



THE ENTERPRISE

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

Students return to school on Thursday will notice several renovations completed over the summer

By Taylor Boyd

The upcoming school year for students in Patrick County schools is set to begin on Thursday, August 8, and Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said returning students are likely to notice the completion of several projects that will benefit them.

“For example, at the high school an entire hallway of lockers was removed to allow for bench seating outside of the cafeteria at Patrick County High School (PCHS), which will be a benefit for students to be able to spread out during lunch,” he said.

Because there are only three lunch times at Patrick County High School (PCHS), Wood said the cafeteria can become crowded.

“Now after students eat, the high



An outside gazebo at PCHS is larger and will allow more students to enjoy their lunchtimes outside.

school’s going to try seniors and then maybe juniors and see if those two classes are going to make the inside of the cafeteria much more manageable and easier to supervise when they leave,” he said.

Wood said a large gazebo was also constructed in the PCHS courtyard to allow seniors to eat outside. Previously, “they didn’t have enough space, so they had to sit on the steps. Now, they can go outside.”

When lunch periods aren’t underway, “classes can go outside and have an outdoor learning environment that’s also secured that is enclosed by the entire building,” he said.

Wood said the space will be open to any teacher who wants to reserve it, and noted he can see any class utilizing it during the year.

“We have new picnic tables, and we actually bought those locally from” Frontier Farm and Home Center, LLC “in Meadows of Dan,” Wood said, and added the PCHS horticulture class will maintain the area.

A small outdoor area was also installed in early fall of last year for the school’s handicapped students.

(See Renovations p.3)

Evidence-based program gets underway in PCHS

By Staff Reports

The Patrick County school division began to receive the first installment of a three-year grant from the Virginia Foundation of Healthy Youth on July 1. The funds will be used to provide an evidence-based drug prevention program in the schools, according to Piedmont Community Services (PCS), which is partnering on the project with the school division. PCS Director of Prevention Services, Regina Clark, said the grant will provide \$43,431 per year, for a total of \$130,293 over the three-year cycle.

The funds will be used for programs that are geared to help improve local lives and may include Catch My Breath, Too Good For Drugs or the Communities Helping to Improve Local Lives (CHILL) program. The program will be available for students in grades 8-12 at Patrick County High School, Regina Clark said.

“It’s wonderful to get that grant, and we can renew it. That shouldn’t be any problem,” said Clark.

But it’s important to note that PCS services are not limited to youngsters. For instance, Drug Free Patrick County is the adult version of the CHILL program.

Amy Greer, coordinator of Children’s Services for PCS, said that PCS

offers a professional support system for adults as well, and acts as a liaison between families. In addition to serving children aged 3 to 17 years, “the adult side takes over up to age 21” to provide any services that are needed, she said.

Services run the gamut, and are tailored to serve the needs of individual clients, whether in school, to help with the transition from school life or providing support and coordination of case management.

“The biggest function for us is helping that child function within their community,” said other PCS staff members, including Shannon Clark, director of Community Support Services.

PCS serves youngsters with developmental delays and intellectual disabilities, and conducts screenings to determine eligibility. “It’s just another service that we offer,” said Greer.

Kelly Koble, director of Behavioral Health, travels to train treatment staff, called behavioral support specialists, that are housed in individual schools. In Patrick, four case managers share the various elementary schools.

“We also have an outpatient therapist housed at the high school,” said

(See PCHS p.2)



James Houchins (4th from right) is pictured with other regional leaders at a recent Economic Development training session. Houchins serves Patrick County as both the director of Economic Development and Tourism.

Houchins among participants in economic development training

James Houchins was among the local leaders and professionals from the Southern Virginia region to convene at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research last week for specialized training in economic development. The event featured Carol Johnson, founder of Continuous Dialog, and renowned for her

expertise in the dynamic field of economic development across the United States.

Houchins, who currently serves the dual roles of Economic Development and Tourism in Patrick County, was among those to hear that demonstrating competitive econom-

(See Houchins p.2)

PCMA to hold second ‘Songwriter Circle’ show

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) is set to hold its Songwriter’s Circle Series II Guys & Gals on Saturday, September 14, at the Historic Star Theatre with doors opening at 5 p.m. The show starts at 6 p.m.

PCMA President Denny Alley said the original plan for the show was to have only female singers and songwriters perform, which is why the May show only featured men.

“The problem we have here is finding four girl singers. I can find 15 men, no girls. There’s not eight women around that sing and write” songs, Alley said.

Performers include Marcie Horne, Yvonne Smith, Olivia Jo, Wendy Dearmin, Jordan Morrison, Tim Lineberry, Miller Hopkins, and Barry Hutchens. According to Alley, and all are from Patrick County except one.

PATRICK COUNTY MUSIC ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:
SONGWRITER'S CIRCLE SERIES II
 at the Historic Star Theater
Guys & Gals
SEPT. 14, 2024
 Show starts at 6:00 pm (Doors open 5:00 pm) • \$10 per ticket
 Advance tickets can be purchased at the Coffee Break (276-694-4232), Quilted Colors (276-694-3020), or the Patrick County Visitors Center.
 Seating is limited. Get your tickets early. Tickets at the door only if available.

★ Jordan Morrison ★ Marcie Horne
 ★ Tim Lineberry ★ Yvonne Smith
 ★ Miller Hopkins ★ Olivia Jo
 ★ Barry Hutchens ★ Wendy Dearmin

HISTORIC STAR THEATER
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The Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) will hold its Songwriter’s Circle Series II Guys & Gals on Saturday, September 14 at the Star Theatre.

At the show, Alley said the four female performers will be grouped together and then take turns performing their original songs for three rounds. Then the male performers will do the same.

Alley expects the show to last three hours until 9 p.m.

“Most of the songs performed will be original,” Alley said.

(See PCMA p. 2)



Paula Dellenback (left) wrote a song to showcase her love for Patrick County. Josh Pickett (right) produced the song. The song is called “My Home.”

Love for county is springboard for song, album

By Taylor Boyd

Although she doesn’t plan to participate in the Songwriter series show hosted by the Patrick County Music Association, Paula Dellenback continues to represent her ever-present love for Patrick County almost 15 years after production of her song, “My Home.”

“The song was part of her album, “The Crooked Road,” which also expressed her love for Patrick County and the Appalachian Mountains.

“In fact, everything about this CD is about this area. Like when we were building our house we lived in a parsonage down the road, and we passed by a road called Jar Gap. Well, ‘Jar Gap’ was one of my number one songs on that CD,” she said.

Dellenback added her CD’s title

track is also called “The Crooked Road,” like the Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail.

Dellenback moved to the county after marrying her husband.

“I just loved it up here. It was very beautiful, we live in the county, we bought some land here and built a house,” she said.

Dellenback said the land they purchased was previously a cow pasture that was fenced off. Once the couple bought the land, they built their home on it, as noted in the part of her song that “says, ‘In the field where cattle once grazed’ and just stuff like that. I just wrote the song about where I live, and it’s absolutely beautiful up here. I love it,” she said.

