

THE ENTERPRISE

Calendar Church Classified Family Album **Obituaries Sports Viewpoints**

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

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 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

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 threefloors 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 much as we can. We're trying to 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

(See Council p.3) School division celebrates Beta Distinction

By Taylor Boyd

Thursday, July 18 meeting.

Ridge District, read a proclamaopment, and service involvement.

"National Beta is proud to rec-

ognize an outstanding 306 schools the division's distinction in prepar-The Patrick County School Board within the 65 2023-2024 National celebrated becoming a National District of Distinction recipients. Beta District of Distinction at its Through the exceptional efforts of school boards, district administra-Shannon Harrell, of the Blue tors, school principals, club sponsors, and deserving Beta members, tion stating that the distinction their recognition of this national is awarded to school districts that award speaks highly of their comdemonstrate a commitment to aca- mitment to academic excellence, demic excellence, leadership devel- leadership development, and service involvement," she said.

Harrell said the award illustrates

ing 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 port. 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 re-

(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 nomina-

When voicing his support for Biden's reelection bid, Kaine, says look, I'm putting the country going to make sure Joe and Kama-



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

D-Richmond, said, "If Joe Biden first, and I've got this. Then, we're



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

don't need to worry about him doing wasn't badly injured." the patriotic thing and putting the he can't do it, he'll tell us, and then Butler, Pa. we will go a different direction."

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.

discussed the July 13 attempted as- there is good news for the economy sassination of former Pres. Donald in Virginia.

Trump. The incident, he said, "just

la (Harris - his running mate) not brought up a lot of bad memories. only win Virginia but win this race." I grew up in the age of JFK being Kaine said that Biden would "lev- assassinated, Martin Luther King, el with us" if there comes a time and Bobby Kennedy, and it just when the current president does not reminded me of that chaos. I'm feel that he's fit to do the job. "You so grateful that President Trump

Like many, Kaine called for an incountry first. As long as he's in this vestigation to determine the cause race, we're with him. If he decides of the security lapses at the rally in

Additionally, "we just have to Biden used social media over the 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 While in Martinsville, Kaine also of potential voters, and indicated

"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 inship with Reynolds Homestead has in an accessory role with tourism

rick County Leadership -- hosting to help address their needs of rethe 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 Dumpling 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 reclude and promote the ever-growing linquished our lead role in promotlist of holiday events. Our partner- ing tourism. We now function more

been successful in offering the Pat- and work more with the businesses sources and labor. Additionally, the chamber created and hosted an informal information session on "How to Start a Business in Patrick Coun-

> 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

> 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 selfserve 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)

Board Association (VSBA) policy and of the Dan River District, and updates.

*Approved the VSBA Conference vice-chairman, and of the Smith

*Approved the Virginia School delegate as Rob Martin, chairman, the backup del. as Walter Scott,

River District.

*Approved the revised budget as ing. presented.

District, did not attend the meet-

Several schools and others were Amy Walker, of the Mayo River honored at the meeting, including:



Blue Ridge Elementary School.





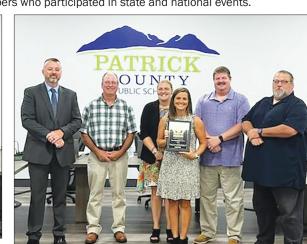
Patrick County High School (PCHS).



The school board with some of the PCHS Beta Club



Meadows of Dan Elementary School.



Stuart Elementary School.



Woolwine Elementary School.



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



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$Houch \overline{ins}$

(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.

some of the projects that have al- National Park Service, Virgin-

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

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 "I'm going to be following up on season, he brought together the

(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

Houchins currently serves on the vival egress air systems.

ia Department of Transportation 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 sur-

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 pur-

"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



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 10year 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

"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 im-

pact the need for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the town and the

In other matters, the board:

*Heard from residents about issues of vehicles speeding on Woodland Drive.

*Heard an update on public works

*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 indisaid of the health sub-committee of energy and County, he said. However, neither he, Kaine nor cated 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,"

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-

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

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

mittee with policy jurisdiction," he Lee County reopened, is "ready to do it" in Patrick

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





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.

Home Country

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

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

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

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

the time gone?

VIEWPOINTS

Assassination History

you, Ι shocked by the attempted assassination of President Donald Trump.

This latest assassination attempt of a president is nothing new to American history books.

One of America's most renowned presidents, Abraham Lincoln, was

victim of a cold-hearted tragedy. As the Union Army neared victory in the U.S. Civil War, an actor with pro-South leanings decided to hatch Franklin Delano Roosevelt, also a plot to assassinate Lincoln.

The actor carried out his plan on Good Friday, April 14, 1865. Lincoln, with his wife and members of his cabinet, attended Ford's Theatre for a play. The actor entered Lincoln's suite, where he shot Lincoln in the back of the head.

President James Garfield became the second American president to succumb to the tragic fate of assas-

A campaign worker who helped Garfield's 1880 election campaign wanted a foreign embassy position.

He never received the desired appointment and decided to kill Garfield. He shot Garfield twice at a local DC train station. Garfield died months later from infection complications.

attended a New York exposition House. to meet members of the public. An anarchist who held contempt for American capitalism had other

He stood in a line of fairgoers before shooting McKinley twice in the abdomen.

A mob descended on the shooter, to which McKinley allegedly quipped, "Go easy on him, boys!"

McKinley's passing eight days later thrusted Vice President Theodore Roosevelt into the presidency.

Roosevelt served out the rest of McKinley's term and won re-election in 1904. He decided not to seek another term in 1908 and supported William Howard Taft for president, but in 1912 reversed course and challenged Taft.

for the Bull Moose party, Roosevelt fully, Reagan survived the attempt. faced near death. On October 14, 1912, Roosevelt was shot once in tress Jodie Foster. the chest.

age. While it did penetrate his skin, or gain notoriety, I have left out the Roosevelt's dense overcoat, steel-reinforced eyeglass case and printed speech provided enough of a shield main unanswered on the twento block the bullet from reaching his

The shooter also faced the wrath Trump. of those around him, to which Roo-Bring him here...What did you do it for?"

The shooter allegedly did not an-

Roosevelt then insisted on going to the campaign event, where he would give a speech. Roosevelt quipped:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know whether you fully understand concerns, or comments: Abingdon, that I have just been shot, but it (276) 525-1405; Christiansburg, takes more than that to kill a Bull (540) 381-5671, or via email at Moose."



Morgan Griffith

Representative

Only after the campaign event did he seek medical attention!

Roosevelt's relative, President survived an assassination attempt.

Then President-Elect Roosevelt stood on the back of a vehicle in Miami, Florida, in February 1933, giving a speech before an alleged anti-capitalist discharged his gun.

The shooter hit five people, but not Roosevelt.

surrounds Much controversy President John F. Kennedy's assassin. The suspect had a history of communist leanings, which included defecting to the Soviet Union and supporting Cuba's Fidel Castro.

A man whose loan had been turned down by the Small Business Administration accused the Nixon Administration of conspiring to oppress the poor. He stormed through Baltimore/Washington International Airport, killed a policeman and In September of 1901, Republi- a pilot while attempting to hijack can President William McKinley a plane and crash it into the White

Security foiled his plans.

Nixon's successor, President Gerald Ford, faced two such attempts on his life in a span of seventeen

A female Manson Family cult follower, and a female radical who admitted to her interest in bringing a violent revolution to America, both failed in their attempts to kill Ford.

Ford was a witness in one of his assailant's trials. Ford became the first U.S. president to testify at a criminal trial. Ford's Presidential Museum now displays the weapon used in the assault.

The last major assassination attempt of the twentieth century involved President Ronald Reagan, who was shot outside the Hilton On his way to a campaign event Hotel in Washington, DC. Thank-

His shooter tried to impress ac-

As a result of some would-be as-The bullet inflicted minimal dam- sassins trying to impress the public names of all the attackers.

As of this writing, questions rety-first century's first U.S. assassination attempt, the one on Donald

How did the gunman manage to sevelt responded, "Don't hurt him. penetrate security and get on top of

> What were the shooter's motives? Congress must hold vigorous investigations to ensure something like this never happens again. Not only do we owe it to future political leaders, but we owe it to the American people.

