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

Fire department mulls first responder service after new law allows them to bill for EMS services

By Taylor Boyd
A bill inspired by a local firefighter could allow volunteer fire departments to bill for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) they provide. Recently signed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin, HB 852 was proposed by Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, and inspired by a conversation Williams had with Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Clint Weidhaas.

said he didn't talk to Williams about the issue. In the meantime, Williams drafted and got the bill passed, which Weidhaas found out about two months ago.

While the bill has potential, Weidhaas said he's unsure if fire departments will be able to access this so far untapped revenue stream any time soon.

First, the Patrick County Board of Supervisors has to approve an ordinance allowing local volunteer fire departments to bill for EMS services.

"I don't think that has been discussed yet with them. I don't think it's been brought up in a meeting yet. I don't think" EMS Director Scottie Cassell's "brought it up yet. I told Wren last time I saw him I was worried about that."

Noting that at least three of the five supervisors must approve the ordinance, Weidhaas said Williams told him he would work on it.

"I'm not sure if Wren's put any more work into that at our local level. He kind of said that he was, but I haven't talked to him in like two months now," Weidhaas said.

Doug Perry, interim chairman, and of the Smith River District, said he would support a proposed ordinance providing it calls for soft billing.



Earlier this month, personnel with the Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department trained with Henry County Department of Public Safety on Forcible Entry/Search with live victims. Before that, crews honed their Swift Water Rescue skills with the Ridgeway District Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. The volunteer fire department is considering adding a first responder program to help alleviate the lack of EMS services. (Contributed)

During a conversation with Williams about a year ago, Weidhaas said the difficulty to obtain funds as a fire department was discussed.

Williams said, "well, what about when you run these calls? And I was like, 'well, we can bill on fire calls, sometimes, and it's a hit or miss whether insurance companies are going to pay us or not. It's a big hit or miss,'" Weidhaas said, adding that Williams asked about the EMS called some departments run as first responders.

Weidhaas explained the department could not bill for those services because "rescue squad bills for it because they're the primary transport agency."

Weidhaas noted Williams then said fire departments should be able to bill at least for the services provided. After the conversation a year ago, Weidhaas

"I'm strongly against hard billing," Perry said.

Jane Fulk, interim of the Dan River District, said she also has no issue with volunteer fire departments soft billing.

"In hard billing, you're allowed to put a judgment against the people, and a lot of people in Patrick County are elderly. I would say the majority have home insurance, and I don't have a problem with a fire department billing their home insurance and taking what the insurance will pay. I'm a little leery about hard billing," she said.

Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, said it seems to him that if volunteer squads could soft bill, (See Fire Dept. p. 3)

School division's policy in line with Youngkin's order

By Taylor Boyd
Since the cell phone use policy in Patrick County schools currently aligns with Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order 33, Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the policy is not likely to change.

An order passed by Youngkin earlier in July directs the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to draft guidance for public school divisions to adopt local policies and procedures establishing cell phone-free education through collaborative policies and procedures to establish age-appropriate restriction or elimination of cell phone use during instructional time, and other criteria.

"We have allowable times at the high school level, and for our 4th through 7th grade students, they may have them at school, but they are to be turned off and only out after school, like on a bus ride to communicate with families," Wood said, adding that he hopes parents continue to support and enforce the division's cell phone policy, because cell phones can become a distraction at school.

"We want to put the most important priority - the safety and education of students first, so that's why we already had that policy in

(See Youngkin's Order p.11)

Discussions about DSS agency are ongoing, with members appointed to advisory board

By Taylor Boyd
While progress is being made, Steve Marshall said his resolve to fix the issues with the Patrick County Department of Social Services (DSS) hasn't changed.

Two weeks ago, Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, provided The Enterprise with copies of the correspondence between Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Judge Kimberly Belongia and county officials in which several concerns were raised, including the possibility that the state would take over the local department.

Since then, the county has

worked to address the issues, and Marshall said a new DSS director has been hired and scheduled to start work Thursday, August 1. He said he did not recall the new director's name.

Marshall took office in January, after winning his election bid to the board of supervisors.

At that time, an administrative board oversaw the local social services agency. Its members included Clyde Deloach, Roger Hayden, Chris Caviness and others, as well as Judy Beidrycki, who then served as chairman, and most re-

(See DSS Agency p.3)

Sales Tax Holiday in Virginia is August 2-4

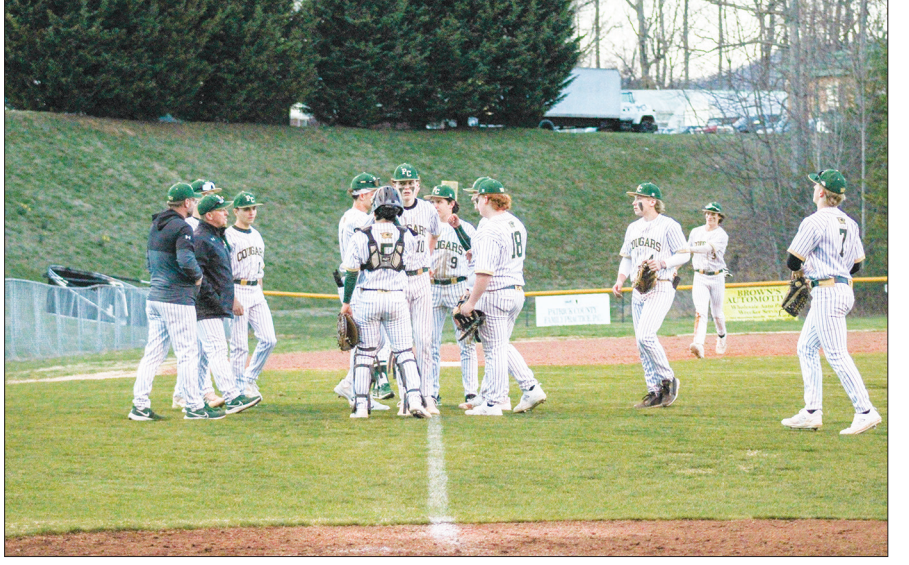
The 3-day sales tax holiday starts the first Friday in August at 12:01 a.m. and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear, hurricane and emergency preparedness items, and Energy Star™ and WaterSense™ products without paying sales tax.

- Eligible items include:
- School supplies, clothing, and footwear
 - Qualified school supplies - \$20 or less per item
 - Qualified clothing and footwear - \$100 or less per item
 - Hurricane and emergency preparedness products

- Portable generators - \$1,000 or less per item
- Gas-powered chainsaws - \$350 or less per item
- Chainsaw accessories - \$60 or less per item
- Other specified hurricane preparedness items - \$60 or less per item
- Energy Star™ and WaterSense™ products
- Qualifying Energy Star™ or WaterSense™ products purchased for noncommercial home or personal use - \$2,500 or less per item
- Detailed lists of qualifying items and more information for retailers can be found in the Sales Tax Holiday Guidelines at <https://townhall.virginia.gov/>.

Accolades continue for Cougar Baseball team, players

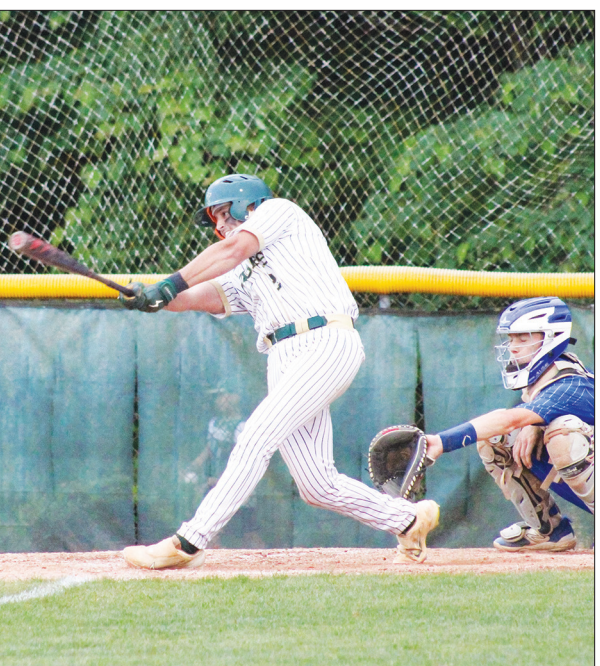


The Cougar Baseball team was awarded for their academic achievements.

By Pat Delaney
The Patrick High School Cougars Baseball Team received the American Baseball Coaches Association's (ABCA) Team Academic Excellence Award.

According to the ABCA, the award "honors high school and college programs coached by ABCA members that post a cumulative Grade Point Average over 3.0 on a 4.0 scale."

The 2023-24 Cougar Baseball team had a cumulative GPA of 3.545, including three seniors who graduated with GPAs over 4.0. "That's getting it done both on and off the field," Head Coach Tal Swails said of the Team Academic Excellence Award and finishing the regular season with a 19-1 record. Also receiving na-



Cougar Tucker Swails was named 3rd Team All-American.

tional honors is Tucker Swails, named to the 2024 ABCA/Rawlings High School All-American 3rd Team.

"This award wraps up a truly unbelievable high school baseball career," said coach Tal Swails.

For Tucker Swails, who will play baseball for Virginia Tech next season, the All-American honor adds to a senior season that also saw him named region and district player of the year, and first-team all-state.

Reynolds Homestead Continues Women Impact Virginia Regional Tradition



Photos by Kristin Hylton for Reynolds Homestead

Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead hosted its annual regional Women Impact Virginia event on Wednesday, July 10. Nearly three dozen women from across the region attended and participated in networking, open conversation, and a panel discussion around the theme "Rooted in Rural."

The discussion was facilitated by Olivia Bailey, community liaison officer at the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia, and featured three panel speakers: Kiana Dillard, work-based learning coordinator at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research; Santana Lawson, learning and development manager at Primland Resort; and Tamika Tali, full spectrum doula in the Southwest Virginia area. Participants explored a wide range of topics around leading and serving in rural communities. The morning closed with time for networking and tours of the historic home at the Reynolds Homestead.

After the discussion, participants were the first to learn about keynote speakers for October's annual Women Impact Virginia Summit, hosted this year at Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg. The summit will feature a diverse array of speakers sharing their personal stories of triumphs and challenges, offering invaluable advice and resources to foster confidence, and discussing how to build influence both at work and in the community. Kim B Miller, poet, author, speaker and facilitator, will open the summit with actionable advice to find true purpose and turn challenges into opportunities, using her words to connect people to their strengths. Following a full day of breakout sessions and panel discussions, Chef T will close the day with a conversation about her journey to becoming a decorated and respected Chef within the food service industry. Inspired by her deep connection to her roots and her desire to bridge the gap between

the family and farm, Chef T has embarked on a mission to create a dining experience that celebrates the African diaspora's rich flavors while incorporating Appalachian seasonal ingredients and her professional flair.

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce provided financial support to bring Women Impact Virginia: Rooted in Rural to the community at no cost to participants or employers. Rebecca Adcock, executive director of Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, is a former panelist, and when asked to reflect on the "Rooted in Rural" theme stated, "Rooted in Rural doesn't imply that we are stagnant, it means that we know where we come from and use the resources that we have available to continue to reach toward the sun."

More information about the regional event, and details for the summit in October can be found on the Reynolds Homestead website.

Free FAFSA assistance available now for college

GRASP, (Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.) is here to make college application processes just a bit more manageable for everyone. GRASP is an organization dedicated to providing equal opportunity for all students interested in pursuing secondary education, including community colleges, 4-year universities, and workforce credentials. Since 1983, GRASP has been supporting and inspiring students for their goals of secondary education by ensuring that financial aid is more accessible than ever.

Many students aspire to continue their educa-

tion in college, but are simply held back by barriers, financial or otherwise. GRASP's financial aid advisors work to remove these barriers.

As many know, this year's FAFSA process caused a lot of problems for students trying to apply for financial aid. For this reason, many students skipped the FAFSA process entirely. GRASP's public service announcement: It's not too late to complete the FAFSA for school this fall!

"The cost of a college education is often a barrier for students attaining a postsecondary degree, but another barrier is the lack of knowledge of how to navigate the financial aid system. GRASP advisors can help," said Todd Martin,

GRASP CEO. "For recent high school graduates – there is still time to apply and enroll for classes starting in August at a community college or even select four-year colleges that are still accepting applications."

GRASP's financial aid advising services are available throughout the academic year. Email at advising@grasp4va.org or call 804-923-0059 if you need assistance. You can also schedule a virtual appointment at <https://calendly.com/d/ckcq-p2d-n26/grasp-advisor-meeting?month=2024-07>.

The list of colleges still accepting students for the fall 2024 term can be found at nacacnet.org/college-openings-update/.

Pets of the Week



This Border Collie mix is a favorite at the shelter. He is well-mannered and a sweet boy. Chickens are his vice, and he needs a home without them. Come by and meet him.

These two and another dog like them were surrendered by their owners. They all are so confused about why they are in the shelter, and they all need a home.

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.

Health tracking website to be launched

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will soon launch the Virginia Environmental Health Tracking Program website with information about asthma, air quality, COPD, and climate.

