site of Willie Knowles' Bottom, which Forrest Altman, author of The Dan River Book, notes is a fa-



Photo by DRBA

vorite launching place for local fishermen.

What to Bring

Participants in the outing should arrange to supply boat, paddles, life jackets, water and lunch; wear water-shedding artificial fabric (not cotton, and certainly not blue jeans). All participants will be asked to sign a waiver.

Directions: Take US 58 (Jeb Stuart Highway) to Meadows of Dan. Continue on Jeb Stuart Highway, US 58 Business, toward Blue Ridge Parkway for

0.8 mile. The Meadows of Dan Baptist Church is on the right traveling West and on the left traveling East. Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge.

For more information about the trip, call trip coordinator Wayne Kirkpatrick at (540) 570-3511, or email wynbtyk@embarqmail.com. For more information about the Dan River Basin Association visit www.danriver.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR APPROVAL OF A RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE PURSUANT TO VA. CODE § 56-585.1 A 4 CASE NO. PUR-2024-00079

On June 3, 2024, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 4 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") for approval to implement factors to recover a decrease to its revenue requirement through its transmission rate adjustment clause ("T-RAC"). Pursuant to Code § 56-585.1 A 7, the Commission must issue a final order in this matter not more than three months after the date of filing.

In its Application, APCo requests permission to recover a proposed total revenue requirement of \$380.1 million through the T-RAC for the October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 rate year ("Rate Year"). The Company states that its proposed revenue requirement consists of the following: (1) a forecasted Virginia jurisdictional current-period formula rate (current) revenue requirement of \$369.8 million for the Rate Year, based on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-approved PJM rates for transmission service that went into effect on January 1, 2024; (2) a cumulative Virginia jurisdictional actual under-recovery formula rate balance, through March 2024 (true-up) of \$7.1 million; (3) a forecasted Virginia jurisdictional under-recovery amount of \$0.6 million for the period April 2024 – September 2024 (update); and (4) a forecasted Virginia jurisdictional revenue requirement of \$2.6 million associated with the Business Park Program.

APCo states that its proposed revenue requirement is a decrease of approximately \$33.1 million from the annual T-RAC revenue requirement approved by the Commission in 2023. The Company indicates that its proposed T-RAC rates would decrease the monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by \$2.12.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

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

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

Beginning at 10 a.m. on July 17, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On July 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., or the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, a Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence offered by the Company, respondents, and the Staff on the Application.

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

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

On or before July 12, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00079.

On or before July 3, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent shall send a copy of the notice of participation to counsel for the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00079.

On or before July 3, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be sent to the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00079.

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

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

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Ararat business to receive funds from USDA program

A family owned business in Ararat was among Virginia entities to receive funds through the Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program (FLSP Program),

Puckett Greenhouses LLC was one of 141 awardees in agricultural operations in 40 states and Puerto Rico to receive funds from the \$50 million program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The awards will reach 177 unique agricultural operations and more than 11,000 workers. The awards will help improve the resiliency of the U.S. food supply chain by addressing agriculture labor challenges and instability, strengthen protections for farmworkers, and expand legal pathways for labor migration.

Puckett Greenhouses was awarded \$200,000, with plans to use the FLSP award to create positive change in the labor chain at their operation. They plan to do this by implementing a new seasonal bonus, creating a weekly housing maintenance plan, and forming a collaborative working group that will consist of a rotation of employees to ensure that the needs, concerns, and safety of every employee at their operation is consistently met. Puckett Greenhouses' poten-

tial impact from their involvement with the FLSP is significant as it will meet their immediate need of farm labor, with 21 new farm labor hires, and as for the long-term impact, this funding will support their ongoing efforts to meet a standard labor force stabilization, ultimately increasing agricultural productivity.

"These awards will largely support small and mid-sized farms to ensure they can hire and retain the workers they need to be competitive in the market, while also lifting up rural communities across the country," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Farmworkers make an incredibly important contribution to food and agriculture and ensure we have food on our tables every day. Improving working conditions and quality of life for farmworkers, both U.S. based workers and those that come to our country to work, is one key step in building a stronger, more resilient food supply chain. The Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program demonstrates the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to supporting employers and farmworkers alike."

The USDA announced the FLSP Program in September 2023, in co-

ordination with other federal agencies, to help address workforce needs in agriculture; promote a safe and healthy work environment, as well as ethical recruitment for farmworkers; and support lawful migration pathways for workers, including expansion of labor pathways for workers from Northern Central America, through the H-2A visa program. FLSP was designed with significant input from immigration, labor, and agricultural stakeholders – informed by the experiences of farmworkers and farmers themselves.

