

# Houchins to serve in dual roles

**By Taylor Boyd**

Now that the county combined the Tourism and Economic Development posts, James Houchins, who has led the county's tourism efforts since 2022, was selected to serve as director of Economic Development and Tourism, effective July 1.

Houchins has served as the Tourism Director since May 2022, and previously worked in the Patrick County Parks and Recreation Department.

With the new position, Houchins, 56, said he will be continuing the efforts to bring economic vitality to the county through economic development and tourism efforts.

"They both align well, so I'm hoping that it will just help me to focus more on growing the county. Tourism is economic development, that's one of the things that helps drive a lot of rural communities," he said.

The ability to try and grow the county is "the big thing," he said, and noted the county has "outstanding outdoor recreation," with opportunities abound to increase it.

"Potentially, some of the smaller businesses around outdoor recreation may see this as a good spot to come and take up shop. We're just going to take a look at that and see how we can move forward with that," he said.

Although there is a learning curve associated with the economic development post, Houchins said he believes everything will go smoothly once he gets direction from the county, and starts to implement ongoing efforts.

"Just looking at some of the projects that have been started, just trying to



James Houchins was named to the dual positions of director of Tourism and Economic Development on July 1.

wrap those up that was under Sean (Adkins) and then Patrick (Cooper), and just getting a foothold on what that entails and then moving forward with those," he said.

Houchins has already started on this effort as he's working with County Administrator Beth Simms to get some information about the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and meeting with Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board Chairman Ron Hailey.

"Once I get my understanding of that, and seeking some guidance from them, then we'll try to move forward with it and hopefully there will be some good news in the future for the

(See Houchins p.3)



Several town residents and the Stuart Planning Commission attended the July 17 Stuart Town Council meeting.

# Council approves property rezoning

**By Taylor Boyd**

The Stuart Town Council approved the Stuart Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone a property on Commerce Street and implement an ordinance change at its Wednesday, July 17 meeting.

The property was rezoned from heavy industrial to high-density residential and is planned to house six luxury apartment complexes. Each apartment is set to be three-floors with 12 units.

Mayor Ray Weiland said the ordinance change involved three variances, including an allowance for the buildings' height to be increased from 35 feet to 45 feet.

Another variance allows for lot coverage of up to 55 percent instead of 40 percent.

"So, a bit of an increase on the lot coverage. The third allowance was the minimum distance of 10-foot to the driveway between the building and the driveway," he said.

The property, bought by Singh Brothers Investments, LLC, is located between Stuart Forest Products and EMI Imagining on Commerce Street. The Mayo River Rail Trail goes through the property.

Singh Brothers owner Deleep Paul said he and his brother Harjot Paul grew up in nearby Stokes County, N.C.

"We are not flippers. We don't flip our properties. We are investing into our properties to grow as a community with you guys," he said.

Deleep Paul said the pair also own Friendly's in the Patrick Springs area, the Stuart Laundromat, a car wash on Blue Ridge Street, and other properties in Stuart.

"We're here to help you guys as much as we can. We're trying to

(See Council p.3)

# School division celebrates Beta Distinction

**By Taylor Boyd**

The Patrick County School Board celebrated becoming a National Beta District of Distinction at its Thursday, July 18 meeting.

Shannon Harrell, of the Blue Ridge District, read a proclamation stating that the distinction is awarded to school districts that demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence, leadership development, and service involvement.

"National Beta is proud to recognize an outstanding 306 schools within the 65 2023-2024 National District of Distinction recipients. Through the exceptional efforts of school boards, district administrators, school principals, club sponsors, and deserving Beta members, their recognition of this national award speaks highly of their commitment to academic excellence, leadership development, and service involvement," she said.

Harrell said the award illustrates

the division's distinction in preparing students for college and ensuring career readiness.

"The students of Patrick County Public Schools (PCPS) understand the importance of these qualities and exemplify the Beta motto: Let us lead by serving others," she said.

Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the school division is proud of its Beta members and of being one of the districts to receive this distinction

"Out of those 306 schools recognized, five of those are right here in Patrick County," he said.

In other matters, the board:

- \*Approved Wood's contract renewal for another four years.
- \*Recognized staff for becoming the District Captain from the Amplify 2024 Science of Reading Star Awards.
- \*Heard the superintendent's report.

(See Beta Distinction p.2)

# Kaine, Griffith stop in Martinsville on campaign swings

**By Jessica Dillon**

Ninth District Rep. Morgan Griffith toured the Sovah-Martinsville campus, and discussed other issues on July 15, and on July 16, the Martinsville Henry County Democratic Committee hosted U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine at The Ground Floor in Martinsville.

**Kaine**

Kaine discussed Pres. Joe Biden's second presidential bid and several other topics - including rural health care and the recent assassination attempt on former Pres. Donald Trump. An incumbent, Kaine is seeking reelection in November. He is being challenged by Hung Cao, who won the Republican nomination.

When voicing his support for Biden's reelection bid, Kaine, D-Richmond, said, "If Joe Biden says look, I'm putting the country



The Martinsville Henry County Democratic Committee hosted Sen. Tim Kaine at The Ground Floor in Martinsville.

first, and I've got this. Then, we're going to make sure Joe and Kama-



Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith (left), with Steve Heatherly and Tory Shepherd of Sovah-Martinsville.

la (Harris - his running mate) not only win Virginia but win this race."

Kaine said that Biden would "level with us" if there comes a time when the current president does not feel that he's fit to do the job. "You don't need to worry about him doing the patriotic thing and putting the country first. As long as he's in this race, we're with him. If he decides he can't do it, he'll tell us, and then we will go a different direction."

Biden used social media over the weekend to announce that he would not seek reelection. In a separate post on X (formerly Twitter), Biden endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for the top of the ticket.

While in Martinsville, Kaine also discussed the July 13 attempted assassination of former Pres. Donald Trump.

The incident, he said, "just brought up a lot of bad memories. I grew up in the age of JFK being assassinated, Martin Luther King, and Bobby Kennedy, and it just reminded me of that chaos. I'm so grateful that President Trump wasn't badly injured."

Like many, Kaine called for an investigation to determine the cause of the security lapses at the rally in Butler, Pa.

Additionally, "we just have to try to better as a society, so these shocking instances of gun violence aren't just happening again, and again, and again."

He said that the economy is one of the biggest issues on the minds of potential voters, and indicated there is good news for the economy in Virginia.

"Unemployment rates are at his-

(See Kaine, Griffith p.3)

# Park among top choices to beat the heat



With temperatures in the mid-nineties the last few weeks, Fairy Stone State Park was full of those trying to beat the heat and stay cool. Rain is forecast for much of this week. (By Pat Delaney)



# Chamber Chat for July 2024

By Rebecca Adcock  
Seven Year Anniversary

Time flies when you are having fun! And I cannot believe this month marks my seventh year as the executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce. Looking back, we have accomplished and provided a lot of programming through the years. Every year brings its new challenges and priorities, but we, at the chamber, have worked to meet those challenges.

When I stepped into the role, the chamber membership was a low roster and unengaged. We immediately looked for ways to re-engage our members and community, as well as improve the financial outlook. Thankfully, due diligence by chamber staff (me and our wonderful assistant Sharon Williams), we have been able to not only increase our annual budget, but also now have a healthy membership.

Let us recap some of the programming and events that the chamber has presented in the last seven years. We have offered several Lunch and Learn programs ranging from social media, grant writing, how to start a business, and Google operating systems. Our two-year run of the Patrick County Showcase has transitioned into assisting the high school with their career fair. The creation of Hometown Christmas is the umbrella under which we promote all the great events that happen in Stuart for the holidays. The past few years we have expanded this to “Christmas in Patrick County” to help include and promote the ever-growing list of holiday events. Our partnership with Reynolds Homestead has

been successful in offering the Patrick County Leadership -- hosting the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit, the county’s first ever economic summit, and our annual Lunch with Leaders program. The chamber also created and offered two bootcamp-style programs: the Short-Term Rental and the PCVA Business Builders. Through a partnership with Step Inc., One Family Productions, and Stuart Rotary, we are able to offer the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program to our county kids. We also partner with the Dan River Basin Association to host the annual Apple Dumping Festival 5K in October.