The website will allow users to:

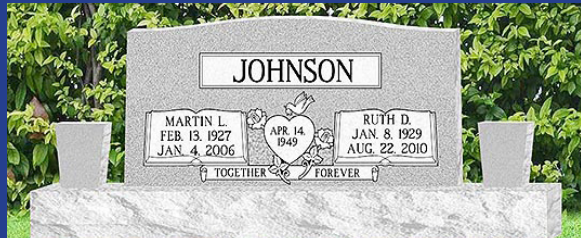
- have the tools to find out about environmental health issues relevant to you and your family;
- have the knowledge to make positive improvements in the community where you live; and
- have health data and environmental data all in one place.


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Fire Dept.

(cont. from page 1)

it would help “the county taxes out, that would help the squads out. It certainly wouldn’t hurt the residents because if they’re better funded you get better service. They want to do a lot, but if the funding’s not there they can’t. So yeah, I think it would be a good idea,” he said.

Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, said he didn’t see a problem with it.

“Sounds like a good idea to me. I wouldn’t have a problem supporting it for my part of the county. Most of that billing, most of the time the insurance or Medicare or whatever, will take care of it anyway, it’s not like somebody’s having a hardship and having to pay it out of their pocket,” Kendrick said.

Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, said he believes it’s a great option, especially for smaller localities and stations that might have trouble funding their operations.

“It all might serve as sort of a preventative for people that burn trash that let it get out, and things like that. They’ll become more responsible for these fires that can get out and cause a problem in our community,” he said.

Wood said he likes the fact it would be soft billing so it would be the insurance companies that

would be paying it and not the residents. Additionally, “it wouldn’t be any different than other EMS and other medical facilities billing for what they do.”

Another potential issue are concerns raised by Cassell about the fire department’s ability to bill for service given that Medicaid and Medicare only pay for transported services.

“If that’s the case, then the state can pass the bill that fire departments can bill, but the insurance companies don’t have to pay it. That’s how I interpreted that from Scottie. So, it burst my bubble a little bit,” Weidhaas said, adding that neither he nor Williams are aware of any fire departments that bill for EMS services yet in Virginia.

“Of course, they couldn’t until now, but it’s almost like we’re going to have to go out of state and try to contact a department somewhere” to learn how to do this, Weidhaas said.

Weidhaas said the Patrick Springs VFD has also been talking about potentially starting a first responder program to help the community which struggles with a lack of EMS services.

“Patrick Springs Fire Department is aligning ourselves to provide that service,” Weidhaas said. “It takes a good bit of time to get certified

and licensed to run as a first responder agency, and then you have to buy the equipment and the equipment costs money.”

Upfront costs include \$8,000 to \$10,000 for equipment, with the biggest part of the cost being the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) which are required to be on trucks that run Basic Life Support (BLS) first responder.

“We started the process through the county to get certified to run as first responders, but there’s six of us at Patrick Springs Fire Departments that are certified EMTs, and you have to have a certain number of on the department to even get licensed,” he said.

While he believes Patrick Springs has already met this number, Weidhaas said he is unsure.

“We’ve been looking into that, and we have 15 personnel at Patrick Springs that have openly committed and expressed, ‘hey, I want to get the first responder certification,’ which is like a 40-hour class,” he said, adding the next problem is getting the training.

Weidhaas said he’s reached out to Cassell, who said he is able to train the interested volunteer fire departments but will need to create a schedule.

DSS Agency

(cont. from page 1)

cently, has served as the interim director of the agency, Marshall said.

He added there are two types of local boards appointed to provide oversight of local DSS agencies: Administrative – which is the most common, and Advisory. Administrative boards have a number of tasks, but Marshall said an advisory board, in contrast, may designate a local government official to serve as the board. The DSS director then reports to that person.

A document titled, “Blue Ridge District Supervisor’s Report - Board of Social Services,” dated Feb. 12, noted the change from an administrative to an advisory board “has been considered in the past by the Patrick County BOS (Board of Supervisors), who reportedly rejected the idea owing to the belief that it would require the County Administrator to take an active role in the administration of DSS.

“This impression may have been an error caused by the melding of DSS and CSA (Child Services Act) in Patrick County,” the document stated. “While I can find no reference in Virginia law to account for county administration being involved in DSS, there is a history of involvement by administrators in a support role on CSA boards across the state. ... This would not be an effect of changing to an advisory status as the CSA status is unrelated and would remain unchanged.”

On April 8, the board of supervisors considered a resolution to appoint County Administrator Beth Simms as the local Board of Social Services, and after the administrative board was dissolved, appoint an advisory board.

“It’s one member from each district, and at-large, and my position which is now ex-officio - no vote. By doing that I actually removed any vote from myself. I just basically sit there to report back to the board (of supervisors) if it need be,” Marshall said.

The only two seats currently available on the board are for the Peters Creek District and the Blue Ridge District.

Recently, the Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to appoint two people to the DSS Advisory Board - Alice Barnard will represent the Dan River District and Derina Scott will represent the Smith River District.

Joe Lanham was also appointed to the Advisory Board to represent the Mayo River District, but that vote was 4 to 1 vote, with Marshall casting the dissenting vote.

Later, Marshall said the only reason he voted against Clayton Kendrick’s appointment wasn’t because of the individual, but rather because of the way the process was handled.

“The individual he (Kendrick) ultimately found is quite capable as far as he’s an empathetic guy. He’s a good guy. The reason I voted no, I should have abstained, I made a technical error there,” said Marshall, who had a person from Kendrick’s district volunteer to serve on the advisory board in March.

Kendrick “blatantly refused to speak with her, even give her the courtesy of a phone call,” Marshall said, adding that he didn’t know Kendrick’s reasoning for that.

Regardless, according to Marshall, Kendrick “accused me of running the old (administrative DSS) board off. He said he had several friends on the old board, and they’re very upset about it. I guess it not being an administration board or being in charge type of thing.

“I still don’t understand what his motivation was, I have no idea,” Marshall said of Kendrick, who eventually emailed the person Marshall recommended to fill the Mayo River District seat. “I’m completely 100 percent befuddled by his reasoning on that.”

Marshall said he had a person - Jane Cardwell - in mind to fill the Blue Ridge District seat, but she was chosen to fill the at-large seat instead.

“I had given my proxy to Doug Perry to find somebody from STEP because he sits on the board for STEP. He’s our representative from the Board of Supervisors. I asked him at this

last meeting, and he said he hadn’t been able to do that, or find time or whatever, or just find anyone with interest,” Marshall said. “I’m not sure what the issue was, but he said go ahead and find someone, so I’m actually talking to a few people now.”

Marshall said he thought getting someone from STEP on the DSS Advisory Board was a good idea because he wants organizations and people who actually deal and work with children appointed.

“STEP certainly understands all that. So, I want folks who are more empathetic to the situations that DSS deals with on a daily basis,” he said, adding he’s still trying to find someone who fits that bill.

During the July 11 interview held in The Enterprise office, Marshall said he would support any solution to keep the county’s children safe, even the state coming in and taking over DSS.

“If the board of supervisors does not decide to take an urgent posture to rectify the situation, then yes, whatever solution is needed to keep the kids safe,” he said.

While she believes the county is working on any issues with DSS, Jane Fulk, of the Dan River District, said she has heard many concerns.

“I’d been working with some people and they’re not happy with it (department). There’s a lot of non-returning of calls, I don’t know if it’s because there’s nobody specifically in charge or what’s going on, but there have been some problems and there are still some problems. I don’t know how that will be resolved, but there are still some problems,” she said.

Fulk said she knows of people who have called DSS and left messages that have never been returned.

“That can happen anyplace, but DSS needs to just step up and do better. I know they’re short-handed, I understand that,” Fulk said, adding that she also doesn’t believe the state will take over the local DSS.

“I think we just need to have a plan and see if we can’t work something out. I’m sure that they are watching us, but I think if we could get a plan in place, it would work out,” she said.

Fulk said she would have preferred Marshall to talk more with the other supervisors before acting on DSS issues, “but that’s up to him.”

Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, said anytime families and social services are involved, it’s important.

“I think we do need to step back and look at it because we don’t want any children, any families getting hurt from anything that we could control. I do think we need a few outside sources to help us step back and look at what really needs to be done,” he said.

As far as the situation being as bad as Marshall described it, Wood said he’s not sure and would do more research into the subject before he “can say one way or another.”

Wood said he’s also not aware of the state preparing to take over the local DSS.

“I think” the department is “something we really need to focus on and also, we still need some more volunteers for the DSS Committee, one from each district. I know Peters Creek needs one, and we also need one more for Blue Ridge, and those will be the people that will help make these decisions going down the road,” he said.

Wood encouraged anyone interested to go to the county’s website to fill out and submit an application.

Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, said he wouldn’t put much faith in the idea of the state coming in.

“We haven’t got any information saying so, and I don’t know where Steve (Marshall) gets his resources,” he said, adding that he also doesn’t believe the situation with DSS is as bad as Marshall made it out to be. Kendrick said he believes things will change, and “I think they’ll get it all turned around.”

Doug Perry, chairman, and of the Smith River District, said DSS has been an issue in the county for a very long time.

“Those root causes that got us where we are, have been addressed and are being cleaned up. So, whatever it was, whatever it is, changes have been made and change is coming. It’s not something that’s going to happen overnight, unfortunately,” he said.

Perry said he “100 percent understands” Marshall’s concerns, especially when children and elderly are involved.

“That’s change that we needed to happen yesterday. But again, those root causes have been addressed and have been changed,” Perry said, adding changes have been occurring over the last 4 to 6 months.

To his knowledge, Perry said the state is not looking to come in and take over the local agency.

“I think as long as we’re showing growth and we’re showing those positive changes, we’re showing the plans in place to fix things, I think the state will watch,” Perry said. “Unless we’re just completely failing, I don’t think the state will come in.”

Marshall said he still supports the idea of the DSS Advisory Board.

“Nothing’s happened to change my mind about that,” said Marshall, a former foster child himself, and his resolve to identify and resolve issues in the local agency will remain.

“I don’t see anything out there that could change it,” he said.

In other matters at a board meeting on July 22, the board of supervisors:

*Chose a vendor to replace the HVAC system at the library in Stuart.

Perry said the county sent out five requests for quotes and received three back.

“We greatly appreciate in no order here Hydro Air, McKinney Heating & Air Conditioning, and Viperman Heating and Air. We greatly appreciate them answering us, they’re all extremely reputable and do wonderful work, so we can’t go wrong,” he said.

The lowest bid was about \$67,000, the second lowest bid was \$75,964, and the highest bid was \$77,000.

Fulk made the motion to go with the lowest bid, and have the HVAC system installed as soon as possible.

Wood questioned whether the board wanted to keep its business in the county or outsource to other localities.

“The way I see it is, if your business is in Patrick County, you’re paying your taxes here, you’re doing a lot of business here, you’re benefiting our economy as a whole. If you’re not from our county, even if your bid is a few dollars higher, that’s something I think we should consider,” he said.

Marshall said he looked over the three bids and believes the bid from McKinney was the most meticulous proposal.

“They certainly had the best warranty as far as what they explained on there, and they’re covering the thermostats as well. Hydro Air Systems really didn’t go into much detail,” Marshall said.

While he agrees that the board should support county businesses, Marshall said “the price difference was pretty extraordinary.”

Fulk said she would agree if the middle bid was closer to the lowest bid. As it is, the savings for the county would help to do some of the other” needed repairs.

The board approved using McKinney Heating & Air Conditioning, of Henry County, as the vendor in a 4-1 vote, with Wood dissenting.

*Approved restoring public comment period to the beginning of meetings.

*Approved a resolution that would allow the county to participate in the seeking settlement of opioid related claims against Kroger and its related corporate entities.

*Appointed Rodney Boyd, of the Dan River District, to the Economic Development Authority (EDA).

*Heard reports from the supervisors.



NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK AUGUST 4-10, 2024

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HEALTH CENTER
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National Health Center Week to be celebrated

Communities across the country will celebrate National Health Center Week 2024 August 4-10. Elected officials will join in recognizing the critical work of the nation's nearly 1,500 Community Health Centers to keep our communities healthy and safe. Lawmakers' visits and messages of support to health centers demonstrate that not only is it possible to move beyond the partisan divide over healthcare, but to support and agree on a program vital to our communities.

Health centers provide integrated preventive and primary care services to 31.5 million people and are the first to respond with wraparound care during disasters and health emergencies. Our patient-directed model of care is tailored to the unique needs of each community. Together, we are the backbone of the nation's primary care system. Health centers save the U.S. healthcare system money by reducing the rate of chronic diseases and costly hospital visits.

At Tri-Area Community Health we provide medical and behavioral health services, pharmacy services, medication assistance, sliding fee program, patient transportation, diabetes education, and other services. Health centers are not just healers, we are innovators who look beyond medical charts to not only prevent illness but also address the factors that may cause poor health, such as poverty, homelessness, substance use, access to nutritious food, and unemployment.

We are a critical part of the U.S. healthcare system and collaborate with hospitals; local and state governments; social, health, and business organizations to improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs. For nearly 60 years, health centers have been dedicated to making quality and affordable healthcare available to everyone in their communities, regardless of insurance status

or ability to pay.

The health center mission is crucial today because access to basic care remains a challenge to over 100 million people across the country. Many people live in remote areas and communities where there is a shortage of providers and, in many cases, the nearest medical provider or hospital can be as far as a 50-mile drive in another county.

Long-term, stable funding for health centers will ensure we can keep our doors open and narrow the growing access gap for medically vulnerable communities. We are grateful that Representative Morgan Griffith, Senator Tim Kaine, and Senator Mark Warner have shown leadership in supporting/sponsoring legislation that will protect health centers from losing a major part of our funding.