(See Love for County p. 11)

PCHS

(cont. from page 1)

Koble. Dana DeHart, assistant director, is assigned to the Stuart office as well, and staff explained that the agency maintains three facilities in Patrick — a group home that provides residential services and psychological services, and its main office — the only facility identifiable with signage.

Also among the agency's offerings are same day assessments, outpatient services, the ACT Team — which stays in regular contact and offers in-home services, Substance Use Disorders Management, Mental Health Case Management, Early Intervention, Healthy Families, Psychosocial Rehab, Emergency Services/Youth Mobile Crisis, Intensive Care Coordination and Family Support Partners Substance Abuse Disorder Groups, Peer Recovery Cen-

ter and Support Services as well as a host of others. "We feel it's helpful if you can provide good service at home" rather than in a state facility, and "we have a plethora of services" to offer the communities served, Greg Preston, executive director of the agency, said.

"We provide services regardless of a person's ability to pay," Preston said, and explained that PCS is one of 40 Community Service Boards in Virginia. It was formed in 1972, and tasked with serving Patrick, Henry and Franklin counties and the City of Martinsville.

The agency also operates a Recovery Center on Memorial Blvd. In Martinsville, a mobile unit, housing services, and several other services, Preston said.

Currently, PCS employs 440 "motivated" people, he said.

"It's really our job to make sure we're a partner" in individual localities. "We provide psychiatric services as well and often should be seen as the expert" in those areas. "It's one of the things we take pride in," said Preston.

He added that if and when a service gap is identified, or a need arises for a service that is not currently offered, "we'll build it."

Crisis services are available from 8-5, Monday — Friday. For more information in Martinsville/Henry County, call (276) 632-7128; Patrick County, (276) 694-4361 and Franklin County, (540) 483-0582.

For psychiatric emergencies, call (888) 819-1331. For emotional support, call (877) 934-3576.

Houchins

(cont. from page 1)

ic development skills is no longer just an option for economic development professionals who wish to be successful in retaining, growing, and winning quality jobs for their communities, according to a release from the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance (SVRA), which hosted the training session.

Rather, it requires a region that is committed to improving the economic prosperity of the local companies and their employees, and a willing attitude to learn best practices and skills to prepare, respond, and win in the fierce competition of economic development. This training challenged economic developers as well as experienced leaders to share best practices and apply new skills that will benefit existing and prospective industry.

One thing is clear — the stakes are high, and expectations are rising for communities to compete, win, and retain quality jobs in today's highly competitive economic development arena, partic-

ipants were told.

In addition to local and regional economic developers, other attendees of the full day workshop on best practices for preparing to market the assets of the region in support of existing and prospective businesses included infrastructure, utility and workforce service providers, according to the release.

"The participation of local members underscores commitment to reach the goal of increasing capital investment in the southern Virginia region," said Kristy Johnson, president of the SVRA.

The following day, training culminated with a workshop about how community leaders can work with economic developers to influence growth and development in the community. The workshop attracted local elected officials joining economic developers and industrial development authorities, city managers and county administrators.

"I thought the workshop was excellent," said

Houchins. "Carol brought energy, presented the information with great passion, and made it relevant to our roles as economic development drivers. This is exactly what I needed as a newly appointed Director of economic development."

"The presentation was very helpful for understanding the role of economic developers, as well as how the city should prepare for a company that is potentially coming to the region as far as site readiness, workforce development, and business friendly organizations." Kristen Barker, member of the City of Danville's Industrial Development Authority.

"I thought it was an outstanding presentation. The three points about speed, risk, and money at the forefront about that discussion with prospects and businesses were important," said Ken Bowman, a member of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisor.

PCMA

(cont. from page 1)

inal songs. I mean, Miller (Hopkins) will probably do a cover song. He doesn't have a lot of songs written, but he has two now," he said.

Alley said he was inspired to start holding this type of show because it's something different.

"This is something you see on RFD-TV on Sunday nights from Tennessee. They'll have a

songwriters' circle, and Barry Hutchens goes to Nashville to the Bluebird Inn Songwriter Restaurant," Alley said, adding that he's interested in holding similar shows in the future.

"The first one was very successful, and we're hoping this one will be too, bringing in the gal singers. It should bring some people in. I mean, if the second one is a success like the first one, we'll be doing two a year — spring and fall," he said.

PCMA will also hold three shows each month during the last quarter of 2024.

Alley said the October 26 show will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Crooked Road. It will feature the Charlie's Corner segment where music students of Charlie Chaney will perform, The Country Boys, Olivia Job, and the Hutchens Brothers.

The November 23 show will be the Veterans Show, and all veterans are admitted for free. Ron Inscore & Friends, Barry Collins & The Mudflaps, and Carsen Peters, a musician from Nashville, will take the stage. General admission is \$5 plus two cans of nonperishable food for the Patrick County Community Food Bank.

Alley said the December show will be the

Hopkins Lumber Christmas Show, and it'll take place at the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Auditorium, headlined by the Lonesome River Band, Nick Goad, Kyser George, and multiple other banjo players. Admission for that show is free, but donations are accepted.

"I have yet to get my whole list of banjo players, but there's going to be four or five new ones that's never played here," he said.

The Christmas show has become an annual event, and if Alley has his way, the Songwriter series will become a semi-annual show.

The September show "is the second one of these that we've had. There were wall-to-wall people at the first one in May," Alley said, adding that 150 people attended that event, because that is the number of seats at the Star Theatre. As such, seating for the September event is limited to 150 people.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Coffee Break, Quilted Colors, and the Patrick County Visitor's Center.

"We've sold many tickets, probably 50 to 60, in the last few weeks. People need to come by and pick up their tickets" before they sell out, he said.

Pets of the Week



This black and tan hound mix, found on Oak Hill Lane in Critz, just wants to go home.

This sweet lady came in with the two pups pictured in last week's paper. She is so sweet and a favorite at the shelter. She is getting special attention in this picture because she is special and needs a special home.

Consider either dog for your next family member, or another shelter animal. Adoption fees are only \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination. Visit the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter's (PCPAS) Facebook page to view available pets or call (276) 694-6259 for more information.

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APR. 14, 1949
RUTH D. JAN. 8, 1929 - AUG. 22, 2010
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Boost your bottom line with Livestock Exclusion

The benefit to your farm:
Your local Soil and Water Conservation District can help you qualify to receive up to 100 percent reimbursement for the cost of fencing the streams on your farm and providing an alternative water source for your livestock (SL-6 practice only). This can boost your bottom line by:

- Improving herd health.
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Money comes from the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, which is carried out by conservation districts and administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Who may apply?
Any individual or private business that operates a grazing farm bordering a live stream, wetland or Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Resource Protection Area is eligible to apply for up to 100 percent reimbursement on the installation of a livestock stream-exclusion system. To receive reimbursement, landowners must have a Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost Share program (VACS) contract for Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management (SL-6N or SL-6W) approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

How it works:
Excluding livestock from streams reduces streambank erosion and decreases the amount of sediment that local waterways carry. It also eliminates the bacteria associated with livestock waste that cause illness in both animals and humans. Fencing works anywhere a creek, stream or river crosses your property. Cost-share technical specifications require fences to be set back from the water by a certain distance. Installing a riparian buffer can enhance economic and environmental benefits.