From 2017 to the end of 2019, the chamber of commerce was on a robust time offering classes and events. We re-energized our annual membership and awards banquets with fun themes that attendees rallied behind, we resurrected the Blue Ridge Exposition into the Patrick County Showcase, and continued to provide our Business After Hours and several Lunch and Learns.

Then, like for so many, COVID changed the landscape for everything. The chamber was forced to switch gears and work to promote safety for our community and within our businesses and try to help assimilate the information for our business community regarding relief funds. It allowed us to take stock of programming and see where we could focus our efforts. Also, with the increase of the county tourism department, the chamber has relinquished our lead role in promoting tourism. We now function more in an accessory role with tourism

and work more with the businesses to help address their needs of resources and labor. Additionally, the chamber created and hosted an informal information session on “How to Start a Business in Patrick County.”

The chamber was awarded the Keep Virginia Beautiful grant that helped fund the creation of the “pocket park” located beside the newly reopened Tony’s Pizza in downtown Stuart. We have also been fortunate to win awards from Friends of SWVA: the 2022 Partner of the Year award, and in 2023, a team win for the Patrick County magazine.

Since COVID, the chamber has maintained its focus on assisting our businesses and keeping the community engaged. Our annual Pick-Up Patrick campaign works to help beautify our county every spring.

And I will always take pause to mention the creation of the Patrick County magazine. Our collaboration with Patrick County Tourism and SilverLining Design to create a twice-yearly magazine that really showcases the best of and the hidden gems of Patrick County. We continually receive praise for the work our team does in producing such a high-quality magazine. And it could not be done without the help of the team.

With trying to keep the community informed, the chamber started the email newsletter, while maintaining social media and website activities, adding our monthly column in The Enterprise and WHEO Radio spot. We also created the Community Resource Guide which lists all the organizations that serve our residents.



The chamber continues to be a resource for visitors and residents alike. We continue to operate a self-serve visitor center in Meadows of Dan as well as our office located at 410 Patrick Avenue in Stuart, answering phone calls daily from individuals requesting a wide range of information. One especially key role I take seriously is representing Patrick County at the local, regional, and state meetings. Meeting with Blue Ridge Parkway representatives to the local workforce development is what makes this job so fun. The last seven years have been so much fun learning about all the great businesses that are in Patrick County and really getting to know the community on a deeper level. There is still work to be done. We look forward to continuing to work to reinvent and rethink Patrick County as the best we can all be.

*Adcock is the executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce*

## Beta Distinction

(cont. from page 1)

\*Approved the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) policy updates.

\*Approved the VSBA Conference

delegate as Rob Martin, chairman, and of the Dan River District, and the backup del. as Walter Scott, vice-chairman, and of the Smith

River District.

\*Approved the revised budget as presented.

Amy Walker, of the Mayo River

District, did not attend the meeting.

Several schools and others were honored at the meeting, including:



Blue Ridge Elementary School.



Hardin Reynolds Memorial School (HRMS).



Patrick County High School (PCHS).



The school board recognized staff for becoming the District Captain from the Amplify 2024 Science of Reading Star Awards.



The school board with some of the HRMS Beta Club members who participated in state and national events.



The school board with some of the PCHS Beta Club members who participated in state and national events.



Meadows of Dan Elementary School.



Stuart Elementary School.



Woolwine Elementary School.

  
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# Houchins

(cont. from page 1)

county,” he said.

Houchins said his first goal is to hold a joint economic development and EDA meeting to help set some guidelines and visions for the county. The meeting will be held Monday, Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. in the second-floor board room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

In the meantime, Houchins said his plan is to continue doing what is being done.

“I’m going to be following up on some of the projects that have al-

# Council

(cont. from page 1)

come in here and fix and remodel stuff and make Stuart more presentable. We’re not just here to collect a check. We are personally funding all of this ourselves,” he said.

Harjot Paul said architects are currently working on the site’s design. Once that is finished, a building firm will be chosen.

“We’re going to split it up into two phases. We’re looking to do one phase with three buildings and get those built and see how it goes before we start the other three. If that becomes a hit, we’ll look at another spot and see” what we can do, he said.

Harjot Paul said he and his brother are involved with Stuart and want to help it grow.

Deleep Paul added potential residents will have to complete a background check before they are approved to move in.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons applauded the efforts, and added it’s obvious the brothers are putting money back into the properties they’ve purchased.

“That hasn’t happened around here in a long time,” Simmons said.

The Planning Commission and town council also heard from several citizens about the property.

Allen Ziegler said he was requesting additional information about the project’s site plan and proposed architectural design.

Simmons said the town has the preliminary site plan for the project.

As for the final site plan, “I will at least note that at the Planning Commission meeting, the vote was to make the recommendation to accept the variances with the condition that final approval would be met by the

ready been started. Just wrapping my mind around those projects, and then hopefully initiating some more projects for the county,” he said.

Simms said Houchins isn’t afraid to roll up his sleeves and address issues that are affecting county residents and businesses.

“When it was announced that Mabry Mill would not be offering dine-in food service for the 2024 season, he brought together the National Park Service, Virgin-

ia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, and the Blue Ridge Parkway Association to meet with citizens and businesses in the Meadows of Dan community to ensure that businesses were aware of the opportunities available to them through these organizations. The meeting was positive and provided hope in what was previously seen as a detrimental situation,” she said.

Houchins currently serves on the

board of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and the Blue Ridge Parkway Association. He also is in the process of completing Virginia Rural Center’s Virginia Rural Leadership Institute.

He holds a B.A. from Averett in Business Administration. He previously worked at Results-CX for several years. He also was a sales coordinator at Capewell Aerial System for 10 years, and oversaw the military helmets and the survival egress air systems.



building official, along with any other permits that would have to be received. Only then with that approval would that final zoning go in place,” he said.

Simmons said the town has also received drawings of what the buildings might look like.

Ziegler also asked who would be living in the apartment complexes.

“Are the apartments going to be ideally rented at market rents or is this going to be subsidized housing of any kind. What is the marketing plan of the complex,” he asked.

While he didn’t want to speak on behalf of Singh Brothers Investments, Simmons said every conversation he’s had with them indicated it would not be subsidized housing.

“This development is for your professional starting family and/or retirees,” Simmons said, and added the housing development will not be Section 8 housing.

“That has been a conversation (that) we as the town have been very curious about from the very beginning of the onset of the project. We did not want to entertain the idea of subsidized or

Section 8 housing, especially in this part of the town. If that was the intent from the beginning, we probably wouldn’t have sold the property,” Simmons said.

Bernard Nolan said he noticed the plan for stormwater retention.

“Stormwater retention facilities have to have an outlet. They’re designed, depending on the criteria when it’s developed, to either be a 10-year storm, 20-year storm, or 100-year storm. Whatever the development is, it’s still going to have a discharge, and that discharge is going to go to the river. That might be a problem with water quality,” he said.

Nolan said the discharge is going to have to go across someone else’s property as the discharge is a state requirement.

Simmons said the discharge will go across county property. He noted an easement would also be sought to connect the apartment complex to the town’s sewer system.

Dee Nolan asked about the safety precautions that would be enacted to protect the children and pets living in the complex from the river and the

currents.

“That scares me. I mean if they walk out their back doors they’re going to walk, and they could literally walk down to the river and get in. Is there going to be something that would protect the kids, and then secondary the animals,” she asked.

Simmons said it comes to an opinion of whether that is the town’s responsibility.

“What is to stop a child from getting out in the middle of the road anywhere in town,” Simmons asked.

Dee Nolan also asked what the responsibilities of the owners and the residents would be.