During National Health Center Week, Tri-Area Community Health will have an Open House on August 7 from 4:30 - 6:30 at our Ferrum location with hot dogs, ice cream, games and more. Thursday, August 8 will be Patient Appreciation Day at our clinics with freebies for patients. An open house and ribbon cutting will be held on Friday, August 9, at 11 a.m. at our newly opened Pharmacy in Fries.

Show your commitment during National Health Center Week by supporting a health center in your community. We will be here when you need us.

Tri-Area Community Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and a 501(c)3 organization with locations in Cana, Ferrum, Floyd, Fries, Grayson Highlands, Laurel Fork, Behavioral Health in Stuart, and School-Based Clinics in collaboration with Galax City Public Schools and the Carroll County Public School District. For more information call 866-942-0401 or visit www.triareahealth.org. Tri-Area Community Health can be found on Facebook at [@triareahealth](https://www.facebook.com/triareahealth).

Farmers and rural residents reminded to get a checkup from the neck up

In lieu of some daunting statistics about mental health issues among farmers and rural communities, farm groups are reminding farmers of the many resources available to them.

"The human body is amazing," said Jeremy Daubert, a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent in the Shenandoah Valley. "We are designed to handle stress, and we all cope differently. But it's the stress over time that's really detrimental, especially to farmers, because they can't take a week off here or a month off there. It's day in and day out."

Daubert discussed farmer mental health resources on the Virginia Young Farmers Podcast with Agri-Safe health communications officer Laura Siegel and Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers.

According to the National Rural Health Association, farmers are 3.5 times more likely to die by suicide than the general population. And rural populations have a significantly higher suicide rate than urban areas.

During the podcast, Daubert urged those who interact with farmers and rural residents to look for changes in behavior that can be signs of crisis or suicidal intention. The North Carolina Agromedicine Institute said to watch for:

- *A decline in care of crops, animals and farm
- *Withdrawing from social events, family and friends
- *Change in mood or routine
- *Increase in farm accidents
- *Increased drug or alcohol use

*Giving away prized possessions, calling or saying goodbye

*Making statements such as "I have nothing to live for," or "My family would be better off without me."

In moments of crisis, AgriSafe Network's AgriStress Helpline® is a confidential resource available to the farming community 24/7, which can be reached at 833-897-2474.

"What's really important about this line, the people who answer the phone are not only trained as crisis-response specialists, but they also have knowledge of agricultural stressors going on in people's lives," Siegel said. "They won't say, 'just take a break,' because they know you can't. They can empathize with the plight of people in agriculture."

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall discussed AFBF's Farm State of Mind rural mental health resources, and he shared how opening up to others helped him deal with the loss of his wife.

"I thought I could handle anything," he said. "But if you bottle things up inside of you long enough it becomes very detrimental to your health and to your ability to do your job."

In January, AFBF established a relationship with the Farm Family Wellness Alliance to launch access to a peer-to-peer support community Togetherall, free to all American farm families 24/7. Additional counseling services also can be made available at no cost. Learn more at togetherall.com/en-us/join/farmfoundation.

To Czar or Not to Czar?

The House of Representatives voted recently on a resolution condemning the failings of the Biden-Harris Administration to secure the United States southern border.

President Biden appointed Kamala Harris to oversee migration on our southern border. She was given much authority and was colloquially referred to as being the "border czar" (see CNN coverage at the time).

As everyone knows, border crossings dramatically increased during the Biden-Harris era. The encounters at our southern border hit a record-high in December of 2023, with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) tallying over 300,000 encounters.

Pew Research Center found that U.S. Border Patrol reported roughly 16,000 encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border in April of 2020.

"Encounters" is a word whose definition combines the total of apprehensions and expulsions.

Under the Trump Administration, the U.S. imposed a series of policies to stem the tide of encounters at our southern border.

Among those was the Migrant Protection Protocols, known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy, requiring migrants to wait in Mexico while their asylum cases were processed.

Another was Title 42, restrictions allowing federal authorities to stop migrant crossings if it was in the best interests of public health to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

As a result, many migrants did not enter. The Trump policies helped!

Despite the success of these border policies, the Biden-Harris Administration either did not use these policies or allowed them to expire.

On Biden's first day in office, he froze border wall funding.

I visited the border shortly thereafter and saw border crossings with gates wide open because the Biden-Harris Administration refused to pay to have the mechanized gate closing apparatus that was sitting next to the gate installed. Taxpayers had paid for the finished gate. They also had paid for miles of uninstalled wall.

Biden-Harris left the supplies lying unused to rust.

Subsequently, when migration exploded, Biden assigned Harris the leadership position to address migration at our southern border.

But for whatever reason, Harris didn't visit the border for months. And as best as I can determine, that one visit was her only visit.

She didn't speak with the current chief of U.S. Border Patrol, Jason Owens, nor his predecessor, Raul Ortiz.

Rodney Scott led the agency during the Trump Administration. However, the Biden-Harris Administration removed Scott!

How did Harris fare in her communications with other countries?

Well, the results speak for themselves.

CBP reported that in April of 2024, the southern border had almost 180,000 encounters!

That means in four years, the number of migrant encounters at the southern border increased



Morgan Griffith

Representative

more than ten-fold!

Where are they coming from? China, Haiti, Venezuela, and Uzbekistan are just some of the countries.

In June, eight suspected terrorists from Tajikistan were arrested in the United States by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It is alleged they have ties to ISIS!

All had crossed the southern border.

Virginia is no stranger to the repercussions of an open border.

Earlier this year, two Jordanian nationals attempted to breach the Marine Corps base in Quantico. It is reported that one of them got into the U.S. by crossing the border just six weeks prior!

An open border contributes to national security risks.

But in this election year, the Biden-Harris Administration has tried to play catchup.

They announced in June new executive actions restricting asylum claims and expediting removal of unauthorized migrants.

Biden-Harris always had the power to implement restrictions.

But for some, it is a little too late.

Laken Riley, a University of Georgia student, and Jocelyn Nungaray, a twelve-year-old Texan, are two young girls who were murdered this year by illegal immigrants. These are just two well-publicized cases among the vast number of crimes committed by illegal immigrants who crossed the border during the Biden-Harris era.

An open border serves the interests of criminals and gangs, not law-abiding Americans.

Lack of action by so-called "czar" Harris is inexcusable, unacceptable and dangerous.

House Republicans have tried to stop the Biden-Harris open borders agenda.

That included passing H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, to restart construction of the border wall and equip border personnel with needed technologies and funding.

The House also passed the Laken Riley Act, which requires federal officials to apprehend and detain undocumented immigrants who commit serious crimes such as burglary, shoplifting or larceny, until they are removed from our country.

The Democrat-controlled Senate has not taken up these bills.

An open border must not stand, and I will continue to fight to build the wall and close the border.

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

Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy

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

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

Patrick Pioneers

David and Mariah Stockton Craig and their descendants

By Beverly Belcher Woody

For the next couple of weeks, we will look at David and Mariah Stockton Craig and their descendants; particularly their three sons who served in the 42nd Virginia Infantry, Company G, Thomas Richard Craig; William S. Craig; and Peter David Craig.

David Craig was born on the second of November 1790 to Thomas Craig, Jr. and Lucy Byrd. David married Miss Mariah Stockton on the 13th of October 1818 in Franklin County, Virginia. David and Mariah's marriage is recorded on page 65 of the Franklin County Marriage Bond Index of 1786-1858. Mariah, born in 1792, was the daughter of Richard Stockton and Elizabeth Copeland of Franklin County.

David and Mariah are found in the census records of Henry County in the 1850's, along with their six children, Elizabeth "Betsy"; Sophia; Thomas Richard; William; Peter David; and Charles Copeland. The oldest child, Harriett, had already left home and was married to Washington Eggleston of the Leatherwood community of Henry County.

Tragedy struck on the 26th of February 1854 when David Craig was crossing the Smith River and fell from his horse and drowned. It was thought that he hit his head on a rock, which caused him to lose consciousness. It is interesting to note that the newspaper, the Floyd Intelligencer, reported David Craig as an old man, but he was only 63 years old. Sixty-three years of age does not seem that old to me anymore.

More tragedy soon followed with the death of David and Mariah's daughter; 30-year-old Sophia succumbed to an epileptic seizure on the 20th of May 1859. Her death was recorded in Henry County in the Virginia, U.S., Deaths and Burials Index, for 1853-1917.

The first son of David and Mariah Craig to marry was 19-year-old William S. Craig who married Miss Elizabeth Wood, who was 21 years old at the time. Elizabeth was the daughter of Edward

"Ned" Wood and his first wife, Mary "Polly" Moran of Patrick County. William and Elizabeth's first child, Edward "Ned" Craig was born in 1857, followed by David Alexander in 1858, Mary Jane "Mollie" in 1863, and William "Willie" Craig in 1863. We will explain next week why Willie's birth was especially bittersweet.

Peter David was the next Craig son to marry, and he too married a Wood. Peter married Miss Sarah "Sallie" Wood, the daughter of Edward "Ned" Wood and his second wife, Nancy Adeline Nolen/Nowlin on the 30th of December 1858. Edward's first wife, Mary "Polly" Moran had died shortly after the birth of her fifth child, she was only 26 years old. So.... William Craig and Peter Craig married half-sisters.

Peter and Sallie settled near the home of Sallie's parents in the Lone Ivy community of Patrick County. John Copeland Craig was born to Peter and Sallie in 1860; followed by Nancy Ellen in 1863; Martha Eveline in 1865; Sallie Elizabeth in 1867; Susan Ann Mariah in 1869; William German "Billy" in 1871; Mary Lou in 1872; Lula Alberta in 1879; Thomas E. in 1879; and Oma M. in 1888. Sallie Wood Craig was 44 years old when her youngest child, Oma was born.

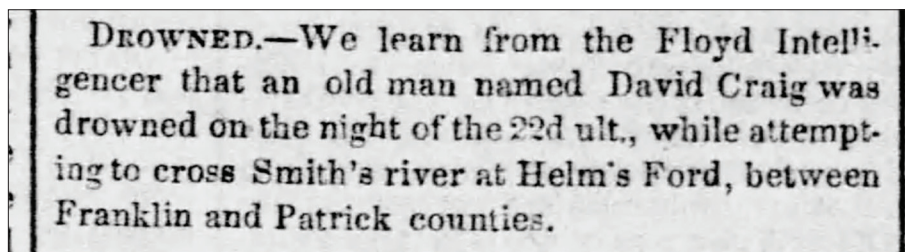
Thomas Richard Craig married Miss Sarah Philpott of the Horsepasture area of Henry County on December 1st, 1859. Thomas and Sarah's first child, Julia Virginia was born in 1866; followed by William in 1867; Charles Columbus in 1868; and Thomas Jefferson Craig in 1870. Sarah Philpott Craig died shortly after the birth of baby Thomas; she was only 36 years old.

38-year-old Thomas Richard Craig married the following year to 18-year-old Lucy Jane Shumate of the Oak Level area of Henry County. Thomas and Lucy's first child, Sallie Bet was born in 1873; followed by Ellen Clifford in 1876; Samuel in 1877; and John in 1880. Lucy Shumate Craig lived only three more years, passing away in 1883, at the age of 30.

Thomas, now widowed twice, with



Thomas Craig Family (Photo from Bassett Historical Center)



Richmond Dispatch, 1854, 03-09, Page 1

eight children to raise, married Miss Nancy Susan Stone of the Horsepasture community. Thomas was 50 years old, and Nancy was 25. Thomas and Nancy's son, Edward Peter Craig was born in 1885; followed by Jesse Ben in 1887; James Marshall in 1889; Lucy Anne in 1891; George Cornett "Net" in 1894; and Walter Hurt Craig in 1897. Thomas Craig was 64 years old when his youngest child, Walter, was born.

At the Bassett Historical Center in Bassett, there is a wonderful photograph of Thomas Richard Craig, his third wife, Nancy Susan, their living children, and the surviving children from his first two marriages. Left to Right (Back) Lucy Ann Craig Jarrett, Jesse Ben Craig, Pete Craig, Jim Craig, Sallie Bet Craig Via, Sam Craig, Ellen Clifford Craig, and John Craig. Left to Right (Front) Tom Craig, Julia Craig Adkins, Thomas

Craig (father) Walter Craig, Nancy Susan Stone Craig (mother) Cornett (Net) Craig, and Charlie Craig.

Of David and Mariah Stockton Craig's remaining two children, Elizabeth "Betsy" never married, and Charles Copeland married Miss Araminta Atkins (sometimes listed as Adkins) of Horsepasture. Copeland and Araminta had four children, Samuel David, born in 1882; John Montague in 1884; William Posey in 1886; and Lucy Alice in 1888.

Next week, we will focus on Thomas, Peter, and William's time in the War Between the States and concentrate on William and Peter's wives (both daughters of Ned Wood) and who were raised in Patrick County.

Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – I was Self-Employed and Don't Have Enough Credits for Social Security

Dear Rusty: For a thirty-year period, I was making a living as an independent contractor and freelancer. I was working on behalf of myself. Thus, I was only paying state and federal taxes when applied. Due to changes in the employment landscape, I wish to apply for benefits at age sixty-four, as receiving said SS benefits would serve as supplemental income to what I would be receiving from outside sources.