The FLSP Program grants will support a range of required and elective supplemental commitments to expand benefits and protections for all employees. Examples of awardee commitments include:

- *Establishing robust pay-related benefits that have the potential to raise earnings for thousands of workers, as well as provide them more time with their families or taking care of their health through policies such as personal and paid sick time off, and mid-season vacation leave;

- *Markedly improving working and living conditions by strengthening employer-employee engage-

ment, such as establishing Collaborative Working Groups with robust farmworker representation and partnerships with external organizations that have longstanding experience collaborating with farmworkers;

- *Providing additional worker-friendly benefits, such as advancement and management training opportunities, driver's license training, no-cost English classes for employees, and additional recreation spaces in housing facilities;

- *Supporting Know-Your-Rights-and-Resources training sessions for all workers to ensure they understand their legal rights as workers in the United States;

- *Participation in Worker-driven Social Responsibility programs – a proven model for improving workplace environments – such as the Fair Food Program;

- *Disclosing recruitment practices and advancing ethical, safe recruitment practices that are essential to protecting workers from illegal fees, undue debt, exploitation, and even human trafficking;

- *60 percent of employer awardees that plan to utilize the H-2A visa program committed to recruiting workers from Northern Central America.

Biosecurity Recommendations for Cattle Exhibitions

No Virginia cattle have tested positive for influenza infection

As the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to investigate influenza detections in dairy cattle, the agency has issued recommendations to help minimize transmission at dairy cattle exhibitions. Many of these are the same type of recommendations that have been in place for years to help reduce transmission of many diseases. While there have been no positive detections of influenza in cattle in the state, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services encourages cattle producers, as well as poultry owners, to practice good biosecurity every day to protect their animals.

Since March 2024, the USDA, Food and Drug Administration, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have worked with state agricultural and public health officials in nine states to investigate a disease seen only in lactating dairy cows that includes a temporary decrease in milk production, reduced feed intake, and abnormal milk. Milking dairy cows with these symptoms have tested positive for H5N1 Influenza A Virus, the same strain of the virus that causes Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry. The USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed that the strain

of the virus in cattle is very similar to the strain originally introduced into poultry flocks by wild ducks and geese. Although this disease is often deadly for poultry, affected cattle generally recover and return to normal in about two weeks.

The disease remains a concern for all livestock. There have been three cases involving humans, with all of them involving farm workers on dairy farms that had infected cows. In these cases, the individuals developed mild symptoms and recovered. Fortunately, numerous layers of food safety precautions ensure that eggs, meat and pasteurized milk remain safe to consume.

USDA has identified the spread of this disease between cows in other states. While providing an opportunity for learning and to showcase the hard work invested in agricultural animals, fairs and exhibitions also provide an opportunity for illness to spread among animals from multiple herds. Appropriate measures should be taken to minimize the potential for spread of disease in exhibiting animals. The following recommendations provide guidance for exhibition organizers and exhibitors:

Exhibition Organizers

- Collect sufficient contact infor-

mation (i.e., email addresses and cell phone numbers) from all exhibitors to be able to rapidly communicate procedural changes, requests for information, or incidents associated with the exhibition.

- Ensure that a process is in place to document farms of origin of cattle as well as individual identification of cows.
- Develop and share the biosecurity plan for the event with exhibitors. The plan should:
- Limit co-mingling of cows from different herds to the extent possible.
- Communicate expectations for milking of healthy cows while at the exhibition.
- Sick cows should be removed from the exhibition area as soon as possible and milk discarded in an appropriate manner.
- Outline cleaning and disinfection procedures for both exhibition and isolation areas.
- Ensure handwashing stations with running water, soap, and paper towels are available near the exit of the exhibition area.
- Establish an official show veterinarian for the event to manage sick animals.
- Work with state animal health officials to understand interstate and intrastate testing and movement requirements for exhibition cattle and communicate these requirements to exhibitors.
- Post signs near the exhibition

area exits that instruct visitors to wash their hands when leaving the animal area.

Exhibitors

- Become familiar with requirements for interstate movement as well as any state specific exhibition requirements prior to the event.
- Become familiar with signs of disease in cattle and work with your veterinarian to ensure your animals are free of illness.
- Clean and disinfect any equipment you will be bringing with you to the fair or exhibition.
- Observe animals regularly for signs of illness, and report sick cattle to the show veterinarian and exhibition organizers. Remove sick animals from the exhibition area.
- Do not share tools, feed and water, portable milking equipment and supplies, or grooming supplies with other exhibitors.
- Isolate and observe animals daily for illness after returning home and before allowing contact with other animals.
- While not always practical, ideally, animals returning home should be isolated for 30 days.
- Do not share equipment between show cattle and other animals at home.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment you take to the show by using approved disinfectants that are safe for human and animal contact.

