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## Solar moratorium draws support from majority of board

By Taylor Boyd

Jonathan Wood floated the idea of a solar moratorium at the joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on June 18.

Wood, of the Peters Creek District, said he wanted the moratorium until the county had an opportunity to figure out related issues and its solar ordinance.

"I think it will go a long way. I'm not saying that I would never, ever consider doing it, I'm just saying we need time to stop and think. We really do because there's more information in this packet than we've seen in a long time. I would really like to have some time to think about it, talk to more people in our districts," Wood said.

Doug Perry, interim chairman, and of the Smith River District, said he supports the idea of the solar moratorium, but for different reasons than most of the other board members.

"I feel that AEP (Appalachian Power) is behind on things to include our broadband, and if they're not able to support or build any project, then why do we need to move forward and approve projects that AEP can't handle," he asked.

Perry said a moratorium would give the electric provider ample time to get caught up on projects that have already been approved.

"If they're already behind and we

keep slapping more stuff on top of them, they just get further behind. So, if we can just pump the brakes and put other projects on pause, that gives AEP time to react, get the infrastructure in place that's needed, so that we can successfully move forward instead of keep piling stuff on top of them," Perry said.

Although some people would prefer a permanent moratorium on solar projects, Perry said that would be a political issue.

"Whatever politics are floating around is how well that would work. We have to plan for the worst and hope for the best," he said.

Perry noted he liked the point the Berkeley Group made during the meeting while exploring reasons that the county would produce electricity for someone else.

"So, how much electricity does Patrick County use and how much collectively is Patrick County producing," Perry said. "Are we doing our fair share? Are we putting into the grid what we're taking out of the grid?"

Regarding the solar ordinance that group is working on, Perry said he would like to see a cap, requiring the county to not put more into the grid than it's using.

Perry also noted there's a time and place for everything, including solar.

"Not every site is good for solar. (See Moratorium p.3)

## New business to provide food, sweet treats to community

By Taylor Boyd

Hilltop Dough It Alls, an up-and-coming food truck business based in Patrick Springs, hopes to provide more food options to the community as a way of giving back.

The business was started by Heather Eubanks and her husband Seth Eubanks in May.

Seth Eubanks said the plan is to have a food trailer set up in the Tractor Supply parking lot to serve a variety of food, including barbecue, wings, cold cut sandwiches, and other items.

The food trailer is expected to be up and running by late August or early September.

"Along with trying to do some stuff for the seasons, so snow cones, maybe ice cream, coffee, hot chocolate, stuff like that. You know, 'tis the season. Kind of keep up with that," he said.

Seth Eubanks said the community response to the business has been positive thus far.

"We love" that, "because kind of talking it over with my wife and one of the main reasons we wanted to do it is we're family oriented, and we wanted to have more time with family. Since we've moved here, our neighbors and peo-



Heather Eubanks bakes a variety of donuts including powdered sugar and cinnamon sugar.

ple that I've met have been basically very supportive, very friendly, very caring," he said.

Seth Eubanks said the family isn't used to this in a community. They previously lived in Hampton Roads, and moved to Patrick County in 2020.

Since then, Heather Eubanks said people in the community have helped her family out when they needed it.

"There are not many food options here unless you drive the 30 minutes or so. We just want to kind of help people out, give them more places to eat, and we want to be family-oriented, so we

want to work as a family and all of that," she said.

While they are waiting for the food trailer to be built and delivered, Seth Eubanks said he and his wife are currently only serving donuts.

Currently, Seth Eubanks said the business has more of an order and meet for pickup style.

Heather Eubanks said Hilltop will be able to meet customers primarily in the Stuart area, Patrick Springs "post office or Tractor Supply, just because that's not too far from where we are.

"But like I said, if someone from Woolwine (See New Business p. 3)



In June, before the weather turned so dry, a crew worked at Laurel Hill Park to bale hay. The park is located at 1091 Ararat Highway, Ararat. While some areas received small amounts of precipitation, others have not and as a result, some hay fields have had little new growth. (Photo by Mary Dellenback Hill)

## Many Va. farmers continue to experience drought conditions

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, in coordination with the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force, recently issued a Drought Advisory Declaration that included a drought warning advisory for 12 Virginia counties and a drought watch for 95 counties and cities. This declaration is intended to advise Virginians in the affected areas to prepare for a potential drought. While recent rainfall has helped in some areas, it has not alleviated conditions for farmers in many areas across the Commonwealth.

The Virginia drought declaration is different from a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster designation. As conditions warrant, the USDA may issue a natural disaster designation for primary and secondary localities. A drought or severe drought des-

ignation is initiated by local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices and approved by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. This type of designation enables farmers in the primary affected counties to be eligible for certain assistance from FSA. Farmers in the counties and cities that are contiguous to the primary drought declaration counties are also eligible to apply for the same drought emergency assistance.

This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Provided eligibility requirements are met, the FSA will assess each emergency loan application individually and will consider specific circumstances and needs. Farmers in eligible localities have eight months from the date of the disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans.

"I have seen the effects of drought (See Drought p.3)

## Council schedules public hearing for property rezoning

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council scheduled a joint public hearing with the Town Planning Commission for its Wednesday, July 17 meeting to consider rezoning a property on Commerce Street along with variances approved by the commission.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said the proposed rezoning would change the property from heavy industrial to high-density residential.

"Each apartment building would be 12 units and three-floor apartment buildings, and there would be six apartment buildings constructed as part of this project. So, the final build-out would be 72 total apartments," he said.

The property was bought by Singh Brothers Investments, LLC, earlier this year. It is located between Stuart Forest Products and EMI Imaging. The Mayo River Rail Trail goes through the property.

"We had a Planning Commission meeting (June 18), and from that meeting, there was a recommendation to council from the commission that they voted on. The commission approved three variances that were requested by the architect for the housing project on Commerce Street," Simmons said.

The first variance was to allow a building height up to 45 feet instead of 35 feet.

"We actually do have that provision within the zoning code itself. The second was to allow coverage up to 55 percent instead of 40 percent, and the

way that I looked at it, because part of the lot was within a right of way easement, they were not able to meet that zoning requirement outright, so the planning commission did take that into consideration and allow that variance to happen," he said.

Another variance was to allow a minimum distance of 10 feet from the apartment building to the drive

"Basically, 10 feet from the edge of the building to the parking lot. Where we require 15 feet per the zoning code," Simmons said, adding the second recommendation the commission recommended is for the council to go forward with the rezoning request contingent upon final approval of the construction documents and approval of the building permit, which also would be required.

Town Attorney Christopher Corbett said the zoning ordinance allows for variances "simply because it's always anticipated that one size does not fit all, and there are times when exceptions are necessary and appropriate."

In other matters, the council:

- \*Approved the May meeting minutes as amended.
- \*Paid the bills.
- \*Heard an update on public works.
- \*Heard an update regarding town policies.
- \*Discussed the Downtown Revitalization project.
- \*Discussed dilapidated buildings in town limits.
- Council member Dave Hoback did not attend the meeting.

# DMV Select in Stuart closed July 4-5

The DMV Select office in Stuart day, July 4-5, in observance of Independence Day. will be closed on Thursday and Friday.

# Summer safety tips from the NFPA

With summer upon us and the 4th of July holiday just around the corner, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) is reminding people about potential electrical hazards that exist in swimming pools and hot tubs, onboard boats, on docks and piers, and in waters surrounding boats, marinas, and launch ramps.

While most people are unaware of electrical dangers posed in water environments such as electric shock drowning (ESD), each year people are injured or killed from these hazards. ESD can occur when improperly installed or maintained electrical systems within marinas or boat electrical systems result in electrical current in the water, which can then pass through a person's body, causing a level of paralysis that can ultimately cause serious injury or drowning.

"Because ESD is not well known, NFPA continues to raise awareness about the presence of electrical hazards in water to help prevent deaths and injuries from happening in pools and waterways," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach &

Advocacy. "Never swim near a marina, dock, or boatyard, and have a qualified electrician inspect your boat, swimming pool equipment, hot tub, and spa before engaging in any water activities to ensure all life-saving measures and protection systems are functioning properly."

Following are tips for swimmers, and boat and pool owners:

### Swimmers

\*Never swim near a marina, dock, or boatyard.

\*While in a pool or hot tub look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, flicker, or work intermittently.

\*If you feel a tingling sensation while in a pool, immediately stop swimming in the direction you are heading. Try and swim in a direction where you had not felt the tingling. Exit the water as quickly as possible; avoid using metal ladders or rails. Touching metal may increase the risk of shock.

### Boat owners

\*Avoid entering the water when launching or loading a boat. These areas can contain stray electrical currents in the water, possibly leading to elec-

tric shock drowning or injury from shock, including death.

Each year, have the boat's electrical system inspected by a qualified marine electrician to be sure it meets the required codes of your area, including those set by the American Boat & Yacht Council. Make the necessary repairs, if recommended. Follow the same steps after any major storm that affects the boat.

\*Check with the marina owner about the marina's electrical system and whether it has recently been inspected to meet the required codes of your area, including the National Electrical Code® (NEC®).

\*Have ground fault circuit protection (GFCI and GFPE) installed on circuits supplying the boat; use only portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including "Y" adapters) that bear the proper listing mark for marine applications when using electricity near water. Test GFCIs monthly.

\*NEVER modify the electrical system on a boat or shore power to make something work. The code-required safety mechanisms in place are intended to alert people if something is wrong with the boat and with shore power. Find a licensed, qualified professional to help determine the cause of the problem.

### Pool owners

\*If you are putting in a new pool or hot tub, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations and that the completed work is inspected by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).

\*Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and — where necessary — replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool or hot tub electrically safe. Have the electrician show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.

\*If there are overhead electrical lines, make sure they have proper clearance over the pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If you have any doubts, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.

The NFPA has several resources for swimmers, boat, and pool owners, including videos, tip sheets, checklists, and a new NFPA Podcast episode, "Hazards in the Water," that can be downloaded and shared. Please visit [nfpa.org/watersafety](http://nfpa.org/watersafety) to learn more.

# Leave Fireworks to the Professionals, State Fire Marshal's Office says

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs – State Fire Marshal's Office reminds Virginians ahead of the Fourth of July holiday to leave fireworks to the professionals.

In 2023, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were eight fatalities and an estimated 9,700 injuries involving fireworks. Of the eight reported fatalities, one was in Virginia.

"Misuse of fireworks can be deadly," said Billy Hux, State Fire Marshal. "Opt for safety this holiday by enjoying fireworks at a professionally organized show."

In general, any firework that explodes, moves on the ground or in the air, or shoots a projectile is illegal in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Many localities prohibit the sale, possession or use of all fireworks. The State Fire Marshal's Office advises Virginians to check local ordinances as well as the Statewide Fire Prevention Code prior to purchasing and utilizing fireworks.

Only "permissible fireworks," as defined in the Code of Virginia, can be legally sold, possessed, or used within the commonwealth. A list of permissible fireworks can be viewed on the VDFP website.

The sale, possession and/or use of any fireworks not classified as permissible is prohibited. Violations can be prosecuted as a Class I Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not

to exceed \$2,500 and/or up to one (1) year in jail. Any illegal fireworks can be confiscated, and you can be summoned by a Fire Marshal or Law Enforcement Officer.

If consumer fireworks are legal in your locality and you decide to use permissible fireworks, please follow these important safety procedures:

\* Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy, in case of fire or other mishap. Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.

\* Light fireworks one at a time, then move quickly away from the fireworks device.

\* Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.

\* Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse.

\* Never point or throw fireworks (including sparklers) at anyone.

\* Consider safe alternatives to fireworks such as party poppers, bubbles, silly string, or glow sticks.

The state office will continue conducting firework stand inspections and will support numerous permitted fireworks displays to ensure the safety of Virginia residents and visitors.

For firework safety tips and more information about using fireworks, visit [vafire.com](http://vafire.com).

# Star-Spangled Grilling and Smoking Food Safety

On July Fourth, the aroma of barbecue will fill the air as the festivities bring together family and friends to celebrate with quintessential American cooking pastimes: grilling and smoking. Food is the biggest staple when it comes to celebrating Independence Day, aside from the fireworks. Whether you're sizzling burgers on the grill or slow-cooking ribs in the smoker, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service is urging everyone to take food safety precautions during food preparations.

"Fourth of July is a great time to use the grill and smoker to cook delicious meats and poultry," said Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Emilio Esteban. "Whichever method you use, reduce your risk of foodborne illness by using a food thermometer to measure the safe minimum internal temperature, and reduce cross-contamination by using separate utensils for raw and cooked meat and poultry."