> Call my offices with questions, https://morgangriffith.house.gov/.

Destroy the environment to save the environment

The Federalist, American Bird Conservancy)

I guess you really cannot fix stu-

A California-based renewable energy company, Avantus, plans to deploy state-employed hunters to clear thousands of protected Josh- kill 450,000 barred owls that are ua trees in the Mojave Desert to crowding out their cousins, northern make way for a solar project that spotted owls. 450,000 barred owls will generate electricity for Silicon will be shot over three decades. The Valley Clean Energy and Central owls are being targeted across Ore-Coast Community Energy, both of gon, Washington, and California in which are nonprofits that provide the name of "conservation." 15,000 green energy to 180,000 homes, spotted owls remain in the wild. instead of the local impacted com- According to The Fish and Wildlife munities. The Aratina Solar Proj- Service "it has a legal responsibility ect will be installed on 2,300 acres to do all it can to prevent the extincof land in the Mojave Desert where tion of the federally listed northern 4,700 Joshua trees are located on spotted owl and support its recovthe site, with over 500 of the trees ery." The notion of killing one bird standing 16 feet tall. They grow just species to save another is reminis-1 to 3 inches a year, which means cent of past government efforts to a 16-foot tree could be more than save West Coast salmon by killing 100 years old. They plan to destroy sea lions and cormorants that prey 3,500 trees. Native grasslands min- on the fish, and to preserve warblers gle with Joshua trees in the Mojave by killing cowbirds that lay eggs in Desert landscape and is home to warbler nests" and far-left environendangered desert tortoises. The mental efforts to compromise tra-Kern County Board of Supervisors ditional views in pursuit of favored approved the Aratina project in policy goals, such as the destruction October 2021, before the Western of forests and farmlands for solar Joshua Tree Conservation Act ban-fields and the killing of whales for ning the killing of trees without a offshore wind projects. More than permit was passed by California 180 whales have washed ashore in 2023. The project comes with \$3 dead between Maine and Virginia million in sales taxes and \$73 million in property taxes, and \$1.4 million to protect Joshua trees in other areas across the state. Avantus also purchased grazing rights on 215 acres of federal land in the county and plans to work with officials to preserve the land. The residents'

(Fox, LA. Times, Associated Press, ficials, who unanimously approved the project. Avantus, is owned by KKR, a global private equity firm. Follow the money --- always follow the money.

Federal officials are preparing to since offshore-wind-energy development began in 2016. Massive wind operations have also been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of birds, including feder-

ally protected species. Pray for our country. William Salser, Stuart

Probation, parole officers celebrated

The Virginia Department of Corrections celebrated its Probation and Parole Officers during Virginia Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week (July 14-20) and will also observe the national PPPS Week (July 21-27). I encourage all Virginians to do the same. You might not personally know a Probation and Parole Officer, but you feel their contributions to longterm public safety every day.

concerns were ignored by county of-

Our officers are at the forefront of public safety. Their actions directly keep those who live, work in, and visit the Commonwealth safe from criminal activity by providing effective supervision of probationers and parolees across Virginia. This completely aligns with the monwealth. agency's mission of long-term public safety. Additionally, VADOC Probation and Parole Officers provide guidance, tools, and resources

to supervisees. This directly leads to Virginia's consistently high success rate for reentry.

Probation and Parole Districts across the Commonwealth also do much more than provide effective supervision for the more than 61,000 supervisees in Virginia. Districts and our corrections team members are true servants of their community, providing money, volunteer hours, and collaboration to schools, community resource centers, and partner law enforcement agencies.

Thank a Probation and Parole Officer for their service. It's a simple gesture, especially for the services they provide this great Com-

Judge (Ret.) Chadwick S. Dotson,

Director, Virginia Department of Corrections

Abuse, prevention focus of community meeting



Hill, Adian Lacy. (Photo by Patrick County Sheriff's Deputy Rob Martin)

Southside Survivor Response Department of Social Services, Center Advocate Mildred Wiltz. This team coordinates the services of these multiple organizations to provide a better understanding of cases involving child abuse and neglect. The purpose of this team is to en-

sure that the varied needs of the

victims are fulfilled in a timely

manner—the Child Abuse Re-

view Team (CART). Facilitates

The Willis Gap Community vestigations, provides compre-Crimewatch meeting was held hensive case management, supon July 11 with special guests ports prosecution efforts, offers that included Assistant Com- victims (survivors) and family monwealth Attorney Ria Farley advocacy, and enables clinical Wigginton, Violent Crime Pre- medical assessments and treatvention Specialist Adian Lacy, ments to be provided efficiently. Patrick County Sheriff's Office Some other community resourc-Investigator Tennile Jessup, and es involved in the CART are the Public Schools, the Family Resource Center, Court Services, and Child Advocacy Center Staff Members.

Contact for Commonwealth Attorney's Office at (276) 694-3945, Patrick County Sheriff's Office at (276) 694-3161, South Side Survivor Response Center (Help Women, Children, and Families to live free from violence Hotline joint forensic interviews and in- 24/7 at 1-877-934-3576.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET

Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy

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

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

Wednesday, July 24, 2024 - **5**

Patrick Pioneers

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Robert Lee Rickman was born to William Henry Rickman and Emily Frances Boyd Rickman on the 18th of August 1861. Robert was the sixth child born to the couple; the first child Sarah Jane Rickman only lived from 1855-1861. The second child William Daniel Rickman lived from 1856-1920; Emily Frances 1857-1862; Mary Elizabeth 1859-1859: Lucinda Ellen 1860-1861; then Robert Lee from 1861-1912. Next was born Susan Emma Rickman Rorrer lived from 1863-1936; Milta Alice 1864-1865; Samuel Dobyns Rickman 1866-1919; and Adolphus Green Rickman 1869-

Robert Lee Rickman's wife, Virginia Elizabeth Rorrer was born to John Wesley Rorrer and Virginia Adeline Griffith Rorrer on the 16th of September 1864. Virginia Elizabeth was the oldest child, followed by her brothers Samuel Green Rorrer 1866-1950, and Thomas Reed Rorrer 1869-1941.

Robert Lee and Virginia Elizabeth married on the 11th of March 1880 in Patrick County, Virginia. The couple's first child, Murray Edward, was born the next year, followed by Mary Ella in 1883. Lera Annis came along in 1886; Frederick Lee in 1889; Benjamin Abel in 1891; and Virginia Adeline in 1894. The seventh child born was Robert Guy in 1896; Bessie Frances in 1898; Amos Raymond in 1901; Nellie Reed in 1904; Ernest George in 1906; and William Wyatt Rickman in 1909.

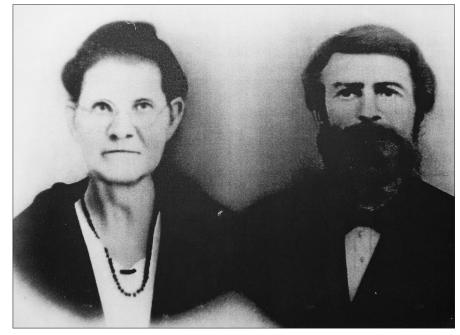
Tragedy fell on this Stuart family in the fall of 1911. According to Mr. Rickman's obituary that was published the 30th of May 1912, in the Stuart Enterprise, "Robert Lee Rickman was struck suddenly ill two weeks before and died at his home last Thursday, the 23rd of May 1912. It is the belief of the physicians that Mr. Rickman

Robert and Virginia Rorrer Rick- died of hydrophobia, becoming infected with the deadly germs while treating a horse that died with rabies last Christmas."

> Mr. Rickman's funeral was conducted from his home in Stuart Friday afternoon by Elder L. I. Gilbert and Reverend M. F. Sanford, after which the body was turned over to the Stuart Local Farmer's Union, of which he was a member. The Union men, some fifty in number, formed a line in front of the house, and the body passed through the line being carried by Mr. Alex Spencer, Honorable E. Parr, Dr. L. O. Dickerson, Mr. John Atkins, and Mr. Ulysses Lawson.