Summertime sweet corn reigns supreme

Sweet corn is the crown jewel of a summer feast, grown on 390 Virginia farms on 3,633 harvested acres, according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture.

Virginia-grown sweet corn typically appears in farmers markets, produce stands and grocery stores in June, available up to mid-October. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistic Service recently reported Virginia's corn crop conditions as "74% good" with 95% planted by early June.

Most of Virginia's sweet corn is grown in Rockingham County, followed by Loudoun and Halifax counties, but the vast majority of corn grown in Virginia is raised to feed livestock. About 454,000 acres of field corn were harvested in 2022.

"Directly or indirectly, all that corn ends up on the table," said Robert Harper, marketing specialist for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Grain Marketing Division. "Field corn nourishes the livestock that produce our milk, poultry and meat."

Field and sweet corn are siblings with two sets of traits, he continued.

"Sweet corn is bred for the sugar content and harvested with much higher moisture," Harper said. "Field corn dries down. It will break your tooth off!"

To clench peak juiciness, Ronnie Forrester and his son, Dwight, of Holyoke Farm in Lancaster County prefer to harvest sweet corn early in the day.

"When picked in the morning, it's

juicer," Ronnie said.

The third- and fourth-generation farmers grow 2.5 acres of bicolor sweet corn called Obsession II. The variety boasts high yields, easy picking and extreme sweetness.

Those rows are grown adjacent to 600 acres of field corn. Ronnie said compared to field corn, sweet corn is more delicate, with shorter stalks.

The farm's sweet corn isn't a cash crop. Instead, the Forresters open the field to neighbors, family, friends and business partners, while addressing local food insecurity.

"We planted some for the Healthy Harvest Food Bank and harvested about 7,000 pounds!" Dwight said. "It's our way of giving back."

To grow quality sweet corn, the conservation award-winning, no-till farm practices crop rotation and plants rye cover crops to promote soil health, nutrient retention and weed suppression. Dwight said corn flourishes in the sandy loam soils of the Northern Neck.

As their sweet corn is cultivated for its summer debut, "everyone wants it on the Fourth of July," Ronnie said. "But that doesn't always happen in time."

It depends on the weather, which NASS reported as "abnormally dry."

"Now we pray for rain," Dwight said. "And hope we have some nice days for harvest."

To find sweet corn growers and sellers locally, search the Virginia Grown database at viriniagrown.com.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Tyler Benjamin Dehart, 26, of Meadows of Dan, was charged June 6 with probation violation. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Christopher Lee Rhodes, 41, of Bassett, was charged June 6 with probation violation. Senior Deputy R.W. Campbell was the arresting officer.

*Thomas Henry Henderson, 59, of Meadows of Dan, was charged June 7 with assault and batter. Senior Deputy C. Gilbert was the arresting officer.

*Jody Ladd Dellenback, 38, of Claudville, was charged June 9 with one count each disregard law enforcement command and drive w/o license. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*Steven Markley Morrison, 67, of Stuart, was charged June 9 with trespass. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*Trent Austin Kaufmann, 36, of Martinsville, was charged June 10 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy J.C. Fortner made the arrest for Salem City.

*Tricia Najla Nicolosi, 45, of Stuart, was charged June 10 with one count each strangle another causing

wounding or injury and assault and batter. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Crystal Kathleen Luckado, 34, no address available, was charged June 11 with one count each probation violation and fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Senior Deputy M.L. Harris was the arresting officer.

*Hailey Faith Boatman, 21, of Woodlawn, was charged June 12 with arson. Inv. J.W. Kruse was the arresting officer.

*Allen Michale, Bowman, 25, of Stuart, was charged June 12 with one count each possess firearm and carry concealed weapon. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*Tonia Sue Barnes, 47, of Bassett, was charged June 13 with assault and batter. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Mary Elizabeth Bergeron Bein, 43, of Stanleytown, was charged June 13 with assault and batter. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Isabella Fischer, 25, of Claudville, was charged June 13 with abuse/neglect child. Inv. T. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*April Perdue Johnson, 42, of Woolwine, was charged June 14 with assault. Senior Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.



Gov. Glenn Youngkin participates in a bill signing ceremony at the Western Tidewater CSB, on June 13, 2024.