Here are grilling and smoking food safety tips to keep in mind during your celebratory cookout:

Thaw meat or poultry first. Smoking uses low temperatures to cook food, and frozen food would take too long to reach a safe internal temperature before bacteria can start to multiply. Frozen foods can be grilled safely, but they will take longer and may cook unevenly.

Marinate in the refrigerator. Marinating tenderizes and flavors meat and poultry before grilling and smoking. Always marinate in the refrigerator and NOT on the counter. If basting meat and poultry during grilling or smoking, and you want to use some of the mar-

inade as a sauce, you should put aside a portion of the marinade that has not been in contact with the raw meat or poultry. If using a marinade that has already been used on raw meat or poultry, boil first to destroy harmful bacteria.

Keep raw meat and poultry separate. Use different cutting boards and utensils for raw meats and poultry and food that is fully cooked or is ready to eat to avoid cross-contamination with bacteria.

Keep the smoker and grill at a safe temperature. If you are using a smoker or grill to smoke meats, you will need two types of thermometers: one for the food to determine safe internal temperature and an oven-safe thermometer to monitor that the air temperature in the smoker or grill stays between 225 and 300 F throughout the cooking process.

Cook meats to a safe internal temperature as measured by a food thermometer.

Cook all raw beef, pork, lamb and veal steaks, chops, and roasts to a minimum internal temperature of 145 F before removing meat from the heat source. For safety and quality, allow meat to rest for at least three minutes before carving or consuming.

Cook all raw ground beef, pork, lamb, and veal to an internal temperature of 160 F.

Cook all poultry to a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 F.

If you have food safety questions, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854), email [MPHotline@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline@usda.gov) or chat live at [www.ask.usda.gov](http://www.ask.usda.gov) 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

# VFW Post honored at convention



Israel Grissom, post quartermaster left, and Donald Cockram, post commander, right, for VFW Post 7800, received all State status with the Virginia VFW. The post received a new hat stating, "Allstate team" and a certificate at the VFW state VFW convention in Williamsburg, VA on June 13.

# Pets of the Week



This young adult female is full of love, energy and smiles a plenty. She is looking for a family.

This goofy chocolate lab mix is ready for a new home. He is funny and playful.

Visit the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter's (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.

# Student Briefs

## Hazard Named to Dean's List

Hollins University congratulates Missy Hazard of Stuart on earning Dean's List honors during the

spring 2024 semester. To attain this distinction, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale.


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# Moratorium

(cont. from page 1)

What we've approved is out of the way. There's no visual vantage point, so people aren't going to see it. That's a good balance. We certainly don't want to look like fields and fields and fields of solar panels, but at the same time we're doing our share that solar will complement other energy sources," he said.

Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, said he believes a moratorium on solar would be a good idea.

"The thing started rolling too fast, and I don't think quite enough stuff has been studied on it or come up with to protect us," he said.

While the board hasn't discussed a potential length of time for a moratorium, Kendrick said he hopes the board can talk about it at the next meeting.

"It's going to take time. I'm going to say it'd need to be at least six months, or a year, or maybe even longer. Nothing moves fast when you get to fooling with lawyers and study groups," Kendrick said, adding that he knows there could potentially be lawsuits against the county as a result of a potential solar moratorium.

"We aren't flat saying to start with that they can't have them. We'd just use the "moratorium to study it more and see if we want to change our ordinances and all that. If it does come to a lawsuit, you know that's what we pay the county attorney for," he said.

Jane Fulk, of the Dan River District, said her concern with the idea of a solar moratorium is how long it would be in force. At the June 18 meeting, Fulk said she asked Wood several times how long he wanted the moratorium to be in place.

"He didn't answer, which maybe he didn't have a number. I agree with him somewhat that we don't know enough about what's going on yet. The other one (solar project) went through so fast, that I thought sure we had everything that we wanted in place," she said.

Fulk said she also wants clarification on some issues and more information added into the county's solar ordinance before another solar company comes into the county.

"So as far as a moratorium, to me means we're

not going to do it for a while, that's why I kept asking about how long we wanted to put it out. Because if Berkley's working on it, I want to see what they come up with, and look at it, and see how it will affect Patrick County," she said.

From reading about solar companies, Fulk said she knows whatever energy is generated in Patrick County will not stay here.

"It will go to where there's greater need, and if we don't have the greatest need, then it's not going to be us. So, we're going to have solar farms to feed people far from us, or we might get some of it if we have the greater need," she said.

While she is generally against solar, Fulk said she wants to know a timeline before casting her vote on a potential moratorium.

"I just want to know how long we're looking at. I understood where he (Wood) was coming from, and it sounded like something maybe we should do," she said.

Fulk said she also doesn't know enough about solar farms and would like to have more information.

"I've done a little research on the panels, but I know there are different panels out there we could use. Nobody seems to want to say anything about those," she said.

Fulk also believes there's more information that needs to be brought up that she doesn't think the board has yet.

"I know the planning commission tried to get all that they could get, and when I was on the planning commission, we really didn't have enough, but we could not sit still and let one of the bureaucratic agencies, or federal or state agencies, tell us what to do. We had to do something," she said.

Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, said he believes imposing a solar moratorium denies the board the opportunity to consider solar projects on a case-by-case basis.

"This is not balanced governance. One project might be unfavorable while another might be perfectly appropriate to allow. Denying reasonable projects will cost the county revenue and could very well expose us to litigation by property owners and solar companies. We run the additional risk of forcing adverse regulation by the General Assembly,"

Marshall said, adding that he believes a moratorium would deny property owners the opportunity to bring their land use intentions regarding solar at least to a vote by the board.

"Landowners should be afforded the right to hear why their project is being denied rather than public officials hiding behind an outright ban. The practice represents selective zoning, which I am not in favor of," he said.

Marshall said moratoriums likely are not legal owing to "Virginia being a Dillon Rule state and the fact that state legislation provides for and requires renewable energy under the Virginia Clean Economy Act."

He believes it is likely that should enough counties decide to impose moratoriums on solar that the state will be forced to remove siting decisions from county boards of supervisors.

"This would naturally have to happen in order to reach the state RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standards) goals. I do not know where the tipping point is on this, but I don't believe Patrick County should have a part in removing decisions making from counties," he said.

Wood said he brought up the moratorium idea at the joint meeting because he believes the county needs a chance to step back and see where it wants to go, or even if it wants to go with solar in the county.

"You're looking at a 40-year investment minimum, you know," he said. "We want to make sure we have everything so that it benefits the county and the county residents, and not just a few people."

As for the length of time of a moratorium, Wood is unsure.

"I think we need to do at least six months or a year to start with, to see what we can come up with as far as a solar ordinance that makes Patrick County a better place to live, or still a good place to live and raise a family," he said.

Regarding potential lawsuits resulting from an enacted moratorium, Wood said he believes county residents, including himself, don't mind if the county has to fight to do what's best in the long run.

# Drought

(cont. from page 1)

on our Commonwealth and the impacts it has on our agricultural producers firsthand. This marks the second consecutive year that we've experienced drought conditions across much of Virginia with over 60 localities in Virginia receiving a USDA disaster designation last year," said Gov. Glenn Youngkin. "While we look forward to future rainfall, I want our farmers to know that Virginia stands with them. There are government resources available to assist farmers if we do not receive significant rainfall to help the Commonwealth's crops."

"Droughts can severely impact agriculture by reducing crop and forage yields, and lead to additional cost for feed, watering, and destocking livestock. Droughts also increase mortality and reduce growth in our forest and increase

the risks of forest fires," said Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr. "We can all take steps to help our farmers by conserving water and buying local. We can also help protect our forests by adhering to burn bans, putting out campfires, and taking precautions when using fireworks."

In addition to the USDA disaster designation, the federal agency has a variety of other programs to assist farmers who may suffer from natural disasters. USDA's Risk Management Agency works closely with approved insurance providers, who sell and service crop insurance that can provide aid in loss adjustment and prompt claims payments.

Producers should consider risk management coverage or participate in the USDA's Non-

insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Contact your local USDA Farm Service Center to obtain coverage information and to learn about other disaster assistance programs.

Virginia Cooperative Extension has many resources to help before, during and after emergency situations. Farmers should contact their local extension office to access valuable research-based information that may improve the drought resiliency of their operation.

For farmers who may need to sell or buy excess hay due to drought conditions, VDACS hosts a Hay Clearing House through its Division of Marketing. For additional information on hay, please visit [www.vdacs.virginia.gov/markets-and-finance-market-news-hay-feed.shtml](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/markets-and-finance-market-news-hay-feed.shtml).

# New Business

(cont. from page 1)

wants to come, Walmart would be closer, so they don't have to come further down or whatever the case is," she said.

Heather Eubanks, who is also a stay-at-home mother of three children, said she loves baking donuts for people to enjoy.

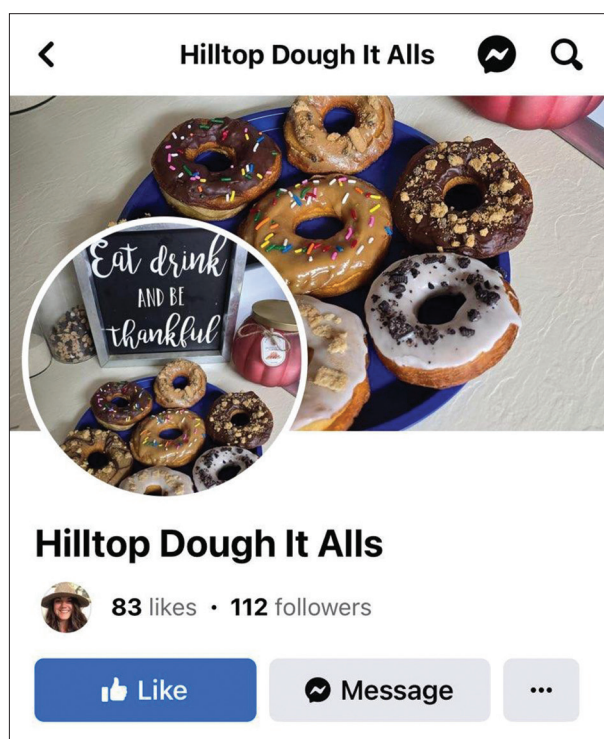
"It gives me something else to do. Of course," my children are "all about donuts, too. I love it, I love getting the donuts ready, and I can't wait for the food trailer," she said.

Hilltop sells a variety of donuts including powdered sugar, cinnamon sugar, glazed, chocolate glazed, as well as a variety of specialty donuts like Reese's, cookies and cream, cinnamon toast crunch,

"She's currently working on other types like gluten-free and filled donuts," Seth Eubanks said, adding they also will try to offer holiday specialty donuts.

Those interested in ordering donuts can contact Hilltop by calling (276) 694-9609, or via email at [hopptomfam2020@gmail.com](mailto:hopptomfam2020@gmail.com) or Facebook messenger.

For more information, visit [Facebook.com/HilltopDoughItAlls](https://www.facebook.com/HilltopDoughItAlls).



For more information, go to [Facebook.com/HilltopDoughItAlls](https://www.facebook.com/HilltopDoughItAlls).



# Opportunities expanded for specialty crop growers to help offset safety expenses

The Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) program was expanded and now includes medium-sized businesses in addition to small businesses. Eligible specialty crop growers can apply for assistance for expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification. The program has also been expanded to include assistance for 2024 and 2025 expenses. Producers can apply for assistance on their calendar year 2024 expenses beginning July 1, 2024, through Jan. 31, 2025. For program year 2025, the application period will be Jan. 1, 2025, through Jan. 31, 2026.

The FSCSC assists specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety. FSCSC covers a percent-

age of the specialty crop operation's cost of obtaining or renewing its certification, as well as a portion of related expenses.

Eligible FSCSC applicants must be a specialty crop operation; meet the definition of a small or medium-size business and have paid eligible expenses related to certification.

A small business has an average annual monetary value of specialty crops sold by the applicant during the three-year period preceding the program year of no more than \$500,000.

A medium size business has an average annual monetary value of specialty crops the applicant sold during the three-year period preceding the program year of at least \$500,001 but no more than \$1,000,000.

Specialty crop operations can receive the fol-

lowing cost assistance:

- \*Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.
- \*Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.
- \*Food safety certification.
- \*Certification upload fees.
- \*Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water.
- \*Training.

Payments are calculated separately for each eligible cost category. Details about payment rates and limitations are available at [farmers.gov/food-safety](https://farmers.gov/food-safety).

Visit [farmers.gov/food-safety](https://farmers.gov/food-safety) for additional program details, eligibility information and forms needed to apply.

## Independence and the Ninth District

A newsletter from 2017 entitled "Independence and Southwest Virginia" was one of my favorites. Many of you have told me over the years it was a favorite of yours too.