Simmons said it will be contingent upon the property owners.

Deleep Paul said rules would be in place as they want to keep the apartments clean.

Dee Nolan also spoke about how the apartment complexes could impact the need for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the town and the county.

- In other matters, the board:
- \*Heard from residents about issues of vehicles speeding on Woodland Drive.
  - \*Heard an update on public works projects.
  - \*Discussed town policy.
  - \*Discussed the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).
  - \*Approved giving \$500 in cash and \$500 in in-kind donations to Front Porch Fest 15.
  - \*Approved giving the annual donation of \$2,500 to the Patrick County Music Association (PCMA).
  - \*Paid the bills.

# Kaine, Griffith

(cont. from page 1)

toric lows, inflation rates are down, 401(k)s are up, manufacturing jobs are up,” Kaine said, and indicated that while there’s no quick fix for the economy, policies helping with student loan forgiveness, prescription drug costs, and childcare costs can help ease the burden on Americans.

“That’s a way to really address voters’ concerns,” he said.

Health care in rural Virginia is another area of concern, Kaine said, noting “it would be great if we could do more to attract health care providers to rural areas.”

He said that the Care Act was used to expand coverage in rural Virginia, and “what we’ve done on the prescription drug side has also helped people, seniors.”

When addressing the border crisis, Kaine said “border crossings are dramatically down in the last few months. They would have been down more if Republicans had joined with the bi-partisan plan that we negotiated in February. They decided to bail and not support the plan.”

## Griffith

An incumbent seeking reelection in November, Griffith, R-Salem, is being challenged by Karen Baker, a democrat from Floyd.

Griffith toured Sovah because “I sit on the com-

mittee with policy jurisdiction,” he said of the health sub-committee of energy and commerce. The committee has jurisdiction over the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Center for Medicaid & Medicare (CMS), Health and Human Services (HHS).

Additionally, Griffith said, and added that he felt that it was important to visit hospitals, particularly those in rural areas because rural health is a challenge. Henry and Patrick counties as well as the City of Martinsville are considered rural areas.

An incentive program to attract health workers to rural areas has been discussed, but Griffith said he doesn’t expect movement within the next year.

With an incentive, “you pay people to come into areas that are underserved. I’m a proponent of that. I would support that. You’ve got to find the votes” to pass it, Griffith said, and suggested the formation of a coalition from the underserved communities to voice the needs as well as gain ground and attract attention.

“Right now, I don’t think we have the votes to vote in that (incentive) bill,” Griffith said

Patrick County’s Pioneer Community Hospital closed in 2017 after its owners filed for bankruptcy in 2016, Griffith said, adding the hospital property was later sold to Foresight Health.

Griffith, who had a hand in getting the hospital in

Lee County reopened, is “ready to do it” in Patrick County, he said. However, neither he, Kaine nor Sen. Mark Warner were contacted.

Although he has heard “some interest,” Griffith said that currently, local government doesn’t have control of the building.

In voicing his support for Trump, Griffith said “the internet and social media have people believing that if you’re not with me, you’re evil. I am a big believer that, while I think my Democratic colleagues are misguided - and while there’s always a few evil people – 99 percent of the people are pretty good people just trying to do what’s right.”

The country has been strained recently by inflation, an issue that Griffith said is the number one issue among his constituents. Protecting the border is also a major point of concern at the moment, Griffith said.

“The border is a mess. It didn’t have to be a mess,” Griffith said, adding that in previous administrations, including democratically controlled ones, “the border wasn’t this bad. So, what’s the difference? The implementation of policy at the federal level by the president.”

There will be some ongoing issues at the border, even with better policies in place, because “you can’t seal it off completely,” Griffith said. “I’m a big believer in building the fence, but you can’t seal it off completely.”

# Pets of the Week



This brindle gal is a sweetie and would love to get a home as soon as possible.

This honey colored guy is sweet as honey. Look into his expressive eyes. He is such a sweetheart.

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.

## Slim Randles

The evening was one of those that come back to you time after time, year after long year. It comes back and whispers of how good life can be when you’re well fed, enjoying life, and a good friend shares the front porch with you on a summer’s evening.

It was that way with Doc and Steve the other night. Doc thought he might have to do a scientific paper on the soporific effects of ice tea, fried chicken, and corn on the cob. As long as it didn’t take any effort.

So when this huge meal had been bull-snaked down, the two grinning friends came out to the porch to watch the sun go down behind the trees along Lewis Creek. The air had that orange and russet glow, and the breeze, that little one that caresses the neck, came slowly down from the hills and made their shirt collars wiggle ever so slightly.

It was like taking a dry bath in paradise.

Doc sidled up to one of the porch posts and gently tested it to see if it could hold the extra weight he was carrying with that meal. It stood fine, so he

# Home Country

leaned against it seriously and looked out on the evening’s warmth.

Steve, who was enjoying having a fine meal that someone else cooked for a change, leaned against the post on the other side of the steps.

And then they just stood quietly, watching the day make beautiful skies as it ended.

The shadow on the ground foretold the presence of the circling bird. Doc and Steve paid no attention at first. Then a few minutes later, it was joined by two more circling birds over Doc’s house.

“Buzzards,” Steve mumbled.

“Yep,” said Doc.

They circled some more.

“I think one of us should move a little ...” said Doc. “Move?”

“Well ... to let them know ... you know.”

Steve sighed, then glanced over at Doc. “Flip you for it.”

Sorry to hear May Company went broke and closed. Nice people, clean sheets ... oh where has the time gone?







(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Danny Kwon, JD. Used by permission from [www.lifeand-health.org](http://www.lifeand-health.org) Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)



# PC team becomes 12U Diamond Youth Softball State Champions

**By Taylor Boyd**  
The Patrick County Girls Diamond Youth Softball team recently became the first ever 12U State Champions after defeating Fort Chiswell during a best two out of three tournament with a 23-1 score.

Ryan Lawson, parent of one of the players, said Dixie Youth Sports has hosted baseball for about 50 years and recently started hosting softball with Diamond Youth Softball.

Lawson said the team will travel to Fairview, Tennessee later this month to compete in the Softball World Series.

Eleven players, the majority of which are from Patrick County schools, will participate in the tournament. Two team members are from surrounding counties.

“It’s all the states involved in the Diamond Youth. Our first game will be against Mississippi. Then there’s



The Patrick County Girls Diamond Youth Softball team was named the first ever 12U State Champions.

Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina, Arkansas, I mean there’s every state

that is a part of the Diamond Youth,” he said.

Lawson said games started on July 18 with pool play, where all the teams will play a game that day to set the team’s ranking for the tournament.

“So, if you win your pool game, you would play this bracket, if you lose your pool game, you would play the lower bracket type thing. Then on Friday the tournament plays begins and it’s a double elimination tournament, so you lose twice you go home,” he said.

To fund the travel expenses, Lawson said the team is fundraising expenses to travel to the World Series.

“We’re asking for donations from businesses and individuals,” he said.

Lawson said the team’s head coach is Mike Gregory and the Assistant Coaches are Carter Gregory and Steven Fain.

# Kyle Larson kisses the bricks at Indianapolis Motor Speedway

**By Holly Cain**  
*NASCAR Wire Service*

Only two months after competing in the Indianapolis 500, Kyle Larson returned to the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway Sunday afternoon to claim the trophy in one of the NASCAR Cup Series’ crown jewel events, the 30th Anniversary Brickyard 400 Presented by PPG – holding off the field in a dramatic double overtime finish.

Larson led only eight of the race’s 167 laps in the No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet – seven of them coming in the overtime periods when he needed them most - ultimately holding off the race polesitter, 23XI Racing’s Tyler Reddick and Team Penske’s Ryan Blaney on the white flag lap. A caution came out moments later to officially end the race after Ryan Preece’s Ford spun and became stalled on track.