Bipartisan legislation will support behavioral health transformation

Last week, Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed a comprehensive set of bills passed this session, marking Virginia's continued commitment to the Right Help, Right Now behavioral health transformation plan. These bipartisan legislative initiatives encompass enhancements to the behavioral health workforce and expanded supports for individuals in crisis.

Among the bills enacted are Senate Bills 403 and 34, which enhance the behavioral health workforce by adding behavioral health technicians and assistants under the Board of Counseling's oversight and authorizing certain hospitals to employ trained personnel for temporary detention order evaluations.

Advancements in crisis intervention, detailed in House Bills 823, 1336, 601, and 1242, and Senate Bills 497, 568, 543, and 546, include clarifications on criteria for alternative transportation for individuals requiring temporary detention and behavioral health treatment, expansion of technology use

for drug storage and dispensing in crisis stabilization facilities, establishment of health insurance coverage standards for behavioral health crisis services, and family access to individuals undergoing a mental health evaluation.

"This collaborative effort stands as a testament to Virginia's unwavering dedication to revolutionizing mental health services and accessibility," said Youngkin. "With fortified support for mental health professionals and steadfast commitment to timely crisis intervention, we're addressing critical needs of Virginians and raising the bar for the standard of care across the Commonwealth."

As behavioral health challenges continue at an unprecedented rate, it is increasingly important for Virginians to find ways to support one another," said First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin. "I am proud of this bipartisan coalition that has come together to create a Commonwealth that prioritizes the health and wellbeing of its citizens."

Initial claims for unemployment increase

The 2,531 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending June 8, 2024, is 26.7 percent higher than last week's 1,998 claims and 19.4 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (3,142), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 77 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (59 percent) were Administrative and Support and Waste Management (256); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (233); Accommodation and Food Services (214); Health Care and Social Assistance (209); and Retail Trade (167).

Continued weeks claims (15,761) were 1.0 percent lower than last week (15,923) and were 23.2 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,788). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of

those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,388); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,139); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,524); Retail Trade (1,309); and Accommodation and Food Services (1,228).

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.

SC man pleads guilty to charges related to police officer death

Michael Donovan White pleaded guilty to federal charges related to the November 2021 murder of Big Stone Gap Police Officer Michael Chandler and a wide-ranging drug conspiracy.

White, 36, of South Carolina, pled guilty to eight counts in relation to the murder of Officer Chandler. Specifically, he pled guilty to one count of causing the death of a person using a firearm, which killing was first-degree murder in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, one count of conspiring to distribute or possess with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, one count of using a place for the purpose of distributing or using a controlled substance, one count of using a communication facility in committing any felony-controlled substance offense, one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, one count of possession of a stolen firearm, and one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and using, brandishing and discharging that firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

According to court documents, beginning in August 2021 and continuing even after the time of his arrest in October 2022, White and 18 other defendants participated in a conspiracy to distribute more than 15 kilograms of methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl.

Tragically, at approximately 4 a.m. on November 13, 2021, Big Stone Gap Police Officer Michael Chandler responded to a dispatch call at 2505 Orr Street in Big Stone Gap, known locally as "the red house." Upon arriving at the red house, Officer Chandler encountered a vehicle outside the residence. Officer Chandler requested backup, telling dispatch, "This car is taking off on me." Inside the

vehicle, Michael White allegedly told a female co-defendant, Misty Ward, to "get the fu*k out of there" because there were drugs in the vehicle and that "he was not going back to jail."

Ward allegedly started to drive off as directed, but then stopped and got out of the vehicle. As Ward exited the vehicle, Officer Chandler asked Ward to show him her hands, which were covered by her jacket. Ward complied, raising her hands up in the air. At that point, White allegedly attempted to flee the scene, however the vehicle got stuck in the grass. Officer Chandler approached the vehicle on the driver's side, hitting the window with his flashlight.

A Taurus 9mm pistol was used to immediately fire eight shots through the driver's side window and door, striking Officer Chandler's wrist and abdomen just below his bulletproof vest.

Officer Chandler died later that evening from his injuries.

Following the shooting, law enforcement identified White as a suspect. He was later located at a motel in Kingsport, Tennessee and a subsequent search of the motel room found a Taurus, 9mm pistol. Further testing ultimately proved this firearm to be the same one that fired the shots that killed Officer Chandler "Big Stone Gap Police Officer Michael Chandler died serving his community. The men and women among us who swear the oath and put on the badge keep all of us safe," U.S. Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh said. "While nothing we do in a courtroom can ever bring Michael back, our hope is that today's guilty plea brings some semblance of peace to his family, friends, and brethren in law enforcement that today, justice was done."