I recently discovered through the SSA that I do not have enough "points" to apply for Social Security benefits. What would be the method to obtain those required points in order to receive benefits? Signed: Needing Points

Dear Needing: Social Security is an earned benefit, and eligibility is attained by contributing to SS through FICA payroll taxes, or Self-Employment (SECA) tax on your net earnings from self-employment, over your lifetime. You must have at least 40 "quarters of credit" to be eligible for Social Security benefits – essentially you must work one quarter of each year earning at least a specified amount during that quarter to earn one credit, and you can earn a maximum of 4 credits for each year you work. The amount of earnings per credit varies each year, but for 2024, work earnings

of \$1,730 give you one credit (annual work earnings of \$6,920 earn 4 credits). Usually, you must contribute to Social Security for about 10 years to be eligible for benefits. You must have earned at least 40 quarter credits to collect Social Security retirement benefits/ If you have less than 40 you are not eligible for SS retirement benefits.

For self-employed individuals, SECA SS tax is paid when you file your federal income tax return - you pay into Social Security when filing your annual Self-Employment income tax return (the self-employed must pay both the employee and the employer portion of Social Security tax). If you did not file an income tax return for each year over your lifetime you were self-employed, you didn't earn any SS credits for that year. You pay SECA tax on your NET earnings from self-employment (after all business expenses are deducted).

If you are just a few credits short of the 40 necessary to be eligible for benefits, you can still earn those extra credits needed by working and paying SS FICA or SECA taxes on your work earnings. For each \$1,730 earned this year, you will earn one SS credit, up to a maximum of 4 per year. But you must contribute to Social Security from those earnings – if you work as a company employee you will have FICA taxes withheld from your earnings, and if you are still self-employed you would need to pay SECA taxes on net earnings over \$6,920 when you file your self-employment in-

come tax return. You would need to do that for as long as it takes for you to attain the minimum 40 quarter credits needed to be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. (FYI: you cannot "buy" the extra points needed; you need to earn them by working and contributing to Social Security from your earnings).

One final point: whenever SS benefits are claimed before one's full retirement age (FRA) Social Security's "earnings test" applies. The earnings test limits how much you can earn from working before some of your SS benefits are taken away. The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA and, if you turned 64 this year, your FRA is 67. Self-employed individuals are also subject to an hourly limit of 15 to 45 working hours per month in their first year of early retirement.

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

Is Bottled Water Better than Tap Water? Part 1

In almost every home in America, fresh drinking water can be obtained straight from the tap, almost for free. Yet Americans drink over \$15 billion dollars' worth of bottled water every year. That's more than the total annual revenue from movie ticket sales in America.

When I was young, we got water from the tap and from water fountains. But today, bottled water is everywhere, and some people won't drink water if it's not from a plastic bottle. Why is this? Is bottled water that much better for you? While bottled water may seem like a convenient and healthier option, a closer examination reveals that our obsession with bottled water may be less healthy for you and has a cost beyond the price tag most Americans are not aware of.

Is Bottled Water Healthier?

Marketing by bottled water companies would have us believe that bottled water is purer and therefore better for you than tap water. But one of the most compelling arguments in favor of tap water is the rigorous regulatory standards it must adhere to. Municipal tap water is subject to stringent testing and regulation by government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the United States. These regulations ensure that tap water meets specific safety standards and undergoes regular monitoring for contaminants.

On the other hand, the quality of bottled water is not always guaranteed. Despite perceptions of purity, bottled water is not necessarily safer than tap water. In fact, studies have shown that some bottled

water brands contain contaminants that exceed allowable limits.

For example, in 2006 Fiji Water (Fiji water comes from an artesian aquifer on the island of Fiji) ran an ad campaign that said, "The label says Fiji because it's not bottled in Cleveland," basically taking a jab at American city tap water. The city of Cleveland took it personally and ran tests on Fiji water (and many other brands) vs their own tap water. The third-party analysis found 6.31 micrograms of arsenic in Fiji water whereas Cleveland tap water had none.

In early 2024, a French newspaper ran an explosive story that reported that drink giant Nestle, the owners of Perrier and Vittel, illegally filtered water for years from contaminated sources. Natural mineral water, as Perrier and Vittel advertised, is supposed to be pure from its source and should not require purification. That's why people have trusted those brands for decades. The discovery that the "natural" sources are now contaminated is a cause for concern.

If you're saying "well those are isolated incidents" consider this. Recent advances in technology now allow us to see with detailed clarity nano particles. These are extremely tiny particles. A recent study found that a typical plastic bottle of water contains over 240,000 nano particles of plastic—almost a hundred times more than what was found in previous studies that could only examine larger particles. Scientists aren't sure what the long-term effects of ingesting these particles are but I'm willing to bet that it can't be good for you.

Some people for health reasons refuse to drink tap water because it contains chlorine (to kill bacteria) and fluoride (for dental health). However, chlorine is easily removed by even the most basic water filter (Brita for example) or by letting the water stand overnight since chlorine evaporates quickly. Most basic water filters (like the one in your fridge) can't remove fluoride but many filters that will remove fluoride are easily found on Amazon for less than \$100.

Environmental Impact

The environmental cost of bottled water cannot be overstated. From the production of plastic bottles to transportation and disposal, every step of the bottled water supply chain exacts a toll on the environment. The manufacture of plastic bottles requires vast amounts of fossil fuels and contributes to pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Americans alone throw away 38 billion water bottles a year—\$1 billion worth of plastic.

And the state-of-the-art Fiji water plant runs around the clock, requiring a lot of electricity. More than the local utility infrastructure can handle. So, the plant uses 3 large diesel generators running non-stop spewing exhaust into the local air. Like their marketing says, Fiji water may come from one of the "last pristine places on earth" but the water plant is far from pristine.

(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)

Martinsville Speedway to host new race this fall

Martinsville Speedway and the Whelen Mazda MX-5 Cup presented by Michelin announced that the spec series will hold an exhibition race as part of the 2024 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season finale event on Saturday, Oct. 26.

The event will be a 300-lap doubleheader called the 'Virginia is for Racing Lovers 300' with the Mazda MX-5 Cup taking to the track for 100 laps, directly followed by the 200-lap finale of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour championship. The race will award \$15,000 to the Mazda MX-5 Cup race winner.

The event was announced last week at the speedway.

"We couldn't be more excited to add another incredible event to that history," said Martinsville Speedway President Clay Campbell, who campaigned to bring the cars to Martinsville. "It's been about a year, a year and a half process to get this announced."

The exhibition event will not count toward the 2024 Whelen Mazda MX-5 Cup Championship, which concludes Oct. 11 at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta. It will consist of two practice sessions, single-car qualifying, and a 100-lap race split into two stages. Yellow flags will not count for the first 50-lap stage, but will be in effect for the second half. Prize mon-



Clay Campbell, president of Martinsville Speedway, sits in front of the backdrop for the newly announced Virginia is for Racing Lovers 300.

ey will also be awarded to the top three drivers at the stage break.

"It's a great compliment to Mazda MX-5 Cup that NASCAR and IMSA leadership enjoy the series and want to expand its footprint," said Jonathan Applegate, Senior Manager, Mazda Motorsports. "We've seen increased interest in the series from drivers with NASCAR aspirations who want to grow their skill set. Racing at Martinsville is a unique opportunity to capitalize on that and we are really excited about this opportunity."

The concept of racing Mazda MX-5 Cup at Martinsville started amongst

NASCAR and IMSA leadership, who recognized the entertainment value of the series' incredibly close racing. Martinsville, the short track, was deemed a perfect fit for the small convertibles and a test featuring several drivers was conducted in August of last year.

"Martinsville Speedway has such a unique and rich history of racing, and we couldn't be more excited to add another incredible event to that history," said Campbell. "It'll be the first time we have open top cars racing on track since our early days in the 50s, tapping into our past and also our roots as we host the NASCAR Whel-

en Modified Tour finale on the same weekend. We're excited to bring the Mazda MX-5 Cup to Martinsville, and I know this will be one the fans enjoy."

The Virginia is for Racing Lovers 300 will be the first ever race on an oval circuit for MX-5 Cup, though it has held events at rival tracks familiar to NASCAR fans, including Daytona International Speedway, Homestead-Miami Speedway and Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Entries are open for all racers and are not limited to MX-5 Cup or IMSA drivers and teams.

In addition to a \$15,000 check from Mazda for the winner, Martinsville will award one of their famous grandfather clocks as well. Runner-up receives \$5,000, third place receives \$4,000 and payouts continue through 10th place.

To prepare for this unique race, MX-5 Cup will hold a test at Martinsville on Monday, Aug. 26. The date is exceptionally convenient for MX-5 Cup teams who will have just concluded a doubleheader at VIRginia International Raceway, an hour's drive away.

For more details on the Virginia is for Racing Lovers 300 and to purchase tickets to the race weekend, please visit www.martinsvillespeedway.com.

Funds available to help landowners retain forestlands

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is making \$190 million available to help private forest landowners adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and retain working forestlands.

This new investment was made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act - part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda and the largest climate investment in history.

"Climate change threatens people, communities, infrastructure, and natural resources across the country," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. "Healthy, resilient forests can better withstand climate change impacts, and contribute to

climate solutions by storing additional carbon. Thanks to President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, we are partnering with states and non-profits to reduce financial barriers for landowners interested in adopting climate-smart forestry practices and making their lands more resilient to climate change. These strategic investments represent our commitment to an all-lands, all-hands approach to investing in rural communities and mitigating the climate crisis."

Of the total, \$140 million is available to support state-endorsed cost-share programs for landowners. Cost-share payments lower the financial barriers for landowners to adapt to climate change by making

forests more resilient to changing climate conditions, and to store more carbon on the landscape. For example, a landowner may decide to work with states and non-profits to strategically thin their private forestland, removing small-diameter trees that compete for scarce resources, allowing large trees to grow larger and sequester more carbon.

Additionally, \$50 million is available to programs that issue payments directly to landowners to adopt practices that increase carbon sequestration and storage of their forests. Forest management impacts the amount of carbon stored and sequestered, and this funding opportunity incentivizes

carbon stewardship. Among other things, payments to landowners also provide financial incentive to maintain their land as forests rather than convert it to other uses. Eligible applicants include state forestry agencies or their equivalents and nonprofit organizations.

Privately owned forests and private forest landowners are key to tackling the climate crisis. Private landowners manage more than 60% of forests in the United States; in Maine, they manage more than 90% of all forests. These vast swaths of privately managed forests are key to the carbon cycle and are an important climate solution, absorbing vast quantities of carbon and storing it for decades.

Hill honored with award



Mountain Home Lodge 263 presented the Community Builders Award to Brenda Hill by Worshipful Master of the lodge, Roger Hall. The award is given to outstanding non-masons who have distinguished themselves through their service to the community, to the local, state or national government, to their house of worship or to humanity. These recipients work very hard in our community and are very deserving of this honor. (Photo by Gray Harper and inserts from J. W. Young)



Hunter Hubbard and Grandmaster Scott Rutter.

Hubbard earns Black Belt

Hunter Hubbard was promoted to the rank of First Shodan Black Belt on June 15, having completed the required studies. Hunter attends Rutter's Martial Arts in Bassett. His parents are Billy and Candice Hubbard. Hunter (aka The Weatherman) attends Patrick County High School and is a rising Junior.

Occupational Health/Clinical Specialist named at TCRH

Cindy Sluss, BSN, is Twin County Regional Healthcare's (TCRH's) occupational health and clinical specialist. Sluss transitioned into this new position after serving for 26 years with surgical services at Twin County Regional Healthcare, with the last six years as surgical services coordinator.

"We are so pleased to have Cindy transition into this role to support quality, safety, infection prevention, and patient experience activities," said Sudandra Ratnasamy, CEO of TCRH. "Cindy will be primarily focused on enhancing the patient's experience at TCRH. The patient's experience is very important to us. We want to ensure that everyone who walks through our doors has a great experience with our staff and services and feels proud of our local community hospital. We are here to serve the community. Additionally, Cindy will coordinate employer and community events to provide occupational health information and services to patients and families to address their medical needs."

Sluss was born and raised in the Twin County area and carries a deep-rooted commitment to the community she has always called home.

"I am thrilled to transition into my new role as the occupational health nurse and patient experience champion," said Sluss. "I am excited for the opportunity to make a positive impact and continue to improve patient care and work with our community partners and employers to promote our mission of making communities healthier."

Sluss obtained her nursing degree from Wytheville Community College and holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Our Lady of the Lakes University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Parkway Foundation to host webinar about job opportunities

The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation will present a free 40-minute webinar on the topic Unlock Your NPS Career: Insider Tips with USAJOBS at 12 p.m., Tues., Aug. 6.

Participants will learn how to unlock career opportunities with the Blue Ridge Parkway and National Park Service. Join Shannon Buckmaster, Blue Ridge Parkway Administrative Specialist, and Dr. Joy James, Recreation Man-

agement Professor at Appalachian State University, as they share insider tips on landing a job through USAJOBS.gov, a free web-based job board enabling federal job seekers to access to employment opportunities across hundreds of federal agencies and organizations. It is the Federal Government's official source for job listings, job applications, and employment opportunity information.

The presentation will highlight the wide range of National Park Service positions and guide participants through the application process. The webinar is an offering of the Foundation's Blue Ridge Rising initiative to strengthen cross-jurisdictional relationships, foster economic development within the region's gateway communities, and establish a unified regional voice.

To register, visit BRPFoundation.org/events.