The 31-year-old Californian Larson climbed out of and onto his Chevrolet Camaro to wave his arms toward the grandstands and encourage the cheering crowd, clearly elated with his first win in one of NASCAR’s most prestigious races – a return to the 2.5-mile oval after four years racing on the infield road course. And it comes 30 years after his Hendrick Motorsports team executive Jeff Gordon won the inaugural stock car race at the historic 2.5-mile oval.

It’s the third NASCAR crown jewel win for Larson, also including the Southern 500 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway and the sport’s longest race, the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

It comes only eight weeks after a 18th-place showing for Larson in his Indianapolis 500 debut. Bad weather delayed his trip to Charlotte to compete in NASCAR’s Coca-Cola 600, the second half of racing’s “Double” so this week’s work at Indy felt like redemption.

“This is just such a prestigious place, such hallowed ground,” said the 2021 NASCAR Cup Series champion Larson, who now leads the se-



Tyler Reddick, driver of the #45 The Beast Unleashed Toyota, and Denny Hamlin, driver of the #11 Sport Clips Haircuts Toyota, lead the field to start the NASCAR Cup Series Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on July 21, 2024 in Indianapolis, Indiana. (Photo by Justin Casterline/Getty Images)

ries with four wins this season.

“Pretty neat to get an opportunity to race here on the oval again. What a job by our team. I mean, never gave up at all.

“And to all the fans, I love it here,” he added with a grin. “I think everything has come full circle with what was meant to be and today was meant to be for us.”

For much of the closing laps, the third-place finisher Blaney thought it was meant to be for him and his No. 12 Team Penske Ford team. He was lined up on the front row alongside fellow Ford driver Brad Keselowski for the first overtime restart when Keselowski suddenly pulled onto pit road after running out of gas - not taking the green flag.

That opened a hole for Larson – who was positioned behind Keselowski for the start – to rush forward and claim the lead over Blaney. It was a position he would never relinquish.

“It’s no fun, had a really good shot to win today,” a visibly disappointed Blaney said. “Our car was fast. Thought we had really good strategy. Kind of was the front guy having to save a little bit of gas. I thought we

put ourselves in a great spot.

“I know the 6 [Keselowski] was probably going to run out if it went green. Came to the restart, I couldn’t believe they stayed out. I knew there was no way they were going to make it. So, I obviously chose the top because he might run out in the restart zone. He runs out coming to the green so he gets to do to pit road and the 5 gets promoted.

“Luck of the day right there, I guess. I don’t know. I don’t know what to be mad about. Mad at losing this race because I thought we were in the perfect position.”

Reddick’s runner-up effort – passing Blaney on the white flag lap - keeps him right in the mix for the Regular Season Championship. Larson takes a 10-point lead into in the sport’s summer break and Reddick is only 15 points back with four races remaining in the regular season to settle the 16-driver Playoff field.

“Obviously a lot of cars and a lot of things had to happen for us to get second,” said Reddick, who led a race best 40 laps in the No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota. “Honestly, it was a good day. Obviously return to the

Brickyard, it’s tough coming up one spot short. Once we got off of turn two there, I knew I was pretty much it. He [Larson] was going to have to make a mistake.

“Glad we had a good recovery. Another solid points day. We didn’t close the gap on the 5 [Larson] that much, but a little bit on the 9 [Elliott]. In the big picture, it was a great day for the team.”

Joe Gibbs Racing’s Christopher Bell finished fourth and 23XI Racing’s Bubba Wallace turned in an impressive fifth-place performance. Wallace also claimed his first stage win since 2022, leading the field at the second stage break.

There was never real rhythm to the race with varying pit stop strategies putting drivers out front. There were 13 leaders and 17 lead changes on the afternoon.

Denny Hamlin, who led 21 laps earned the first stage win - his sixth stage victory of the season and the first ever for the veteran at Indy. He finished 32nd after being involved in a multi-car accident during the first overtime restart and now is fourth in the championship standings, 43 points behind Larson.

Front Row Motorsport’s Todd Gilliland, Team Penske’s Austin Cindric, Trackhouse Racing’s Daniel Suarez, Stewart Haas Racing’s Noah Gragson, and Hendrick Motorsport’s Chase Elliott rounded out the top-10.

It was an important points-grab for Bubba Wallace, who is still trying to become Playoff eligible. Wallace now trails Trackhouse Racing’s Ross Chastain by only seven points for the 16th and final Playoff position. Roush Fenway Keselowski’s Chris Buescher is 15th in points, only 17 points up on Wallace.

The sport is taking a two-week summer break in competition with the NASCAR Cup Series schedule resuming Aug. 11 with the Cook Out 400 at Richmond (Va.) Raceway (6 p.m. ET, USA Network, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Buescher is the defending race winner.

# Security Summit warns tax pros about phishing emails and cloud-based attacks

In the second installment of a special series, the Internal Revenue Service and Security Summit partners warned tax professionals to be aware of evolving phishing scams and cloud-based schemes designed to steal sensitive taxpayer information.

One of the most common threats facing tax pros are phishing and related scams. These are designed to trick the recipient into disclosing personal information such as passwords, bank account numbers, credit card numbers or Social Security numbers.

Tax professionals and taxpayers should be aware of different phishing terms and what the email scams might look like:

Phishing/Smishing – Phishing emails or SMS/texts (known as “smishing”) attempt to trick the recipient into clicking a suspicious link, filling out information or downloading a malware file. Often phishing attempts are sent to multiple email addresses at a business or agency increasing the chance someone will fall for the trick.

Spear phishing – A specific type of phishing scam that bypasses emailing large groups at an organization, but instead identifies potential victims and delivers a more realistic email known

as a “lure.” These types of scams can be trickier to identify since they don’t occur in large numbers. They single out individuals, can be specialized and make the email seem more legitimate. Scammers can pose as a potential client for a tax professional, luring the practitioner into sharing sensitive information.

Clone phishing – A newer type of phishing scam that clones a real email message and resends it to the original recipient pretending to be the original sender. The new message will have either an attachment that contains malware or link that tries to steal information from the tax professional or recipient.

Whaling – Whaling attacks are very similar to spear phishing, except these attacks are generally targeted to leaders or other executives with access to secure large amounts of information at an organization or business. Whaling attacks can also target people in payroll offices, human resource personnel and financial offices.

Security Summit partners continue to see instances in which tax professionals have been particularly vulnerable to emails posing as potential clients. In the “new client” scam, the criminals use this technique to trick practitioners into

opening email links or attachments that infect computer systems with the potential to steal client information. Similar schemes are seen with whaling situations where scammers try to obtain a large amount of information with legitimate-looking email requests.

**Warning signs of a scam**

Regardless of the type of phishing attempt, tax pros can protect themselves and their organization by being aware of these scams and looking for warning signs like these:

An unexpected email or text claiming to come from a known or trusted source such as a colleague, bank, credit card company, cloud storage provider, tax software provider or even the IRS and other government agencies.

Receiving a duplicate email from what appears to be a known trusted source that contains a new attachment or hyperlink.

A message, often with an urgent tone, urging the receiver to open a link or attachment. These messages have a false narrative, like someone’s password has expired or some other urgent action is needed.

An email address, number or link that’s slightly misspelled or has a different domain name or URL (irs.com

vs. IRS.gov). A closer look at these email addresses – like hovering the cursor over the email address – can show slight variations on legitimate addresses.

“There are major red flags that can be easily overlooked, so tax professionals and taxpayers should be extra careful and look closely when they receive an email from an official looking source,” Werfel said.

**Cloud-based schemes remain a threat**

Tax professionals using cloud-based systems that store information or run tax preparation software should use multi-factor authentication to help safeguard that data. The Federal Trade Commission now requires all practitioners to secure sensitive client personally identifiable information (PII) using multi-factor authentication.

Specifically, the Security Summit continues to see attacks that take advantage of cloud-based systems and compromise personal information. Multi-factor authentication options provide an additional layer of security to access a system by using a phone, text messages or tokens. Since email is easier for identity thieves to access, having these layers of security helps guard against potential vulnerabilities.