Economic instability in Va. disrupts kids' well-being



Edwin J. Viera

Virginia News Connection

A new report finds Virginia's economic instability disturbs kids' well-being. The Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Book ranks Virginia 16th nationwide for child well-being, down from 14th last year. The state did well in health and education, but some rankings hold kids back.

Rachael Deane, CEO of Voices for Virginia's Children, noted the report shows 28% of kids live in homes with high housing costs. She said housing instability disrupts the foundation of economic security kids need to thrive.

"It's a challenge to find affordable and adequate housing. Families are paying huge portions of their income for housing, which leaves little income left over to afford other necessities and resources for children," she explained.

Deane feels state lawmakers are being proactive about improving kids' education, although she thinks their efforts should focus on reducing the state's high housing costs.

Affordable housing advocates want lawmakers to bring pandem-

ic-era eviction protections in as a start. Eviction filings are creeping up to pre-pandemic levels, which peaked at almost 16,000 in 2019.

Other report data show 36% of Virginia kids have had an adverse childhood experience. Nationwide, 40% of kids experience one or more of these -- such as divorce, a parent's incarceration, or domestic violence.

Leslie Boissiere, vice president of external affairs with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, said trauma can significantly impact children.

"And so, ensuring that these adverse childhood experiences are addressed, that they have the resources that they need within the school and within the community so that they can heal, is significantly important to the well-being of children," she explained.

Most of Virginia is facing a youth mental-health professional shortage. But Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Right Help Right Now plan could improve this. It calls for expanding mental-health programs in schools, growing tele-behavioral health operations in high schools and on college campuses, and creating more than 30 mobile crisis centers.

Man charged in Vesta incident

A Meadows of Dan man was jailed in connection with an alleged disturbance in Vesta on Thursday, June 13, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

Shortly after midnight, a call came into the 911 center regarding a domestic disturbance at 7512 Jeb Stuart Highway in Vesta. Senior Deputy Eric Sain and Senior Trooper Luke D'Albero responded and found that a man had barricaded himself in a bedroom of the home, after allegedly assaulting his elderly father. The officers found evidence of damage to the home and learned that both the father and a woman had been forced out of the residence.

Information obtained during the investigation indicated that the barricaded man was allegedly armed with a handgun. Smith called out multiple deputies with the sheriff's office, and they, along with the tactical team responded. Two additional troopers also responded to assist. Dialogue was established with the man, who even-



Brandon Garrick Pegram

tually surrendered. A loaded .38 caliber handgun was recovered from the room where the man was barricaded, according to the sheriff.

Brandon Garrick Pegram, 33, Pegram was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of ammunition by a convicted felon, assault and battery in connection with the incident. He is being held in the Patrick County Jail without bond.

Youngkin rolls back VA's clean-car standards

Edwin J. Viera

Virginia News Connection

Gov. Glenn Youngkin is rolling back Virginia's clean-car standards.

The General Assembly passed legislation adopting California's clean-car standards to reduce emissions in 2021. State Attorney General Jason Miyares issued an opinion saying Virginia's compliance with California's Air Resources Board is not required.

Connor Kish, director of the Virginia chapter of the Sierra Club, said it will have vast implications.

"Steps that are being taken by the governor to unwind those standards are going to hurt air quality in Virginia," Kish contended. "If you look at where the air pollution occurs the most along highway corridors where impacted communities are going to bear a higher brunt of the tailpipe emissions."

Tailpipe exhaust makes up a majority of the state's carbon dioxide emissions. Last year, Republicans in the House passed a bill attempting to repeal the same standards.

A 2022 poll showed Virginians are overwhelmingly in favor of reducing emissions

and moving to cleaner cars but Youngkin's move reduces the cleaner options available to consumers.

Some feel it aligns with Youngkin's environmental stance, although it was still unexpected.

Trip Pollard, senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center, feels it is akin to Youngkin pulling the state out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative last year. He said misinformation about the standards is guiding the governor's decision.

"One is this idea that Virginia has somehow abdicated its state sovereignty to unelected bureaucrats in California and that we can set our standards," Pollard noted. "We can't under the Clean Air Act."

Virginia's options, as with all other states, are to either use the standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency or adopt more protective standards.

He added other misinformation being spread is about the environmental benefits of electric vehicles. The electricity used to power an EV in the state emits less than 17% of the carbon dioxide produced by a gas car.

Attack of the aliens: Meeting the threat of invasive plants

By Judy Ferring
Patrick County Master Gardener

Basically, an invasive plant is an immigrant that does harm to the existing vegetative population. Mostly, these plants outcompete the natives by strangling them or depriving them of food, minerals and water. Many, but not all, provide no benefit for native animals; many are poisonous.