Crossing the Lines

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



Martinsville Mile runner sets new area record

Ben Nagel, a Virginia Tech student, beat the local Martinsville Mile record on July 20 with a time of 03:53.17, which is 10 seconds off of the Guinness World Record of 03:43.13.

Those who follow the sport know that breaking the 4:00 barrier for the mile is challenging and a goal to which top runners aspire. To run 3:53 is something the vast majority of top runners can only dream about," said Joe Philpott, an organizer and promoter of the seventh annual race that was held on a downhill section of the Dick & Willie Trail.

Runners were split into two groups based on previously submitted run time.

Nagel, who said he enjoyed the race and was happy to take home the first-place prize, added the event provided a good place for him to get in some more practice.

"I saw this race, and I was looking to do some more road miles and downhill road miles," said Nagel, who had never visited the area before.

Concerns about Collinsville neighborhood detailed at meeting

The Henry County Board of Supervisors heard concerns from some Halifax Drive residents who reported several issues at an apartment complex. Among those to address the board at its Tuesday, July 23 meeting was Donald Gilbert, who lives on Halifax Drive, and reported the problems in the apartment complex and conditions that renters live in have been ongoing for more than 25 years.

The issue was initially broached with the county in 2008, Gilbert said.

"It's been 16 years and very little improvements have been done. We had to get the state and the county to come in to get the driveway fixed it. I mean it was ditches four feet deep and the rescue squad got stuck in it," he said.

"There's children living in these apartments, and the conditions these apartments are in, us as citizens of the road have concerns for the children and their welfare of living there in these deplorable con-

ditions," he said. "These things are deplorable, they're not even fit for an animal to live in. They're so run down and so out of place."

Connor Kinkema, former outstanding Roanoke college swimmer and professional Triathlete, finished second in 4:21 and Roanoke resident and former Averett University standout, Bryan Swann finished third in 4:25, Philpott said.

Both, also breaking the course record set in 2023, placed second overall with a time of 04:21.11, and Bryan Swann placed third with a time of 04:25.96, Philpott said, and added "the second and third place finishers broke the old course record."

In the female overall category, Delores Ford took first place with a time of 00:05:17.02, Elizabeth Kinkema came in second with a time of 05:32.76, and Alice Kassens 05:37.17.

The contest attracted 73 runners, with 23 participants running the mile in just under seven minutes. The youngest runner was aged six, while the oldest was John Dyches, 81.



ditions," he said. "These things are deplorable, they're not even fit for an animal to live in. They're so run down and so out of place."

Lack of affordable housing is culprit of homeless crisis

State and local officials agree that a lack of affordable housing options and the inflation rate are contributing to the homelessness crisis, and Dels. Eric Phillips and Wren Williams said that inflation is a concern most often cited by constituents.

They noted the cost of goods and services has been on the rise since the COVID-19 pandemic, with inflation rates spiking sharply in 2022. Simultaneously, the housing crisis picked up, and clean energy initiatives caused electric bills to soar, said Phillips, R-Martinsville.

A lack of affordable housing contributes to the problem.

"We don't have enough housing. That's the problem. People talk about affordable housing, but we don't have any type of housing," said Phillips, adding that the cost of building a new home has greatly increased,



contributing to the lack of supply.

Additionally, "inflation is creating such high interest rates on actual borrowed money used to purchase a house that people aren't moving," Williams, R-Stuart, said, adding

that he doesn't believe the housing market will fix itself.

That creates an even bigger problem, because "if you don't have any houses, then you can't continue to develop economically," he said.

Parker elected chairman of Virginia Commission for the Arts Board

The Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) announced the election of Barbara Bailey Parker of Collinsville as the new chairman of the Commission Board for the 2024-2025 term. The election took place during VCA's June meeting at the General Assembly Building at the Capitol.

Parker brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for all arts disciplines to the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Parker served for 19 years as the Director of Programs for VCA-grantee Piedmont Arts, an accredited museum and arts center in Martinsville, VA. Her commitment to arts advocacy is further demonstrated through her previous roles as a board member of the Virginia Presenters Network, the North Carolina Presenters Consortium, and as one of the founders of TheatreWorks Community Players in Martinsville. In addition to her extensive professional and volun-



teer work in the arts community, Parker founded the For Alison Foundation in 2016. This nonprofit organization, created in memory of her daughter, journalist Alison Parker, is dedicated to providing arts opportunities for youth in southern Virginia.

Improvements to US-220 headline 2024 Smart Scale projects

The Henry County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on Tuesday to submit three projects to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for funding through the Smart Scale program.

A priority for the Board this year is the reconstruction of the intersection of U.S. 220 South and Route 87 using a "Continuous Green T" (CGT) design to more efficiently and safely move traffic through the intersection.

The primary benefit to a CGT design is that one side of a major street can pass through the

intersection without stopping, while the opposite side is typically controlled by a traffic signal. If implemented in Henry County, traffic on the southbound lane of U.S. 220 would be able to move continuously except for those turning left onto Route 87. Traffic turning left from Route 87 would use a channelized receiving lane to merge onto U.S. 220 South.

This project coincides with other area initiatives to promote safety improvements along U.S. 220 South from the U.S. 58 bypass to the North Carolina border.

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<p>1-3-5-7-9PM</p>	<p>1-3-5-7-9PM</p>	<p>1-3-5-7-9PM</p>	<p>12:45-3-5:10-7:15-9:20</p>	<p>1-3-5-7-9PM</p>
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Michael Scales, P&HCC's HEO instructor, guides a student through a simulator exercise.

Heavy Equipment Operator Program to expand into Patrick County

Patrick & Henry Community College has been awarded a \$176,267.00 grant from the Philip E. & Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation to increase Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) training programming by offering HEO courses in Patrick County.

"We are pleased to partner with Patrick & Henry Community College to provide resources for the Heavy Equipment Operator Training program in Patrick County that will equip individuals with technical skills to meet the labor demands for the statewide road expansion and improvement projects," said Carlene Cassidy, CEO of the Ratcliffe Foundation.

"Patrick & Henry CC has demonstrated a strong commitment to workforce training. We are confident that they will build on their current programs to set the next generation of learners up for success in their chosen fields and support the workforce needs of multiple employers throughout the region. Making education and skilled trades training accessible and supporting local business & industry are goals our founders wholeheartedly supported," Cassidy added.

P&HCC currently offers Heavy Equipment Operator training at its Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology (MET) Complex in Martinsville. With funding from the Ratcliffe Foundation, the college will expand its current programming to its satellite site in Patrick County to lessen the burden of transportation for students and to train future workers to serve on the large scale project currently underway on U.S. 58.

"Having access to a pipeline of workers prepared to work as equipment operators will be an asset on numerous projects throughout the state," said Robbie Williams, Branch project executive, adding, "In particular, this training project will greatly assist with the current project underway to widen the road on Route 58 in Patrick County, Virginia as well as upcoming projects in the area."

The Virginia Employment Commission shows that there are currently 10,015 individuals employed as construction equipment oper-

ators across the state. By 2030, this number is expected to grow to 10,894, a growth of nearly 10%. Because of job transfers and individuals retiring or switching professions, there are currently 1,180 openings posted for construction equipment operators annually. According to JobsEq data, operating engineers and other construction equipment operators earn an average of \$49,100 per year, with more experienced workers earning more than \$55,200 per year.

"With funding from the Ratcliffe Foundation, we will have the funds to purchase simulators that play a critical role in training students before they transition to practice on real life machinery. There are multiple benefits to training on simulators: learning on simulators reduces accidents by allowing students to train in a safe and relaxed environment, students can practice extreme situations and operations without risking injury or machine damage, producing and running a simulator leaves a minimal climate footprint compared to a traditional machine running on fossil fuels, and simulators allow students to gain more hours in the machine or vehicle regardless of season and weather," said P&HCC Vice President for Workforce, Economic and Community Development Rhonda Hodges.

Interested students must first complete the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) Introductory Craft Skills program, which is a prerequisite course. NCCER Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Level 1 training covers a variety of critical skills for those working in the field including orientation to the trade, heavy equipment safety, identification of heavy equipment, basic operational techniques, utility tractors, introduction to earthmoving, grades, and vertical-mast sit-down counterbalance forklifts.

While uniquely aligned with the current road-widening project, the training prepares participants for a variety of positions within the construction trades industry that is in high-demand in P&HCC's service region.

Catherine "Cathy" June Howell Wagoner

Mrs. Catherine "Cathy" June Howell Wagoner, age 79 passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, July 26, 2024. She was born in Patrick County to the late James Thomas Howell and Nellie Mae Handy Howell Swaney. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by four brothers, LeRoy, Chester, Cleo, and Lonnie Howell; and four sisters, Crystal Ogle, Erlene Farthing, Dorothy Horton, and Mary Far-

guer. Cathy was a joy to be around and loved spending time with friends and family. She enjoyed camping, fishing, flowers, gardening, canning, and working puzzles. She loved her family deeply, especially being a Nana to her beloved granddaughter.

Cathy is survived by her devoted husband of 55 years, Raymond D. Wagoner; one daughter and son-in-law, Michelle "Shelly" Wagoner Shough and Marty; granddaugh-

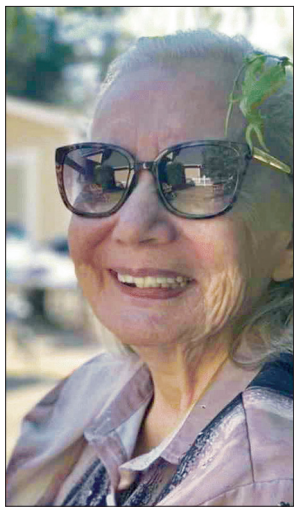
ter, Kaitlyn Dawn Shough; several nieces and nephews; and grand dog, Jax.

All services for Cathy will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 3907, Martinsville, Virginia 24115-3907. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Alice Joan Baum

Dr. Alice Joan Baum passed away peacefully in her sleep the morning of July, 27th 2024. She suffered from Alzheimer's and Dementia.

She is survived by one sister Dorothy Ann Currie. She is also survived by eight children, Jeff Baum, Lisa Hutson, Brent Baum, Dana Ruhl, Shawna Bader, Tricia Jansz, Jessica Delga-



do, and Joel Baum, 15 Grandchildren, 2 Patrick County Residents, Katelynn and Gabriel Delgado.

She was a member of "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints". She was loved by so many and will be severely missed.

In lieu of flowers the family asks you to make donations to Alzheimer's research.

2024 Local Heroes Series Features Statewide First Responders

Before the first dispatch to the scene. Before the fire trucks and the ambulances and the CPR. Before the rush through the ER doors. Before an officer delivers the news no family wants to hear. There are decisions to be made. Make the right ones.

Buckle up. Slow down. Drive sober.

That's the message Virginia first responders deliver in a powerful new ad campaign from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). DMV picks up its perennial Local Heroes series with a play-by-play of a crash scene, acted out by real Virginia firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and nurses.

"The vast majority of crashes – and the horrific injuries and tragic deaths they cause – are fully preventable with safe driving," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "Our first responders are passionate about getting this message out to Virginians because they know, if heeded, it will save lives. Please buckle up, slow down and drive sober, whether you're driving five miles or 500."

In 2023, 335 people who weren't wearing their seat belt were killed

in crashes in Virginia. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says proper seat belt use reduces the chance of suffering a fatal injury in a crash by nearly half. In Virginia, one-in-four people don't wear their seat belt, according to NHTSA's 2023 seat belt use survey. The same year, 449 people died in crashes involving speed and 293 died in alcohol-related crashes across Virginia.

This year's Local Heroes campaign features first responders from Goochland County Fire/EMS, Goochland County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Botetourt County Sheriff's Office, Virginia Beach General Hospital and Virginia Beach EMS. The multimedia initiative, which includes local and cable TV and radio spots, as well as social and digital media placements, demonstrates to the motoring public that first responders care about their communities and want them to get home safely.

The Local Heroes campaign, produced by Two Tango and Brian Camp Pictures, will run throughout Virginia through August 12. For more highway safety information, visit dmv.virginia.gov/safety. To view the Local Heroes video, visit DMV's YouTube page.

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Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Amber Rose Spainhour, 36, of Mt. Airy, NC, was charged July 18 with one count each disregard law enforcement command and grand larceny. Senior Deputy I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

*Jay Thomas Goins, 34, of Spencer, was charged July 19 with fail to appear. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*Courtney Michelle Thompson, 27, of Henry County Jail, was charged July 21 with probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*James Robert Mullins, 46, of Bassett, was charged July 23 with two counts probation

violation and one count fail to appear. Senior Deputy Mark Sowder was the arresting officer and made the arrest for Henry County.

*John William Fowler, 43, of Radford, was charged July 24 with probation violation. Radford PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Shannon Gray Pack, 32, of Claudville, was charged July 24 with interfere with property rights of another. Sgt. L.K. Carroll, Jr., was the arresting officer.

*Sammy Wayne Smith, 52, of Ararat, was charged July 25 with possess firearm by a convicted violent felon. Inv. T. Jessup was the arresting officer.

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PATRICK PULPITS

Wrestling a Man Called God Genesis 32:24-28

By Pastor Wayne Moore

"Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." (Genesis 32:24-28, NKJV)

Jacob was the son of Isaac and the grandson of Abraham. He was a strong man who could lift a stone well cover that required two or three men of average strength to lift. He was also strong-willed. He went after whatever he wanted and used whatever means to attain it.