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In State Program Year 2024/2025, the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program reimbursement rate will be up to 100% of the cost of all eligible components based on the width of the buffer and the practice lifespan. Additionally, a per-acre buffer payment will be added for all buffers 35 feet or greater. Fencing must be permanent and is subject to technical standards. Farmers also can experience lower operating costs, because fenced livestock have:

- Fewer incidents of mastitis, which decreases milk productivity.
- Lower rates of foot rot, which is readily transmitted.
- Decreased opportunities for injury and accidental death.

Next steps.
Conservation begins with your local Soil and Water Conservation District, which can help you apply for many different cost-share funding programs to help you implement stream exclusion best management practices. District staff also can identify other conservation programs for which you might qualify.

Contact the Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation District Office for a farm visit today or other state cost-share farm conservation!
104 Via Avenue
Stuart, VA 24171
276-694-2911

Meet our 9th District Candidate
U.S. House of Representatives
Karen Baker

Thursday, August 22nd
5:30 to 7:30 pm
Hooker Bldg at Rotary Field
420 Woodland Dr. Stuart

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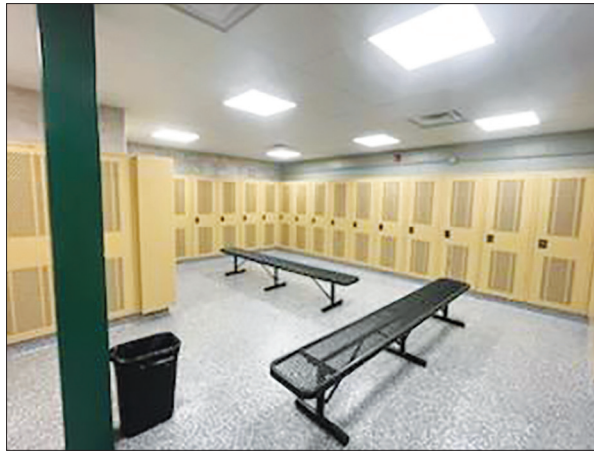
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Renovations

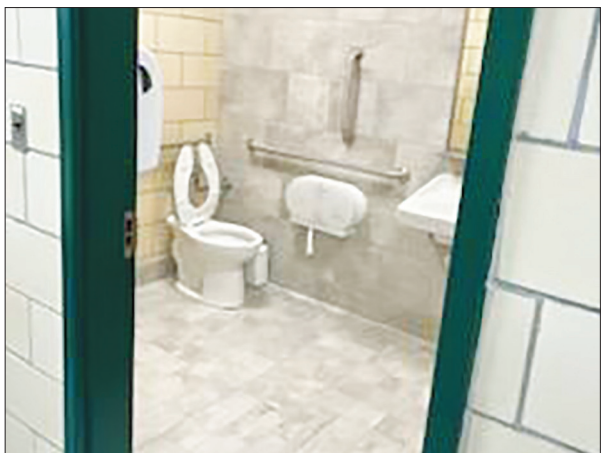
(cont. from page 1)



The Culinary Arts classroom includes new commercial stainless appliances and equipment to allow students the experience of cooking in a commercial kitchen setting.



The locker rooms at Patrick County High School (PCHS) were renovated over the summer.



Locker rooms at PCHS now include ADA compliant restrooms with showers.

Work on an outdoor area for special needs students attending PCHS was completed last year.



Patrick County Public Schools employees attended a lunch and training session to prepare for the new year.

“Wheelchair-acceptable swings, and the students actually maintain their little garden. It’s nice, the wheelchair students come out and use these,” he said.

There are also new lights outside at the football stadium. Wood said this completed project will allow the PCHS marching band to practice on the field under the lights at night.

“Typically, they practice on Monday evenings, and when the days start getting shorter it’s difficult for them to get the number of hours to practice that they would like,” he said.

Locker room renovations at PCHS also were completed and new restrooms, functional shower areas, and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) bathrooms and showers were installed.

“It is really exciting to get us up to Title IX compliant locker rooms, restrooms, and space for our male and female students. With our special needs population, there are a number of times a special needs student needed to take a shower, and we didn’t have the capabilities for that. We didn’t have any complaints, but we knew there was an issue that we needed to address,” Wood said, adding the division received the certificate of occupancy over the summer.

The culinary arts classrooms at PCHS also were remodeled and now includes stainless commercial kitchen equipment instead of the 1970s home ovens and countertops students previously used, Wood said.

“Before, even though we had a normal kitchen, you couldn’t do any cooktop frying plus the vapors because we didn’t have a hood. The biggest expense was a hood in this classroom and the next one,” he said.

Wood said improvements will help the students who need experience in a commercial kitchen rather than “the traditional, 1970s home economics class with just a normal oven

where all you could really do is heat something up,” he said.

Other projects include the remodeling of the concession stands, press box, restrooms, light poles, and the creation of locker rooms at the PCHS football stadium.

Wood said the maintenance staff took the project on themselves by getting prices to contract out for the remodeling.

“It saved the division a lot of money, and remodeled the concession stands - home and away - and restrooms, and added a locker room at the high school stadium,” he said.

When the light poles were taken down and replaced due to safety issues, Wood said one of them broke, “so, we had to replace those.”

Wood said the school division also finished the restroom renovations at every school.

“Patrick Springs still had a few that needed the floors refinished. They had new fixtures and partitions in the hall, but that was the one to be finished,” he said.

Wood noted PCHS was the first school to have its restrooms renovated. That project started a year before the COVID-19 pandemic, “so, then when we got the pandemic relief funds, we made sure we got every restroom,” he said.

Wood said there were also several remodeling improvements at Patrick Springs Primary School (PSPS).

“The front office was remodeled, carpet was removed, and new flooring put down. It’s just really focusing on a warmer, more inviting environment at our schools,” he said.

At the school board office, Wood said the classroom and marketplace are now complete.

“We’re excited that either the tourism class or culinary arts classes will be able to market the food that they prepare and sell it to the community a few days a week,” he said. Wood said a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be advertised this month for renovations to Blue

Ridge Elementary School.

“It will renovate the gymnasium there, make the stage accessible, which we meet code right now, but the steps are too short. I mean, I’d hit my head try to get on the stage, so they don’t use it,” he said.

Wood said there’s also a single-use men’s and women’s restroom in the Blue Ridge gymnasium.

“Imagine you have a PE class there, they have to go one at a time. Or if you’re at a ballgame, one at a time. There are no locker rooms there, and it will be a covered awning from the school to the gym because of the distance they have to walk outside to the gym in the rain or in the snow,” he said.

Wood said improvements to the Career & Technical Education (CTE) classrooms, locker room renovations, and restroom renovations were grant funded.

“We are very fortunate that we were able to utilize grant funds, and very little local dollars for our renovations,” he said.