Not all immigrant plants are invasive or completely harmful. For instance, all but two species of peonies in U.S. gardens are non-native. (Those two are native to the desert regions of southern California and have not been cultivated elsewhere with any great success.) Most originated in Asia and southern Europe and were brought into the United States in the late 1800s.

None have been found to be invasive in the United States. They don't provide food for mammals (deer avoid them). But they do welcome ants and bees.

And not all invasive plants are recent newcomers to North America. Mimosa trees came to the United States in 1745. Over the span of 280 years, they've become ubiquitous along the Atlantic seaboard and westward into Oklahoma and Texas. Their seeds are long-lived and some say messy; their seedlings, vigorous; the shade from their umbrella-shaped crowns inhibits growth of native plants.

On the other hand, hummingbirds love them.

Currently, 1,490 immigrant plant species are being tracked, county-by-county, across the United States by contributors to the Invasive Plant Atlas. You can watch a plant's spread, or the changes in a county's population of invasive plants, on the Atlas's online Early Detection and Distribution (EDD) map. (Search for invasiveplants.org.)

You'll see that often a plant's spread is not contiguous. Some species take root in specific types of climate – many are numerous on both coasts but do not appear in the central plains. That will no doubt change, either through the simple passage of time or because climate change is making some areas more – or less – hospitable to newcomers.

Invasive plants in Patrick County

There is not a lot of data yet on the EDD map for Patrick County but simple observation can tell you a lot.

There's kudzu, of course. This semi-woody vine has tri-lobed leaves that alternate along its stem. After 3 years, it produces long purple or red flower spikes. Kudzu prefers sunlight so often grows on the edge of a forest. A single tree – or any other supportive structure – will be enveloped and smothered by its foot-a-day growth habit.

Ironically, kudzu has several medicinal applications and is nutritious, often fed to farm animals. But even a goat can lose its appetite under this abundance.

There are invasive trees that are so attractive that people often don't realize they spell trouble. Several bloom in spring, when we're hungry for color.

Callery, or Bradford, pears are covered in white flowers before their leaves appear. They are distinguished by a strong pyramidal shape and dark red young twigs. On the dark side, they release a chemical that suppresses other plants; have thorns so thick they can inflict significant damage; and grow such dense thickets they inhibit other plants and animals.

Tree-of-heaven has creamy yellow to red-orange flowers in the spring. Its leaves are large, its bark is smooth and new growth is tinged with red. Its extensive root systems can invade sewer systems and building foundations. Its leaves are toxic to some animals, and its sap may produce skin rashes.

Both callerys and tree-of-heaven are betrayed by odor. The pears's smell is often described as rotten or worse. Crush the leaves of a tree-of-heaven and you're likely to recall peanut butter gone bad.

Mimosas look delicate in early summer, with fragrant flower groups that look like feathery white fans edged in bright pink. Its leaves resemble ferns, with leaflets spaced opposite each other along the stem and no leaflet at the tip. The seedpods look like long dried bean pods. But because it grows so fast, the mimosa chokes out other species and its shade is so dense that ground plants cannot survive.

Other siren songs



Tree-of-heaven - each "branch" of tree-of-heaven is actually a leaf with 11-24 leaflets along its length, botanists say. (Photo by University of Maryland Extension Service.)

It's not just invasive trees that are deceptively attractive.

Asiatic bittersweet has long been prized as an autumn decoration because of the red and yellow fruit clusters along its stem. But this vine is so aggressive that it clambers up one tree and across into others in the forest canopy. Some trees die from strangulation; others fall from the weight of the vine; still others are weakened and uprooted in storms. Because they are linked together, one falling tree brings down others.

Bright yellow garlic mustard thrives in sun or shade, and has taken over some fields and invaded forests' understories. It develops in a three-year cycle. In the first year the plants grow in rosettes close to the ground. There are no flowers to give them away but if you crush the leaves, they smell like garlic or onion. Pull them out in that first year, before flowers and seeds can develop, and you've got a good start.

Japanese stilt grass is more stealthy. Its flower spikes are not particularly showy; they don't appear at all until around August and even then may be hidden. Plant height varies from about 6 inches to 4 feet, and taller plants often lie flat along the ground. But the leaves give them away; they're pale green, long and slender with a silvery main vein running just off center.

Deer won't eat garlic mustard or Japanese stilt grass, putting more pressure on your gardens.

There are plenty of other invasives to watch for: burning bush, wineberry, bush clover ... Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation offers an extensive, intimidating but easy-to-understand list.