In this passage, Jacob is returning to the land God promised to give Abraham's descendants. He left in a hurry twenty years earlier because his twin brother, Esau, wanted to kill him. Esau was angry because Jacob had deceived their father into giving him the blessing intended for Esau. God met Jacob as he was fleeing and promised to bring him back and give him the blessing passed down from Abraham. This was the night before Jacob crossed the river to reenter the promised land.

Instead of getting a good night's sleep, Jacob was assailed by a man who wrestled him until daybreak. Jacob later realized

that man was God in the flesh. Even though Jacob was stronger than the average man, God had to limit His strength to match Jacob's. Jacob demonstrated his strength by wrestling all night without a break. Even after God injured his hip, he hung on tenaciously. When God told him to let go, Jacob demanded a blessing first. God refused to bless him until he said his name. By saying his name, Jacob was confessing his character. His name meant "deceiver." Jacob submitted to God and confessed his name.

God's wrestling match with Jacob was part of the process of changing his character. Jacob's strength and strong will were advantageous to him when it came to men but not to God. To win with God, Jacob had to surrender to God. To be blessed by God, Jacob had to submit to God. Jacob was stronger than most men but he was not stronger than God. Once Jacob learned this lesson, God changed his name from Jacob to Israel. Jacob means "deceiver;" and Israel means "champion with God." The wrestling match and name change were symbolic of the real change that was taking place in Jacob's spirit.

Do you feel like you are in a wrestling match with God? Does life feel like a struggle? You may win some contests with men, but if you want to be blessed by God, you must submit to Him. You cannot get God's blessing by doing things your own way in your own strength. If you are ready for the real blessings to begin, surrender to God.

Regional healthcare system awarded for efforts to improve rural stroke care

People who live in rural communities live an average of three years fewer than urban counterparts and have a 40% higher likelihood of developing heart disease and face a 30% increased risk for stroke mortality — a gap that has grown over the past two decades. Twin County Regional Healthcare (TCRH) is committed to changing that.

For efforts to optimize stroke care and eliminate rural health care outcome disparities, Twin County Regional Healthcare has received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Rural Recognition Silver award.

The American Heart Association, the world's leading non-profit organization focused on heart and brain health for all, recognizes the importance of health care services provided to people living in rural areas by rural hospitals that play a vital role in initiation of timely evidence-based care. For that reason, all rural hospitals participating in Get With The Guidelines - Stroke are eligible to receive award recognition based on a unique methodology focused on early acute stroke performance metrics.

"We are proud that our team at Twin County Regional Healthcare is being recognized for the important work we do every day to improve the lives of people in Carroll, Grayson, the City of Galax and surrounding communities who are affected by stroke, giving them the best possible chance of recovery and survival," said Sudandra Ratnasamy, CEO of Twin County Regional Healthcare "As a hospital in a rural community, we deal with characteristics, such as extended interfacility transportation times, and limited staffing

resources. We've made it a goal to make sure those hurdles do not affect the standard of care our stroke patients receive.

"Rural communities deserve high quality stroke care. I'm proud of our team for their commitment to stroke care excellence and this achievement."

The award recognizes hospitals for their efforts toward acute stroke care excellence demonstrated by composite score compliance to guideline-directed care for intravenous thrombolytic therapy, timely hospital inter-facility transfer, dysphagia screening, symptom timeline and deficit assessment documentation, emergency medical services communication, brain imaging and stroke expert consultation.

"Patients and health care professionals in the counties of Carroll, Grayson and the City of Galax, Virginia and the City of Galax, Virginia, face unique health care challenges and opportunities," said Karen E. Joynt Maddox, M.D., MPH, volunteer expert for the American Heart Association, co-author on "Call to Action: Rural Health: A Presidential Advisory From the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association" and co-director of the Center for Health Economics and Policy at the Institute for Public Health at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. "Twin County Regional Healthcare has furthered this important work to improve care for all Americans, regardless of where they live."

Carla Gunter MSN, RN, SCRNP, NVRN-BC, ASC-BC serves as the Stroke Coordinator for Twin County Regional Healthcare. She also serves as Inservice Education and Nurse Residency Coordinator for TCRH.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Hebrews (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What did the Lord cast down among the Israelites who complained about their wilderness misfortunes? Fire, Hail, Stones, Winds
3. From Genesis 33, where did Jacob build a house and make booths for his cattle? Beersheba, Succoth, Jerusalem, Kidron
4. On the seventh day of the creation week, what did God do? Created man, Divided the

- oceans, Named the animals, Rested
 5. On which Mount did Moses receive the Ten Commandments? Sinai, Zion, Carmel, Pisgah
 6. Whose two sons were Hophni and Phinehas? Ichabod, Eli, Jehoiada, Mattan
- ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Fire, 3) Succoth, 4) Rested, 5) Sinai, 6) Eli
- Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online. © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

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- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| ACROSS | 53 Just one sip | 97 — -Cat | 9 On — with (much like) | 43 Very, in Paris | 79 Stare stupidly |
| 1 Fencing lunge | 54 Riddle, part 3 | 98 Raw metal | 10 Distribute | 49 Long-winded | 80 Unravels |
| 7 Large wine bottles | 58 Throw lightly | 99 Rip up | 11 At a future | 50 Limited | 81 Envoy's skill |
| 14 Derisive imitator | 59 Shoe tip | 100 It fixes off-key singing | 12 Trio before Q | 51 Gold, in Gijon | 67-Across |
| 20 Theater area | 60 Puzzle cube creator Rubik | 105 "I'd say," to texters | 13 Blood fluids | 52 Edinburgh inhabitant | 88 Woe |
| 21 U.S. soccer star Megan | 61 Cousins of counties | 107 Simple wind instruments | 14 Simba's father in "The Lion King" | 53 Patterned wool blankets | 89 One who may study bonds |
| 22 Chimney flue, e.g. | 63 Etchings, e.g. | 112 Riddle's answer | 15 Unfilled part of a schedule | 55 Long deli sandwich | 90 CIA spy Ames |
| 23 Start of a riddle | 64 Baseball hitter's stat | 115 Enkindle | 16 PC key near Shift | 56 "Barnaby Jones" star | 92 Accustomed |
| 26 Woes | 65 Shows' actors | 116 Peanut, castor bean or canola | 17 2009-10 "American Idol" judge | 57 Buddy | 93 Test runs |
| 27 Ketchup's color | 67 With | 117 Long pastry | 18 Scraped (out) | 57 Major protest | 94 Triads, e.g. |
| 28 "The Great Gatsby" star | 68 TV drama of 2000-15 | 118 Earned after taxes | 19 Funny Foxx | 62 Kind of internal-combustion engine | 95 Western U.S. gas brand |
| 29 Running the show, for short | 71 10K or marathon | 119 Cozies up | 24 Viking Ericson | 65 Mollycuddle | 96 Things raked in autumn |
| 31 Illinois' tree | 73 Con job | 120 Taco exteriors | 25 Funeral poem | 66 Battery liquid | 100 Neat as — |
| 33 Twisty letter | 74 Fabled bird | DOWN | 30 Assemblage | 68 Thing relied on for support | 101 Compulsion |
| 34 Riddle, part 2 | 75 Japanese wrestling | 1 Quick haircut | 32 Mouths or faces, slangily | 69 Like a day in June, per a Lowell poem | 102 Color slightly |
| 44 Made gentle | 78 Riddle, part 4 | 2 Old 45 player | 34 Tiers | 70 Roofing problem in cold weather | 103 Fail to include |
| 45 Source of some milk | 82 Ionize, e.g. | 3 Performs like Cardi B | 35 Singer Swift | 71 In favor of the idea | 104 Inflation subj. |
| 46 Source of some milk | 84 Pioneered | 4 Title keeper of a 1997 film | 36 Eggy entree | 72 Activist Nader | 106 Pitcher Hershiser |
| 47 Earthy color | 85 Alternative to Roy Rogers | 5 Raged violently | 37 Remainder | 73 Long deli sandwich | 108 Inactive |
| 48 Dark deli breads | 86 Slightly protruding belly button | 6 Subjects of discussion | 38 Seaport on Italy's "heel" | 75 Garbage boat | 109 Actress Patricia |
| 49 Kind of internal-combustion engine | 88 Tax mo. | 7 City in central California | 39 "That's a lie!" | 76 "Nothin' doin' " | 110 Edible bit of a pomegranate or litchi |
| 52 Bygone jet, for short | 89 Tax pro | 8 "— -di-dah!" | 40 Future docs' exams | 77 — Hari (spy) | 111 Estonia and Latvia, once: Abbr. |
| | 90 Ghana's largest city | | 41 Very, very | | 113 Gas fast, quaintly |
| | 91 End of the riddle | | 42 Match divisions | | 114 — Wee Reese |

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM to hear comment on amending the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget with an increase of \$665,345.93 for the Patrick County Public Schools as follows:

Revenue	FY2024 Carryover funds	\$ 987,888.93
	FY2025 Tobacco Use Prevention Grant	42,090.00
	FY2025 Local Funding Increase	225,806.00
	FY2025 State Funding Reduction	(590,439.00)
	Total	\$ 665,345.93
Expenditures	FY2024 All-In Virginia Initiative Program	\$ 899,056.00
	FY2024 School Safety and Security Program Funds	75,087.17
	FY2024 Homeless & Youth Grant	12,414.77
	FY2024 Esser III Grant	1,330.99
	FY2025 State Adjustment to Final Budget	(364,633.00)
	FY2025 Tobacco Use Prevention Grant	42,090.00
	Total	\$ 665,345.93

The hearing will be held in the 3rd floor Courtroom in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia. A vote will be taken at the meeting. Anyone wishing to view the proposed budget amendments may do so at the County Administration office, Suite 218 located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

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Youngkin's Order

(cont. from page 1)

place," he said.

Under the current policy, Patrick County High School (PCHS) students can use their cell phones before and after school, during lunch, and at school functions and activities after the school day concludes, as long as doing so does not disrupt activity.

Students must obtain teacher permission before using electronic devices in a classroom, and it must support the instructional activities occurring in each classroom. Students also must adhere to the Acceptable Use Agreement to use their cell phones, and put them away when requested by a teacher.

The policy also states that students are not permitted to use their personal electronic devices to access the Internet in any manner, other than connecting through the secure wireless network provided.

Students are personally responsible for their cell phones, and any damage is not the fault of the school division. The school system doesn't guarantee the privacy or security of any item stored on or transmitted by privately-owned electronic devices.

Students in grades 4 through 7 are permit-

ted to possess cell phones only with guardian permission, and school principals have the reasonable discretion to approve or disapprove cell phone possession by students.

The cell phones must remain off during the school day and on buses, unless permission is given by school staff. Students can only make calls during the school day with permission of and in the presence of school staff. Calls can be made after school, but not on the bus, with staff approval.

If confiscated, cell phones may be searched.

Patrick County School Board chairman Rob Martin, of the Dan River District, said like any tool, he believes cell phones can be a good thing for students and parents and a bad thing for students.

"I believe cell phones can be a big distraction in schools, especially when policy on cell phone use is not enforced. But also, in rural areas like Patrick County, it can be useful for kids to stay in touch and alleviate some of the stress of parents," he said.

Walter Scott, vice-chairman, and of the Smith River District, said he believes the executive order is going to be a good thing across the board.

"It'll probably make it easier for" all school divisions "since the governor mandated it. It makes it a lot easier for all schools to have this policy," he said, adding any changes, if any, in the division's policy will be minor.

While he believes that parents need to be able to communicate with their children, Scott said under the division's current policy, there are certain times children will be able to access their cell phones.

However, "none of them can use them in the classroom," he said, adding the phones won't compete with or cause a disruption to education.

Amy Walker, of the Mayo River District, said she agrees wholeheartedly with the governor's executive order.

"Cell phones are a distraction for our kids. I know that a lot of kids are mindful and mature enough to abide by our cell phone rules that we currently have in place, but there are some that don't. So, we want to make sure that everybody is abiding by our cell phone policies and not be a distraction in class," she said.

Shannon Harrell, of the Blue Ridge District, and Lester Harrell, of the Peters Creek District, did not return calls for comment.

Land Transfers in June

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

ALG Trustee, LLC to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, 0.9554 acres, Mayo River District.

Jonathan D. Altizer and other to Tucker Brown and wife, 3.0000 acres, Mayo River District.

Steven R. Belcher to David A. Belcher, 3.14 and 1.00 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Tammy Large Blizzard to Jacob D. Blizzard and wife, 3.71 and 3.28 acres, Dan River District.

Homer E. Boyd to Emily Handy and other, 2.000 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Daniel James Collins and wife to MYQ Transport LLC, 2.677 and 2.277 acres, Smith River District.

Phillip D. Combs to MYQ Transport LLC, 0.7838, 3.7831 and 1.3872 acres, Mayo River District.

Norman G. Cummings, Jr. and other to Ronald Harris, 0.41 and 0.54 acres, Peters Creek District.

Edward B. Dellenback and wife to Walter Lee Dellenback and wife, 2.92 acres, Dan River District.

Department of Veterans Affairs to Harold Comer, 2.332 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Stephen T. Dixon and wife to Dana Handy-Lambert and other, 3.202 acres, Mayo River District.

Rachel Page Dudik, executor, to Joshua John Snow and wife, 6.696, 31.149 and 0.8145 acres, Peters Creek District.