Wood added the locker room project and light pole replacements also used funds generated from the one percent sales tax, while the gazebo project used local funds.

“We’re partnering with the senior class for the benches out front. Some past graduating classes are sponsoring little sections out there, so there’ll be a plaque like, ‘Sponsored by Class of 2011’ or whatever the years will be,” he said.

Wood said the improvements were needed to improve the schools and their safety for students.

While a lot of the work may not be noticed right away, Wood said as students and community members are introduced to and able to use the completed, new offerings, “they’ll actually see all the hard work our staff put into getting schools up to date, more welcoming, and ready for school this year.”

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The best place for your vacation

Dr. Glenn Mollette
Millions of Americans will still try to fit a few days of time off into their schedules in the next couple of months.

More people drive to their vacation than any other mode of transportation. State and national parks are popular this time of year. Niagara Falls will have about 30 million visitors this year. Yellowstone National Park will have about 4 million visitors. Disney World will have over 50 million visitors. Over four million people will visit The Grand Canyon. While people do fly to these destinations, most people are driving. If you don't mind being in a car for a day or two or three, then there are places you can go. When I was a child, our major family destination was Columbus, Ohio. My mother would pack some sandwiches, and we would go visit family for a couple of days. It didn't cost much but some of my wonderful memories are those simple days of seeing the sights of Route 23 and the big city of Columbus.

A lot of people do fly to their vacation destinations. Over 70 million Americans reportedly flew over the 4th of July holiday. Plane tickets are expensive. If you want to fly someplace like Rome, Italy and travel first class be prepared to shell out \$6,000 per person or more. Venice, Italy or Zurich, Switzerland is even more. Of course, if you don't mind flying main cabin and book far in advance, you can fly much cheaper. Airline travel can be a hassle. Weather can interrupt your flight and cause a delay. Delays could mean flying the next day or maybe even several days later. This is zero fun when you have booked and paid for lodging and your flight delay is eating into your precious few days of vacation. Airlines have staffing issues. A pilot may get sick, and a replacement might not be found until later in the day or even next day. All kinds of crazy stuff can happen that can make your travel stressful.

Train travel can be enjoyable. Amtrak is mostly what we have in the U.S. There are a few trains with short destinations, but Amtrak is what is available if you are traveling cross country. Amtrak does a good job but there is no first-class service on Amtrak. The food is good, and

you'll spend your meals eating with strangers. The dining car is small and so expect to meet new people at about every meal. They do have sleeper cars which are comfortable for sitting and enjoying the view as you cruise along. If you do book a sleeper, the bottom bunk is fairly comfortable, but the top sleeping bunk is not desirable as my wife will attest. A year or so ago we took the Southwest Chief train from Chicago to Los Angeles and had an enjoyable time simply looking out the window at the changing landscape. The problem for many of us is that Amtrak travel is not that close or easy for most Americans. The train stations are a long way from home. Or, if you do make it to a station, you have limited options as to where you can go unless you have a lot of time to travel and switch trains at different stations.

Over 40 million people will cruise annually by 2027 according to the Cruise Line International Association. Cruising can be restful once you are settled on board. You can eat almost anytime you want and as much as you want. You can lounge on the ship's deck or in your room and rest as much as you want. Or you can stay busy all day taking in entertainment or the excursions offered at every port. Cruising is not a bad deal if you shop around. Most cruise lines offer last minute specials as they like to cruise with a full ship when possible. Your biggest hurdle may be driving or flying to the port of embarkation.

While it may not sound exotic, the best vacation place may be your home. You are already familiar with your bed. You don't have to exhaust yourself traveling. You don't have to break the bank on a plane ticket, hotel room or the price of a cruise. You already know what restaurants are bad or good and you can sleep or do whatever you want without the hassle of other people running over you on the highway or at the airport. Financially and maybe even physically and mentally, staying at home could be the best vacation you've had in a long time. Unfortunately, this strategy will not appeal to your kids.

Find books by Glenn Mollette at Amazon.com. Learn more about his books, columns and music at GlennMollette.Com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good news for Virginia/big blow to big government

(Fox, Daily Signal, ACLJ, America First Legal)

A Virginia court ruled Wednesday, July 24, 2024 that students can challenge unconstitutional "transgender" pronoun and bathroom policies implemented by school boards in Virginia. Conservative public interest law firm America First Legal sued the district on behalf of a Roman Catholic student who believes the policy opposes her religious beliefs. The student believes God made only two genders—male and female—and that to reject one's biological sex is to reject the image of God within that person. Fairfax County Public Schools in Northern Virginia requires all students to refer to "students who identify as gender-expansive or transgender to be called by their chosen name and pronoun, regardless of the name and gender recorded in the student's permanent pupil record. The school district argued that the student, who was followed into the girls' bathroom by a boy and is compelled to use preferred pronouns under the school district's policy, did not have standing to sue. The court overruled that motion, recognizing that students can challenge unconstitutional policies.

A lawsuit was filed by the American Center for Law and Justice on behalf of Hadassah Carter, a Christian realtor who was harassed, targeted, and discriminated against because she included Bible verses on her website, and phrases like "Jesus Loves You" in her email signatures. The complaint stated because she used religious speech, she

could make someone feel discriminated against. The state of Virginia handed the ACLJ a victory by striking down the unconstitutional law targeting people of faith. With this victory, not only is Hadassah Carter free to include "Jesus Love You" and John 3:16 in her materials, but expressions of faith are no longer banned in the real estate profession in Virginia. It is a win for every Christian realtor in the state.

The Supreme Court this term took a hammer to decades-old legal doctrine that saved executive branch agencies in legal disputes. In a David vs. Goliath dispute, a group of fishermen sued a government agency that mandated the fishermen pay \$700 for "at sea monitors," arguing that the rule is out of the bounds Congress set for the federal agency. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the fishermen in a 6-3 decision last month, and, in doing so, overruled what is known as the Chevron doctrine — a legal theory established in the 1980s that says if a federal regulation is challenged, the courts should defer to the agency's interpretation of whether Congress had granted it authority to issue the rule, as long as the agency's interpretation is reasonable and Congress had not addressed the question directly. Now, Congress and the next president will have no choice but to work more closely together and stop relying on the "faceless leviathan" of federal agencies.

Pray for our country.
William Salser,
Stuart

Pro Forma

At the end of July, I presided over a pro forma session of Congress in the U.S. House of Representatives.

When a pro forma session is called, it typically means there is no consideration of legislation or debate scheduled for the floor of a chamber. Almost every Member of Congress is serving their respective constituencies back in their districts.

Annual sessions of Congress begin in January, when the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate convene.

We are currently in the second annual session of the 118th Congress, denoted as 118-2 by some.

The U.S. Constitution deems that neither chamber may adjourn for three days or more without consent of the other.

The Adjournments Clause of the Constitution reads, "Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days."

This applies to both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

Pro forma sessions are meant to maintain compliance with this provision of the U.S. Constitution. Pro forma sessions prevent the occurrence of a "recess of the session." In effect, the session for the year continues, whereas an adjournment would end the session.