> The funeral procession was led by Chaplains W. H. Clark and J. M. Martin and was conducted by Marshall A. W. Williams. At the grave, the services were conducted by County Chaplain J. M. Martin and Local Chaplain W. H. Clark. President of the Local Farmer's Union, W. G. Hylton and acting Vice-President E. H. Handy, with the other Union members formed a circle around his grave. On the Sunday after his burial, Drs. R. S. Martin and L. C. Dickerson had Mr. Rickman's body taken up and sent to Washington, D.C. to have it examined by experts to ascertain if he had succumbed to hydrophobia.

So, how did this tragic death happen? According to an interview in the Enterprise with Mr. Rickman's son-in-law, James Monroe McHone. husband of Lera Annis Rickman, "people had heard talk of mad dogs in the community and even mad hogs, but folks didn't get scared, and no one thought it would be so bad. A dog belonging to Mr. Rickman's little boy contracted rabies and a neighbor shot it. Then, around Christmas, one of Mr. Rickman's horses got sick and Mr. Rickman treated the horse himself for some time. The horse began having convulsions and died a short



Robert and Virginia Rorrer Rickman. (Photo shared by Sarah Davis)

time later. It was suspected that the rabid dog had bitten the horse."

Mr. McHone continued, "Mr. Rickman took ill on May 10th and as far as we know, he had not thought about having hydrophobia unless it was about a week before he was taken; for that week, he went around terribly depressed. One day he told his wife that he had something to tell her, but he felt too bad to talk to her about it at the time. Mr. McHone believed that Mr. Rickman was infected through an abrasion on the back of his hand while treating his horse."

Mr. McHone stayed with his fatherin-law starting the night before the convulsions began. McHone stated, 'the convulsions were terrible. Mr. Rickman had to be held down in the bed and the convulsions occurred for several days. Next, Mr. Rickman became quiet and talked to his family, but soon became much worse, passing away on May 23rd.

Mr. McHone went to Richmond and told this story to Dr. Meade Ferguson, the state bacteriologist at the Office of the Virginia Health Department. Dr. Ferguson, who administers the

Pasteur treatment for the department, reiterated the advice given Mr. McHone by Dr. R. S. Martin of Stuart...everyone who came in contact with Mr. Rickman must be brought to Richmond for the Pasteur treatment. Mr. McHone was the first to receive the treatment and he rented a house on the east side of Richmond where the family stayed for the three weeks that it took for the treatment.

Mr. Rickman's widow brought her children to Richmond for the treatment: including her adult daughter, Lera Annis Rickman McHone. The young Mrs. McHone also brought her two young children for the remedy. Thankfully, the injections were successful and no one else became ill. Mrs. Rickman lived until the age of 65, passing away on the 26th of September 1929 in Leaksville, North Carolina.

Thank you to Brenda and Jimmy McHone for allowing me to share this deeply tragic story and to Sarah Davis for the photo. 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 Rustv - Should I Retire at 65 or 67? And What About Earnings & Taxes?

Dear Rusty: I'm just trying to figure out how to determine whether to retire at 65 or 67 and, if I retire, approximately how much could I make outside of my Social Security without FYI, the taxation thresholds are lower being overly taxed. Signed: Thinking for those who file taxes as an individu-About Retiring

Dear Thinking: Deciding when to retire is serious business, because it affects your future and what your retirement income will be going forward. Thus, it's good you are taking the time to fully understand your options, and we're happy to assist you with that. Here are some things which should help you decide whether to retire at 65 or 67:

Social Security benefits are subject to income tax (by the IRS) if your combined income from all sources (which includes your Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return, plus half of the SS benefits you received during the tax your income tax filing status. If you file your income tax as "married/jointly" and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000, then 50% of your received SS benefits are subject to income tax (at your normal IRS tax rate). But if your combined income as a married couple is more than \$44,000, then 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. al (\$25,000 and \$34,000 respectively)

Born in 1960 or later, your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security's purposes is 67. If you claim SS benefits before your FRA, not only will your monthly amount be permanently reduced but you'll also be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit changes annuallv. but for 2024 it is \$22,320 (future year's limits will be a bit higher each year). If your work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They take away year) exceeds certain thresholds for by withholding future benefits for as

many months as necessary for them to recover what you owe for exceeding the annual limit. FYI, the limit goes up during the year you attain FRA, and the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

· If you claim SS before your FRA, your monthly amount will be permanently reduced. If you claim at age 65, you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. If you claim at age 66, your monthly amount would be about 93% of your FRA entitlement and, by claiming at 67 you'll get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. The reductions for early claiming are permanent reductions, except for the annual cost of living adjustments (COLA). Note that you can also delay longer than your FRA to get an even larger benefit amount (you can delay up to age 70 when your maximum benefit is reached). Just remember. the earnings test (as described above) will apply if you claim SS before your FRA and you are still working.

If your plan is to continue to work full time, be aware that if you claim early SS and significantly exceed the

annual earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits. If your work income is high enough that the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit is more than SS can recover through withheld benefits in one year, they will tell you that you're unable to collect benefits at this time (until you either earn less or reach your FRA).

So, deciding whether to claim Social Security at 65 or 67 is your personal choice and, hopefully, the above provides the information you make an informed decision.

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Restore Your Gut Microbiome in 2 Weeks

Lately, you've probably been hearing a lot about the gut microbiome and how it needs to be healthy for our bodies to operate at an optimum. How do guts get unhealthy, or healthy, in the first place? When we talk about the "health" of the gut, we're talking about the good and bad bacteria and organisms living in the microbiome of the gut.

The food we eat daily contributes to this microbiome and feeds the good and bad bacteria. The key ingredient to create a healthy gut is fiber. With plenty of fiber, good bacteria abounds. Without it, unhealthy bacteria takes over, contributing to ill health. In our processed food society, our meals are designed to be as tasty as possible which means not too much fiber is found in most processed foods or restaurant food. Instead, processed foods fill our gut with unnecessary fillers, chemicals and preservatives, things unhealthy bacteria in our gut love to feed on. As a result, our guts are often unhealthy environments. "The lack of fiber intake in the industrialized world

is starving our gut microbes, with important health consequences that may be associated with increases in colorectal cancer, autoimmune diseases, and decreased vaccine efficacy and response to cancer immunotherapy," says Katrine Whiteson, associate professor of molecular biology and biochemistry who co-directed a recent University of California Irvine (UCI) Microbiome research study that was recently

published in the American Society for Microbiology. Dietary fiber consists of resistant carbs found in

fruits, vegetables and whole grains which are not di-

gestible by our bodies. This slows overall digestion of our meals and makes us feel fuller longer. So it's also important for regulating our feeling of hunger (which means we snack and binge eat less). While indigestible, the bacteria in the gut metabolizes fiber into short-chain fatty acids and other byproducts which are important to our health. But in an industrialized country, the average per-

son consumes less than half of the recommended daily fiber (50 grams per day) mainly because of decreased consumption of plant-based foods. Processed foods and restaurant foods tend to have low levels of fiber. And reduced fiber in one's diet is associated with diseases like diabetes type II, colon cancer and autoimmune diseases.

The good news is that the study found that even a short period of eating a high fiber diet restored the gut to a healthy state. The UCI researchers took undergraduate students and gave them 10 high fiber unprocessed meals each week for two weeks. They took gut samples before and after to track the microbial composition changes. The students also recorded their daily dietary intake information of macronutrients they consumed to reach 50 grams of dietary

fiber per day during those two weeks. One of the instructors marveled at how she and the students enjoyed learning which foods are high in fiber. "We were amazed to find how high in fiber

berries and avocados are and exchanged ideas for

how to prepare beans and lentils," one researcher

After two weeks, the researchers compared overall bacterial composition using tools like DNA sequencing and gas chromatography and found that the gut experienced major changes after eating the high fiber diet. Researchers found that just two weeks of eating a high fiber diet caused "significant" gut biome changes such as an increase in the presence of Bifidobacterium, a common fiber-degrader.