*News snippets from outside the town/county lines...*

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## Earnest William “Bill” Horton, Jr.

Bill is survived by two children, Shannon Townsend and hus-

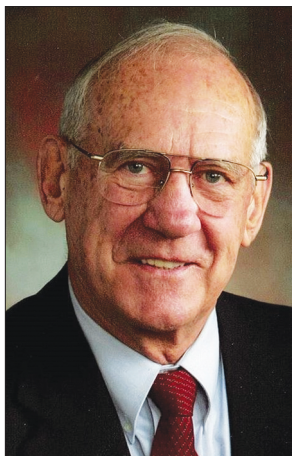


## A funeral service

ervices.com.

## Edward Fulton Clark

He is survived by his wife of 63 years,



Sarah S. Clark, 55

may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservice.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservice.com).

## National Farmers Market Week highlights markets' impact

As National Farmers Market Week kicks off Aug. 4-10, communities are celebrating the role farmers markets play in supporting local agriculture, building connections and delivering fresh local produce to patrons. Now in its 25th year, the annual event is sponsored by the Farmers Market Coalition, which aims to highlight markets' impact on the nation's food system and economy.

Marketgoers can find an abundance of fresh produce at any of Virginia's 250 farmers markets, including peak-season berries, heirloom tomatoes, melons, snap peas and sweet corn. Beyond fresh produce, markets are hubs for local meats and seafood, artisan wares, fresh flowers and value-added products like cheese, baked goods, jams, pesto and salsas.

## Long-time physician dies

Born on March 6, 1931, Massie was the son of the late Samuel Preston and Netra Pearl Carter Massie.



Dr. Samuel P. Massie

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**OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON**



# Patrick Pulpits

## Romans 6:1-11 “Dead or Alive?”

By Pastor Thomas Shepherd  
Stuart Church of Living Water

When I was growing up, I used to love to watch westerns on TV with my brothers. Often in the westerns there would be a wanted poster stating “Wanted: Dead or Alive” for a criminal who had a bounty placed on them to bring them in either dead or alive. Well, that is not where I am going with this text, although I could because according to the Word of God, we are all guilty and we all deserve death.

The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 7:20, “Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.” So, I ask; have you ever sinned? Yes! Then that makes you a sinner and according to Romans 6:23 deserving of death, “For the wages of sin is death.” You are guilty and I am guilty. That is the truth! People want to claim innocence, but that is not the case for in 1 John 1:8 we are told, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” Our first step towards salvation is acknowledging that we have all sinned and gone against God. One way to look at it is that we are dead men and women walking in our trespasses and sin. Paul says in Ephesians 2: 1-2, “You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.”

Paul writes in Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” The Word of God makes it clear: we all miss the mark when it comes to following the will of God. We have all fallen. But God in His Mercy and love has offered the means of salvation from eternal death. God paid the ransom for our souls with the only perfect sacrifice that could atone for our sin – Jesus Christ the Son, the perfect Lamb of God. Why was that necessary? God is a God of order. God set the standards and wrote the Law. The law reveals our sinful nature, and it prescribes the atonement of our sin is only through the blood of sacrifice. In Hebrews 9:22 we are told “Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”

Since we are found to be in this sinful state God in His mercy and love “made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Remember also John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” When we accept Christ as

our Savior, God sees the righteousness of Jesus instead of our wickedness. 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

There are many in the world who say, “Since God is a God of Mercy why try? Just ask for forgiveness and God will forgive; we have been freed from sin!” Paul says “God forbid” to that in Romans 6:2. Let us look at the whole statement which starts with verse one, “What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?” This is what is happening with many Christians and churches in our world today. Do you want a church that is essential? Then it should be a church that teaches the truth of God’s Word even when it is a difficult word. Paul writes to young Timothy in instructing him to lead the church saying, “Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching” (2 Tim. 4:2).

Now here comes the quandary. Paul is often difficult to understand. He is one of those people who has so much knowledge he has to dumb it down for the rest of us. Here is the truth! 1. We were dead in our trespasses and sin. 2. When we acknowledge that fact and turn to Jesus, we are given new life. However, when we commit ourselves to Jesus, not just a cursory “I believe,” but a deep-down faith and commitment then Paul writes that we “die” to or in Christ. Look starting at verse three, “Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life” (3-4).

Fact is, we are all “Dead Men” and “Dead Women” one way or another; either you are dead in your trespasses and sin to a death that is eternal, or you are dead in Christ to a resurrection to life that is eternal. We then become dead men walking in Christ—dead to sin and alive unto Christ (Rom 6:11). The choice is yours. Are you a dead man? The death we die to in Christ is a death to our “old self” and to “sin ... so we might no longer be enslaved to sin” (6). We die so that we might be made alive!

Repent from sin and turn to the only source of salvation – Jesus Christ. What is repentance? Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change in your life. It is a returning to God and a turning away from sin not so we can continue to live in sin but to be freed from our sin.

## Back-to-School immunizations available

A new school year begins soon, and it's time to think about Back-To-School immunizations.

Don't wait until the last minute. Schedule an appointment now with your primary care physician or with your local health department for your school-required vaccines.

Appointments are available on

Mondays at the Patrick County Health Department. Other days are accessible, pending the nurse's availability.

Please contact the Patrick County Health Department for the nurse's availability or to schedule an appointment by calling (276) 693-2070, option 0.

## Input sought in tick survey

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is asking for help from the communities it serves to further understand tick ecology in Virginia.

The VDH is asking that if you find a tick or ticks on your person or a family member, safely remove it, complete a corresponding survey, and mail it to VDH.

The goal of collecting that information is to better understand which ticks are biting humans as well as the spatial distribution of Virginia's tick species.

The VDH's small entomology team frequently travels to collect ticks by dragging methods to better understand tick ecology throughout the Commonwealth. However, it hopes to expand its knowledge as to which species bite humans - which is critical information to understand disease risk.

For more information, visit [www.vdh.virginia.gov/ticks/tick-identification/virginia-tick-survey/?utm\\_campaign=20240716\\_&utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/ticks/tick-identification/virginia-tick-survey/?utm_campaign=20240716_&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of 1 Samuel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Luke 21, what shall they see the Son of man coming in “with power and great glory”? Chariot, Cloud, Whirlwind, Burning bush
3. Who distributed to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat and a cake of raisins? Solomon, Paul, Timothy, David
4. From Exodus 4, who did the Lord provide to Moses to be his mouthpiece? Abraham,

Aaron, Noah, Mahalalel

5. To whom did the word of the Lord say, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city”? Jonah, Samuel, James, Peter

6. In Psalms 22:14, what did the psalmist say his heart was like? Water, Butter, Wax, Emptiness

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Cloud, 3) David, 4) Aaron, 5) Jonah, 6) Wax

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy). FREE TRIAL!