My presiding over the pro forma session allowed the second session of the 118th Congress to continue without termination.

But pro forma sessions are valuable for other reasons as well.

Preventing recess or adjournments from taking place is rooted in the belief that the executive branch could "run wild" if Congress were not in session.

For instance, presidents retain the power to make recess appointments. Under the Recess Appointments Clause of the U.S. Constitution, the president may temporarily appoint somebody to a position if a vacancy occurs while the U.S. Senate is in recess. These positions can range from a new U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia to a Supreme Court justice.

This temporary appointment then expires at the end of the following session of the U.S. Senate, and the appointee would need to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate if they were to continue in their appointed role.

Alexander Hamilton, an ardent Federalist and believer in a strong executive, viewed the Recess Appointments Clause favorably so the president could fill vacancies without delay.

President Obama was found to have unconstitutionally recess appointed three individuals in National Labor Relations Board v. Canning.

In a unanimous ruling, the justices wrote that a pro forma session



Morgan Griffith
Representative

does not create a recess long enough to trigger the Recess Appointments Clause.

The opinion notes: "For purposes of the Recess Appointments Clause, the Senate is in session when it says it is, provided that, under its own rules, it retains the capacity to transact Senate business."

Furthermore, the justices established that a recess has to constitute a period of time greater than ten days.

Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon issued executive orders while Congress adjourned. Nixon's order established a Council on Environmental Equality and a citizens' advisory committee to the council.

TIME magazine described the council as "a Cabinet-level advisory group designed to coordinate governmental action against environmental decay at all levels, create new proposals to control pollution, and foresee problems."

The council served as a basis for establishing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

State legislatures adjourn too.

As a former member of the Virginia House of Delegates, I am used to adjournments of greater than ten days.

The general assembly session is held for sixty days in even-numbered years, and generally forty-five days in odd-numbered years. For a big chunk of the year, the general assembly stands "sine die", meaning adjourned.

In 2000, the Republicans passed a biennial budget for Virginia including two steps in the repeal of the state's car tax, an issue that then-Governor Jim Gilmore supported.

Gilmore's campaign slogan of "Axe the Tax" was popular when he ran for governor in 1997.

In 2001, I moved for the House of Delegates to adjourn sine die without Senate consent in order to preserve the second step in the biennial budget to take the car tax relief to 70%.

Because of that adjournment, today you pay roughly 20% less on the car tax.

That experience taught me that adjournments, while seemingly benign on surface, can be a powerful tool indeed.

Accordingly, I was glad to perform the functions of a pro forma session so the legislative branch could keep in check executive action.

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

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WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET**

Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy

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

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

Patrick Pioneers

Peter, William, and Thomas Craig
By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, we looked at David and Mariah Stockton Craig and their children, particularly Thomas and his three wives and fourteen children. This week, we will learn more about sons Peter and William Craig and their wives, who were half-sisters. We will also follow the three brothers' journey along with the 42nd Virginia, Company G., part of Stonewall Jackson's Foot Cavalry.

The 42nd Infantry Regiment, organized at Staunton, Virginia, in July 1861, recruited its members in Henry, Floyd, Bedford, Campbell, Roanoke, Patrick, and Franklin counties. According to John Chapla's book on the regiment, Private William S. Craig, age 24, enlisted on the 10th day of March 1862 at Martinsville, Henry County and was placed in the 42nd Virginia Infantry, Company G.

William had married at age 19 to 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. When William joined the 42nd, he and Elizabeth's first child, Edward "Ned" was five years old; second son David Alexander was four; and daughter Mary Jane was three years old.

William's brother Thomas joined the 42nd Virginia, Company G on the same day as William and was appointed to the rank of sergeant. Thomas was married to the former Miss Sarah Philpott, but no children were born to the union until after the war was over.

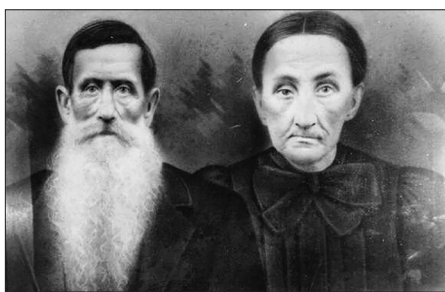
William and Thomas' brother, Peter joined his brothers twelve days later when he also enlisted in the 42nd Virginia Infantry, Company G. He gave his occupation as farmer and his address as Rock Castle Post Office. Peter had married Miss Sarah "Sallie" Wood, the daughter of Edward "Ned" Wood and his second wife, Nancy Adeline Nolen/Nowlin on the 30th of December 1858. Peter and Sallie settled near the home of Sallie's parents in the Lone Ivy community of Patrick County. When Peter left home to join the war, he and Sallie had a three-year-old son, John Copeland and Sallie was expecting a baby that winter.

The Craig brothers did not have to wait long to see action because after the battle of Kernstown, the regiment was assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia. The young men participated in the Valley Campaign where Stonewall Jackson marched his men back and forth across the Shenandoah Valley for 646 miles in 48 days: engaging three different Union armies and preventing them from capturing Richmond. According to John Chapla's regimental history, Lt. Henry D. Puckett wrote, "We all nearly broke down from the marching and fighting."

Thomas was promoted to Third Sergeant on the 21st of April 1862; William, Thomas, and Peter along with the other men of the 42nd participated in the Seven Days Battles which lasted from June 25 to July 1, 1862. During the last few days of the battle, Thomas was hospitalized at the Greenwood Station hospital near Louisa Courthouse.

The Craigs and the 42nd next saw action at the Battle of Cedar Mountain in Culpeper County, Virginia on the 9th of August 1862 and the Second Battle of Bull Run from August 28th -30th 1862.

The first time one of the Craig boys was wounded was at Antietam, which would become known as the bloodiest day in American history. William Craig



Peter and Sallie Wood Craig (Photo from Gay Belcher Edwards)

was wounded at the battle on September 17, 1862, and was taken to a hospital in Richmond where he remained from September 30th to October 7th, 1862. William was allowed to return home on sick leave where he remained until the end of 1862. When William left to join his brothers and the rest of the 42nd Virginia at the beginning of 1863, his wife Elizabeth was now expecting a baby.

Peter was hospitalized in Richmond from September 30th to October 27th, 1862, and was also allowed to return home to recover until the beginning of 1863. Thomas remained with the 42nd during the fall of 1862, fighting in the Battle of Fredericksburg from December 11th to 15th of 1862.

William, Peter, and Thomas were with the 42nd Virginia Infantry at the Battle of Chancellorsville from April 30th to May 6th of 1863; this was also where their leader Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded.

Lee next marched his Army of Northern Virginia, including the 42nd Virginia to a little town named Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where they met the Union Army. It was here at Gettysburg when tragedy would strike the Craig brothers. On the third of July 1863, William Craig was gunshot through his left thigh. Peter and Thomas had to leave their brother William in Pennsylvania while the Army of Northern Virginia retreated back through Maryland and over the Potomac River into Virginia.