So, put yourself on a two week challenge to increase your daily fiber intake! Remember that the goal is 50 grams. But you're not going to get there by just resolving to eat more fiber. Do the research and develop a plan to consume 50 grams every day. Common fruits like apples, oranges and bananas have about 3-4 grams of fiber. Two cups of green leafy veggies typically have 5 grams. Some vegetables like artichokes have a whopping 10 grams so do the research and eat accordingly. When snacking, snack on foods like seeds which are high in fiber as

opposed to chips which are not. A serving of popcorn has 4 grams of fiber. Do the research. With careful planning, right choices, and a meal plan, you can get to 50 grams per day. If you keep at it, not only will you restore your gut microbiome to a healthier state, you'll reap the bene-

fits of a healthier gut with better insulin resistance, better mental health, better skin, and better sleep. (Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Danny

Kwon, JD. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

SPORTS

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

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 Se-

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,"

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 beings and it's a double elimination tournament, so you lose twice you go home,"

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 Ste-

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 Camero 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 jew-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

"And to all the fans, I love it here," he added with a grin. "I think evervthing 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 el win for Larson, also including the lined up on the front row alongside Southern 500 at Darlington (S.C.) 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 effor ing 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 the defending race winner.

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 Gilliand, 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

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

In the second installment of a special as a "lure." These types of scams can be 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

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

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

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 dif-

ferent domain name or URL (irs.com

opening email links or attachments that 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

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.

Wednesday, July 24, 2024 - **7**

Crossing the Lines=

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

School board accepts policy changes



Commission official says economic development efforts are inspirational

Upon learning about the econom- Henry County on Wednesday at the Martinsville and Henry County, as well as past successes, the execuco Region Revitalization Commisprovides a lot of optimism.

derstanding these concerns, these needs, seeing the progress that has occurred, hearing about the progyourselves who are so dedicated ... it's inspiring, and it's first class," and Right Energy Services, was in plan."

ic development efforts underway in Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC).

Campos, who also served as the tive director of the Virginia Tobac- director of the office of economic impact and diversity for the Departsion said the community's work to ment of Energy during the Trump increase its economic development administration, noted that Virginia has experienced tremendous suc-"Visiting these areas and un- cess over the past three years and a record job growth.

He added that "a lot of these companies donating over \$74 billion in ress, and meeting individuals like capital investments for major corporations, \$5 billion in tax relief for all Virginians, reforming workforce said James Campos, an American development efforts to focus on job political, business consultant and creation, preserve Virginia's right speaker on energy issues recent- to work status, implementing all ly co-founded Right Energy Group American all-of-the-above energy

Speyside Bourbon to create 40 new jobs in Pittsylvania County

Park, the company's fourth facility in Virginia.

The new stave mill will create 40 new jobs and source 40 percent of its timber needs from Virginia forest landowners. The operation will supply the company's bourbon barrel cooperage in Smyth County.

The company is a division of Speyside Cooperage Ltd., found-

Speyside Bourbon Cooperage, ed in Scotland in 1947. In 2008, Inc. will invest \$16.85 million to Speyside Cooperage was sold to the build a new stave mill in Pittsyl- Tonnellerie François Frères (TFF) vania County's Brosville Industrial Group, a publicly held company founded in 1910 and headquartered in France. The company operates stave mills and bourbon cooperages in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania. Tennessee and Virginia. Virginia locations include stave mills in Bath and Washington Counties and a bourbon barrel cooperage in Smyth County.

Tenants recover after water main break



Nearly a week after it was first reported, water issues at Northview Garden Apartments, 755 Stultz Road, were well on the way to being resolved.

On July 10, some tenants told Charles Roark, of Star News, that they had experienced a loss of water pressure and had no access to clean

Martinsville Mayor LC Jones was among the first to try and lend a hand, along with Rayshaun Gravely, a candidate for Martinsville City Council.

"We have no running commodes, the water has discoloration, and we can't even drink it," John Mahan, a resident living in one of the affected apartments, said.

The Henry County School Board met on June 11 to discuss several topics, including changes to policy revisions. Several of these changes were targeted at improving safety for students during an emergency situation. A major change to the JROTC credit was also put in place to help students considering a potential military career after high school.

Each school now has to include "provisions that seek to maximize the ability for students with mobility impairments to evacuate the school building along with their non-mobility impaired peers," said director of human resources Christy Landon. Schools are also now required to hold fire drills during school sessions that match the statewide prevention

Health classes will now focus on and take a look at hazing.



JROTC classes will now be mental health conflict resolution counted as P.E. classes for those who take them.

City Council hears proposed capital spending plan

Martinsville City Council met on July 16, following a lengthy work session to view a presentation on needed improvements and purchas-

A proposed capital spending budget for FY 2024-25 was presented, with many examples of needed improvements around the city and individual costs. Proposed projects included updated bathrooms for Fire Department Station One, traffic barriers that will cost \$10,000, and maintenance.

laptop replacements that will cost \$85,000. Several other improvements, including repairing substations and replacing the hypochlorite chemical containment building, also were noted. The purchases will be discussed further as the council works through them.

The projects would be funded by dividing up what's already in the capital budget.

A separate fund is set up for street

Dinosaur extravaganza set for July 26-27 at the

A two-day dinosaur extravaganza is set to take place at the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) in Martinsville, when the museum hosts Dino Festival on Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The annual event will feature life-size

cast skeletons of some of the most iconic creatures of the Mesozoic Era, a wide variety of dinosaur fossils, expert paleontologists, animatronic dinosaurs, and dinosaur-themed activities and crafts. For more information about the festival, visit www.vmnh.net/events/dino-festival.





FOR MORE, VISIT THE HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE AT WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM.











1-3-5-7-9PM 12;45-2-3-4-5 1-3-5-7-9PM

OBITUARIES

Earnest William "Bill" Horton, Jr.

Mr. Earnest William "Bill" Horton, Jr., age of Martinsville, Virginia, passed away SOVAH Health Martinsville Hospital on Saturday, July 13, 2024. He was born in Patrick County, Virginia, on August 18, 1947, to the late Earnest William Horton, Sr., and Flossie Margaret Bowman Horton. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, James, ton, and one sister, Janet Horton Epperson. Bill was an avid reader and fisherman, a wonderful father, brother, son, and un- Horton of Claudville,

Bill is survived by Jessi two children, Shannon Ridgeway, Virginia. Townsend and hus-



band, Alex of Nebraska, Brandon Horton of Fieldale, Virginia; his grandchildren; sisters, Erlaine Wat-Don and David Hor- kins and husband, c/o of Stuart, Virginia; one brother, Rodney Hatcher

A funeral service ervices.com.

for Bill will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Moody Funeral Home Chapel with the Patrick County Memorial Honor Guard officiating the service. Burial will follow in the Pack Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Bill Hormemorial fund Moody Funeral Frank of Burkville, Home, P.O. Box 307, Virginia, Kay Eutsler Stuart, VA, 24171 or and husband, Scott the Wounded Warriors Project P.O. Box 758516 Topeka, Kansas, 66675-8516. On-Virginia; best friend, line condolences may of be sent by visiting www.moodyfunerals-

Edward Fulton Clark

Edward Fulton Clark, age 90, passed away on Sunday July 14, 2024. He was born to Joseph Myron and Annie Sue Fulton Clark on August 10, 1933. Mr. Clark was a well-known businessman resident of He graduated from Stuart High School and Randolph-Macon College. He proudly served in the United States Army spending most of his tour in Germany and then served in the reserves several years thereafter. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister Barbara Clark NY; Baughan.

his wife of 63 years, Sarah J. Clark, Jo-neralservice.com.