How to fight back

First, understand that this is not a one-and-done situation. Expect that eradication of nearly any invasive plant will take three years of effort, followed by years of continued vigilance.

Timing is important. Seeds can lay dormant in the soil for years, so you want to eradicate all you can before they get that far. Attack before the invasives' seeds mature. That can be almost any time for grasses, forbs, herbs and tender vines.

Repeated mowing, especially of garlic mustard and Japanese stilt grass, works up to a point, according to the Virginia Department of Forestry. An application of a herbicidal foliar spray may be needed in late summer. It takes finesse: any overspray risks killing desirable plants.

Trees, shrubs and bushes, which are attacked through their roots, are a different story. Taproots go deep and regenerate. Fibrous root systems spread out and send up new plants. Tree stumps left untreated with herbicide can send up new saplings. Many roots that are left return as dense thickets.

Start your campaign, using herbicides, in the summer, when they're sending nutrients down to their root systems for winter storage. The herbicides will go along for the ride. Don't start in spring, when nutrients will be moving up from the roots to the upper branches; you'll waste herbicide and effort.

Small trees and woody bushes (with trunks of up to 2 ¼ inches diameter) can often be dug up or by using over-sized wrenches called Uprooters. They cost up to about \$250.

Bigger trees and shrubs will most likely need an herbicidal treatment. Get the help of a professional, including specialists from the Virginia extension service, before starting. They'll tell you about three basic levels of chemical combat, including the best herbicide formulation for each type of plant:

Those with trunks up to 6 inches in diameter are candidates for basal bark treatment, in which the selected herbicide is applied directly to the tree bark.

Trees with trunks larger than 6 inches in diameter get the cut-stump treatment. The tree is cut down an inch or two from the ground and the chosen herbicide is quickly applied to the outer rings (2-3 inches wide) of the stump.

The largest trees get one of two hack-and-stump treatments. In one method, cuts are hacked into the tree and herbicide is squirted into the cuts. In the other, the tree is felled and the stump is immediately painted with herbicide.

For more information about manual, mechanical and biological techniques for controlling invasives in our area, check the website for the Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management – Blue Ridge PRISM for short.

Disposing of the bodies

First, note that the Patrick County Transfer Station



A foolproof identifier of Japanese stilt grass is the silvery midrib (actually a line of fine hairs) along the leaves. (Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut.)

does not accept yard debris; it's not an option for disposing of your invasive weeds. This is true in a lot of places, including New Hampshire, where the state university's Cooperative Extension has compiled a very helpful 4-page resource titled "Methods of Disposing on Non-native Invasive Plants."

Each of its recommended disposal methods is based on how a particular plant reproduces. For instance, although burning is usually recommended for large woody brush, branches and trunks, it might not work when mature seed pods (like mimosas) are involved: the fire's hot air, spiraling upwards, can disperse the seeds.

You can mow, weed-whack and pull many invasive plants and leave them on the ground, flowers and all, as mulch. Garlic mustard is an exception: once they've flowered, seed development continues even after they've been pulled.

Vines, plants and shrubs that have been pulled with their roots still attached and intact should not be tossed directly into your compost pile. They'll happily take root. Likewise, chipping woody plants into mulch will work but don't include their roots and seeds.

Bag non-woody plants in contractor-grade plastic and leave them in the sun for several weeks until they rot, in a process called solarization. Then they can usually head for the compost.

Solarization will work well – with a couple of precautions:

No part of the plant can poke through the plastic.

Use this method only for plants that have been pulled before they begin flowering. Once that's begun you run the risk of including viable seeds into the compost.

Similarly, piling the plants on a sheet of plastic and covering it with a tarp, then leaving it for several weeks to dry will work. Escapees are possible: fasten the tarp to the ground and monitor it regularly for signs of tendrils reaching out from underneath. Again, this works best before flowering. If you're late and flowering has begun, the New Hampshire experts advise doing nothing until next year.

Two remaining techniques can be effective but have their own unique drawbacks. You can bury invasive weeds but it requires a pit at least 5 feet deep, a layer of thick plastic underneath and on top plus another 3 feet of cover soil. Or you can drown soft-tissue plants (no seeds!) in a barrel of water. When the plants are well-rotted, add them to your compost. It smells awful.

Those new bare spots

Invasives are opportunistic; if there's an empty space, they'll move in. You have to move in first, says Sonia Uytterhoeven, a gardener at the New York Botanical Garden. As soon as you pull out an invasive plant, gently tamp down the disturbed soil. If you are planning to reseed or plant the area, do it within a week.