William Craig died of his injuries on July 13th, 1863; he was 25 years old. William was buried in a marked, shallow grave in Gettysburg. Twenty-four days later, his son, Willie Craig was born on August 3, 1863.

Peter and Thomas were captured on May 12th, 1864, during the battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, along with over 5,000 of Lee's men. The brothers, now prisoners of war, arrived at Point Lookout, Maryland on May 18th, 1863. Point Lookout lies on a peninsula between the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. A wooden walled prisoner pen had been constructed on the shore of the bay and men were given tents for shelter. Many of the prisoners died from exposure, disease, or starvation.

Peter and Thomas Craig remained at Point Lookout until August 3rd, 1864, at which time they were moved to Elmira, a newly constructed prisoner of war camp in New York. The brothers arrived at Elmira on the sixth of August 1864 and would soon discover why the POW camp's death rate rivaled the more famous Andersonville prisoner of war camp in the South. According to the American Battlefield Trust, the death rate at the Union POW camp Elmira was 25%, while the death rate at the Confederate POW camp Andersonville was 28%. The horrors these men endured is unimaginable.

Peter was at Elmira until the 20th of February 1865 when he was sent to a meeting spot on the James River for a prisoner of war exchange. Thomas remained at Elmira until the 27th of June 1865 when he was released after sign-



July 4th, 1900, Confederate Veterans Reunion in Ballard, VA. Peter Craig holding the flag. (Photo from Patrick County Historical Society.)

ing the Oath of Allegiance to the United States Government. I have often wondered what was going on in Thomas' mind from the time of the surrender at Appomattox in April to the time of his release in June, a full eighty days later.

Last week, we looked at Thomas' life, his three wives, and his fourteen children. This week, we will examine what happened to William's widow, Elizabeth Wood Craig and his four children, and Peter and his wife, Sallie Wood Craig, and their ten children.

Elizabeth and her four children lived with her mother-in-law, Mariah Stockton Craig in the Carter's Store section of Henry County. Elizabeth's son Ned married Miss Fannie Alice Burge of Henry County in 1881; son David Alexander married Miss Lucinda Adkins of Franklin County in 1889; daughter Mary Jane "Mollie" married George Crawford Moran of Patrick County in 1881; and Willie married Miss Fannie Mitchell of Bassett in 1885. Elizabeth, age 65, is shown living with her daughter, Mollie Moran in the 1900 census until the time of her passing on December 30th, 1928, at the age of 93.

In 1871, Dr. Rufus Weaver was contracted to supervise the removal of the Confederate dead to their native state. Using a journal of identified Confederate burials compiled by Dr. J.W.C. O'Neal (a Virginia-born physician who resided in Gettysburg), Dr. Weaver was successful in returning the remains of 3,320 soldiers, the vast majority of which were sent to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. According to the cemetery records, William Craig of the 42nd Virginia, Company G is buried there in an unknown plot (www.hollywoodcemetery.org/genealogy/burial-records).

Peter returned to his home in the Lone Ivy community of Patrick County where his son, John Copeland was five years old and he met his new daughter, Nancy Ellen, who was now 2 ½ years old. Peter and Sallie would go on to have eight more children over the next twenty-three years.

Peter and Sallie's son, John Copeland Craig married Miss Martha Alberta Belcher in April of 1884. Martha was the daughter of John Belcher and Nancy Brammer Belcher of Brammer's Spur community. Daughter Nancy Ellen Craig married Charles Edgar Belcher in December of 1883. Charles was also the child of John and Nancy Brammer Belcher.

Peter and Sallie's daughter, Martha Evelina married Lewis Shelton "Shep" Cassell in October of 1883. Shep was the son of Austin Jones Cassell and Levina Edwards Cassell of Vesta, Virginia. The fourth child of Peter and Sallie, Sarah Elizabeth Craig married William Moses Hylton in April of 1886. William was the son of Moses Hylton

and Elizabeth Cruise Hylton of the Lone Ivy community.

Peter and Sallie's fifth child, Susan Ann Mariah married German Tiberius Belcher in April of 1895. German was the son of Hardon Belcher and Louisa Frances Palmer of the Brammer's Spur community. William "Billy" German Craig was next born to Peter and Sallie. Billy married Miss Minta Adeline Howell in October of 1895. Minta was the daughter of Henry Howell and Julia Angelina Boyd of Meadows of Dan.

The seventh child born to Peter and Sallie was Mary Lou Craig who married Benjamin Byrd Belcher in January of 1898. Benjamin was also the son of John and Nancy Brammer Belcher of the Brammer's Spur community. Lula Alberta Craig was born to Peter and Sallie in 1879; Lula never married.

Peter and Sallie's ninth child, Thomas Craig married Ada Arabelle Wood in October of 1904. Ada was the daughter of Stephen Wood and Sarah Elizabeth Cruise Wood of Meadows of Dan. Thomas was killed in a coal mine in McDowell County, West Virginia on the first of May 1911. Thomas' body was brought back to Patrick County and buried in the David G. Wood Cemetery in Lone Ivy.

Sallie Ann Wood Craig passed away on the 24th of November 1926; she was 83 years old. After the death of his wife, Peter went to live with his daughters Lula and Oma in Bassett. The two sisters owned a boarding house for the Bassett furniture workers. The home is still in great shape and is located directly across the road from Carter Bank and Trust in Bassett. Peter David Craig passed away on the 29th of May 1929. Peter was laid to rest beside his wife Sallie and his son Thomas in the David G. Wood Cemetery.

Peter and Sallie's tenth and youngest child, Oma, did not marry until her father passed away. Oma married at age 43 to widower, Euell Handy in October of 1931. Euell was the son of Will Handy and Nancy Annah Belcher of Meadows of Dan. Euell's first wife, Nancy Louanna Howell had passed away in 1929, leaving Euell with two children to raise.

The late Gay Belcher Edwards could recall sitting in her great-grandfather Peter Craig's lap and combing his long beard. She would have been about six years old at the time. The photo of Peter and Sallie shown above was discovered when my mother and I visited Gay. This photo was taken from a framed picture of the couple that was hanging in Gay's home.

If you are interested in learning more about the 42nd Virginia Infantry, the Bassett Historical Center has a phenomenal collection of documents from this particular regiment. 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 – Does Congress Pay Into Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I've been told that members of Congress do not have Social Security deducted from their pay; Additionally, that their retirement dollars come from the Social Security Administration purse even if they only serve as a member of Congress for a short number of terms. Also, if this is true, are there other individuals that enjoy these advantages?

Thank you in advance for your service as a Social Security Advisor.

Signed: *Concerned Senior*

Dear Concerned Senior: I'm afraid this is one of those "urban legend" kind of rumors that just seems to keep popping up, especially when the issues surrounding Social Security's financial problems come up. In addition to being untrue, it often is used to display the public's animosity toward elected officials and the feeling that Congress—and other elected officials—are above the

fray, so to speak, and therefore not affected by the implications of Social Security's looming insolvency problem.