Elizabeth sy" Clark; a daughter, Victoria "Vicki" Clark Baker of Roanoke, VA; sons, Joe and Denise Clark grand-daughters, He is survived by Simmons, Bryce and iting www.moodyfu-

seph Young of Stuart and Edie L. Clark of Brooklyn, NY; greatgrand-daughter, Eliza Young of Stuart, VA.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Rev. Tommy Shepherd and Rev. Jim Churchwell. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Stuart Rotaof Stuart, VA and ry Club Scholarship William and Sara Fund at P.O. Box 723, Clark of Brooklyn, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences Laura Clark may be made by vis-

National Farmers Market Week highlights markets' impact

Picking out farm-fresh produce, mingling with growers and supporting the community are all part of a day's fun when visiting a local farm-

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

"The food sales at farmers markets create stronger local economies because a greater share of the money spent there is more likely to remain in the community-supporting local jobs and services, compared to the money being sent to a distant corporate office," explained Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

That's evident in a statistic from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that reports growers selling localcreate 13 full-time farm operator jobs per \$1 million in revenue receive a combined \$15,000, which earned, compared to only three jobs they can use to help with marketcreated by those who don't.

Additionally, of \$2.9 billion in direct-to-consumer sales, on-farm stores and farmers markets accounted for \$1.7 billion. And 78% of farms selling directly to consumers sold their marketed food within 100 miles of the farm.

Farmers markets also play a crucial role in addressing food insecurity. Many markets accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and participate in

Virginia Fresh Match.

In 2021, over \$100 million in federal nutrition benefits was redeemed nationally at farmers markets and through direct market sales, according to the USDA.

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.

"Consumers may find cherished varieties or foods prepared from old-time favorite recipes that aren't available in grocery stores," Banks

Farmers market fans can vote for their favorite market through the America's Farmers Market Celebration. Hosted by American Farmland Trust, the contest highlights farmers markets' importance and is the only annual ranking of top farmers markets in the U.S. as voted by the public. Voting is open through July 31 at markets.farmland.org.

The top five farmers markets will ing, communications and other needs to expand the market's reach and impact.

According to the AFMC website, the Charlottesville City Market ranks third nationwide. The Portsmouth Olde Towne Farmers Market ranks fifth among the Southeast region's top markets.

To find a farmers market near visit vdacs.virginia.gov/vayou, grown or vafma.org/virginia-mar-



First ever scholarship presented by Stuart club

The Stuart Ruritan Club presented its first ever scholarship during their July meeting. The club, which chartered in May 2023, chose to help a returning Patrick & Henry Community College student from the Stuart area, Haley Day was selected to be this year's recipient. She is studying to become a Physical Therapy Assistant. Stephanie Keith and Kevin Smith presented Haley with a certificate and scholarship on behalf of the club.

Hospital earns national recognition for its commitment to providing high-quality stroke care

Northern Regional Hospital has received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® -Stroke GoldPlus quality achievement award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately leading to more lives saved and reduced disability.

Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the U.S. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, so brain cells die. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability, and accelerating recovery times.

Get With The Guidelines puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest research- and evidence-based guidelines. Get With The Guidelines - Stroke is an in-hospital program for improving stroke care by promoting consistent adherence to these guidelines, which can minimize the long-term effects of a stroke and even prevent death.

"Obtaining Gold Plus recognition from the American Heart and American Stroke Associations is a reflection of the outstanding stroke care patients receive at Northern Regional Hospital. This award highlights the success we have experienced as we collaborate not only among Northern Regional staff but also with valued community partners such as EMS, Rehab and Therapy agencies, Pharmacists and Primary Care Providers. We are honored to consistently pro-

vide exceptional stroke care to mem-

bers of our local community and the

surrounding region."

Each year, program participants qualify for the award by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, Get With The Guidelines participants also educate patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home.

We are incredibly pleased to recognize Northern Regional Hospital for its commitment to caring for patients with stroke," said Steven Messe, M.D., volunteer chairperson of the American Heart Association Stroke System of Care Advisory Group and professor of neurology and director of fellowships of neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

"Participation in Get With The Guidelines is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates - a win for health care systems, families and communities."

Northern Regional Hospital also received the American Heart Association's Target: StrokeSMElite award. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet specific criteria that reduce the time between an eligible patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with thrombolytic therapy.

Northern Regional Hospital also received the American Heart Association's Target: Type 2 DiabetesTM Honor Roll award. Target: Type 2 Diabetes aims to ensure patients with Type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized due to stroke.

Northern Regional Hospital also met specific scientific guidelines as a Primary Stroke Center, featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency depart-

Long-time physician dies

Dr. Samuel Powell Massie, 93, of Lowesville, Va. died on July 9. Massie served as a doctor in Patrick County for more than

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

He is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Bethel Bradley Massie; four daughters, Lynn Sawyer, Elaine Mitchell (Mike), Alicia Massie-Legg (Bob), and Tara Smith (Chad); ten grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.



Dr. Samuel P. Massie



OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

PATRICK PULPITS

Romans 6:1-11 "Dead or Alive?"

Stuart Church of Living Water to love to watch westerns on TV ed poster stating "Wanted: Dead unrighteousness." or Alive" for a criminal who had

deserve death. and fall short of the glory of God." ing that we have all sinned and (2 Tim. 4:2). gone against God. One way to look at it is that we are dead men and Paul is often difficult to underwomen walking in our trespasses stand. He is one of those people and sin. Paul says in Ephesians who has so much knowledge he 2: 1-2, "You were dead through has to dumb it down for the rest of the trespasses and sins in which us. Here is the truth! 1. We were you once walked, following the dead in our trespasses and sin. 2. course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the and turn to Jesus, we are given spirit that is now at work among new life. However, when we comthose who are disobedient."

through Jesus Christ our Lord." the means of salvation from etersacrifice that could atone for our walk in newness of life" (3-4). sin - Jesus Christ the Son, the 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 from our sin.

By Pastor Thomas Shepherd our Savior, God sees the righteousness of Jesus instead of our When I was growing up, I used wickedness. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he who is with my brothers. Often in the faithful and just will forgive us westerns there would be a want- our sins and cleanse us from all

There are many in the world a bounty placed on them to bring who say, "Since God is a God of them in either dead or alive. Mercy why try? Just ask for for-Well, that is not where I am going giveness and God will forgive; with this text, although I could we have been freed from sin!" because according to the Word of Paul says "God forbid" to that in God, we are all guilty and we all Romans 6:2. Let us look at the whole statement which starts The apostle Paul wrote in Ro- with verse one, "What then are mans 3:23, "For all have sinned we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes increase? 2 By no means! How 7:20, "Surely there is not a righ- can we who died to sin go on livteous man on earth who does good ing in it?" This is what is hapand never sins." So, I ask; have pening with many Christians and you ever sinned? Yes! Then that churches in our world today. Do makes you a sinner and accord- you want a church that is essening to Romans 6:23 deserving of tial? Then it should be a church death, "For the wages of sin is that teaches the truth of God's death." You are guilty and I am Word even when it is a difficult guilty. That is the truth! People word. Paul writes to young Timowant to claim innocence, but that thy in instructing him to lead the is not the case for in 1 John 1:8 church saying, "Preach the word we are told, "If we say we have no of God. Be prepared, whether the sin, we deceive ourselves, and the time is favorable or not. Patienttruth is not in us." Our first step ly correct, rebuke, and encourage towards salvation is acknowledg- your people with good teaching"

Now here comes the quandary. When we acknowledge that fact mit ourselves to Jesus, not just Paul writes in Romans 6:23, a cursory "I believe," but a deep-"For the wages of sin is death; down faith and commitment then but the gift of God is eternal life Paul writes that we "die" to or in Christ. Look starting at verse The Word of God makes it clear: three, "Do you not know that we all miss the mark when it all of us who were baptized into comes to following the will of Christ Jesus were baptized into God. We have all fallen. But God his death? 4 Therefore we were in His Mercy and love has offered buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was nal death. God paid the ransom raised from the dead by the glofor our souls with the only perfect ry of the Father, so we also might

Fact is, we are all "Dead Men" perfect Lamb of God. Why was and "Dead Women" one way or that necessary? God is a God of another; either you are dead in order. God set the standards and your trespasses and sin to a death wrote the Law. The law reveals that is eternal, or you are dead our sinful nature, and it pre- in Christ to a resurrection to life scribes the atonement of our sin that is eternal. We then become dead men walking in Christdead 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

Back-to-School immunizations available

To-School immunizations.