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SHADY NUMBERS

### ACROSS

- 1 Abolished  
10 Helical shape  
16 — Tzu (toy dog)  
20 “General Hospital,” for one  
21 Pre-euro Spanish currency  
22 Joking Jay  
23 Marcell hit sung by members of an old German kingdom?  
25 “Frozen” heroine  
26 NBC hit since ’75  
27 — Vegas Raiders  
28 Gallery stuff  
29 Further down  
31 Bing Crosby hit sung by a skeleton?  
37 “One L” novelist Scott  
40 Munch on  
41 Lift up  
42 Enzyme suffix  
43 And the like: Abbr.  
44 Sharif of film  
46 R.E.M. frontman Michael  
48 — Martin (British auto)

- 50 Prince hit sung by kings and queens?  
53 Many TikTok users  
54 Rotation stat  
55 Cash cache, for short  
56 Spanish article  
57 Mother bird  
58 Garlicky sauce  
60 Cafe offerings  
63 “— careful out there”  
66 Ancient Roman poet  
70 Beatles hit sung by small finches?  
74 Cuts short  
75 Puts a question to  
76 Artifact  
77 Hunger may cause them  
78 Syrup base  
80 Penpoint  
81 Penpoint, e.g.  
83 Before, to Byron  
84 Oasis animal  
87 Rolling Stones hit sung by coffee lovers?  
93 Novelist Mario Vargas —  
94 Everything considered

- 95 Bazillions  
96 — accomplish Mo. #4  
98 Scornful look  
100 Old JFK flier  
101 Podiatric problems  
102 John Cougar Mellencamp hit sung by electric eels?  
108 Old Turkish bigwigs  
109 “Where — begin?”  
110 Sewer rodent  
111 Overwhelm  
114 Luxury Swiss watch brand  
115 Alannah Myles hit sung by roofers?  
122 Move, in Realtor-speak  
123 From above, as a photo  
124 Most upbeat  
125 Eye affliction  
126 In an amiable way  
127 Chose by ballot

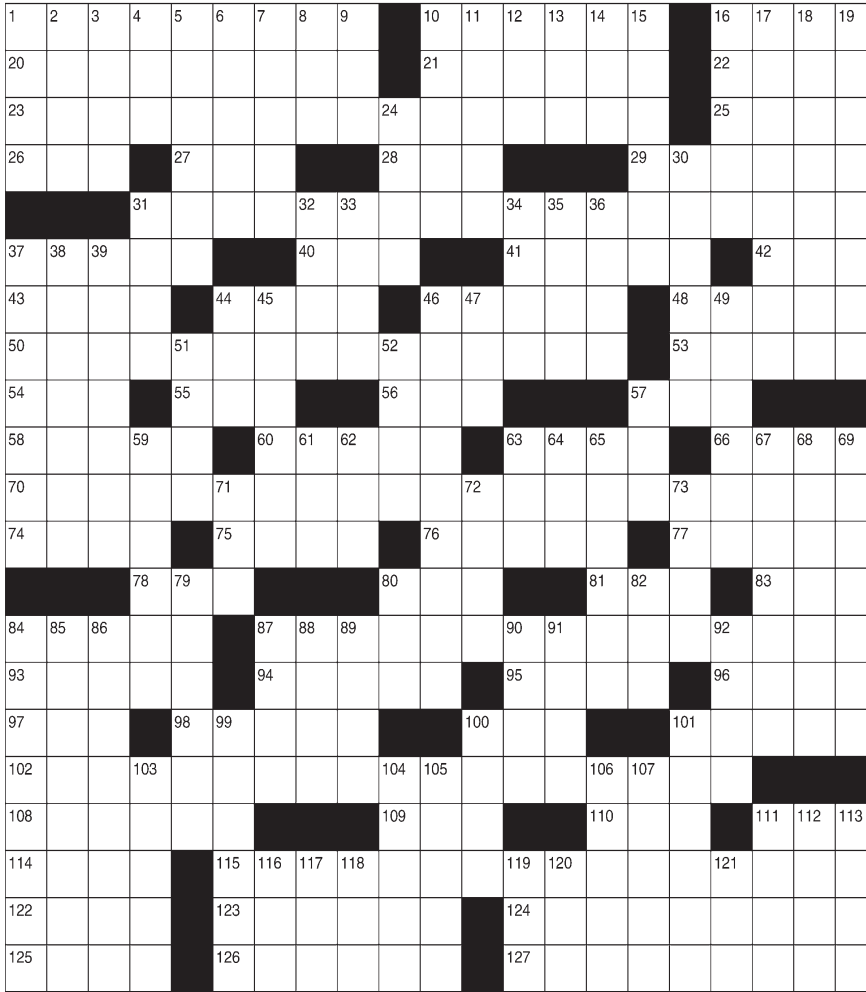
### DOWN

- 1 Viper types  
2 Brought into the world  
3 Cuban leader Castro  
4 CIA missions, e.g.

- 5 Drive at 10 mph, say  
6 Concerning bees  
7 Toy with  
8 Suffix with south  
9 Light pat  
10 Brief burst  
11 Former NFL quarterback Rodney  
12 Suffix with 104-Down  
13 Rock’s — Speedwagon  
14 — “Z (total)  
15 “Trading Places” director John  
16 Icy precipitation  
17 Beneficial companion, as a spouse  
18 Ripe for the market  
19 Turns laryngitic  
24 Café au —  
30 Lordly home  
31 Weapon swung by a gaucho  
32 Be dressed in  
33 Lyre’s cousin  
34 — Pet (1980s fad)  
35 Pueblo people  
36 Nothing, in France  
37 Stone patio

- 38 Like a perfect world  
39 “Perry Mason” star Burr  
44 Decide (to)  
45 “The — Curse” (1944 horror film)  
46 Related to sight, touch, etc.  
47 — la la  
49 Mexican wife  
51 Forest abode  
52 Quiet period  
57 Stitched edge  
59 Scottish girls  
61 “Eww, a mouse!”  
62 Gore and Roker  
63 Fast internet svc.  
64 Yes, in Dijon  
65 Second flagship U.K. TV network  
67 It may be balsamic firmly  
69 Arid areas  
71 Shill bark  
72 “Dragnet” star Jack  
73 Galaxy and iPhone buys  
79 Nome’s home  
80 Ducks’ and Devils’ org.

- 82 Motel relative  
84 People in an embrace, e.g.  
85 Language’s letters  
86 In a sullen way  
87 Appearance  
88 Blood type, informally  
89 Nitpick  
90 Overhasty  
91 Painter Dix  
92 ET’s ships  
99 Altima maker  
100 Brand of power tools  
101 “Glory of Love” singer Peter  
103 Sevigny of “Big Love”  
104 Perfect  
105 In a majestic manner  
106 Nerd on “Family Matters”  
107 Preserved  
111 2004 Chevy debut  
112 Part of NNW  
113 Suffix with major  
116 Maui garland  
117 Bit of a circle  
118 Connect (to)  
119 German cry  
120 — Guevara  
121 Actress Tyler





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# Lester receives award for performance

Sheyan Lester represented Patrick County 4-H at the 2024 Virginia State 4-H Congress held at Virginia Tech on June 19. At the 2024 Virginia State 4-H Congress, she competed in the Share the Fun Talent Show in the vocal category, performing “If I Was a Cowboy,” by Miranda Lambert.

Sheyan was awarded a blue ribbon for her vocal performance in the 2024 Virginia State 4-H Congress Share the Fun Talent Show and was named the overall winner in the Vocal Category.

To qualify to participate in the Share the Fun Talent Show at 2024 Virginia State 4-H Congress, Sheyan competed at the unit level in Patrick County and won the overall award in the senior division with her vocal performance.

Sheyan is a rising 9th grader at Patrick County High School. She enjoys playing volleyball, basketball, and softball. An active member of multiple Patrick County Travel Basketball teams and also plays volleyball, basketball, and softball at Patrick County High School during the regular season. She enjoys reading, outdoor activities, listening to music, hanging out



with her friends, and competing in talent shows.

# Program to help veterans who farm

Veterans who are now farming can apply for the brand-new American Farm Bureau Federation Veteran Farmer Award of Excellence.

Sponsored by Farm Credit, the award will recognize a military veteran who is actively involved in agriculture. Applicants will be judged on excellence in farming and community impact.

“We are wanting to elevate and celebrate those who have served our country and continue to do so through involvement in agriculture and com-

munity,” said Logan Yearsley, director of member engagement for AFBF.

The winner will receive \$10,000 and travel expenses for the winner and a guest to attend the 2025 AFBF Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Applicants are not required to be Farm Bureau members. Applications are due Aug. 30, and the winner will be announced on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

For more information, visit fb.org/veteranfarmer.

# Preservation fund launched ahead of semiquincentennial

The Virginia 250 Preservation Fund has been launched ahead of the 250th anniversary of the 1776 U.S. Declaration of Independence. The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) will administer the \$20 million state funds for historic preservation projects across Virginia.