Here's the reality. Since January 1, 1984, all members of Congress, the President and Vice President, Federal judges, and most political appointees, are covered under the Social Security program. The rumor that these elected officials do not pay Social Security tax most likely is attributable to the fact that from 1920 to 1983, they were participants in the Civil Service Retirement System – CSRS – the federal retirement plan federal workers used even before the Social Security Act was passed. CSRS provided a pension for federal employees, so they were exempted from contributing to or collecting from the new Social Security program.

In 1987, then, the federal government officially changed over to FERS – the Federal Employee Retirement System – and all employees hired from that point forward are now covered under FERS. There are multiple parts to FERS, and one of them is mandatory FICA contributions. So, all federal employees—including members of Congress—are subject to the 6.2% FICA tax, are

eligible for Social Security retirement benefits, and are governed by the multitude of rules and regulations associated with Social Security. But other than standard SS benefits which they may normally be entitled, no Social Security funds are used to supplement Congressional retirement.

In other words, the rumor that Congress didn't pay into Social Security was actually true prior to 1984, but today it is a misstatement of fact. And the federal employee retirement plans (both the prior CSRS plan and the current FERS plan) are totally independent of Social Security and do not negatively affect program solvency.

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 2

Then there's the cost of bringing the bottled water to the store. Take Fiji water for example again. If you ever travel to Fiji, you'll realize what an astonishing feat it is to deliver water from there to here. It's an 11-hour flight from Los Angeles to Fiji and then another 4 hours of driving on a two-lane road to the water plant. Of course, the journey in reverse is by boats and trucks. The cost of shipping makes up more than half the cost of the water. And when you consider that the empty plastic bottles must be shipped to Fiji first, it's really double the journey to bring you water from Fiji.

Water from Pepsi and Coke (Aquafina, Dasani among others) are sourced from municipal tap water. That's right. Twenty-four percent of all the bottled water we drink in America is just tap water. This allows the companies to bottle near their markets, so it has the least environmental impact. But to maintain the same taste no matter the source of tap water (so that water in Atlanta tastes the same as the water in Seattle), and to be able to say the water is purified, the companies run the tap water through a reverse-osmosis system that is more potent than the systems used to turn seawater into drinking water. To clarify, the water they are purifying is ready to drink—they are purifying perfectly clean tap water.

Moreover, the disposal of plastic bottles poses a significant challenge. Despite recycling efforts, a large percentage of plastic bottles end up in landfills. The environmental consequences of

plastic pollution are far-reaching and can persist for hundreds of years, posing a threat to wildlife and ecosystems.

Cost-Effectiveness

Another compelling reason to choose tap water over bottled water is its cost-effectiveness. While the initial investment in a reusable water bottle or filtration system may be higher, the long-term savings are substantial. Bottled water, especially when consumed regularly, can quickly add up in expenses, making it a costly choice compared to tap water.

For example, municipal water for the city of San Francisco comes from Yosemite. The water is so pure that the EPA doesn't require it to be filtered. Let's say a half-liter of bottled water from the store costs about \$1.35. If you filled that bottle with San Francisco tap water every day, it would take 10 years before it would cost \$1.35. Put another way, if all the water you used at home (showers, cooking, and drinking) was in the form of bottled water, your monthly water bill would run you \$9,000.

And there's a human cost. It would be one thing if buying bottled water from Fiji actually helped many Fijians rise from poverty. But these bottling plants are so efficient that almost all of it is automated. Fiji's main export has been sugar. But since 2010, the sale of Fiji water equaled the sale of sugar. The main difference is that the sugar industry in Fiji employs over 10,000 people. The Fiji water company employs 250 people. Paying the added cost of drinking

Fiji water vs tap water is not helping thousands rise from poverty. The added cost is paying for shipping and packaging (plastic).

Conclusion

We drink a billion bottles of water a week in America, and we do it because it's convenient and because we believe it's better for us. But bottled water is as different from tap water as Starbucks coffee is from a homemade brew. It's not that different. So, as we drive around with half-empty bottles in our cupholders, or as we mindlessly toss a bottle of water in our lunches, consider the cost. It's not just a question of whether a bottle of water is worth 99 cents to you, it's also a question of whether the value is worth the impact you're about to leave behind.

It takes just a little bit more effort to fill a reusable water bottle and to filter the water (if you want it purer) but we just can't be bothered. But when you consider that a billion people on the planet have no reliable water source and 3,000 children a day die from contaminated water, consuming that bottle of water we don't need isn't just wasteful, it's an indictment on our society. We value convenience and status (look I'm drinking water from a glacier). But when we understand where the water comes from, and the cost of bringing it to you, it's hard to look at a bottle of water the same again.

(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)

AITC grant applications open to educators who want to implement agricultural projects

School gardens and farm field trips provide valuable real-life learning experiences for children. But some educators don't have the resources to make them happen.

That's why Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom is launching another round of educator grants for those who want to provide agricultural experiences for children inside and outside the classroom. The grants aim to help educators expand children's understanding about the sources of their food and fiber, and how farming and agriculture impact their daily lives.

Virginia AITC will award over \$30,000 for the 2024-25 school year to support educator projects. Teachers and other organizations like 4-H clubs and FFA chapters that work with schools and parent-teacher associations can apply for up to \$500 for agriculture-related initiatives.

"AITC grants provide teachers with an opportunity to connect students to a wide variety of agricultural experiences," said Tammy Maxey, Virginia AITC's executive director. "Projects like school gardens, incubators and growing systems can benefit multiple classes, grade levels and even the entire school for several years after the original grant—creating an ongoing opportunity for student agricultural literacy."

The deadline for grant applications is Oct. 13. However, applications received by Aug. 15 will be eligible for AITC's expedited notification. This early decision allows educators to begin their projects at the beginning of the school year. Educators who complete the ap-

plication early will be notified by Sept. 8.

Grant projects can occur at school or in the community, and may include learning gardens, STEM integrations or unique agricultural experiences for students.

Last year, AITC awarded 75 grants, totaling over \$36,000 and reaching 30,000 youth. One grant project was led by Ashlee Painter, a family and consumer sciences teacher at Stonewall Jackson High School in Shenandoah County.

Painter created a farm-to-table experience with her students using an indoor hydroponic garden to grow herbs and produce, which they harvested and ate.

"I wanted my students to learn where the produce comes from that they cook with, along with the care required to cultivate it," Painter explained. "They loved coming into class every day to see if their plants had grown and had conversations about whether the produce was ready to pick or not, which showed me they were truly learning."

To apply for a grant, or to learn more about educational activities available through Virginia AITC, visit virginia.agclassroom.org/teachers/grants.

The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes a greater understanding and appreciation of agriculture through education and outreach activities. For information about Virginia AITC's fundraising events, including the AITC Clay Shoot and the second annual Taste of Virginia culinary event, visit virginia.agclassroom.org/donors/events.



Hospital Earns National Top Five-Star Ratings from CMS

Northern Regional Hospital has earned a five-star rating for quality care – the highest award possible -- in the most recently published report by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Northern Regional Hospital is one of only 14 hospitals in North Carolina to achieve this award.