Because of redistricting, the Ninth District has added some communities and lost some communities. So, I thought it might be of interest to review locations in the Ninth District named for influential figures during the American Revolution era.

On July 4, we celebrate Independence Day, the anniversary of when fifty-six men pledged "[their] Lives, [their] Fortunes and [their] sacred Honor" by adopting the Declaration of Independence. We honor them on Independence Day, but in Southwest Virginia, their legacies can be found every day. One can simply look at a map to find them.

Three of the counties contained in the Ninth Congressional District are named after signers of the Declaration. Wythe County is named after George Wythe, who taught Thomas Jefferson law. His name appears first among Virginia's signatures.

Carroll County's namesake, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, represented Maryland. He was the only Roman Catholic signer and the last survivor among the fifty-six, living until 1832.

In 1785, Virginia gave birth to Franklin County. Honoring one of the most famous Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin was a renowned intellectual respected in the United States and the Western World.

The Declaration was a big step, but some had demanded independence before 1776. One of the boldest was Patrick Henry, who famously declared before the Second Virginia Convention, "Give me liberty or give me death!" He has two county names honoring him: Patrick and Henry. For a time, Henry resided in Leatherwood, Henry County.

To make independence real, it needed more than the Declaration. It needed individuals who were willing to fight and, if necessary, die for the cause. Two such patriots are honored in our area by county names. Richard Montgomery led the invasion of Canada and died at the Battle of Quebec in 1775.

Casimir Pulaski was a Polish count. Like the French-born Marquis de Lafayette and the Prussian Baron von Steuben, Pulaski was a European nobleman who was drawn to the American cause. As he wrote to George Washington, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it." Pulaski fell at the Battle of Savannah in 1779.

William Grayson also fought in the war, serving as an aide to Washington and rising to colonel, but he survived the war to become one of Virgin-



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

ia's first U.S. senators, and now has Grayson County named in his memory.

Furthermore, the City of Martinsville was founded by Brigadier General Joseph Martin who contributed to American Revolutionary battles at Kings Mountain and Cowpens.

Russell County was named for William Russell, but which one, the father or the son? Both were soldiers of the Revolution. The elder Russell's service included Point Pleasant, when frontiersmen led by Andrew Lewis defeated Shawnee Chief Cornstalk and helped clear the way for Daniel Boone and others to settle beyond the Appalachians.

William Russell's son was one of the Overmountain Men, frontiersmen who rallied from hundreds of miles away to fight the British. Their victory at Kings Mountain helped turn the tide of the war in the South. The Abingdon Muster Grounds, where 400 of the militiamen began their journey, marks the northern trailhead of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

Then there is Washington County. George Washington led the Continental Army to victory against the powerful British Empire. That victory led to a sense of liberty in the colonies and in 1782, the Village of Liberty (now known as the Town of Bedford) was formed.

Later, Washington served as president of the Constitutional Convention and subsequently as our first president under the new Constitution. After two terms, he returned home. Truly, Washington was:

"First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

That description came from Washington's colleague Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, who, sure enough, is the namesake of Lee County.

In Southwest Virginia, we are proud of our patriotic heritage. The names of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration, the other statesmen who worked for independence, and the soldiers who fought for it hold an honored place in our memory. But their legacy consists of more than names in history books or on maps. It is found in our democratic republic, in the freedoms we enjoy, and the great nation we have become.

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

## Pilson named Teacher of the Year



Amber Pilson, an educator at Woolwine Elementary School, was awarded the VFW District 5 Teacher of the Year award at VFW Post 7800. She is pictured receiving the honor last week from Donald Cockram, VFW Post 7800 commander.

## Agriculture organizations, farmers urge farm bill passage

Agricultural organizations and farmers are urging bipartisan support for a new farm bill tied up in Congress as the September expiration date looms.

After Congress issued a one-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill late last year, some progress has been made toward a new farm bill. But intense negotiations continue around the comprehensive legislation that sets policy for an array of vital programs that ensure the security of the nation's agriculture sector and food supply.

Earlier this spring, the U.S. House of Representatives' version of the farm bill passed out of the House Agriculture Committee after a 13-hour markup session. The bill is awaiting a floor vote. More recently, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and ranking member Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., both released their outlines for the new legislation.

"This is encouraging progress in the Senate, but there is much work to be done," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. "There are stark differences between the two outlines, and we urge chairwoman Stabenow and ranking member Boozman to find common ground on the important issues that farmers and ranchers face."

After the pandemic and resulting economic turmoil of the past few years, farmers are grappling with inflation, increased supply costs and volatile markets. A modernized farm bill that improves and expands crop insurance, subsidies and investments in crop programs can address the new economic environment and help farmers weather challenges.

"We urge the Senate Agriculture

Committee to use these outlines to draft a bipartisan farm bill that updates the farm safety net and makes crop insurance more accessible, and to schedule a committee markup soon," Duvall continued. "The farm bill benefits every family in America. They're relying on Congress to get the job done."

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation also is urging passage of the farm bill. "The future of American farming depends on investment in the next generation, and support for existing operations through vital farm bill programs," said Ben Rowe, VFBF national affairs coordinator. "We urge Congress to take action to support farmers across the country by passing a bipartisan farm bill this year. Farmers cannot afford continued delays by Congress."

Earlier this month, young farmers testified in Congress before the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management and Trade to emphasize the importance of passing an updated farm bill.

Their testimony outlined unique challenges young and beginning farmers face and how the farm bill ensures success of future generations. The legislation includes tools and resources to help these farmers get established in agriculture—including access to affordable credit and risk management programs like Dairy Margin Coverage.

Additionally, the farm bill includes funding and support for conservation programs and sustainable farming practices. The farm bill also encompasses nutrition programs, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which ensures healthy food access for low-income families.

## Historical Society to host "Half Penny" author Ron Spencer

At 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 14, Ronald Spencer will discuss his recently published book, "Half Penny: You Can Make It If That's All You've Got," at Patrick County Historical Museum in Stuart. Although he lives in Richmond now, Spencer was born and raised in Patrick County and has many relatives yet living here.

Spencer, a well-known authority on health care, is a registered nurse who has worked in Veterans' hospitals and has taught nursing classes himself. Impressively, Ron has served on statewide health advisory boards under four different Virginia governors.

Spencer's book is part memoir and part family history but mostly an authentic "down to earth" tale of his life growing up in mostly segregated, 1960s-era Patrick County. Despite the tragedies of losing his

father, who died relatively young from black lung disease, and then the death of his stepfather to whom he had grown close also, Spencer survived and prospered.

He attributes his success in life very much to his faith but to his family and to some supportive teachers/mentors as well. He candidly admits to having experienced problems with alcohol addiction and, to a lesser extent, other drug use while dealing with attention deficit disorder (ADD) also. The added impediments to his success were prej-

udice, racism, and the poverty experienced as he was growing up in a single parent family with seven siblings.

Anyone who lived in rural Patrick County in the latter half of the 20th century will relate to many of the things he talks about in his book. Many will recall the names of people he encountered too, such as long serving and dedicated physician, Edwin T. McNamee. "Dr. Mac," as he was called, helped establish the local hospital (now defunct, sadly) and was perhaps the last local physician to make "house calls." An early Black school administrator, Fred Brim, is mentioned also, though definitely not as one of

Spencer's "mentors," to say the least.

Like many before him, young Ronald "escaped" some of the impediments he had encountered locally when he enlisted in the US Navy as he was just completing high school. The discipline of the military life proved helpful in later life, but he had plans for something other than being a career soldier.

In short, Spencer has led a very interesting life and will share some of his personal stories with hopes of encouraging other folks to record their own family histories as well. Light refreshments will follow the talk and copies of his book should be available for sale. For more information, call the museum at (276)694-2840.



### JULY MARKET EVENTS

Every Friday 8 am to 12 pm

**July 7:** Tool Sharpening Available & Rise & Shine Vendors

**July 7:** 6pm First Friday Summer Jam Series Concert

**July 14:** Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, Meats & Eggs

**July 21:** Storytime with Sam from the Library at 10am

**July 28:** Monthly Master Gardeners Program & Blood Pressure Checks

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

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



## Patrick Pioneers

*Defenders of Bataan (Part Four)*  
By Beverly Belcher Woody

For the past three weeks, we have followed the lives of local heroes Private Camden Bryant, 2nd Lt. Stanley Aaron, Private Hayne Dominick, Jr., and Private Ralph Jefferson Turner, Sr. as they were forced to leave the Philippines, endure the Bataan Death March, and nearly three years in Japanese prisoner of war camps. We will conclude the series this week with the story of another local hero, James Walter Trent.

Private James W. Trent grew up between Patrick Springs and Critz, 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.

Hayne Dominick, Jr. recorded Private James Trent's story and Trent allowed him to share it. Hayne, "Trent left the United States on October 23, 1941, with the 803rd Engineers, and he fought on Bataan at the same place where Camden Bryant and I were stationed. We were all at Agaloma Point during that 14-day battle, though we did not know Trent at the time and were not to know him for some time yet. Trent was assistant squad leader of a squad of ten men that went through some of the fiercest fighting at Agaloma, and he was one of only three of the ten men who survived in the jungle."

"During the height of the battle, Trent's outfit went three days and nights without food, sleep, or water. Some of the men were forced to drink the water from their machine guns and it made them very ill. Trent and the other survivors were withdrawn in February to Corregidor where they hoped to hold out under General Jonathan Wainwright, but they were forced to surrender on May 7th, 1942."

The following part of this story is in James Trent's words, retold to Hayne Dominick, Jr. and Kay Thompson. "One day I was assigned to dig a latrine at Camp Cabanatuan. One of the fellows next to me was talking about Virginia and he asked if I recalled the song, 'The Trail of the Lonesome Pine?' He began talking about the pretty pine trees on the Blue Ridge Mountains. One of the other boys was talking about Virginia and asked me where I was from and he told me he was from Martinsville, Virginia. I thought that I had recognized him and sure enough I did. His name was Camden Bryant."

Hayne picks up the story, "Trent said he remembered Camden's face, having seen him once or twice when Camden was working for Joyce's Barber Shop. Camden brought Trent around to see me, and then they looked up Ralph Turner from Patrick County, and I introduced Trent to Stanley Aaron. We became great friends, all of us."

Hayne recounts what James Trent shared with him, "The Japanese caught a starving Trent stealing a pepper from the garden. The Japanese took him into camp, placed him where most of the Americans could watch, and each of the 25 guards on duty struck him five times each with their rifle butts. The guards took the rifles by the barrels and swung them like baseball bats, with 125 blows knocking him into insensibility. Before they administered the beating, they forced Trent to stand for four hours, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, in the glaring sunlight with his hands outstretched above his head. When his strength failed and his



James Walter Trent (from Maude Skinnell and Katy Trent)

hands fell, a Japanese guard would walk up to him and slap his face until his hands reached heavenward again. After the beating, the Japanese locked Trent in the guardhouse for 14 days. After his release, the Japanese guards gave Trent .68 cents and told him to buy himself some peppers."

Trent shared another horrific event with Hayne and Kay Thompson, "One day, some of the Japanese guards came into the garden and saw where some pumpkins had been cut off the vines. Some other Japanese had taken the pumpkins, but they blamed us. They found two pumpkins as big as water buckets, handed them to me and another fellow, made us climb aboard a log, and forced us to hold those pumpkins for 16 solid hours. We were forced to hold them over our heads for 30 minutes, then we could hold them in cupped arms for another 30 minutes. After that, we were allowed to rest for 30 minutes, still standing on the log, until the process started over again. I believe this was the hardest thing that I ever had to do."

Trent was moved to Ashio, a copper mining town 60 miles north of Tokyo, where he worked for five months, before being sent to Shinegowa hospital, a Japanese "guinea pig" station in Tokyo. He was sent to the hospital because he was injured in a mine cave-in and was also suffering from beri-beri. Trent and a number of American boys endured different medical experiments. In Trent's case, Vitamin C was injected into his spinal fluid every other day. Trent stated, "It was a miserable life. I thought that I would die each day, but all I could do was lie there and suffer from those shots. A lot of the Americans did die from the experiments, and that made us worry even more." Trent lost 70 pounds in three months; next came the B-29 bombing raids. On one occasion, three bombs struck the camp where Trent was hospitalized. Private James Walter Trent was finally liberated on August 29th, 1945. Trent was sent to Woodrow Wilson Hospital in Staunton, Virginia where he underwent treatment for the horrible beatings he endured, the diminishing eyesight from the lack of vitamins, and

## Presumed Missing



HAYNE W. DOMINICK, JR.

Martinsville Bulletin, May 20, 1942

beri-beri in his legs. Trent returned to Patrick County, married, and had four children. James W. Trent died at the very young age of 44 and was buried at Roselawn Cemetery.