Otherwise, apply a thick layer of mulch over the surface to inhibit the germination of weed seeds that have been uncovered during extraction of the invasive, and to prevent any neighboring seeds from settling in.

If you haven't decided what the new plant should be or the timing isn't right, you can fill the space with something short-lived to inhibit reintroduction of weeds as much as possible. Buckwheat is often recommended for summer planting; winter rye in the fall. Each can be turned into the soil at the end of its season.

When you do reseed or replant – be it with a temporary or a permanent crop – be generous so as to make it difficult for the invasive to reestablish.

The habits of the invasives you're evicted can provide a clue as to the best native replacement. For instance, coral honeysuckle – also known as trumpet honeysuckle and more properly *Lonicera sempervirens* – can be a great replacement for oriental bittersweet, according to Kathryn Schmidt of Penn State Extension. It too will happily grow in disturbed areas, along roadsides and fencerows, as well as in woodlands and along forest edges.

And when you find non-native knotweed, buckthorn or multiflora rose alongside streams and other wet areas, consider replacing with native dogwoods (*Cornus* spp.) and willows (*Salix* spp.). Their extensive root systems will help stem erosion and flooding. Or supplant that beautiful but invasive mimosa with *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (aka buttonbush) or *Oxydendrum arboreum* (aka sourwood). Both are Virginia natives, and they too bloom in the summer.

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Mushroom Madness



As part of the Summer Reading Adventure at the library, Master Gardeners Jess Hines and Norma Bozenmayer led a program called 'Mushroom Madness.' Adventurers dissected and examined mushroom parts and made mushroom spore prints. They teamed up to put plugs in a log to grow shitake mushrooms. The children also decorated a mushroom inspired flower pot and put plants in it.

Did you know that mushrooms are made mostly of water? Or that the portobello, cremini, and button mushroom are all the same species at different stages of their growth?

Join the Summer Reading Adventurers at the library on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. during June and July. Call



or visit the library to learn about all the programs available for youth and adults happening at the library this summer.

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Tuba Skinny

Tuba Skinny brings New Orleans jazz to Blue Ridge Music Center on June 22

New Orleans jazz band Tuba Skinny will perform as part of the Deep Roots, Many Voices: Summer Outdoor Concert Series at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 22, in the Blue Ridge Music Center's outdoor amphitheater on the Blue Ridge Parkway just south of Galax, Va.

Tuba Skinny is a traditional jazz street band based in New Orleans. The group draws inspiration from the early jazz, ragtime, and blues music of the 1920s and 1930s. Band members Shaye Cohn (cornet), Erika Lewis (vocals, bass drum), Barnabus Jones (trombone), Todd Burdick (tuba), Craig Flory (clarinet), Gregory Sherman (guitar, vocals), Max Bien-Kahn (banjo), and Robin Rapuzzi (washboard) are known as world-class interpreters of traditional jazz. However, they have also branched out into jug band music, spirituals, country blues, string band music, ragtime, and New Orleans R&B. Their approach is a true reflection of Americana, encompassing the full catalog of American music from an early 20th century perspective.

Shaye leads the band and is renowned for her musical timing and authentic instrumentation. The granddaughter of jazz saxophonist Al Cohn and daughter of jazz guitarist Joe Cohn, her sound is the best of the traditional New Orleans-style jazz. A classically trained musician, Shaye began playing jazz after moving to New Orleans in 2006. She was inspired by the New York jazz scene of which her grandfather and father were a part and the music of New Orleans great Jelly Roll Morton. Before forming Tuba Skinny, Shaye and

several bandmates were part of the New Orleans street bands Dead Man Street Orchestra and Loose Marbles.

As the group's lead vocalist, Lewis uses her languid drawl to bring emotion and texture to Tuba Skinny's sound. She is also a prolific songwriter who delves into the ever-expanding pool of roots music styles hopping genres from classic country to cosmic Americana, to dreamy indie folk. Lewis formed the band, The Lonesome Doves as an outlet for her original songs in 2013. Her singing and songwriting are influenced by greats like Hank Williams, Hazel Dickens, and Joni Mitchell while taking direct inspiration from her community of friends and songwriters that includes such bands as The Deslondes, Hurray For The Riff Raff, and Sundown Songs.

Over the last 15 years, Tuba Skinny has released 13 albums, toured the world, and played at prestigious festivals including the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Breda Jazz Festival in the Netherlands, and Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy. The group was featured in an episode of the New Orleans-based HBO series Treme in 2012, and was named Best Traditional Jazz Band by The Big Easy Awards in 2017.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 the day of the show, and \$10 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.

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