Fain Brothers Logging to Marsha Anne Newman, 4.6625, 2.7854 and 1.30 acres, Dan River District.

Betty Jane Freeman to Gary Lee Koger, 0.728

acres, Mayo River District.

Ryan Martin Graven to Wade Evans Byrd, Jr. and wife, 8.074 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Maurice Hagar and wife to Eric Crowder, 12.0 and 20.037 acres, Mayo River District.

Claude Hall to Lester Scott Turner and wife, 0.67 acres, Mayo River District.

Hopkins LLC to Richard Arthur Howard and wife, 3.981 acres, Smith River District.

Lyle Raymond Hubbard; by atty to John C. Lafirira and wife, 1.936 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Suzanne H. Hutchens to Richard Lyn Berkhead II, 21.567 and 7.101 acres, Mayo River District.

Waco W. Hylton and other to Danette Ferrell Vernon, 5.24 acres, Smith River District.

James W. Ingle and other to Michael W. Blankenship and wife, 9.706 acres, Peters Creek District.

Iris W. Lawson; by atty to Calvin D. Lawson and wife, 22.4615 and 7.6817 acres, Peters Creek District.

Phyllis A. Mabe to Deborah M. Stanley and other, 3.369 acres, Peters Creek District.

Ana Lucia Alcala Magee and others to Joseph Robert Marshall, 19.8096 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Wanda W. Martin; executor to James E. Stokes and wife, 19.496 acres, Mayo River District.

James Edward May to Blaine Montgomery, 2.2775 acres, Dan River District.

John G. McCann and wife to Adam R. Billot and wife, 57.06 acres, Mayo River District.

Jessica L. McGraw; executor to Tina Marie Holt, 0.584 acres, Smith River District.

Karen A. McMillan to Marty Robinson and

wife, 2 acres, Dan River District.

Carol B. Metcalf to Maurice Hodges III and wife, 1.292 and 1.0893 acres, Mayo River District.

James Ralph Nichols III, TR, to Julie Ann Hammond, 9.9 acres, Peters Creek District.

Janet M. Nickerson to Brian W. Brown, 2.030 acres, Mayo River District.

Samson D. Nourse and wife to Colin James Zurawski and other, 4.184 acres, Smith River District.

Lowell Reynolds and other to Kevin D. Simpson and other, 16.75 and 63.07 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Michael J. Rimar and wife to Garland W. Collins and wife, 32 acres, Peters Creek District.

David W. Senters and other to James Edward Coltrane and wife, 16.625 acres, Smith River District.

W D Smith to Terry H. Vuncannon, 2.737, 2.419, 2.192, 2.002 and 2.202, Mayo River District.

Christopher Mark Stevens and wife to Tony V. Speaks, Jr., 8.25 acres, Dan River District.

James Edward Stokes to Bennie D. Trent and wife, 1.2812 acres, Mayo River District.

Steven D. Tobey and other to Steven D. Tobey and wife, lots, Mayo River District.

Robert G. Thompson and wife to Jeanette W. Hale, lot, Blue Ridge District.

Tri State Lands LLC to Steven L. Sobe and wife, 6.991 acres, Smith River District.

Tri-State Lands LLC to Toby D. Strider, 104.9415 acres, Smith River District.

Tri-State Lands LLC to Blue Ridge Vista LLC, 33.798 acres, Smith River District.

Ararat man held with no bond

An Ararat man was arrested following the execution of a search warrant on Wednesday, July 24, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

Sammy Wayne Smith, 52, of 211 Triple Smith Lane, was taken into custody shortly after 4 p.m.

The sheriff said Sammy Smith was wanted for felony assault on a law enforcement officer and obstruction of justice following an incident that occurred on Thursday, July 18.

Then, the sheriff said Senior Deputy Rob Martin tried to arrest Smith for public intoxication after responding to a call to check on the wellbeing of a woman. Sammy Smith allegedly resisted arrest and a physical confrontation allegedly ensued between Martin and Sammy Smith.

"Our deputy was trying to effect the arrest alone, like we always are, and other male subjects began to approach the struggle," the sheriff said, and alleged that Sammy Smith "was able to escape the deputy's grasp and fled."

The sheriff indicated that his office also had

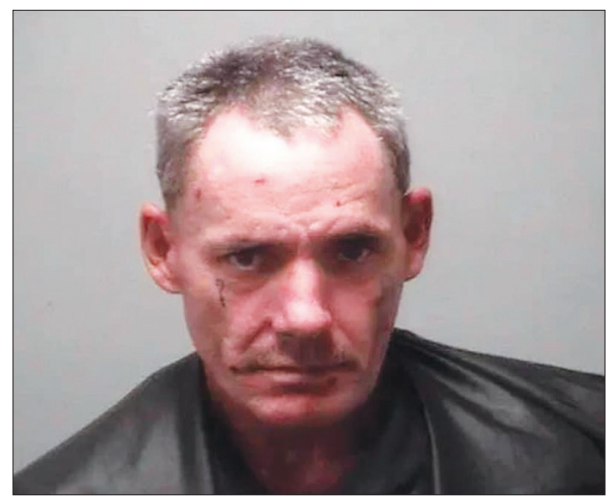
information that Smith had been armed with a handgun, and a search warrant was obtained for the residence because Smith is a multiple time convicted felon.

During the search warrant's execution, the office's tactical team deployed chemical agents in the form of aerosol oleoresin capsicum (OC) into Smith's upstairs bedroom, where he allegedly had barricaded himself inside.

"Our deputies removed Sammy from the bedroom a short time later, and a handgun was found in the same room during the subsequent search," Sheriff Smith said in a Thursday release.

Sammy Smith also was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

He is being held in the Patrick County Jail without bond.



Sammy Wayne Smith

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Meetings

Thursday, Aug. 8
 The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Monday, Aug. 12
 The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet 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 seventh annual Rock Castle Reunion will be held at 12 p.m. at Woolwine Methodist Church. Attendees are encouraged to bring old photographs, artifacts, stories, and covered dishes.

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 you can 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. It will be two weeks of preachers preaching God's word. There will be no service on Saturday, Aug. 3. The Freemans will perform special music nightly July 30 and July 31. For more information, contact 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
 The Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Golf Tournament Fundraiser with 4 persons captain choice starting at 9 a.m. at Gordon Trent Golf Course. The rain date is Aug. 10. The cost is \$460 per person or \$240 per team, this includes 18 holes of golf. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. There is a \$25,000 hole in one prize. 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.

Faith Community Church will hold its 6th annual Potluck, cruise in, silent auction, and singing. The meal will be from 5-7 p.m. with Swiftcreek and friends. Meat will be provided, and visitors are asked to bring their favorite side dishes and a lawn chair.

Thursday, Aug. 8
 The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Junior Cassidy and Friends. The Landmark Center is sponsoring the meal for the meeting with spaghetti, tossed salad, French bread, and beverages being provided for all attendees. Attendees are asked to bring desserts to share with the group.

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.

Mt. Nebo Holiness Church, 30598 JEB Stuart Hwy., Spencer, will hold the 8th annual bike ride, car show, and fish fry. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the ride leaves at 11 a.m. The cost is \$20 per bike or autos, and this covers the meal for the driver. The fish fry will start at 8 a.m. There will be vendors on site. For information, call Angie Penn at (276) 732-6014.

Ongoing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Former Army Officer, JAG Attorney Enters Guilty Plea

A former Army officer and attorney assigned to the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School (JAG School) in Charlottesville pleaded guilty on Wednesday, July 24, to multiple federal charges related to his destruction of U.S. Army property and subsequent false statements to federal investigators.

Manfredo Martin-Michael Madrigal, III, 38, a former resident of Charlottesville, Va., pled guilty to one count of destruction of U.S. Army materials and three counts of making a false statement.

According to court documents, in February 2022, Madrigal was assigned to a staff position at the JAG School in the Training Developments Directorate, whose mission was to design and develop training products for the JAG Corps and the Army. Madrigal possessed an active security clearance and previously served overseas on sensitive operations.

In early 2022, Madrigal was under investigation by the U.S. Army and the JAG School for failing to report a previous conviction for

driving under the influence (DUI). While his Army investigation was pending, Madrigal deleted, without authorization, online JAG training materials and filmed himself doing so while graphically describing his ill-will towards the Army. The FBI's investigation also revealed that Madrigal made a phone call to the Russian embassy in Washington, D.C., the same night that he deleted the training materials and then texted a witness that Russia wanted to know what he knew.

On February 22, 2022, Madrigal was discharged from the JAG School and claimed in his exit paperwork that he had no unreported contact with a foreign national. In April and May 2022, Madrigal was interviewed by the FBI about his actions. In these interviews, Madrigal made multiple false statements regarding his actions, including denying any involvement in the deletion of materials and that he only learned of the deletion from a co-worker, as well as falsely denying his contact with a foreign national at the Embassy.

General fund revenues are \$1.2 billion ahead of forecast for fiscal 2024

Virginia's general fund revenues ended fiscal year 2024 \$1.2 billion over the official revenue forecast, according to Gov. Glenn Youngkin. For the full fiscal year, overall general fund revenue collections grew 5.5 percent, well above the 1.3 percent increase assumed in the official forecast. The official forecast incorporated \$525 million of excess revenues received through April, and \$22 million of adjustments related to the military retirement income tax subtraction. The \$1.2 billion surplus fully-funds contingent spending on shared priorities incorporated in the enacted budget including the additional \$90 million in funding for the recently restored Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP).

"Preliminary year-end results demonstrate that robust job growth produces record revenues that allow us to make continued investments in shared priorities," said Youngkin. "Record revenues underpinned by Virginia's strong job growth continue to show there is plenty of money in the system to make critical investments while cutting taxes to bring down the cost of living for hardworking Virginians. We will stay focused on driving the policies that earned Virginia's recognition as America's Top State for Business and unleashing job growth and opportunity for all Virginians."

"Revenue collections ended the fiscal year well above expectations. Not only did collections exceed estimates embedded in the current Appropriation Act by \$1.2 billion, revenues also exceeded our December projections by \$1.7 billion," said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "With this strong performance, our excess collections are sufficient to meet all identified investment priorities including additional funding for accelerating

Interstate 81 improvements, water quality improvements in the Chesapeake Bay, and meeting our commitments to the education of our military heroes, Gold Star families, first responders, and all those who have served their nation and their Commonwealth."

Analysis of Fiscal Year 2024 Revenues (based on preliminary data)

- Based on preliminary data, Fiscal Year 2024 revenues exceeded the Chapter 1 Forecast (May 2024) by \$1.2 billion and were \$1.7 billion higher compared to the December 2023 forecast.

- Higher than expected revenue collections are primarily attributable to increased net individual income taxes and higher than projected sales and use taxes, partially offset by lower than forecasted corporate income taxes.

- Individual income nonwithholding collections and refunds, combined, contributed \$1.1 billion to the surplus. A portion of that surplus is attributable to the timing of receipts and refunds related to the elective Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET).

- Payroll withholding grew 4.8 percent, exceeding the forecasted growth rate of 3.8 percent.

- Sales tax collections decreased 0.5 percent as compared to the annual forecast of a 4.6 percent decline.

- Net corporate income tax collections declined 6.1 percent compared to the official estimate of a 9.0 percent increase due largely to the timing of refunds.

A complete accounting of all final revenue sources will be available after final year-end close and will be released on August 14, when the Governor speaks at the Joint Money Committee Meeting.

Initial unemployment claims decreased in latest filing period

Virginia Works announced that 2,045 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending July 20, 2024, which is 15.9 percent lower than last week's 2,433 claims and 10.8 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,293).

Nearly 78 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (201); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (197); Retail Trade (174); Health Care and Social Assistance (168); and Manufacturing (105).

Continued weeks claims (16,721) were 1.0 percent lower than last week (16,886) and were 21.9 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,714). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-report-

ed an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,457); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,252); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,693); Retail Trade (1,541); and Accommodation and Food Services (1,403).

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.

Proposed bipartisan legislation would help tackle student loan debt

A new proposal, the Employer Participation in Repayment Act, is bipartisan legislation that would help Americans tackle their student loan debt by making permanent a provision that allows employers to contribute up to \$5,250 tax-free to their employees' student loans.

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Alexandria, is among the bill's sponsors.

In 2020, Warner was among those to negotiate the inclusion of a provision in the CARES Act that allowed these contributions temporarily. Later that year, as part of the government spending package, an extension was secured, allowing this benefit through January 1, 2026. By making this tax benefit permanent, the proposed legislation would provide employees with much-needed relief and employers with a unique and permanent tool to attract and retain talented employees.

Reports estimate that Americans owe a combined \$1.74 trillion dollars

in student loan debt. This debt is a significant financial burden that not only influences the way the American workforce saves and spends, but also has a stifling effect on the economy. This legislation would update an existing federal program so that it works better for employees living with the reality of burdensome student loan debt.

"Too many young Americans are struggling under the weight of student debt, preventing them from establishing savings, buying homes, and building wealth," said Warner. "My Employer Participation in Repayment Act took an important step to help folks pay down their debt while also giving employers a powerful tool to recruit and retain the best talent, but it's set to expire soon. I'm proud to be pushing to make this benefit permanent so we can grow our economy and support the middle class by supporting recent graduates and employers alike."