Funding for this new program was prioritized in Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s recent biennial budget and the 2024-2026 Virginia Biennial Budget bill. The purpose of the special fund is to support capital improvement projects at historic sites and museums that anticipate a significant increase in visitation during the upcoming semiquincentennial in 2026.

“The Virginia 250 Preservation Fund is critical to ensuring that Virginia is prepared to host millions of Americans for the semiquincentennial celebration of our glorious history. As home to Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Patrick Henry and the Battle of Hampton to the Siege of Yorktown, Virginia was at the forefront of our history. Bolstering our historic sites and museums will not only encourage and aid tourism, it is our responsibility as stewards of American history,” said Youngkin.

DHR has designed a grant program, consisting of a two-step application process, by which these funds will be distributed for capital improvements at significant historic sites and history museums in the Commonwealth. Preapplications are being accepted until August 30. Those projects that advance will have until October 14 to submit a full application.

Eligible applicants for the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund include nonprofit organizations that are registered as tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code; Virginia

localities as defined under Code § 1-221, and state-or federally-recognized Indian tribes in Virginia. All applicants must be the owner of the project property or be able to submit a signed letter of support from the property owner and a copy of the recorded deed.

The Department invites all historic sites or museums that meet the requirements specified above to apply. History museums in non-historic buildings are also eligible for funding, but priority will be given to projects featuring properties listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and/or the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), properties designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL), or properties determined eligible for any such listing by DHR.

“As a result of Governor Youngkin’s outstanding leadership, we have this vital capital improvement funding. The enhancements made with this funding will not only prepare us for the semiquincentennial, they will have lasting impacts for generations to come. Americans nationwide, not only Virginians, will benefit tremendously from this Fund,” said Virginia Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles.

“The Department of Historic Resources is incredibly grateful to Governor Youngkin and the General Assembly for providing this essential funding. We are so excited to work with Virginians to support our historic sites and resources in anticipation of our nation’s 250th birthday,” said Director of the Department of Historic Resources Julie Langan.

For additional information, visit <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/grant-funding/virginia-250-preservation-fund/>.

# Series of ‘Conversations’ set to gain input on cell phone-free education

The Virginia Department of Education is hosting a series of Commonwealth Conversations to give parents, educators, and community members the opportunity to share their thoughts on the best ways to achieve cell phone-free education in Virginia and address the increasing evidence of the impact cell phone and social media usage has on youth mental health and education performance.

On July 9, Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order 33 to establish cell phone-free education to promote the health and safety of Virginia’s K-12 students. Executive Order 33 directs the VDOE to provide guidance to school boards on cell phone-free education policies and procedures. School boards will establish local cell phone-free education policies and procedures before the end of this year.

Parents, educators, and interested community members are invited to attend a Commonwealth Conversation and discuss their expectations for the upcoming policy changes that will take effect in January 2025. A partial list of the closest events includes:

- Roanoke - July 31, 4 - 5:30 p.m., Northside High School
- Abingdon - August 1, 3 - 4:30 p.m., Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
- Keysville - August 2, 1:30 - 3 p.m., Southside Virginia Community College Keysville Campus

To register to join the conversation at these events, learn more about Executive Order 33,



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or share feedback about cell phone-free education, visit the Cell Phone-Free Education in Virginia webpage ([www.doe.virginia.gov/cell-phone-free-education](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/cell-phone-free-education)).

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# IALR seeks recruits for AmeriCorps program

The Regional Engagement to Advance Community Health (REACH) AmeriCorps program is recruiting 15 part-time REACH Community Health Educators to conduct community health workshops over nine months. Hosted in targeted census tracts in the Dan River Region, the workshops focus on specific health topics and address areas of high need and chronic health issues. Members will serve approximately 25 hours per week.

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) administers the REACH AmeriCorps program.

Members who participate in this service opportunity will receive a stipend of \$11,500 and a Segal Education Award—which can be used to repay student loans or for current or future education—of \$3,447.50. Members need to be available from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and some additional hours may be required for a total of 900 hours.

This Public Health AmeriCorps program is ideal for students seeking a gap year, those entering the health field, career switchers and retirees.

IALR was awarded a \$218,678 grant from AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, to continue this program for a third year. The grant will fund the continued impact of the REACH AmeriCorps program, which has provided public health workshops and educational opportunities in concert with the REACH Partnership since 2022.

The REACH AmeriCorps program is dedicated to expanding the capacity for public health service by providing direct outreach and education services in the City of Danville, Pittsylvania County and Caswell County (North Carolina). Members offer individualized support, addressing the region's most pressing physical and mental health challenges through a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) lens.

In the current year of the REACH AmeriCorps program (which will end Aug. 31), members have conducted 92 workshops across 21 locations, serving 862 participants. In the program's two years, members have contributed 12,502 service hours.

In conjunction with the REACH AmeriCorps program, The REACH Partnership deploys Community Health Workers and Community Paramedics – referred to as coordinated care teams – to assist with an individual's physical and mental health needs and to connect clients to community resources, addressing the myriad social determinants of health. Supported by The Health Collaborative

of the Dan River Region, the REACH Partnership includes the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (lead and fiscal agent), Virginia Cooperative Extension, Piedmont Access to Community Health Services, Gateway Health, Sovah Health Danville, Compassion Healthcare, the Danville Life Saving Crew, Caswell County EMS, Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services and Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The Partnership efforts are funded by a \$6.3 million grant from the Danville Regional Foundation.

AmeriCorps State and National, a federal-state partnership with a central role for Governor-appointed State Service Commissions, develops and implements state-specific national service programs. These grants allow organizations to recruit, train and supervise AmeriCorps members who are providing services to support education, disaster services, health, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity and service to veterans and military families.

AmeriCorps State and National annually engages more than 65,000 Americans in intensive service. AmeriCorps members in the AmeriCorps State and National program receive a modest living allowance. At the successful completion of each service term, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to repay qualified student loans and to pay current educational expenses at eligible institutions of higher education and training programs. Members aged 55+ when they begin service may gift their Segal Education Award to immediate family members.

Public Health AmeriCorps, a partnership between AmeriCorps and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, supports the recruitment, training and development of a new generation of public health leaders. Supported by funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, Public Health AmeriCorps helps meet the public health needs of local communities, while also creating pathways to public health-related careers.

Since the launch of Public Health AmeriCorps, more than 4,500 AmeriCorps members have added much-needed capacity to health departments, community-based organizations, schools, and more. They help advance more equitable health outcomes and support the CDC's highest priorities, including chronic disease prevention and public health readiness.

To learn more, visit <https://www.ialr.org/reach-ameri-corps-recruiting-15-members-thanks-to-ameri-corps-continuation-grant/>.



## Let's fill in December's calendar

Now that the 4th of July has passed, let's get ready for back to school, labor day, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. To organize and help better promote all the special holiday activities that Patrick County has to offer, the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a casual get together with local businesses and groups to start working on calendars for the upcoming holiday season.

The get together will be held on Monday, August 19, at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), Stuart site, 8 to 10 a.m. Coffee and pastries will be provided.

This event is for those established events, new holiday events, businesses who are going to be doing or want to be doing holiday events. Need ideas? Come to the meeting.

The event is geared toward how the chamber and the county's tourism department can help promote your business, events and special offerings during the holiday season. If you are looking to host a holiday event for your organization or business but don't know where to start, come join the workshop.

The event is free, but please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/PCXMasplanning>.

## Magician coming to The Star



The Rotary Club of Stuart will welcome Magician, Jack Kelly, to The Star Theatre in Stuart on Monday, August 12 for some mind-blowing magic and high energy entertainment from 6 – 7 p.m. The show will be free and enjoyable for all ages! Attendees are welcome to come as early as 5:00pm to enjoy fellowship, grab a seat and concessions before the show! Nationally recognized magician

Jack Kelly has swiftly become a standout entertainer, while being an award winning magician, Jack has been known as an “audience favorite” at South Carolina's largest magic venue and has traveled the country from coast to coast putting smiles on thousands of people's faces.