Hayne Dominick, Jr. was promoted to Sergeant, married a Patrick County girl, Miss Betty Ruth Critz, and became a successful businessman in Martinsville, Virginia. He passed away in 1995 at the age of 75 and was buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Martinsville.

After recovering from extremely bad burns, Ralph Jefferson Turner, Sr. returned to Patrick County where he married and had several children. Ralph passed away in 1990 at the age of 68 and is buried at Sycamore Baptist Church Cemetery in Buffalo Ridge/Woolwine.

28-year-old Private Camden Bryant's and 26-year-old 2nd Lt. Stanley Aaron's remains lie in the South China Sea where their two separate prisoner of war ships went down. Bryant's family erected a memorial stone for Camden at Roselawn Cemetery and Aaron's family placed a memorial stone for Stanley at Oakwood Cemetery.

A poem by Susan Helene Kramer seems to say it best....

Freedom's Call

We show our thankfulness in prayer

This honor you deserve

Giving all for freedom's call

That we may live without reserve.

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 – Grieving Husband Asks About His Survivor Benefits**

**Dear Rusty:** My wife died May 4, 2024. I notified Social Security, and they have removed the direct deposit made to my joint checking account on May 8, 2024. What are my options now for obtaining any benefits from my wife's Social Security account? Signed: Grieving Husband

**Dear Grieving Husband:** Please accept our sincere condolences for the loss of your wife. Rest assured that we're here to assist with any Social Security questions you may have at this difficult time.

FYI, a person must live the entire month to be eligible for SS benefits for that month (Social Security benefits aren't paid for the month a person dies). For this reason, and as a matter of standard protocol, Social Security instructed the bank to return any payments received for your wife after her death. This is often referred to as the "claw back" rule.

In some circumstances, however, Social Security "claws back" money which rightfully belongs to the deceased, as they did in this case. Your wife's So-

cial Security payment received on May 8th was her payment for the month of April, and she was fully entitled to that payment because she lived for the entire month of April. I suggest that you download, fill out, and submit Form SSA-1724 to your local Social Security office to recover that May 8th payment, which rightfully belongs to your wife's estate. Note that the bank will automatically return any future SS payments received for your wife.

As your wife's surviving spouse, you are also entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255, which you can request by calling your local SS field office (get the number at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator)), or by calling 1.800.772.1213. During that call you can also explore whether you are entitled to any additional SS benefit as a surviving spouse.

If your wife's monthly SS retirement benefit was more than your current monthly SS benefit, you will be entitled to receive her higher monthly amount instead of your own smaller amount (FYI, if you haven't yet reached your own full retirement age your survivor benefit will be reduced). And if you are not yet collecting your own SS benefit, you have the option to claim your survivor benefit from your wife first while allowing your personal SS retirement

benefit to continue to grow, up to maximum at age 70 if you like.

Just be aware that if you haven't yet reached your full retirement age (FRA) and you are still working, any SS benefit you take before your FRA will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much can be earned before they take away some of your SS benefits. The 2024 annual earnings limit is \$22,320 (changes annually) for those who claim prior to the year they attain full retirement age, and SS will take away \$1 of benefits for every \$2 over the annual limit. The "earnings test" no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

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## Your Life and Health – Metabolic Syndrome

Four of our biggest diseases—and our biggest killers—are the so called lifestyle diseases: obesity, heart disease, high blood-pressure, and type 2 diabetes. For years, doctors recognized that these diseases share many risk factors and even causes. Some even began to suspect that these diseases were in fact symptoms of a larger problem.

In 1988, Gerald Reaven, a researcher at Stanford University suggested that these lifestyle diseases were actually various manifestations of what he called Syndrome X. He attributed everything to a root cause: elevated blood insulin levels and insulin resistance. His theories have since been well studied in medical literature. Today, syndrome X is known as metabolic syndrome.

Although metabolic syndrome continues to spread, we have the knowledge to stop it. It boils down to this: too much input and not enough output. More time at the table, than time with our walking shoes on. You know what I'm saying?

Not only the amount of food we are eating, but the type of food we're choosing to eat is harming us. Along with reducing quantity, we need to focus on the quality of our calories.

Unprocessed, nutrient-dense food, low in fat and sugar, but high in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and fiber, doesn't have to be boring or tasteless. Not only can these types of food be delicious, but they'll satisfy you longer, and you'll feel full sooner, meaning you'll eat less as a result.

Vegan and vegetarian diets have been shown to reduce the risk of metabolic syndrome, because they place a strong focus on plant foods. In contrast, research has repeatedly shown that the consumption of animal products increases the risk of many diseases, including metabolic syndrome. Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, and nuts are the fuels that our bodies were designed to use. Is it any wonder that they all reduce the risk of metabolic syndrome?

Besides the energy we put into our bodies, we need to focus on our output. You may have heard it a million times, but exercise is good for you. Besides burning off the extra calories we may have consumed, exercise helps combat disease.

When we choose to exercise and live active lifestyles, our bodies naturally become more responsive to insulin. Exercise also helps us lose weight. These two things combined mean that regular exercise is a very powerful means of fighting metabolic syndrome.

If you have metabolic syndrome, or are at risk of developing it, don't wait to start treating it. The lifestyle changes you make will have a tremendous benefit. You'll feel better and be healthier and happier as a result.

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

# Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation seeks funds for improvement projects

The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is seeking support for critical projects that will enhance the 469-mile scenic route. The initiatives include repairing historical structures, rehabilitating trails and overlooks, engaging children in outdoor activities, and showcasing traditional mountain music for visitors.

Working in collaboration with the National Park Service, the Foundation has identified initiatives to improve experiences for those who explore the country's most-visited national park. In 2023, more than 16.5 million people traveled the Blue Ridge Parkway. The park does not charge an admission fee, making it more vulnerable to funding shortfalls, decreased staffing, maintenance backlogs, and building closures.

"So many people love the Blue Ridge Parkway, whether they have visited all their lives, reside in a neighboring community, or enjoyed just one epic adventure here," said Carolyn Ward, CEO of the Foundation. "Often they don't realize they can play a huge part in the care and protection of the national park."

The projects that require financial support span the length of the Parkway through Virginia and North Carolina and total more than \$1.6 million. The list includes trail maintenance, overlook clearing, repairs at the Museum of North Carolina Minerals, and two historical landmarks, Mabry Mill and Moses H. Cone Memorial Park.

## Projects & Fundraising Goals

**Mabry Mill Roof Replacement** (cost \$80,000; remaining need \$37,216): The Parkway's most photographed site is in dire need of repairs. Mabry Mill's weather-worn shake roof must be replaced to ensure the structure remains standing and continues to serve as a landmark where visitors can learn about early 20th-century life. This project will be the first phase of improvements to the historic structures onsite.

**Volunteer Supplies and Training** (cost \$15,000): The hundreds of volunteers who donate their time to the Parkway each year require training, uniforms, and equipment to perform their jobs safely and successfully in the national park. A donation will ensure they receive the tools, gear, learning opportunities, and recognition they need for a rewarding role, while greatly expanding outreach to visitors.

## Trails & Views Forever Program

**Restore the Views** (cost \$27,000; remaining need \$16,800): Many roadside overlooks along the Parkway's route are obscured by overgrown vegetation. The Foundation is seeking funding for arborist crews to unshroud the iconic scenery of the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina near the border with Virginia.

**Trail Needs** (cost \$85,000): In addition to more than 369 miles of official park trails, the Parkway intersects with the Appalachian Trail and Mountains to Sea Trail. The National Park Service is tasked with keeping each step of the way safe for visitors with minimal impacts on the surrounding ecosystems. Contributions to fund a thorough inventory of trails within the national park will give the Trail Program Coordinator and volunteers the assessment tools and critical information needed to prioritize and plan improvements while considering the impacts to the landscape.

**Linville Gorge Trail** (cost \$25,000; remaining need \$12,500): The Linville Gorge Trail poses serious safety concerns with several downed trees, uneven and unstable terrain, and a steep tread that is eroding into the Linville River. Donations will commission a Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards team to clear trees, install stone steps and retaining walls, and create side-hill reinforcements at several major erosion areas.

**Humpback Rocks Trail** (cost \$15,000, fully funded): Humpback Rocks Trail is a popular route, so much so that erosion and vegetation loss has become significant and the possibility of injuries to visitors is a concern. The National Park Service will work with a consultant to realign the lower third of the route to protect natural resources and create a safer path.

**Trail Management and Oversight** (cost \$65,000): Through support for the position of Trail Program Coordinator with the National Park Service, work can move forward to identify trail priorities with Parkway staff, volunteers, adjacent public land agencies, and partner organizations such as the US Forest Service, state parks, Friends of Mountains to Sea Trail, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and Carolina Mountain Club.

## Blue Ridge Music Center

**Programming** (cost \$70,000): At the Blue Ridge Music Center, the sounds of the mountains are preserved, interpreted, and celebrated through the annual summer concert series hosted in the outdoor amphitheater near Galax, Va. Ticket sales, grants, and sponsorships do not cover the costs of all the programs offered. Donations will create and continue programming that showcases mountain music and the region's cultural heritage.

**Boost Milepost Music** (cost \$30,000): Milepost Music is a series of free summer concerts hosted from June through September at popular destinations on the Parkway. These Sunday afternoon shows supplement educational programs for visitors as park staffing shortages continue and help support local and regional musicians. This year, the Music Center is increasing the number of concerts at Humpback Rocks, Mabry Mill, Doughton Park, and the Parkway Visitor Center in Asheville.

**Light up the Stage** (cost \$63,000; remaining need \$43,147): The Music Center's stage lighting currently operates with outdated, high-wattage lamps that are expensive to replace and difficult to source. This lighting is no longer sustainable. Donations will purchase LED fixtures and converters that will supply energy-efficient lighting.

**Share a New Exhibit** (cost \$5,500): The exhibit Half-Tone Folk Heroes: Traditional Musicians as Pop Art is on display in the Luthier Shop at the Music Center. The collection of illustrations by Gina Dilg, a visual artist and musician from Radford, Va., pays tribute to the old-time, bluegrass, early country, and blues folk artists who have inspired generations, including the Stanley Brothers, Bill Monroe, Joe and Odell Thompson, Samantha Bumgarner, and Etta Baker. Donations will support this fresh perspective on the intersection of visual arts and music.

**Visitor Experience Ambassadors** (cost \$28,550): The National Park Service faces many challenges when hiring staff for Parkway roles, including decreased funding and labor force shortages. To maintain enriching and engaging experiences at the Music Center, the Foundation is seeking funding for Visitor Experience Ambassadors and Event Logistics Coordinators who will share programs and information and assist visitors attending Music Center programs and events through October.

**Repair Solar Lights** (cost \$12,000): A safe walk from the amphitheater to the parking area is a key part of a safe and enjoyable evening at the Music Center. The Foundation is seeking funding to repair solar lights used to illuminate the parking lot.

**Launch a Trade Career** (cost \$32,000; remaining need \$18,000): There are more than 10,000 signs along the Parkway. The park's sign production center is responsible for designing, fabricating, repairing, and installing these important features that orient and educate visitors with trail maps, overlook names, historical information, and more. The Foundation is seeking funds for an apprenticeship that will pass on the specialized skill set needed for a role in the workshop. The program is a collaboration with the Appalachian Conservation Corps.

## Moses H. Cone Memorial Park

**Flat Top Manor Plaster Repairs** (\$174,617 needed): Crumbling ceiling plaster in three interior spaces at Flat Top Manor is marred by the beauty of the circa-1901 mansion built by Moses and Bertha Cone. In addition to being unsightly and detrimental to the integrity of this historic home, it is a safety issue. Donations will fund repairs by professionals who specialize in period plasterwork.

**Bass Lake Accessibility Ramp** (cost \$80,000; remaining need \$14,230): The picturesque loop trail around Bass Lake is a popular destination. Unfortunately, the gravel ramp that leads from the parking area to the flat trail is rutted and eroded. Donations will replace the gravel walkway with an ADA-compliant concrete ramp to the trail and restrooms for increased and safer access to this key feature of Moses H. Cone Memorial Park.

**Repair Minerals Museum Facility** (cost \$43,000; remaining need \$5,000): Since 1955, the Museum of North Carolina Minerals has served as a hub of information about the area's

rich mineral resources and mining history. The aging building's exterior requires repairs, including the replacement of damaged wood and fresh paint. Inside, a new HVAC system is required to ensure adequate climate control to protect the exhibits. This project also includes refreshing the landscaping around the museum, installation of a new flagpole, and a ground inspection to address drainage issues.