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

Appointments are available on

A new school year begins soon, Mondays at the Patrick County and it's time to think about Back- Health Department. Other days are accessible, pending the nurse's availability.

Please contact the Patrick County your primary care physician or with 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

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.

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.

The VDH's small entomology team

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.

BIBLE TRIVIA

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, Da-

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

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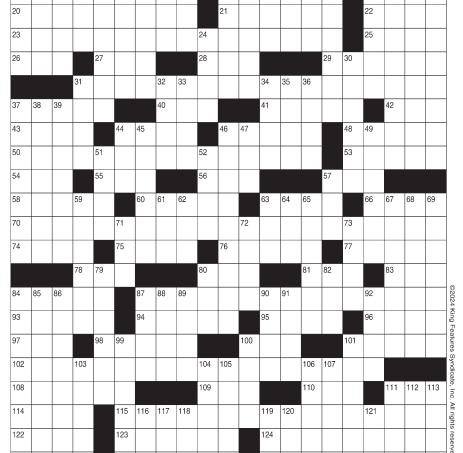
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Lester receives award for performance

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 activi- with her friends, and competing in ties, listening to music, hanging out talent shows.



Program to help veterans who farm

Veterans who are now farming can munity," said Logan Yearsley, direcapply for the brand-new American tor of member engagement for AFBF. Farm Bureau Federation Veteran Farmer Award of Excellence.

award will recognize a military veteran who is actively involved in agriculture. Applicants will be judged on excellence in farming and communi-

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

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

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

For more information, visit fb.org/

Preservation fund launched ahead of semiquincentennial

Fund has been launched ahead of The Department of Historic Re-\$20 million state funds for historic preservation projects across Virgin-

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 it registered as tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code; Virginia

The Virginia 250 Preservation localities as defined under Code § 1-221, and state-or federally-recogthe 250th anniversary of the 1776 nized Indian tribes in Virginia. All U.S. Declaration of Independence. applicants must be the owner of the project property or be able to subsources (DHR) will administer the mit a signed letter of support from the property owner and a copy of the recorded deed.

The Department invites all his-Funding for this new program toric 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, vishttps://www.dhr.virginia.gov/ nonprofit organizations that are 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.

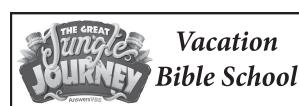
Parents, educators, and interested community members are invited to attend a Commonwealth Conversation and discuss their expectations for the upcoming policy changes that will take effect in January 2025. A partial list of the closest events includes:

Roanoke - July 31, 4 - 5:30 p.m., or share feedback about cell phone-free edu-Northside High School

Abingdon - August 1, 3 - 4:30 p.m., South-

west 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,



July 28-31 • 6-8:30 nightly

Middle Cross Missionary **Baptist Church**

59 Wayside Rd, Stuart, VA

in Virginia webpage (www.doe.virginia.gov/ cell-phone-free-education).

cation, visit the Cell Phone-Free Education

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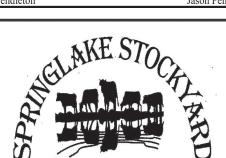
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Thursday, Aug. 8

The Patrick County School Board meets at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Monday, Aug. 12

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors meets at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration building.

Wednesday, Aug. 21

The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

Events

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 Patrick County Democratic Committee will meet at 11 a.m. at the Patrick County Library to finalize plans for its August meet and greet.

The Christian Bowhunters of the Blue Ridge will host a youth archery event for ages 6-17 at Sycamore Baptist Church from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bows and arrows are provided, or bring your own. Walk-ups are welcome or pre-register by calling (276) 288-4110.

New Hope Community Church will hold a singing starting at 7 p.m. Singers will be Cindy McPherson and Friend. Refreshments will follow.

Sunday, July 28 - Friday, Aug. 9

Slate Mountain Evangelical Presbyterian Church will hold Fire On the Mountain, two weeks of preachers, with no service on Saturday, Aug. 3. The Freemans will perform special music nightly July 30 and July 31. For more information, call Pastor Jeff Dalton at (540) 250-6825.

Friday, Aug. 2

Woolwine Elementary School will hold a Back to School Bingo event in the gym. Food will be served from 6-7 p.m. including hot dogs, chips, dessert, and drinks, and bingo will start at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20 for 10 games

with three bingo cards each game, one coverall game, two door prize tickets, and one dauber.

The community food truck will be at the Woolwine Smith River Rescue Squad building from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 3

Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Golf Tournament Fundraiser. 4 person captains' choice, 9 a.m. at Gordon Trent Golf Course. The rain date is Aug. 10. The cost is \$60 per person or \$240 per team and includes 18 holes of golf. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. There is a \$25,000 hole in one prize. Mulligans are available for purchase on the day of event, Prizes awarded for closest to the pin on all Par 3s. Cash prizes for top 3 teams. For more information or to pre-register a team contact Brian at (276) 732-7036 or Andy at (276) 340-3972.

New Hope Church of the Brethren will hold a fundraiser meal for an orphanage in Haiti from 4:30-7 p.m. It will be a chicken plate with all the trimmings for \$8 per plate.

Wednesday, Aug. 14

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.

Friday, Aug. 16

The community food truck will be at the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 17

New Hope Church of the Brethren will have music by The Churchmen from 4-7 p.m. There will be food, games, and a prayer tent. People are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs.

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.

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

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free

resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot

scams or get guidance if you've been targeted.

Visit aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call our

dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud special-

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

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

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-

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

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.

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial

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

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.

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

Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.

Buying Logs

Homebuyers and Owners Beware

With today's tight real estate market, there is often pressure to act quickly when you find that perfect place. Scammers know this and are waiting to pounce. Here are three things to be aware of when shopping for a home.

Wire fraud can happen when a criminal impersonates a real estate or title company and asks you to send the closing costs to them. Before wiring any funds contact your real estate company and confirm the account information, routing instructions and total amount needed.

Criminals are also in the market to take advantage of those at risk of foreclosure. Beware of anyone promising to make your mortgage payment issues go away -- especially if they ask for an upfront fee.

Lastly, if you are looking to rent a home, make sure and visit in person before paying a deposit. Rental scams happen often with criminals creating legitimate looking websites offering great deals on homes that aren't really up for rent.

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Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging

◆◆◆ HOO BOY! © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



IALR seeks recruits for AmeriCorps program

(REACH) hours per week.

administers the REACH AmeriCorps program.

ucation—of \$3,447.50. Members need to be available from 9 a.m. hours may be required for a total of 900 hours.

This Public Health Ameri-Corps program is ideal for students seeking a gap year, those switchers and retirees.

Partnership since 2022.

the capacity for public health immediate family members. service by providing direct out-

bers have conducted 92 workshops across 21 locations, servprogram's two years, members

conjunction with ploys Community Health Workers and Community Paramedcare teams - to assist with an public health readiness. individual's physical and menterminants of health. Support- tinuation-grant/. ed by The Health Collaborative

The Regional Engagement to of the Dan River Region, the Community Health REACH Partnership includes AmeriCorps pro- the Institute for Advanced gram is recruiting 15 part-time Learning and Research (lead Community Health and fiscal agent), Virginia Coop-Educators to conduct communi- erative Extension, Piedmont Acty health workshops over nine cess to Community Health Sermonths. Hosted in targeted vices, Gateway Health, Sovah census tracts in the Dan River Health Danville, Compassion Region, the workshops focus on Healthcare, the Danville Life specific health topics and ad- Saving Crew, Caswell Coundress areas of high need and ty EMS, Danville-Pittsylvania chronic health issues. Members Community Services and Danwill serve approximately 25 ville Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The Partnership The Institute for Advanced efforts are funded by a \$6.3 mil-Learning and Research (IALR) lion grant from the Danville Regional Foundation.