For information on the event, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3871741739623547>.

## Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

\*James Leslie Boyd, 39, of Patrick Springs, was charged July 11 with two counts of probation violation and one count fail to appear. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

\*Deshaun Michael Hughes, 36, of Stuart, was charged July 12 with assault. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

\*Jacob William Cail, 27, of Mt. Airy, NC, was charged July 13 with drive while intoxicated. Senior VA State Trooper G. Foley was the arrest-

ing officer.

\*Benton Calvin Hall III, 60, address unavailable, was charged July 13 with trespassing. Senior Deputy J.C. Fortner was the arresting officer.

\*Randall Chase Jones, 38, of Cana, was charged July 13 with a probation violation on felony drug possession and a probation violation on felony elude. Senior Deputy A Kinney made the arrest for Carroll County.

\*Wendy Jean Slaughter, 46, of Hillsville, was charged July 15 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

\*David Clyde Fain,

51, of Stuart, was charged July 16 with fail to appear. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

\*Terrell Perdue, 62, of Meadows of Dan, was charged July 16 with contempt of court. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

\*Dustin Seaver Hazlewood, 35, of Stuart, was charged July 16 with two counts of battery on health care provider. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel made the arrest for Roanoke City.

\*Earnest James Humber, 53, address not available, was charged July 16 with violation of protective order. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

\*Morgan Jacqueline Nunn, 32, of Ararat, was charged July 18 with reckless driving. Senior Deputy I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

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# Martha Redbone Roots Project to perform at Blue Ridge Music Center



Martha Redbone Roots Project

Martha Redbone Roots Project will perform as part of the Deep Roots, Many Voices: Summer Outdoor Concert Series at 7 p.m., Saturday, July 27, in the Blue Ridge Music Center’s outdoor amphitheater on the Blue Ridge Parkway just south of Galax, Va. Zoe & Cloyd will open the show.

Redbone is known for her unique mix of roots music, which incorporates folk, blues, and gospel. Her sound is influenced by the folk and mountain blues traditions she experienced growing up in the Appalachian hills of Kentucky and the eclectic grit of her teenage years spent in pre-gentrified Brooklyn.

Inheriting a powerful voice from her gospel-singing father and a resilient spirit from her mother’s Southeastern Indigenous culture, Redbone broadens the boundaries of American roots music with songs and storytelling that share her life experience as a Black and Native American woman

navigating the 21st century.

Redbone works in partnership with her husband and longtime collaborator Aaron Whitby. He is a London-born pianist, composer, and producer. He cowrote and produced Redbone’s award-winning albums Home of the Brave, Skintalk, and The Garden of Love. The duo’s work gives voice to issues of social justice, connecting cultures, and celebrating the human spirit.

Zoe & Cloyd pair soaring harmonies and heartfelt songwriting to seamlessly combine bluegrass, klezmer, old-time, and folk music with sincerity and zeal. Their innovative “klezgrass” style springs from the rich traditions and complementary styles of fiddler and vocalist Natalia Zoe Weinstein and multi-instrumentalist and vocalist John Cloyd Miller.

Descending from a lineage of klezmer and jazz musicians, Wein-



Zoe & Cloyd (By Sarah Johnston)

stein trained classically in her home state of Massachusetts before moving south in 2004. Miller, a 12th generation North Carolinian and grandson of pioneering bluegrass fiddler Jim Shumate (Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys), is a first place winner of the prestigious Chris Austin Songwriting Contest and the Hazel Dickens Songwriting Contest.

Zoe & Cloyd released their fifth studio album, Songs of Our Grandfathers, in 2023. The project is an homage to their roots and has been enthusiastically received with feature articles in Bluegrass Unlimited, No Depression, and The Bluegrass Situation.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. Advance tickets are available at BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org. Tickets can be pur-

chased on the evening of the show at the admission gates.

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

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

The Music Center is accessible to people with disabilities and offers assistive listening devices for use during concerts. To use a free device during a concert, guests can email [info@blueridgemusiccenter.org](mailto:info@blueridgemusiccenter.org) in advance of the show.

The presenting sponsors for the series are W.L.A. Trucking and Yadkin Arts Council.

# State Fair competitions for blue-ribbon bragging rights are now open

Cut flowers, duct tape, grilled cheese and Plymouth Rock are all part of competition categories at this year’s State Fair of Virginia, which will be held Sept. 27 through Oct. 6.

Competition guides for both adult and youth creative and culinary arts, horticulture and field crops, as well as 4-H and FFA competitions and livestock shows are posted on the State Fair’s website, [StateFairVa.org](http://StateFairVa.org).

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

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

Cut flowers are one of the horticulture categories, and entries will be judged live on Oct. 2. Plymouth Rock is a breed of chicken that will be part of the poultry shows this year; and duct tape creations are one of many categories in the youth creative arts compe-

titions.

This year’s culinary contests include a live grilled cheese judging on Sept. 29. Sponsored by the Virginia State Dairyman’s Association, the event is part of Dairy Days at the fair, celebrated the first weekend. Twelve contestants will prepare and cook a grilled cheese sandwich using their choice of bread, cheese and any additional ingredients they want to add.

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

Three new food competitions this year are the Virginia Potatoes Recipe Contest, sponsored by Dublin Farms’ Virginia’s Finest Potatoes; the Virginia Home Grown Vegetable Casserole Contest, sponsored by the Bowling Green Community Farmers Market; and the Sabra Hummus Recipe Contest, sponsored by Sabra.

Dublin Farms is a fifth-generation family farm in Accomack County on the Eastern Shore, where 80% of Virginia potatoes are grown. Contestants must prepare a dish where the potatoes (white, red or yellow, but not sweet) are the “star of the show.” They are encouraged to use Dublin Farms’ potatoes from their local grocery store. Entries will be judged on Oct. 1.

Participants in the veggie casserole contest are required to use vegetables grown in their own yards or purchased from a local farmers market.

The Virginia Peanut Growers Association is sponsoring a “Grab & Go” peanut competition. Contestants are encouraged to create snacks—hot or cold, sweet or savory—using Virginia peanuts or peanut butter.

Creative arts categories include traditional jewelry making, painting, photography, quilting, sculpture and woodcrafts. But other unique divisions include antler art and deer, fish or bird mounts. Other divisions cover jewelry crafted with wildlife parts like antlers or feathers, and floral arrangements made with similar components.

The 2024 State Fair of Virginia will run from Sept. 27 through Oct. 6. Information is available at [StateFairVa.org](http://StateFairVa.org).



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The 2024 State Fair of Virginia will run from Sept. 27 through Oct. 6. Information is available at [StateFairVa.org](http://StateFairVa.org).



## *DRBA Paddles the Dan River State Water Trail in North Carolina*

The Dan River Basin Association's (DRBA's) First Saturday Outing on August 3 will be a 5-mile paddle trip on the Dan River in Stokes County, from the Pitzer Road Finishing Access to Hemlock Golf Course Access. The paddle is coordinated by Will Truslow. Meet by 9 a.m. at the Pitzer Road Fishing Access to set shuttle.

History and legend abound on this section of the river, which is characterized by high bluffs forested with hardwoods and stands of stately hemlock trees. About half a mile below Snow Creek is Thompson's Fish Dam, which has remnants of a rare wooden slat trap. According to "An Insider's Guide to the Dan River," a "heavy timber frame, about eight feet square, formed a grid of slats" to trap fish channeled into the trap by a vee-shaped low rock wall. At least two branches of the Great Wagon Road forded the river at shoals on this section, and caves are said to have been used by Confederate draft dodgers.

Rock formations and uncommon Carolina hemlock stands have received recognition as the Dan River Cliffs natural heritage area.

According to Truslow, "This section of the Dan has the last of the really high bluffs before the river winds on into the Piedmont. Some are about