**New Programs at The Bluffs Restaurant** (cost \$25,000): The Bluffs at Doughton Park is known as a must-visit destination for homestyle meals and hospitality on the Parkway. Now, the Foundation is expanding its role at the restaurant by offering educational events and pop-ups to celebrate heritage foodways and build community connections.

**Crabtree Falls Interpreter** (cost \$8,000): With the addition of an interpreter-in-residence at Crabtree Falls, the National Park Service will be able to expand its services for visitors to include demonstrations, campfire programs, and guided hikes to share details about the flora, fauna, and history of the area.

**Craggy Gardens Repairs & Enhancements** (\$750,000 needed): At Craggy Gardens, the 71-year-old visitor center needs upgrades and repairs. The building's restrooms are only accessible via an exterior stairway, are closed seasonally, and are prone to water system breaks. Along the surrounding trails, information is minimal, and the picnic area requires significant maintenance.

Donations for this initiative will help fund two sets of permanent, fully accessible waterless vault toilets at Craggy Visitor Center and another set in the parking lot for Craggy Pinnacle Trail; five new trailhead exhibits; and planning and design work to renovate and improve the visitor center, picnic area, and other site features.

Contributions for this project will be matched dollar for dollar by a \$750,000 grant from the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority's new Legacy Investment from Tourism (LIFT) Fund.

## Kids in Parks

**Build a TRACK Trail** (cost \$6,500 per trail): Kids in Parks outfits existing trails with family-friendly TRACK Trail adventures. Each TRACK Trail provides one park with a trailhead kiosk, four custom activity brochures designed to engage visitors in the natural or historic resources, a feature page on KidsinParks.com, and prizes for children who "track" their outdoor adventures through the web app.

**TRACK Trail Mini** (\$2,500 per trail): TRACK Trail Minis are designed for small parks or sites and offer compact trailhead kiosks and feature one self-guided brochure.

**Reward Young Explorers** (\$5 per prize package): After children log their adventure through the Kids in Parks web app they receive prizes in the mail. Donations to purchase and mail these free rewards encourage children to continue their exploration of nature and the program's TRACK Trails. Prizes include a Trail TRACKER Passport booklet, stickers featuring flora, fauna, historic structures, and scenery from the trail sites; a carabiner keychain; and a collectible prize card with educational information and activities.

The foundation is the nonprofit fundraising partner of the Blue Ridge Parkway, helping to ensure cultural and historical preservation, natural resource protection, educational outreach, and visitor enjoyment now and for future generations. Since 1997, it has provided more than \$22 million in support for the country's most visited national park unit. To learn more, visit BRP-Foundation.org.



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# Farmers hope for a stretch of rainy weather as moderate drought continues

With "abnormally dry" weather persisting statewide, moderate drought conditions are stressing pasture and cropland within a swath of the western Piedmont and Shenandoah Valley, according to the Virginia Drought Monitor.

Rapid-onset droughts like this, sometimes referred to as "flash droughts," can cause significant agricultural economic impacts.

A few scattered showers are not enough to quench parched fields that are affecting growing and grazing throughout Virginia. Madison County cattleman Steve Mallory is already feeding his cows the hay that was just harvested.

"Most of my pastures are pretty well gone," he said. "There's not much left but a few weeds sticking up."

Mallory is supplementing his own supply with hay from other farms, and feeding range cubes that are nutritionally dense, but expensive.

"It makes you feel a little defeated," he con-

tinued. "But as long as the wells hold up and I don't have to haul water, it's OK."

Having grown up on the farm, Mallory remembers other droughts.

"Once it was so dry we ran a fence into the woods and cut trees for cows to eat the leaves," he recalled. "I remember that vividly. But we're not there yet."

Caroline County soybean and corn grower Lynwood Broaddus also has memories of extreme drought. With soybeans damaged by dry conditions, his father harvested about 40 acres of the plants and fed them to the cattle.

"This drought is nothing in comparison, but it still hurts," he said. "Especially looking at the corn, which is reaching a crucial time."

Some corn is tasseling and trying to silk too early, noted Broaddus, who serves on the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Soybean & Feed Grains Advisory Committee.

With at least \$500 invested in every acre

of corn, watching it dry up can be immensely stressful and disruptive to a farmer's mental health, Broaddus said.

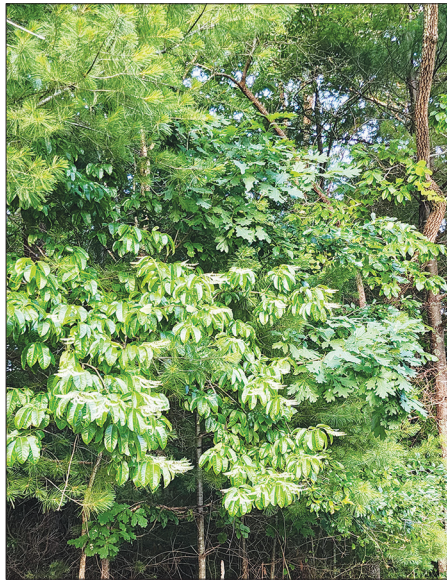
"If we can get a rain on our corn in the next couple days, we can definitely get half a crop," he continued. "The farmers who have significant irrigation are pumping water like crazy right now."

Soybeans, Virginia's top agricultural export, are "holding," he said. But they need rain soon too. Otherwise, pods will drop in prolonged drought.

The farmers said a week of intermittent rainy weather could be the jumpstart that pasture and crops need.

"We're actually hoping for a tropical system, even if it brings a lot of wind," Mallory said. "It will take more than one rain event to rectify this situation. But we've been blessed with so many good years and nice growing seasons. We've just got to work through this one."

## Days of summer in Ararat



Mountain Laurel shrubs and sourwood trees bloomed profusely on Mary Dellenback Hill's Tree Farm in Ararat. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill)

## USDA now accepting applications for expanded emergency livestock assistance program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) started accepting applications starting on Monday, July 1 through its updated Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) to provide financial assistance to eligible dairy producers who incur milk losses due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, also known as H5N1 infection in their dairy herds.

The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) expanded ELAP through the rule-making process to assist with a portion of financial losses resulting from reduced milk production when cattle are removed from commercial milking in dairy herds having a confirmed positive H5N1 test. Positive test results must be confirmed through the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

The "USDA remains committed to working with producers, state veterinarians, animal health professionals, and our federal partners as we continue to detect the presence of H5N1 in dairy herds and take additional measures to contain the spread of the disease," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "When something unexpected, like H5N1, threatens the economic viability of the producers we serve, we are committed to finding ways, where we have the authority to do so, to revisit existing program policies and provide the financial support needed to help producers recover and sustain production."

ELAP provides emergency relief to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish to assist with losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as wildfires, that are not covered by other FSA disaster assistance programs.

H5N1 infections have been detected in 12 states including Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. Dairy producers in all states are reminded to stay vigilant and follow established APHIS biosecurity, detection and testing guidelines. In addition to testing, enhanced biosecurity is critical to containing

this virus. USDA works closely with state animal health officials, producers, and industry organizations to provide guidance and resources for cleaning and disinfection not only on affected farms but for all livestock producers as a part of practicing good biosecurity. APHIS has made available a number of biosecurity documents on its landing page.

### ELAP Eligibility

Eligible adult dairy cattle must be: Part of a herd that has a confirmed positive H5N1 test from NVSL;

Initially removed from commercial milk production at some point during the 14-day time period before the sample collection date for the positive H5N1 test date through 120 days after the sample collection date for the positive H5N1 test;

Milk-producing, currently lactating; and

Maintained for commercial milk production, in which the producer has a financial risk, on the beginning date of the eligible loss condition.

### Applying for ELAP Assistance

To apply, producers need to submit the following to FSA:

Proof of herd infection through a confirmed positive H5N1 test (based on USDA's APHIS H5N1 case definition) on individual animal or bulk tank samples confirmed by NVSL;

A notice of loss indicating the date when the loss is apparent, which is the sample collection date for the positive H5N1 test; and

An application for payment certifying the number of eligible adult dairy cows, the month the cows were removed from production, and the producer's share in the milk production.

The final date to file a notice of loss and application for payment for eligible losses is 30 days after the end of the prior calendar year, which is January 30.

Details on updated ELAP policy to provide financial assistance for milk loss due H5N1 were published in the Federal Register on Monday, July 1.

## Home Country

### Slim Randles

Each of us, in our own way, smiles on the Fourth of July. We can't help it. We are the most fortunate citizens of any nation in the world, and we know it.

A bunch of us in the valley will be down on the sidewalk watching the parade go by. The bands are nice. The horses are great fun to watch, and the military with their stunning stout vehicles of war are hard to beat. So are we. We're hard to beat, too.

My favorite part of the parade is when the kids walk by, with a small American flag in one hand and the end of a leash in the other. And that leash is attached to a dog. Not

a world champion dog. Not even a dog who trees 'coons or points birds.

No, that is the great American kids' dog. Look at each one. The crowd kinda boogers them a little, but they know they're safe because they have that wonderful American kid safely on the other end of that leash. Those dogs can't speak to us in our language, but we know exactly what they're saying: if it weren't for me, how would this kid ever become a full-fledged caring American adult?

We all must do our share.

Brought to you by "Whimsy Castle," the latest novel by Slim Randles. Buy one for the lady down the street, too, okay?

## Initial claims decrease, but are higher compared to last year

The 2,205 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending June 22, 2024, represent a 5.2 percent decrease from the previous week's 2,325 claims, but is 8.2 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,038), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 80 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (57 percent) were Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,207); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,574); Retail Trade (1,365); and Accommodation and Food Services (1,332).

Food Services (158).

Continued weeks claims (16,046) were 0.1 percent higher than last week (16,034) and were 19.9 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,381). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,377); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,207); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,574); Retail Trade (1,365); and Accommodation and Food Services (1,332).

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has ex-

perienced 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 unemployment insurance benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.

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# PCHS Fishing Team members compete



Jonah Shockley and Hunter Heath (High School Division)



Eli Wood and Evan Havens (High School Division)



Jacob Spencer and Tripp Thompson (High School Division)



Jake Bryant and Christian Pendleton (Junior Division)



Evan Eastridge (Junior Division - pictured with father and boat captain Scott Eastridge)



Cameron Redd (Junior Division)

A job well done by all of the Patrick County High School Fishing teams as they gave it their all competing in two state tournaments, including the Joseph Thomson Memorial BASS Nation Virginia State Championship at Kerr Lake at Oconeechee State Park, Clarksville, Virginia.

Members of the Patrick County High School Fishing Team that competed were:

Jonah Shockley, Hunter Heath, Evan Havens, Eli Wood, Tripp Thompson, Jacob Spencer, Jake Bryant, Christian Pendleton, Evan Eastridge, Cameron Redd.

In the Junior Division: Jake Bryant, Christian Pendleton, Evan Eastridge and Cameron Redd bagged a total of 17.96 lbs., and they placed 4th overall in JAT Tournament.

In the High School Division: Jonah Shockley, Hunter Heath, Evan Havens, Eli Wood, Tripp Thompson and Jacob Spencer bagged a total of 23.01 lbs. and

placed 6th overall in the tournament.

The overall winner in the Junior Division was Lake Anna Elite Anglers with a total of 29.74 lbs.

The overall winner in the High School Division was Mecklenburg High School Anglers with a total of 29.60 lbs.

The Joseph Thomson Memorial Tournament was created to raise scholarship money in memory of Joseph Thomson, a college student who was killed in a vehicle accident in 2006. Joseph had been a member of the Orange County High School Anglers in Orange, VA and after one year, he soon started a club with his own school in Warren County, VA. The Joseph Thomson 6 Man Team Championship is held to raise money for the BASS Nation of Virginia Memorial Scholarship. Top 3 high school and Top 3 junior teams compete in their own divisions at the BASS Nation of Virginia Youth Joseph Thomson Memorial State Championship. This tournament allows the Top anglers from each division (North, Central, and West) to compete as a team. At the end of the day the weights are totaled together and the team with the highest combined weight wins.

This was the last tournament of the season. We are so proud of EVERYONE on this team and thankful for ALL who are involved. Special thanks to all the Boat Captains, Coaches, Sponsors and Community support!