Virginia cleared a major hurdle to expand broadband

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine on Friday announced a huge step towards the deployment of \$1,481,489,527.87 in federal funding to expand access to high-speed internet in Virginia. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) approved Volume 2 of Virginia's Initial Proposal under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, an important step that demonstrates Virginia has a strong plan to expand

broadband and is on track to receive its funding allocation.

"Today's announcement brings us one step closer to accessing our historic \$1.5 billion award and expanding high-speed internet access to more families and businesses across Virginia," said Warner, D-Alexandria, said Friday. "Virginia has a strong plan to get us closer to universal coverage, and this funding will help make that plan a reality. I'm proud to have authored and negotiated the law that made this possible,

and I'm ready to work to make sure it's implemented as quickly and efficiently as possible, so more Virginians have access to high-speed internet."

"Broadband is a necessity for Virginians to access telehealth, online education programs, job opportunities, and so much more. Boosting access to broadband is key to building on our economic progress, which is why I'm happy that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration has approved the next step in Virginia's BEAD program plan," said Kaine, D-Richmond. "I'm glad to have helped pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that made this investment possible."

Following the approval, Virginia has one year to submit a final proposal that will detail how the Commonwealth will ensure service to all unserved locations. Once the final proposal is approved, funds will be deployed, and implementation can begin.

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Recall issued for ready-to-eat liverwurst, other deli meat products

Boar's Head Provisions Co., Inc., of Jarratt, Va., is recalling all liverwurst products currently available because products may be adulterated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The company is also recalling additional deli meat products that were produced on the same line and on the same day as the liverwurst and, therefore, may be adulterated with *L. monocytogenes*. The company is recalling approximately 207,528 pounds of products.

The ready-to-eat liverwurst products were produced between June 11 and July 17, and have a 44-day shelf life. The following liverwurst products are subject to recall [view labels]:

*3.5-lb. loaves in plastic casing, or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head Strassburger Brand Liverwurst MADE IN VIRGINIA." The products shipped to retailers bear sell by dates ranging July 25, 2024, to Aug. 30, 2024, printed on the side of the packaging.

The other ready-to-eat deli meat products were produced on June 27, 2024. The following deli meat products are subject to recall:

*9.5-lb. and 4.5-lb. full product, or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head VIRGINIA HAM OLD FASHIONED HAM" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.

*4-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head ITALIAN CAPPY STYLE HAM" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.

*6-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head EXTRA HOT ITALIAN CAPPY STYLE HAM" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.

*4-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head BOLOGNA" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.

*2.5-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head BEEF SALAMI" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.

*5.5-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head STEAKHOUSE ROASTED BACON HEAT & EAT" with sell by date "AUG 15" on the product packaging.

*3-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head GARLIC BOLOGNA" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.

*3-lb., or various weight packages sliced in retail delis, containing "Boar's Head BEEF BOLOGNA" with sell by date "AUG 10" on the product packaging.

The products subject to recall were distributed to retail deli locations nationwide. The products shipped to deli retailers bear establishment number

"EST. 12612" inside the USDA mark of inspection on the product labels.

The problem was discovered when FSIS was notified that a sample collected by the Maryland Department of Health tested positive for *L. monocytogenes*. The Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration with the Baltimore City Health Department, collected an unopened liverwurst product from a retail store for testing as part of an outbreak investigation of *L. monocytogenes* infections. Further testing is ongoing to determine if the product sample is related to the outbreak. Anyone concerned about illness should contact a healthcare provider.

The FSIS is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state public health partners to investigate the multistate outbreak of *L. monocytogenes* infections linked to meats sliced at delis. As of July 25, 34 sick people had been identified in 13 states, including 33 hospitalizations and two deaths. Samples were collected from sick people from May 29 to July 12. Additional information may be found on the CDC investigation notice, *Listeria* Outbreak Linked to Meats Sliced at Delis. The investigation is ongoing, and FSIS continues to work with the CDC and state partners.

Consumption of food contaminated with *L. monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, a serious infection that primarily affects people who are pregnant, aged 65 or older, or with weak-

ened immune systems. Less commonly, people outside these risk groups are affected.

Listeriosis can cause fever, muscle aches, headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance and convulsions sometimes preceded by diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms. An invasive infection spreads beyond the gastrointestinal tract. In people who are pregnant, the infection can cause miscarriages, stillbirths, premature delivery or life-threatening infection of the newborn. In addition, serious and sometimes fatal infections can occur in older adults and persons with weakened immune systems. Listeriosis is treated with antibiotics. Persons in the higher-risk categories who experience flu-like symptoms within two months after eating contaminated food should seek medical care and tell the health care provider about eating the contaminated food.

Consumers with questions regarding the recall can contact Boar's Head Provisions Co., Inc., Customer Service at 1-800-352-6277.

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or send a question via email to MPHHotline@usda.gov. For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, the online Electronic Consumer Complaint Monitoring System can be accessed 24 hours a day at <https://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda.gov/eCCF/>.

Virginia's Broadband Proposal Approved

Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced the release of the federally approved Virginia Initial Proposal Volume 2 that will enable Virginia to access its allocation of \$1.48 billion through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program under the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) federal Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act. This approval puts the Commonwealth firmly on the path toward accessing funding for administration of the BEAD program to support Virginia's goal to close the digital divide and deploy high-speed, affordable internet networks to areas without broadband. Virginia was the first state in the nation to submit all required BEAD plans to access funding.

The BEAD program is a \$42.45 billion nationwide program to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, affordability and adoption programs. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will administer the Commonwealth's \$1.48 billion BEAD allocation to build upon the work of the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI). As funding for universal broadband access is being delivered, DHCD will also utilize these funds to invest in efforts promoting affordability and improving adoption of this critical service.

"Virginia's historic investment in broadband infrastructure is one key ingredient which helped drive our ranking as America's top state to do business in 2024. With the resources we are securing today, we can close the digital divide and ensure all Vir-

ginians have access to high-speed internet," said Youngkin. The announcement "is a key step in our efforts to provide high-speed internet access to the remaining unserved regions of the Commonwealth ensuring all Virginians have the opportunity to prosper."

The next step in the BEAD program involves finalizing and ensuring all locations lacking access to high-speed internet and not part of any existing state or federal deployment projects are included in the program. Following the approval of locations by NTIA, Virginia will initiate the application phase later this year. During this phase, broadband providers will have the opportunity to submit applications to extend their services to these unconnected regions.

"Virginia has been a national leader in the broadband arena, and the approved proposal lays out a comprehensive approach to connect all Virginians through state and federal resources," said DHCD Director and Chief Broadband Advisor Bryan Horn. "We applaud the collaboration of our broadband partners to develop a strong proposal that addresses both connectivity and affordability."

Since 2017, Virginia has allocated over \$935 million in state and federal funding to extend broadband infrastructure to over 388,000 locations in 80 cities and counties across the Commonwealth. These investments have leveraged an additional \$1.1 billion in matching funds from local governments and internet service providers.

For more information about Virginia's broadband efforts, visit dhcd.virginia.gov/broadband.



Sarah Ayers (left), Esthetics Instructor, is receiving a facial by Hannah Chapman, Cosmetology Instructor, using Dermalogica products. Surry Community College is offering a new Esthetician program at the Dobson Main Campus in Fall 2024. The program will allow students to apply to take the North Carolina State Board of Cosmetic Arts Licensing Exam for Esthetics.

Esthetician program to be offered this fall

Surry Community College is introducing a new Esthetician program in the Fall 2024 semester. The program certification can be earned within two semesters, and students must complete at least 600 hours. The program consists of two classes, Esthetician I and Esthetician II; each class is comprised of theoretical and practical knowledge.

The Esthetician program is intended for those who wish to become a licensed Esthetician in North Carolina. Students will learn to provide skincare services that range from skin treatments and facials to lash and brow treatments and aromatherapy. The Surry Community College Esthetician Program will exclusively be using Dermalogica products in instruction and services.

Additionally, students will complete

the program with the foundation and abilities to take the North Carolina State Board of Cosmetic Arts Licensing Exam for Esthetics and be eligible for employment in the beauty industry.

"We are excited to be offering Esthetics at Surry Community College. It is something that we've been planning for two years, and it's now come into fruition. The program for this upcoming 2024-2025 school year is currently full with a waitlist," says Robin Minton, Director of Cosmetology. "In the future we hope to offer more sections within the program."

For more information, contact Robin Minton, Director of Cosmetology, at (336) 386-3570 or mintonr@surry.edu or Sonnie Hardy, Instructional Assistant, at (336) 386-3229 or hardys@surry.edu.



AUGUST MARKET EVENTS

Every Friday 8 am to 12 pm

- August 2: Tool Sharpening Available
- August 2: 6pm First Friday Summer Jam Series Concert
- August 9: National Farmers Market Week - Rise & Shine Youth Vendors
- August 16: Blood Pressure Checks
- August 23: PC Agricultural Fair Exhibitors Guide Information
- August 30: PC Agricultural Fair Exhibitors Guide Information & Master Gardeners Information

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The Kruger Brothers will perform as part of the Deep Roots, Many Voices: Summer Outdoor Concert Series at 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 3, in the Blue Ridge Music Center's outdoor amphitheater on the Blue Ridge Parkway just south of Galax, Va. Shelton & Williams will open the show.

The Kruger Brothers' unique blend of bluegrass, folk, and classical music has made them a fixture within the world of acoustic music. Since moving from Switzerland to Wilkesboro, N.C. in 2002, the trio, which includes Jens Kruger (banjo, harmony vocals), Uwe Kruger (guitar, lead vocals), and Joel

Landsberg (bass, harmony vocals), has found a devoted following and widespread acclaim as one of North Carolina's most popular roots music groups. Inspired by artists as musically diverse as Doc Watson, Eric Clapton, and Beethoven, their music epitomizes the spirit of exploration that forms the core of the American musical tradition.

The group's artistry has been recognized worldwide by audiences and critics. In honor of his contributions to bluegrass music, Jens was inducted into the Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame in 2011, was the recipient of the Steve Martin Prize for Excel-

lence in Banjo and Bluegrass Music in 2013, and was inducted into the American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame in 2021. At the invitation of Bill Monroe, he was the first European banjo player to be featured on the Grand Ole Opry.

The group has performed at Merlefest, as a part of the International Bluegrass Music Association's IBMA Bluegrass Live!, and on The Late Show with David Letterman. They have shared the stage with the North Carolina Symphony, the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, and Kontras Quartet.

Shelton & Williams play a variety of styles including classic country, gospel, blues, bluegrass, and Americana. The group consists of Jeanette Williams (bass,

vocals), Johnny Williams (guitar, vocals), and Jay Shelton (guitar, vocals).

Jeanette has been performing for over 30 years and is a three-time International Bluegrass Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year. Johnny is an award-winning songwriter who has co-written songs with Tom T. Hall. His songs have been recorded by Doyle Lawson, Special Consensus, Jr. Sisk, and Larry Cordle. Johnny was The Crooked Road Artist in Residence in 2022-23. Jeanette and Johnny recently received a lifetime achievement award for their contributions to bluegrass music from their hometown of Danville, Va.

Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 the day of the

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

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

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

This performance in the series is sponsored by the Law Offices of Timothy D. Welborn. The presenting sponsors for the series are W.L.A. Trucking and Yadkin Arts Council.

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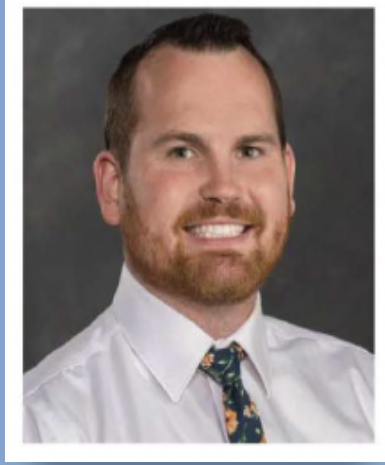
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Creative Young Artists build 3D nature sculptures at Art in the Park program

A group of young artists took a nature hike at I.C. Dehart Park in Woolwine where they got inspired by nature and collected items to create a 3D nature sculpture. Sculptures were made of sticks, leaves, lichen and other found treasures. Some of the young artists used their imaginations and worked as a team to act out a story about their sculptures involving witches, acid rain and community members being saved by a wizard and sailing away on a ship.

The program was led by Norma Bozenmayer and Carla Krietsch at the park, and was sponsored by Patrick County Parks and Recreation and Bull Mountain Arts.

Check the Parks and Rec Facebook page for other Art in the Park children's programs.



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Preview Date: Saturday, August 10th from 9-12 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS: All items being sold "as is, where is". The auction starts ending at 5 PM EST with a soft close. Please note that if a bid is placed in the last 2 minutes of bidding, the clock will be extended an additional 2 minutes for every bid placed. 10% Buyer's Premium and VA Sales Tax Charged. The auction company will charge the credit card on file for invoices up to a \$300 max unless the buyer contacts the auction company for other arrangements. A credit card transaction fee of 4% will be charged invoices paid via card. Any invoices over \$300 must be paid by cash, certified, or cashier's check at pick up. Shipping is NOT provided by the auction company. Buyers may pay for and arrange for 3rd party shipping. It is the Bidder's responsibility to determine the condition and value of items. The auction company does not guarantee the condition or validity of the description of items. Bidders are responsible for doing their own due diligence prior to bidding. Bidders acknowledge that all items are sold "as is, where is with any and all faults."



Contact Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Darrell Hylton at 540-250-0850 or email dwh@swva.net

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