AmeriCorps State and Nation-Members who participate in al, a federal-state partnership this service opportunity will re- with a central role for Goverceive a stipend of \$11,500 and a nor-appointed State Service Segal Education Award—which Commissions, develops and imcan be used to repay student plements state-specific national loans or for current or future ed- service programs. These grants allow organizations to recruit, train and supervise AmeriCorps to 2:30 p.m. Monday through members who are providing ser-Friday, and some additional vices to support education, disaster services, health, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity and service to veterans and military families.

AmeriCorps State and Nationentering the health field, career al annually engages more than 65,000 Americans in intensive IALR was awarded a \$218,678 service. AmeriCorps members in grant from AmeriCorps, the fed- the AmeriCorps State and Naeral agency for national service tional program receive a modest and volunteerism, to continue living allowance. At the successthis program for a third year. ful completion of each service The grant will fund the contin-term, members earn a Segal ued impact of the REACH Amer- AmeriCorps Education Award iCorps program, which has pro- to repay qualified student loans vided public health workshops and to pay current educational and educational opportunities expenses at eligible institutions in concert with the REACH of higher education and training programs. Members aged 55+ The REACH AmeriCorps pro- when they begin service may gift gram is dedicated to expanding their Segal Education Award to

Public Health AmeriCorps, reach and education services in a partnership between Amerithe City of Danville, Pittsylva- Corps and the Centers for Disnia County and Caswell County ease Control and Prevention, (North Carolina). Members offer supports the recruitment, trainindividualized support, address- ing and development of a new ing the region's most pressing generation of public health leadphysical and mental health ers. Supported by funding from challenges through a diversity, the American Rescue Plan Act, equity and inclusion (DEI) lens. Public Health AmeriCorps helps In the current year of the meet the public health needs of REACH AmeriCorps program local communities, while also (which will end Aug. 31), mem-creating pathways to public health-related careers.

Since the launch of Public ing 862 participants. In the Health AmeriCorps, more than AmeriCorps have contributed 12,502 service have added much-needed capacity to health departments, comthe munity-based organizations, REACH AmeriCorps program, schools, and more. They help The REACH Partnership de- advance more equitable health outcomes and support the CDC's highest priorities, including - referred to as coordinated chronic disease prevention and

To learn more, visit https:// tal health needs and to connect www.ialr.org/reach-amerclients to community resources, icorps-recruiting-15-memaddressing the myriad social debers-thanks-to-americorps-con-

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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 ing officer. Sheriff's Office reported the following:

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

*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-

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S N L L A S A R T

able, was charged July ty M.T. Rorrer was the with trespassing. Senior Deputy J.C. Fortner was the arresting

*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,

HEN

PESETA

51, of Stuart, *Benton Calvin Hall charged July 16 with fail III, 60, address unavail- to appear. Master Depu-

> 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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Avoid sparking wildfires during summertime lawn maintenance

the risk of setting off a natural disaster while tidying up the yard.

Lawn mowers and other yard equipment like weed eaters, chainsaws, grinders, welders and tractors can potentially trigger wildfires during the dry, hot summer months.

Lawn mowers can spark a fiery chain reaction in a number of ways, noted Scott DeNoon, a member of Virginia Farm Bureau's Safety Advisory Committee.

Dry grass that has built up in the mower deck and reached the muffler can catch fire, fall out and ignite the surrounding area.

"Additionally, the mower blades can hit rocks or other hidden debris in dry vegetation and generate

As summer heat amps up, so does sparks that ignite dry weeds, brush buretor has a leaky gasket, DeNoon mowing before 10 a.m. and leaves," DeNoon added.

> The Virginia Department of Forestry responded to 21 wildfires in a single week in June.

> Wildfires are especially dangerous to people who use forests and outdoor areas or live in nearby homes and communities. They also wreak havoc on the environment-harming wildlife and their habitats.

> Unlike most natural disasters, nine out of 10 wildfires are sparked by humans—meaning most are preventable. Common causes of lawn mower

fires include adding fuel or oil to a hot engine and failing to properly maintain a mower. A lawn mower can overheat and ignite if the car-

cautioned.

"Invest the time necessary to create a safe mowing experience," he

Before starting up the mower, De-Noon advises keeping the following safety tips in mind:

*Fill up the mower with gas, and check the oil level before use. Let the mower cool down before refueling.

*Routinely clean out grass from the mower blades with a hose. Never put your hands near the blade unless the spark plug has been disconnected and the unit has completely

*Mow in the early morning hours before temperatures rise and humidity levels drop. DOF recommends

*Avoid mowing during excessively dry, hot or windy days whenever possible.

*Maintain mowing equipment to prevent overheating, and inspect before each use.

*Ensure that the blades are sharp—dull blades are more likely to produce sparks.

*Check for fuel leaks.

*Remove rocks and debris from the mowing area.

Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. homeowner and farmowner policies provide coverage for fires caused by lawnmowers that damage covered property.

For more wildfire prevention tips, visit dof.virginia.gov.

Health Districts in Southwest Virginia conducting long COVID study

The Central Virginia Health Dis- that people might have two or more trict began a Long COVID surveillance project in October of 2023 that is now available to all residents of Southwest Virginia. Long COVID is when a person is still sick two or more months after getting COVID-19. Symptoms can include trouble breathing, a cough, feeling weak and tired, and problems with certain organs, such as the heart, brain, or lungs. A diagnosis of Long COVID is not required to participate. We want to learn about any long-term effects

months after a COVID-19 infection.

To participate in the study, you must meet the following criteria:

*Had COVID-19 at least once or been diagnosed with Long COVID

*Experienced symptoms lasting at least two months after a COVID in-

*Must be a resident of one of the following health districts: Roanoke City and Alleghany, Central Virginia, Cumberland Plateau, LENOW-ISCO, Mount Rogers, New River,

Pittsylvania-Danville, Southside, or West Piedmont.

If you qualify and would like to enroll, go to https://redcap.link/virginialongcovidstudy. A member from our team will make contact, review consent, and complete a phone interview. Individuals will then be asked to participate in follow up interviews in three and six months after the initial interview.

Findings from the study will be submitted for future publication and presentation to the scientific commu-

nity and made available at CVHD. org. The purpose of the study is to improve our understanding of how Long COVID affects the residents of rural Virginia, assess the quality of support participants have received, and identify Long COVID resource needs.

Additional questions about the project can be directed to Cali Anderson, cali.anderson@vdh.virginia.gov. For more information about Long COVID, visit https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/protect-yourself/

Initial weekly claims continue to rise, unemployment rate remains unchanged

unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending July 13, 2024, which is 13.9 percent higher than last week's 2,136 claims and 0.4 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,424).

Nearly 83 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Retail Trade (351); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (270); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (247); Health Care and Social Assistance (217); and Manufacturing (125).

Continued weeks claims (16,886) were 2.5 percent higher than last week (16,471) and were 23.3 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,696). 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 of employment, after revision, increased by 400 to (2,521); Administrative and Support and Waste 4,245,900. In June, private sector employment in-Management (2.260): Health Care and Social Ascreased by 11.600 to 3.505.400 while government sistance (1,695); Accommodation and Food Services (1,445); and Retail Trade (1,388).

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.

Virginia Works also noted that in June, Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate job gain occurred in Ed-

Data from Virginia Works indicates that 2,433 remained unchanged at 2.7 percent, which is 0.1 percentage points above the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in June, the labor force decreased by 4,155 to 4,574,821 as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 2,369 to 122,395. The number of employed residents decreased by 1,786 to 4,452,426. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 1.4 percentage points below the national rate, which increased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.1 percent.

> The Commonwealth's labor force participation rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 66.2 percent in June. The labor force participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian population age 16 and older that is employed or actively looking for work.

> In June, Virginia's nonagricultural employment, from the monthly establishment survey increased by 15,000 to 4,260,900. May's preliminary estimate employment increased by 3,400 to 755,500. Within that sector, federal government jobs decreased by 400 to 192,300, state government employment increased by 1,500 to 164,300, and local government increased by 2,300 to 398,900 over the month.

> Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for eleven industry sectors. In June, seven experienced over-the-month job gains, two remained unchanged, and two experienced a decline. The largest job gain occurred in Professional and Business Services (+6,500) to 821,900. The second largest job gain occurred in Government (+3,400) to 755,500. The third largest

ucation and Health Services (+2,900) to 610,000. The other gains were in Construction (+1,300) to 224,900; Information (+1,100) to 71,700; Miscellaneous Services (+100) to 204,700; and Trade,

Transportation, and Utilities (+100) to 678,500. The largest job loss occurred in Financial Activities (-300) to 221,600. The second largest job loss occurred in Manufacturing (-100) to 250,000.

Leisure and Hospitality as well as Mining and Logging remained unchanged.



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Veteran, first responder survivor bill passes

In a breakthrough decision, the sacrifices made by our military Virginia Senate and House of Delegates have passed a bill to fully repeal recent cost-cutting measures, ensuring the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) receives full funding, Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears said in This important legislation will pro-

vide tuition-free college education to the spouses and children of military members and first responders who were killed or disabled as a result of their service. For weeks, military families and

advocates for veterans have called for the immediate reversal of cost-cutting measures that threatened the integrity of VMSDEP. Today, their voices have been heard and answered with decisive action from the General Assembly. The Lieutenant Governor, a steadfast supporter of veterans, first responders, and military families, has been a vocal advocate for the bill's passage, urging both the

Senate and the House of Delegates to prioritize this essential program. "As a veteran, I understand the

families. Ensuring tuition-free education for the spouses and children of those who have given their all for our country is the least we can do," Sears said. "This program is a small token of our immense gratitude and a promise to better the lives of those who have suffered the ultimate loss." The VMSDEP will play a piv-

otal role in upholding Virginia's commitment to its military and first responder families, providing them with the opportunity to pursue higher education and improve their lives. By securing this funding, Virginia demonstrates its unwavering dedication to honoring the sacrifices of its first responders and servicemen and women.

The passage of the VMSDEP funding bill is a significant victory for military and first responder families across the Commonwealth. It ensures that Virginia remains true to its promise to support and uplift those who have borne the brunt of loss and hardship in ser-

vice to our country.



Martha Redbone Roots Project to perform at Blue Ridge Music Center



Martha Redbone Roots Project

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 klezmer and jazz musicians, Wein-

Martha Redbone Roots Project will 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 Natalya Zoe Weinstein and multi-instrumentalist and vocalist John Cloyd Miller.

Descending from a lineage of



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

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. Advance tickets are available at BlueRidge-MusicCenter.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 in advance of the show.

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

This year's culinary contests include a live grilled

cheese judging on Sept. 29. Sponsored by the Virgin-

ia 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

Another Dairy Days culinary category is char-

cuterie 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

and any additional ingredients they want to add.

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

ber, but it's not too early to start tapping into your

tition categories, and we know our competitors enjoy

the creative outlet that these contests afford them,'

said Sarah Jane Thomsen, the fair's manager of agri-

culture education. "We also are happy to offer ribbons

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 poul-

try shows this year; and duct tape creations are one

of many categories in the youth creative arts compe-

or prize money, but all of them get bragging rights!"

Most entries are due in the beginning of Septem-

We're excited about the diversity of all the compe-

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, State-

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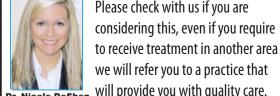


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(276) 632-9266 • MartinsvilleSmiles.com 407 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112 on her board. Three new food competitions this year are the Virginia Potatoes Recipe Contest, sponsored by Dublin Farms' Virginia's Finest Potatoes; the Virginia Home Grown Vegetable Casserole Contest, sponsored by the Bowling Green Community Farmers Market; and the Sabra Hummus Recipe Contest, sponsored by Sa-

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 vards 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 savoryusing 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.

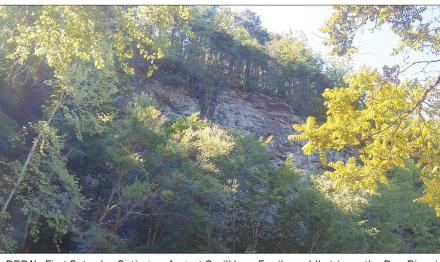
DRBA Paddles the Dan River State Water Trail in North Carolina

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 veeshaped 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



DRBA's First Saturday Outing on August 3 will be a 5-mile paddle trip on the Dan River in Stokes County, N.C. (Photo by DRBA)

is Davis Bluff, a dramatic rock face on river left where huge boulders lie in the water at the base of the cliff. Legend says that a member of the Davis family fell to his death from the road on top. To this day, the cliff is known as Mount Horrible.

The Dan River in this section is rated mostly as Class 1, but the remains of a former Duke Power dam, dynamited in 1975, create a sometimes challenging Class 2 rapid. Fortunately, it is located within sight of the takeout ramp at Hemlock Golf Course.

Meet by 9 a.m. at the Pitzer Road

150 feet high." The most spectacular Access. Arrange to supply a boat, paddles, life jackets, water and lunch; wear water-shedding artificial fabric or wool (not cotton, and certainly not blue jeans); and provide a backup change of clothing. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver. DRBA's First Saturday Outings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact trip coordinator, Will Truslow through email at willtruslow@hotmail.com.

Rentals will be available in AD-VANCE through the Dan River Company. Please call (336) 593-BOAT. The pick-up location may vary from

the starting point.

Directions to Pitzer Road Fishing Access, Walnut Cove:

From Greensboro or Winston-Salem: Go through Walnut Cove on US 311 and continue north on NC 89 towards Danbury. In about 5 miles, turn right/straight onto Dodgetown Road (where NC 8 enters from the

Go about 3-4 miles, cross the Dan River, taking a left on Pitzer Rd. Access is on left in about ½ mile.

From the Martinsville area: Go south on US 220 into NC and take the NC 770 exit and go right (west). Follow 770 to the NC 704 intersection and turn left onto 704. Then take the first right, onto Delta Church Rd. Follow this road for several miles and the road changes name to Sheppard's Mill Rd. Turn left onto Pitzer Rd where Priddy's Country Store is on the right. Go 2 miles to find the access on the

Please visit www.danriver.org by 5:00 pm, Friday, August 2, to determine if weather or other issues prevent the outing from being held.

Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge. For more information, please visit www.danri-

Speyside Bourbon to create 40 new jobs in Pittsylvania County

County's Brosville Industrial Park, the company's fourth facility in Virginia.

The new stave mill will create 40 new is very excited to once again announce

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced jobs and source 40 percent of its timber Wednesday that Speyside Bourbon Cooneeds from Virginia forest landowners. perage, Inc. will invest \$16.85 million to The operation will supply the compabuild a new stave mill in Pittsylvania ny's bourbon barrel cooperage in Smyth

"Speyside Bourbon Cooperage, Inc.

that we are building yet another site in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Virginia has been home to three of our sites for multiple years now and beyond that, an excellent partner for us and our business," said Speyside Bourbon Cooperage, Inc. President and General Manager Darren Whitmer. "Having a fourth facility in Virginia and continuing to expand our operations in the Commonwealth means so much to us. We have grown in Virginia beyond our dreams and the partnership that we have with both State and Local Government has been nothing short of remarkable. Virginia has allowed us to grow and meet our goals, we never thought we would have four sites in the state but once we started working here it became clear that Virginia is the perfect partner for

Speyside Bourbon Cooperage, Inc. is a division of Speyside Cooperage Ltd., founded in Scotland in 1947. In 2008, Speyside Cooperage was sold to the Tonnellerie François Frères (TFF) Group, a publicly held company founded in 1910 and headquartered in France. The company operates stave mills and bourbon cooperages in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia. Virginia locations include stave mills in Bath and Washington Counties and a bourbon barrel cooperage in Smyth County.

"We're proud to make Virginia the best home for business, and Speyside Bourbon Cooperage is an excellent example of how government can partner with companies to drive economic growth and success for the Commonwealth," said Youngkin. "The fact that Speyside Bourbon Cooperage is choosing Virginia for the fourth time shows that we have the business environment, economic opportunity, talented workforce and natural resources that are key to commercial success and serve as a testament to our top state for business ranking."



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