## Ralph Dale Pullum



Mr. Ralph Dale Pullum, age 72 of Stuart, passed away on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection in Stuart. He was born in Thomasville, North Carolina on October 9, 1951, to the late Henry Lee Pullum and Mae Billings Pullum. In addition to his parents, Mr. Pullum was preceded in death by a brother, Russell Pullum and a twin sister, Gale Gunter. He loved his wife and family and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Mr. Pullum is survived by his devoted wife of 28 years, Jeanette Arrowood Pullum of the home; three siblings, Rodney Pullum and wife, Debbie of Thomasville, North Carolina, Janie He-

drick and husband, Roger of Denton, Artley Pullum of Denton; a daughter, Tammy Shuping of Denton, North Carolina; two grandchildren, Apache Buie and Cheyenne Shuping of Denton; a great-grandchild, J.T. Buie of Denton; bonus daughter, Linda Fain and husband, R.J. of Patrick Springs; bonus

grandson, Justin Willard and wife, Erica of Madison, North Carolina; bonus granddaughter, Logan Clifton and husband, Austin of Spencer, Virginia; four bonus great-grandchildren, Emma Bullins, Ella Willard, Easton Willard, all of Madison, North Carolina, and Avery Clifton of Spencer; several nieces and nephews; step daughter, Monica Franklin and fiancé Timmy Hylton of Woolwine; step grandson, Drew Jackson and wife, Kandace of Bassett beloved dogs, Mrs. Sassy and D-boy; and favorite pal, Samson the Cat.

All services will be private. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

## Dorothy Bingman Nelson



Dorothy Bingman Nelson, 96, of Patrick Springs, VA, passed away peacefully on June 23, 2024, at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection surrounded by her children.

She was born on September 5, 1927, in Critz, Va., to the late Sandy Reed Bingman and Sallie Cummings Bingman. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Warren Nelson; sisters, Virginia B. (Ruth) Dickson, Mary Evelyn Bingman, and Frances B. Ashburn; brothers, James Cummings Bingman, Sandy "Moir" Bingman, William Allen "Bill" Bingman, Thomas Calvin Bingman, and David Arthur Bingman; brother-in-law, Donnell D. Dickson; sisters-in-law, Imogene M. Bingman and Virginia S. Bingman; nephews, Billy Mills Bingman, and Donnie D. Dickson III; and niece, Beth B. Crouch.

She learned to work hard at an early age coming from such a

large family, and instilled that in her children. She was a public servant for 10 years working first at Dupont, later at Bassett mirror in gold leafing, then seven years at Stanley, in the sanding room. She made many friends through her travels.

Her greatest enjoyment was working outside. She was a farmer, a gardener, a great cook, and had a passion for flowers or anything that bloomed, and most of all she loved her family. She was a lifelong member of Salem Church but unable to attend these last several years. She will be deeply missed.

Dorothy is survived by daughter, Sandra N. Tobler (Rich) and son,

Larry J. Nelson (Diann), both of Patrick Springs; grandchildren, Sally T. Rondeau of Daleville, VA, Mark R. Nelson of Melbourne, FL, Lisa Fain (Jon) of Danville, VA, and great-grandchildren, Nora Ruth Rondeau and Clara Fain, and many nieces and nephews. Special thanks to caregivers Andrea Lhamon and Cindy Childress, Mountain Valley Hospice, and Carilion Health care workers.

Funeral services will be held Saturday June 29, 2024, at 11 AM at Norris Funeral Home, Stuart Chapel with Pastor John Franklin officiating. Burial will follow at Critz cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10 AM to 11 AM before the service.

At the family's request, no flowers are requested or expected. If you would like to honor her life, please send a donation to Salem Church Endowment Fund, 159 Salem Church Road, Patrick Springs, VA 24133.

## Tobacco Commission launches second round of \$12 million fund

The Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission is now accepting applications for the second round of its Energy Ingenuity Fund.

The Energy Ingenuity Fund builds on the Commission's 25 year track record of funding innovative economic development initiatives in Southern and Southwest Virginia. Just as early investments in broadband and site readiness are paying dividends for rural Virginia, this program's energy sector investments are expected to create not just new jobs and investment in rural Virginia, but to also provide the innovative energy solutions that long-term economic prosperity requires.

Executive Director of the Tobacco Commission, James E. Campos said, "We are excited to launch the second round of the Commission's Energy Ingenuity Fund. Southern and Southwest Virginia are poised for growth and have everything needed to make projects large and small a success. From top-notch sites that are build-ready to a highly skilled workforce that can easily adapt to meet the demands of today's energy sector and more. I encourage any business looking for a location for their next project to give Southern and Southwest Virginia a look. I guarantee they will be impressed with what they see and with the support the Commonwealth and the Youngkin administration are able to provide to bring them to Virginia."

Campos continued, "During the first round of this innovative program we met with potential applicants that ranged from businesses and utility providers already operating within the Commission footprint to international players in the energy sector who are looking for the next location to expand their busi-

ness and invest in the energy solutions of the future. I am encouraged by all the conversations we have had and look forward to turning them into shovels in the ground and good jobs created in Southern and Southwest Virginia."

Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission Director of Regional Energy Development and Innovation, Jerry Silva, added "The interest we received during the first round of this program was significant and with this second round I look forward to continuing to engage with applicants to make their project a reality and ensure that when they are making decisions on where to locate they choose Virginia. Virginia can be a leader in the new energy economy and I'm pleased to be able to play a role in making that happen."

Energy Ingenuity Fund Program Outline  
Up to \$6 million is designated for energy-related projects in each of the Commission's service regions, Southern and Southwest Virginia. A variety of energy project proposals will be accepted, with a focus on establishing a 'best in class' energy economy. Projects supported through this fund will capitalize on the region's skilled workforce and promote an energy focused economy for the Tobacco Region, recognizing that regions with a strong focus on energy can better attract economic activity to their communities. Potential project areas include, but are not limited to: energy manufacturing supply chain, energy production, grid resiliency, energy storage, microgrids, hydrogen generation, smart cities, wind, small scale modular reactors, conversion of coal mines, and more.

For additional information and details, visit [www.revitalizeva.org](http://www.revitalizeva.org).

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# PATRICK PULPITS

## The Price of Liberty

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

The following thoughts were written by Donald Mansell in his book entitled "Sure as the Dawn" (1963). He assures us that both our political and our spiritual freedoms have come to us at a high cost.

"The price of liberty is usually high. Not many Americans are likely to reflect that this day (Independence Day), the day that commemorates the freedom of their country, cost some of their signers of the Declaration of Independence dearly. That document concludes with these memorable words: 'And for the support of this Declaration, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortune, and our sacred Honor.'

"Even fewer Americans are likely to remember that a number of the signers of this document paid for their freedom with their lives. Many lost homes and fortunes. Thomas Nelson, one of the delegates from Virginia, directed the bombardment and destruction of his own home in Yorktown, which at that time was occupied by enemy forces. He also assumed personal responsibility for raising \$2 million to pay for the assistance the French fleet rendered the forces of George Washington. When he redeemed the note after the war, it cost him his fortune and he died in poverty.

"Francis Lewis, a wealthy New York trader and signer of the Declaration, lost everything he possessed. His wife was thrown into prison by the British and died soon after she

was released. Richard Stockton, a delegate from New Jersey and a Princeton graduate, lost his wealth, his property, and his priceless library. He was imprisoned during the war and died shortly after peace was concluded.

"Yes, the price of political freedom is usually high, but the price of your spiritual freedom and mine cost infinitely more. This price was paid on Calvary, not to appease an angry God, 'for the Father himself loveth you' (John 16:27), but to satisfy the demands of justice before the un-fallen universe. Only by so doing could God 'be just, and (at the same time be) the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus' (Romans 3: 26).

"Eternal vigilance is the price of political liberty. It is also the price of spiritual freedom. 'Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free' (Galatians 5: 1)."

It was only after many attempts were made by the colonies to King George III to cease the ongoing abuses (political, economic, and religious) that were taking place that the colonies decided that independence was the only option.

Fifty-six members of the Continental Congress signed the engrossed parchment copy of the Declaration. Most members signed on August 2, 1776. The rest signed on later dates. Its eloquent language stirred the hearts of Americans and Europeans for democracy. The declaration gave newly emerging nations courage to stand for freedom. Praise the Lord!

## New DMV laws now in effect

Laws passed by the Virginia General Assembly set into motion changes for DMV customers that were effective on July 1. These changes and updates include the uninsured motor vehicle fee, permanent DMV-issued farm use placards, disabled parking placard duration and conversions of manufactured homes. Below are details on what is new and what customers need to do to prepare.

### Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee

Effective July 1, the option to pay a fee rather than maintain insurance coverage for your vehicle will be eliminated, and DMV will no longer collect the Uninsured Motor Vehicle (UMV) fee. All vehicles registered in Virginia will be required to obtain an insurance policy that meets Virginia's liability limits. If Virginia DMV cannot verify the insurance information provided with the insurer, customers should be prepared to show proof of insurance when requested by the Virginia DMV. If you previously paid the UMF fee, you will need to obtain an insurance policy that meets or exceeds Virginia's liability limits.

### Farm Use Placards

Permanent DMV-issued farm placards are required for unregistered farm use panel trucks, pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles beginning July 1, 2024. This requirement is a result of legislation passed by the 2023 General Assembly. The DMV-issued placards replace, in most cases, the unofficial farm use tags typically purchased at a local store for use on these three types of unregistered farm vehicles. Placards cost \$15 and are good for the lifetime of the vehicle but are not transferable. An additional \$15 may be required if the owner does not already hold a title for the vehicle. Placard transactions are not available online. Please bring the completed application to your

local vehicle-only DMV Select or make an appointment to come to your local full-service customer service center. Use this chart to determine which farm use plates or placards are right for your vehicle or for more details on placards for unregistered farm vehicles, please visit our website.

### Disabled Parking Placards

As of July 1, there is not a fee for disabled parking placards. Previously applicants paid a \$5 fee for a disabled parking placard. In addition, temporary placards now have a validity period of up to 12 months, if a medical provider certifies the temporary placard will be needed that long. This is double the previous maximum of 6 months. To apply for a disabled parking placard or license plate, you must submit a completed Disabled Parking Plates or Placard Application by mail or return it to your local vehicle-only DMV Select.

### Manufactured Home Conversion

Also, effective July 1, manufactured homeowners who are not listed on the title as the owner of the manufactured home will be able to submit a deed, court order or decree, or other legal document or record establishing that the manufactured home was transferred by the owner listed on the title to the current manufactured homeowner. If the owner listed on the title did not transfer ownership directly to the current owner, the current owner will need to provide records establishing a chain of successive ownership of the manufactured home. Owners will also need to submit documentation proving that any existing lien on the manufactured home has been released.

For more information about any of these changes or for more information on the many transactions, please visit the DMV's website.

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Cheirut (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Galatians 5:13, "Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through \_\_\_\_\_ serve one another." Friendship, Honesty, Love, Hope
3. From 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is \_\_\_\_\_." Hope, Freedom, Love, Liberty
4. In John 8:36, "If the \_\_\_\_\_ therefore shall make you free,

ye shall be free indeed." Heart, Worship, Celebration, Son

5. From what book's 6:7 does it say, "For he that is dead is freed from sin"? Isaiah, Daniel, Mark, Romans

6. How many times is the word "independence" mentioned in the Bible? 0, 2, 11, 17

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Love, 3) Liberty, 4) Son, 5) Romans, 6) 0

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.Trivia-Guy.com](http://www.Trivia-Guy.com).

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OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

Puzzle answers page 13

# CLASSIFIED

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

# Land Transfers in May

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

John F. Allred Jr. and other to Bret Frances Haulman and wife, 2.7363 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Michael Blaine Andrews to Rita B. Cooper, 46 acres, Dan River District.

Samuel T. Atkins and other to Howard J. Beardslee and wife, 8.53 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Backwoods Land LLC to Glen M. Crisp and wife, 35.849 acres, Mayo River District.

Lois Barbour; administrator, to Steven R. Davis and wife, 0.4015 and 0.377 acres, Mayo River District.

Gary J. Barnard and other to Fe E. Rodriguez, lot,

Peters Creek District.

Kyle D. Batts and wife to Elizabeth Frances King and husband, 26.5246 acres, Mayo River District.

John Carey Bledsoe and others to Christopher Neil Williams and wife, 8.3817 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Barry William Boyles, Sr. and other to Barry William Boyles, Jr., 3.147 acres, Dan River District.

Dennis Lee Brammer and other to William Justin Hall and wife, 1.6535 and 1.6 acres, Smith River District.

Joshua P. Cadieux and wife to Nicole Josette Sica, 2.704 acres, Smith River District.

Roger Chatham; EXOR., to Phillips and Turman Tree Farms, 0.357, 0.700, 36.6505 and 1.0315, Blue Ridge District.

Albert Wills Clark, Jr., to David Morrisette and wife, 1 ½ acres, Smith River District.

Claristine Cobb and other to Rodney Pilson, 1.404 acres, Dan River District.

Equity Trustees LLC to Smith River Properties LLC, 5.412 acres, Smith River District.

James A. Floyd and other to Michael J. Kerce and wife, 2.795 acres, Mayo River District.

Karson William Foley to Greenwood Management LLC, lots, Smith River District.

Kenneth Raymond Forinash and wife to Savannah Heironimus and wife, 0.678 acres, Mayo River District.

Philip Lee Gilley; EXOR., to Richard Broadhurst, 1.431 acres, Peters Creek District.

Charles L. Grantham to Christopher Mark Stevens, 5.558 acres, Dan River District.

Betty D. Greenwale; by atty to Larry A. Kerns, 2.83, 3.71 and 2.31 acres, Smith River District.

Joseph S. Hall, Jr. and wife to Timothy Van Dixon and wife, 41.61 and 1.42 acres, Dan River District.

Mary John Carr Hall to Kathryn L. Williams, lots, Mayo River District.

Timothy R. Handy and other to Michael Wayne Hylton, 17.914 acres, Mayo River District.

Gerald A. Harbour to Mark A. Wood, 1.00 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Silvestre Hernandez to SAJ1 LLC, 1.387 acres,

Mayo River District.

Wanda W. Hopkins to Mark A. Wood, 1.00 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Ronald E. Kodenski; by atty., to Gerald L. Kodenski, 0.3589 acres, Mayo River District.

David Lemnah and other to Olena Piatovol and other, lot, Blue Ridge District.

Makang2 LLC to Singh Brothers Investments LLC, 1.339, 0.339 acres, Mayo River District.

Ryan D. Mills and other to Leisa A. Jones, 1.7870 acres, Dan River District.

Susan Devereaux Moore to Ernest W. Darby and wife, 39.1709 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Rebecca Nowlin and others to Benjamin Beshears, 102.137 and 0.257 acres, Peters Creek District.

Mattie Othelia Osbourne to Tony E. Owens and wife, 9 acres, Mayo River District.

Patrick County Rentals LLC to Nicholas Spencer and others, 1.09 acres, Peters Creek District.

Bobby N. Pendleton and others to Connie Greer, lots, Mayo River District.

Naomi M. Pilson to Buffalo Ridge Timber Company, 49.776 acres, Smith River District.

Jean M. Hodges Poplin to Shannon Hawks, 1.55966 acres, Peters Creek District.

Thomas A. Price and other to Brandon J. Simmons and wife, 0.8899 acres, Dan River District.

Rick L. Ryan and other to Wade Evans Byrd, Jr. and wife, 12 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Derick M. Smith to Thomas C. Moles, Sr., 1.102 and 0.960 acres, Mayo River District.

Ashley Stockner to Terry Stephen Creech, 2.000 acres, Peters Creek District.

Benford D. Stone and other to Clifton J. Bardwell, 2 ¾ acres, Mayo River District.

Esau O. Underhill to Caroline S. Leruth, Trustee, 3.785, 7.232 acres, Blue Ridge District.

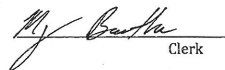
Ray A. Wood and other to Joseph A. Scarbel and others, 3.1486 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Christopher J. Wright to Jeffrey K. Owens and wife, .52 and .215 acres, Mayo River District.

Christopher Ivan Young to Amanda Elliott, 1.14 acres, Mayo River District.

## 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

## LEGAL

**Trustee's Sale**  
4589 Ararat Highway, Ararat, Virginia 24053  
(Parcel ID: 4010-20-21; Tax Map No.: 4010-20-21)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated July 6, 2018, in the original principal amount of \$104,545.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Patrick, Virginia in Instrument No. 180001139, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on July 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in front of the building housing the Patrick County Circuit Court, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171, the property 0.73 acres, more or less as shown and described on that plat of survey entitled "Folger Lee Montgomery and Gertrude M. Montgomery," dated January 16, 2017, and of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, as Plat No. 170000787. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$10,500.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 228945-04, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

## LEGAL

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Town of Stuart Planning Commission and the Council of the Town of Stuart will hold a joint public hearing on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 7:00 P.M., in Council Chambers at the Stuart Town Office on Patrick Avenue, Stuart, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive comment from members of the public relating to a proposal to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment would reclassify, from Heavy Industrial to High Density Residential (HDR), a certain tract or parcel of land situated in Mayo River Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, within the Town of Stuart, containing 5.794 acres by plat of survey entitled "TOWN OF STUART, STUART FIRE DEPARTMENT," prepared by Patrick N. Hall, LS, dated March 29, 2013, and of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, as Plat 13-910. The subject parcel has County PIN 4811-14-4-A, and was conveyed to Singh Brothers Investments, LLC, by deed dated February 29, 2024, and of record in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as Instrument No. 240000306. The proponent of such amendment has advised the Town that they desire to allow the construction of an apartment complex on the subject property, which has access only from Commerce Street.

As cited in the Town Zoning Ordinance, the purpose of HDR zoning classification "is to provide high density residential use and to provide for variety in housing types and densities as well as for those public and semi-public uses and accessory uses as may be necessary or are normally associated with residential surroundings. In general, urbanization is planned and utilities and public services exits or are planned to be adequate for the type or types of development contemplated. Certain special care facilities and governmental, education, recreational, and utility uses are permitted by special use permit."

Pursuant to §15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, persons affected by such proposed amendment may appear and present their views at said public hearing. The Planning Commission and/or the Town Council may limit the time allotted to each speaker.

Christopher A. Corbett, Town Attorney  
108 North Main Street  
P. O. Box 1270  
Stuart, Virginia 24171  
Phone: 276-694-7145  
Fax: 276-694-2320

## 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, L.L.S., # 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.sivpc.net

# Joey Logano wins at Nashville after a record five overtime restarts

By Holly Cain  
NASCAR Wire Service

It took a record five overtime restarts to settle Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series Ally 400 at Nashville Superspeedway, but two-time series champion Joey Logano finally emerged as the race winner, securing his first win of the season and a bid into the 2024 Playoffs in dramatic fashion.

With race leaders falling out of contention with each late race restart – 31 extra laps and 15 total cautions on the day - Logano and his Team Penske team gambled that his No. 22 Ford Mustang had enough fuel for a final push to the checkered flag. Ultimately Logano's Mustang turned 110 laps with that final tank of fuel.

The reward was the trip to Victory Lane Sunday – the first for Ford at the 1.333-mile Nashville track - and a coveted ticket to the Playoffs for Logano and team.

Logano finished .068-seconds ahead of Spire Motorsports rookie Zane Smith – the best career showing for the former NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series champion. 23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick was third, followed by Stewart-Haas Racing's Ryan Preece and RFK Racing's Chris Buescher.

The 34-year-old Logano said he wasn't sure how much fuel was left or if he would definitely make it to the checkered. "I know into [turn] three, my fuel light came on and it stumbled across the line, so that was definitely all of it.

"We've got to give a lot of credit to Roush Yates, not only building horsepower but building fuel mileage – that's what won today," said Logano, who still had enough fuel to do a brief victory burnout in front of the sold-out Nashville crowd that stayed to the epic end, despite a one hour, 21-minute red flag for rain only 136 laps into the 331-lap race.

"So proud of this team. It's been a stressful few weeks trying to get in the Playoffs so being able to win here is huge for our season. Felt great to get that. It feels good for our team.

"So much pressure. Trying to make the Playoffs is not easy these days in these Next Gen cars and everyone is so evenly matched," he added. "I made a lot of mistakes, even some tonight and it's nice to be able to overcome... This is a much-needed win for sure."

His crew chief Paul Wolfe confirmed Logano's Mustang ultimately ran out of gas.

"We just got to the point... we've gotten this far, let's just stick with it," Wolfe said of the team staying out instead of pitting for fuel. "Fortunately it was enough, but he did run out on the last lap."

Even before all the extra laps, the race's scheduled ending featured an amazing duel between pole-winner Denny Hamlin racing for what would have been a series best fourth victory and the 2023 Nashville winner Ross Chastain, racing for his first win of the season. For 30 laps they raced in front of the

field with Hamlin cutting into Chastain's lead before finally overtaking him with seven laps remaining in the originally scheduled 300-lap race.

But just as Hamlin and Chastain were seemingly settling the trophy, Logano's teammate Austin Cindric spun out with four laps remaining, forcing the first overtime.

Hamlin and Chastain restarted next to one another on the first overtime, but Chastain was hit from behind by Hendrick Motorsports' Kyle Larson, whose Chevrolet's splitter hit the apron and unintentionally moved into Chastain's car. The accident eliminated Chastain and Hamlin had to hold off the field in two subsequent overtimes before having to pit himself for fuel – a decision the team struggled to make, but ultimately were forced to do.

That left Logano and Stewart-Haas Racing's Chase Briscoe on the front row for the fourth overtime restart. Smith had moved into second place around Briscoe when the final caution came out for SHR's Josh Berry.

Only one (Reddick) of the top-11 cars lined up for the fifth overtime restart had won a race this season, but a highly motivated Logano got a stellar jump on the field at the drop of the flag and was able to keep the challengers behind with other incidents happening as the checkered flag flew.

"The winning side of me is pissed with the second place, especially after hearing the 22 [Logano] was going to run out for the past 10 laps, I don't know how many restarts," Smith said of his runner-up showing.

"But no, I wouldn't have done anything different. I felt like I chose the right lane and it's crazy how much different these cars drive with cleaner air. Just proud of our strategy there."

Logano's Team Penske teammate and reigning series champ Blaney finished sixth, followed by 23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace, Larson, Kaulig Racing's Daniel Hemric and SHR's Noah Gragson.

There were nine race leaders and 20 lead changes on the day.

For much of the early day, last week's winner Christopher Bell looked like he was positioned to earn the first back-to-back victories of his career. But pit strategy put Bell's No. 20 JGR Toyota the farthest back in the field. He spun out alone in Turn 2, racing in 15th place on the restart with 74 laps remaining.

Bell swept the opening two stage wins to lead the series with nine stage victories on the season and was out front a race-best 131 of the first 229 laps - more than twice as many laps as any other driver in the field at that point.

"Just put myself in a bad spot, lost my cool, got back in traffic with all those yellow flags and put myself in a really bad spot going into [turn] one," Bell said.

Larson's eighth place showing was good enough to keep the NASCAR Cup Series championship lead by 20-points over his Hendrick Motorsports teammate Chase Elliott, who was among those who had an incident on the race's final lap. Hamlin is 43 points back with eight races remaining to decide the regular season champion.

The NASCAR Cup Series returns to the Chicago Street Course for the Grant Park 165 next Sunday (4:30 p.m. ET, NBC, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). New Zealander Shane van Gisbergen is the defending race winner – claiming the trophy in his first ever series start.

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**Meetings**

**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.

**Wednesday, July 17**  
The Stuart Town Office will meet at 7 p.m. in the Town Office.

**Events**

**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. People are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs. Banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bands, vocals, and flat footing competitions, with three levels each – children, teen, and adult. Everyone is welcome to compete, and they 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.

**Friday, July 5**  
The community food truck will be at the Woolwine Smith River Rescue Squad from 3-4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, July 6**  
Life Tabernacle at 711 Iron Belt Lane will host a community cookout and Bluegrass Gospel music by The Mark Templeton Band. Pastor Carlton Fitzgerald invites all to attend. For more information, call (336) 871-4075.

**Sunday, July 7 – Wednesday, July 10**  
Revival at New Hope Community Church, 1836 Clark House Farm Road, Stuart, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday. Revival preacher is Teddy Hiatt. Special music each night. All are welcome.

**Monday, July 8 – Friday, July 12**  
Sycamore Baptist Church will hold Vacation Bible School, "The Great Jungle Journey," 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a water party on July 12 and a Youth Service at 11 a.m. on July 14, followed by a hotdog luncheon.

**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.

**Thursday, July 11**  
Patrick County Senior Citizens group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker building at Rotary Field. Entertainment will be provided by Philip Adams. Beverages will be provided to all attendees, and attendees are requested to bring salads and/or desserts to share with the group.

Patrick County Library will hold an Etiquette Made Easy class starting at 2:30 p.m. Registration is required by calling (276) 694-3352.

**Saturday, July 13**  
Patrick Springs Ruritan Club will hold a fish fry dinner from 4-7 p.m. at the Patrick Springs Park. This fundraiser will help raise funds to help the club 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.

**Sunday, July 14**  
The Patrick County Historical Society will host county native Ron Spencer to talk about his recently published memoir/family history, "Half Penny: You Can Make It If That's All You've Got," 2:30 p.m. at the museum.

The descendants of John Preston Williams will hold their annual family reunion at the Hughes picnic shelter in Trot Valley. Bring a covered dish. Lunch begins at 1 p.m.

**Monday, July 15**  
The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall, Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the board will not receive public comment.

**Monday, July 15 – Friday, July 19**  
Pilot View Baptist Church in Hillsville is holding Vacation Bible School from 6-8 p.m. If your child needs a ride call (276) 692-8693 and leave a message.

**Saturday, July 20**  
Providence United Methodist Church men's group will hold a community breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. The menu includes bacon, sausage, eggs, apples, gravy, and biscuits.

**Saturday, July 27**  
Providence United Methodist Church will hold a Vacation Bible School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided for participants for ages 4-12.

Mayo Mountain Church will hold a Vacation

Bible School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The seventh annual Rock Castle Reunion will be held at 12 p.m. at Woolwine Methodist Church. Attendees are encouraged to bring old photographs, artifacts, stories, and covered dishes. Email Beverly at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or call 276-692-9626 with questions.

**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 pastor@ravenrockchurch.org.

The Coffee Break Café hosts live music on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring an instrument, or just come and listen.

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

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

The Stuart Elementary School Running Club will hit the pavements along the sidewalks in town on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

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

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105 at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Honey Pot, 106 N. Main St., Stuart (across from The Coffee Break). Call (276) 694-2356 for more information.

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

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

The Willis Gap Community Center "Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam" is every Friday. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food. Music and dancing is 6:30-9 p.m.

The Willis Gap Community Center "Golden Oldies Open Jam" is the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food; music and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m.

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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# Milepost Music brings live music to Mabry Mill in July

## Free concerts held Sunday afternoons at iconic Parkway destination



Ashlee Watkins, Andrew Small

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

Cedar Ridge will perform on Sunday, July 7. Cedar Ridge is a bluegrass band that dabbles in old-time, folk, old country, and original material. Featuring Phil Lanier on mandolin and bass, Joe Andrews on guitar and bluegrass banjo, Dot Shikenjanski on bass and clawhammer banjo, and Dan Shikenjanski on guitar, Cedar Ridge brings a toe-tapping good time.

Ashlee Watkins and Andrew Small will perform Sunday, July 21. Based in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia, Watkins and Small perform music together in a variety of styles including bluegrass, country, old-time, folk, and Americana. Featuring their

exquisite blend of vocal harmony, the duo's versatile sound includes a range of acoustic instrumentation from fiddle and banjo tunes to mandolin and guitar numbers, and more. Their music has been featured on radio, recordings, podcasts, film, and television. Hosts of the monthly Floyd Radio Show at the historic Floyd Country Store, the duo have performed near and far, captivating audiences around the globe with their stirring harmonies and hard-hitting, old-time sound.

Milepost Music concerts are held at Mabry Mill on the first and third Sundays of each month in June, July, August, and September.

Upcoming Milepost Music concerts at Mabry Mill:

- Aug. 4: Mac Walker Duo
- Aug. 18: Lovely Mountaineers
- Sept. 1: Erynn Marshall & Carl Jones
- Sept. 15: Slate Mountain Ramblers



Cedar Ridge

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

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

Milepost Music is a collaboration between the Blue Ridge Music Center, Blue Ridge Parkway Founda-

tion, and Blue Ridge Parkway/National Park Service. Milepost Music concerts are held at iconic destinations along the Parkway including Humpback Rocks, Peaks of Otter, Mabry Mill, Doughton Park/The Bluffs, and the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center in Asheville in June, July, August, and September. For more information, visit [BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org/concert-calendar](http://BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org/concert-calendar).

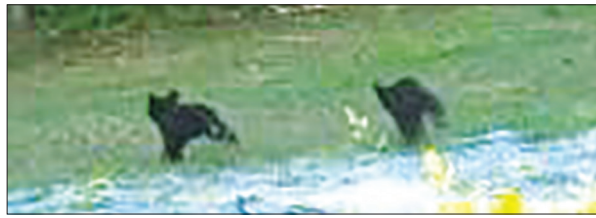
# Bear family visits Ararat home



Mama Bear on Mary Dellenback Hill's porch.



The mother bear ran into the yard toward the woods.



She had two babies, and they ran into the yard toward the woods.



These hen turkeys showed up and also ran toward the woods.

Mary Dellenback Hill grabbed her camera when she saw this bear family show up at her home in Ar-

arat. She wondered if late June was considered too late for baby bears after catching a glimpse of these

cubs. One of her sons told her he also saw turkey chicks near the home. (Photos by Dellenback Hill)

# New Rules for Farm Use Vehicles Started on July 1

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Virginia State Police (VSP) encourage farmers to ensure their eligible farm use vehicles are compliant with the new farm use tag required by Virginia law that becomes effective on July 1, 2024. The new law requires unregistered farm use vehicles to display a DMV-issued permanent farm use placard on panel trucks, pickup trucks, and sport utility vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) under 7,500 pounds.

The change was passed by lawmakers in 2023 with a one-year grace period for vehicle owners. Placards cost \$15 and are good for the lifetime of the vehicle. Unofficial farm use tags will no longer be acceptable for these vehicles effective July 1, 2024.

"As farm vehicles are key to agricultural productivity, it is important that Virginia farmers can continue to use them in their operations while preventing

farm use tags from being used on other vehicles inappropriately," said VDACS Commissioner Joseph Guthrie. "We hope those who have not already done so will apply for their DMV-issued permanent farm use tag today."

Anyone who owns or leases an eligible farm use vehicle must return the application form to their local vehicle-only DMV Select or full-service DMV location and pay the \$15 fee. An additional \$15 may be required if the owner does not already hold a title for the vehicle. Information must be provided related to the farm location, size, and commodities, along with signed statements confirming its exempt use and that the vehicle is insured. The placards are non-transferable and must be returned to the DMV within 30 days of the vehicle being sold or no longer used for exempted purposes.

"It is our hope that these placards will help ensure the proper use of farm use tags and, most importantly, make Virginia's roads safer," said DMV Commis-

sioner Gerald Lackey. "There is not much time left before enforcement begins, so we encourage farmers to bring their filled-out applications to their local vehicle only DMV."

As of July 1, placards must be displayed on the front and back of vehicles at all times. A first violation is punishable by a fine of not more than \$250, a second or subsequent violation shall constitute a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of \$250.

"We are hopeful that the 12-month grace period has allowed farmers the necessary time to familiarize themselves with these farm use tag changes," said VSP Superintendent, Colonel Gary Settle. "State police looks forward to working with the farming community to gain full compliance and ensure all vehicles have their proper tags on display."

Unregistered farm use panel trucks, pickups trucks, and sport utility vehicles obtaining a DMV placard must meet certain conditions:

- Used exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes on lands owned or leased by the vehicle's owner, and not operated on or over any public highway except for specific purposes.
- Used by the farm owner or lessee on a seasonal basis in transporting farm produce and livestock along public highways for a distance of no more than 75 miles or to a storage house, packing plant or market.
- Owned by a farm owner when the vehicle is operated or moved

along a highway for no more than 75 miles between a sawmill or sawmill site and their farm to transport sawdust, wood shavings, slab wood, and other wood wastes.

• Drawn by a farm tractor, used by a farmer, their tenant, agent, or employee or a cotton ginner, peanut buyer, or fertilizer distributor to transport unginned cotton, peanuts, or fertilizer owned by the farmer, cotton ginner, peanut buyer, or fertilizer distributor from one farm to another, from farm to gin, from farm to dryer, from farm to market, or from fertilizer distributor to farm and on return to the distributor.

• Making a return trip from any marketplace, transporting back to a farm ordinary and essential food, including procuring a meal for a farmer or his employees, and other products for home and farm use while engaged in activities stated above, or transporting supplies to the farm.

Placard requirements do not apply to vehicles with a securely attached machine for spraying fruit and other plants, farm machinery or tractors operated on a highway between two tracts of land or traveling to and from a repair shop for repairs, farm vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds, or farm trailers and semitrailers.

Detailed conditions and more information can be found on the DMV website. Visit this helpful chart to help determine which plate or placard is right for you.

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# The Crooked Road celebrates 20th anniversary with July 6 concert at Blue Ridge Music Center

The Alum Ridge Boys & Ashlee and New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters will perform as part of the Deep Roots, Many Voices: Summer Outdoor Concert Series at 7 p.m., Saturday, July 6, in the Blue Ridge Music Center's outdoor amphitheater on the Blue Ridge Parkway just south of Galax, Va.

The Blue Ridge Music Center in partnership with The Crooked Road and the National Council for Traditional Arts is presenting this concert in celebration of the 20th anniversary of The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail. The Crooked Road has been promoting old-time and bluegrass music in the mountains of Southwest Virginia since 2004. In honor of this legacy, concerts and events are taking place throughout the year at each of the organization's major venues, including the Carter Family Fold, Birthplace of Country Music Museum, Floyd Country Store, and Ralph Stanley Museum.

The Alum Ridge Boys & Ashlee mine the fertile common ground between bluegrass, early country music, and traditional mountain music. Their powerful harmony singing and energetic instrumentals have captivated audiences around the country and helped earn the band many awards, including blue ribbons in the old-time band contest at the 85th Annual Old Fiddlers' Convention in Galax and the bluegrass band contest at the 51st Mount Airy Fiddlers' Convention in North Carolina.

Deep knowledge and appreciation for traditional music enables the band to craft tasteful original songs and instrumentals that blend seamlessly alongside the classics. Featuring Andrew Small on mandolin, Ashlee Watkins on guitar, Trevor Holder on banjo, AJ Srubas on fiddle,



New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters

and Rina Rossi on bass, The Alum Ridge Boys & Ashlee cut no corners when it comes to hard-hitting, old-time country music, gaining them loyal followers far beyond the reaches of their Virginia mountain home.

New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters will open the show. The group has been playing old-time mountain music in Southwest Virginia since 1986. Named for the original Bogtrotters, the premiere old-time band of the 1920s, the present day lineup includes National Heritage Fellowship winner Eddie Bond on fiddle and vocals, Bonnie Bond on bass and vocals, Dennis Hall on guitar, Josh Ellis on banjo, and Caroline Noel Beverley on mandolin. The group has performed at the Smithsonian Folk Festival, Chicago Folk Festival, and Kennedy Center, and is a fixture at fiddlers' conventions, where they have won numerous awards.

Tickets are \$20 for adults. Children 12 and younger are admitted free of charge. Advance tickets are available at [BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org](http://BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org). Tickets can be purchased on the evening of the show at the admission gates.



Alum Ridge Boys & Ashlee

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

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

This performance in the series is sponsored by The Crooked Road: Virginia's Musical Heritage Trail in honor of its 20th anniversary and the National Council for Traditional Arts. The presenting sponsors for the series are W.L.A. Trucking and Yadkin Arts Council.

# Patrick County High School's Senior Beta Club Attends National Convention

Twenty-three Senior Beta Club members from Patrick County High School recently participated in person at the National Senior Beta Convention in Savannah, Georgia, on June 16-19.

One additional Senior Beta Club member from PCHS also attended and competed virtually. National Beta Club members from across the United States gathered in Savannah, GA, to compete in various competitions: academic, engineer-

ing, art and talent competitions. Moreover, PCHS Senior Betas also took a guided tour of Savannah's Historical District, drove go-carts, as well as mini-golfed at the Pooler Fun Zone, visited Tybee Island, and completed various other activities during their trip to Savannah, Georgia.

Kylee Leonard placed 9th in the National Beta Division I Digitally Enhanced Photography.

The following members of the

Patrick County High School Senior Beta Club attended National Beta Convention in person this year: Jaxon Ayers-Rosas, Dante Belcher, Bryan Clark, Tara Collins, Taylor Collins, Blake Dillon, Emily Eastridge, Heather Edwards, Joshua Freeman, Santa Garcia, Johnathan

Harbour, Willow Hylton, Jacob Lester, Kylee Leonard, Draysin Maselli, Remi Miller, Callie Montgomery, Quantyn Penn, Mason Scott, Rylee Soliday, Dhrithik Tanna, Xena Wilcox, Callie Wood. In addition, Lacey Sutphin competed virtually at the National Convention.



Kylee Leonard with her 9th place trophy.



The 23 PCHS Sr. Betas that attended the National Convention in person.



PCHS Sr. Betas on Historical Tour of Savannah Georgia.



PCHS Sr. Betas Go Carting.

## ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
**17.914 ACRES**  
**IN PATRICK COUNTY, VA**

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**- Wednesday, July 10 at 1pm**  
**Preview: Sunday, July 7 from 4pm-6pm**



**Property Details:**

17.914 acres in the Moorefield Store Community, straddles the Virginia-North Carolina line, offering a blend of open land and wooded areas. With access via a 60' right of way through 1617 Frank Joyce Rd. and an additional 60' right of way from Charlie Francis Rd., this property is both accessible and private.

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