In the latest CMS release on July 31, Northern Regional Hospital is among the elite 381 hospitals nationwide that have achieved a 5-star rating out of the thousands evaluated. This year, CMS awarded fewer hospitals with the five-star rating, with 102 fewer hospitals receiving this honor compared to 2023. The evaluation is based on 46 quality measures categorized into five key areas: safety of care, mortality, patient experience, re-admission rates, and timely and effective care.

"This five-star designation comes on the heels of our recent Becker's Top-100 community hospitals and Triad Business Journal, Best Places to Work awards, a testament to our unwavering commitment to quality care and service excellence," said Chris A. Lumsden,

President and Chief Executive Officer of Northern Regional Hospital. "As we grow, improve, and expand clinical services and programs, we will uphold the superior standards established to deliver high-quality, safe care to patients and the communities we serve. Congratulations to our entire Northern team."

Northern Regional Hospital's exceptional performance highlights its dedication to maintaining top-notch healthcare standards and improving patient experiences.

"Northern Regional Hospital's five-star designation speaks to the dedication of each member of our healthcare team – including physicians, nurses, allied-health professionals, administrators, support staff, and volunteers – who are focused 24/7 on delivering top-quality care to patients," said Robin H. Hodgins, Senior Vice President for Patient Services & Chief Nursing Officer. "It also speaks to the cherished level of trust our patients have in us to provide them with high-quality care and heartfelt compassion."

For more information, visit ChooseNorthern.org.

Home Country

Slim Randles

When the world is hot and my skin is fried, scratching from the constant dry, let the clouds boil up – boil up high. And then shade the earth with the darkening sky and bring the secrets and the smell of rain. The heat and the blessed rain, again.

Our land is brown but blessed, stressed in the heat, the shiny heat of day. The slender green of desert rivers slides along, striving to continue, to feed its own along the banks – the banks where the dust rises. Rises, powdery clomp by clomp as we walk – walk the shady way.

Ours is the blessing of challenge, to live, to thrive in the heat. But bring us the clouds, the black belied clouds, the clouds that softly hold the heads of gods in their moistening grasp. Let them come, with their silver tops and their

bellies black as night and cool as forgiveness.

The summer clouds, the clouds that define our culture, our art, our summer, our hot, heavy summer. Let the magic come and stay, stay for a while, at least for a while, and wet us down, all the way down. Fill our pores, smooth our skin, wash us free of dirt and sin, with the rain, the cleansing blessed rain.

A rain, a storm, a suddenness of life and blast and sweet charity designed to keep us living here, here in the rain, here in the sun, and keep us praying, here in the rain, and looking toward the west for more, always to the west, always looking for more.

Brought to you by Slim's latest book, *Whimsy Castle*, now available at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble and your local bookstore.

Crossing the Lines

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

Judge, clerk's offices in city relocated due to water damage General District court cases to be heard in council chambers

A water leak in the Municipal Building prompted the relocation of the General District Court Judge and clerk's offices from the first floor to the second floor.

Cases pending in Martinsville's General District Court now will be heard in the Martinsville City Council Chambers, which is located in Room 201, on the second floor.

Court hours are unchanged; telephone and fax numbers also are the same.

"Temporarily, we've relocated the (General District Court) judge to a new office, the clerks, and we are also moving court up to the council chambers until we can truly assess what is going on," City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides said.

Kendall Davis, public information officer, said the decision to relocate the offices was made last week when employees noticed damp ceiling tiles and city officials became aware of a water leak. An investigation began immediately, and determined the leak was caused by HVAC pipe condensation.



Ceilings on the first floor of Martinsville's Municipal Building sustained damage due to an HVAC leak, prompting the temporary relocation of the General District Court judge and clerk's offices.

ly, and determined the leak was caused by HVAC pipe condensation.



James Brown protests the recent Chevron ruling.

Supreme Court decisions protested in Uptown event

A protest was organized in Uptown Martinsville to bring awareness to several recent choices made by the Supreme Court, such as Roe V. Wade and immunity for presidents, with members of the local Democratic Committee participating in the event held at the Martinsville Henry County Heritage Center & Museum.

"Some of the decisions that the supreme court makes, they are not right," said protestor James Brown. "The supreme court has made a remarkable number of amazing decisions this year, like the January 6 obstruction charges, immunity for former presidents. Because the court is loaded, we are getting these ridiculous decisions," said Martinsville Henry County Democratic Committee chairman Melody Cartwright.

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Student interns encouraged to overcome losses

"You can, end of story."

That was the message from Natalie Hodge, of Rudy's Girl Media, to student interns from Martinsville City Schools.

Hodge made the comments during a July 25 lunch and program to honor student interns at the New College Institute (NCI). The program included a signing ceremony with Eastman Performance Films. Hodge, who also hosted interns and was among the keynote speakers at the ceremony, said she keeps an inspirational sign on her door to remind her and others of this phrase.

Discussing her life, Hodge included not only the high points like returning to Martinsville, but also shared the low parts, like couch surfing in New York City and family loss.

She faced having to find employment, being rejected from prospective jobs, and even having to start over again, Hodge said she also had to move around a lot. "My aunt once said she would never write my address in pen because I was moving around to all these different places."

Love brought her back to Martinsville, where she eventually settled down with her now husband and founded her local company.

"I moved back here and founded Rudy's Girls Media with the intention of showcasing how we can do



Natalie Hodges was among the keynote speakers at a ceremony honoring student interns.

it here," she said, and added that it wasn't easy.

"Life wasn't always great for me, but I definitely am proud of my journey. I'm excited by the things I was able to accomplish and still accomplishing, but it wasn't smooth sailing by any means." Hodges said.

Even earning a master's degree "doesn't mean you can't have lows in your life, but what settled into my spirit was: You can, end of story," Hodge said.

P&HCC's Patriot Players Dazzle With "The Wizard of Oz"



Liz Ashby (Wicked Witch), Jyshir Plunkett (Scarecrow), Scott Harmon (Tin Man), Titus Rodriguez (Toto), Anna Locklear (Dorothy), Landon George (Cowardly Lion), Zack Jordan (Wizard), Grace Webster (Glinda to Good) pose for the cast set photo. (Contributed)

The P&HCC Patriot Players practiced through the summer to begin performances of "The Wizard of Oz," which was originally a book written by L. Frank Baum that gained popularity in 1939 thanks to a film debut.

The play was produced in partnership with Ray Hollingsworth Dance and Arts Studio and the Smith River Singers, with some tweaks to the

original material. During several parts of the show, dancers took to the stage.

The show itself was mostly a musical, and all the classic songs from the movie, like "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "We're Off to See The Wizard," were performed. It opened on July 25 to a sold out crowd.

Biden hailed as "real American patriot" after suspending campaign

During a recent remote meeting with media representatives, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner discussed several issues, including President Joe Biden's surprising decision to not seek reelection, online safety for children, and the Israeli Prime Minister's address to congress.

With little more than 100 days to go in the presidential race, Biden announced on July 21 that he would suspend his campaign - a choice that according to Warner, D-Alexandria, shows Biden as a "real American patriot."

Warner said he believes that Biden's decision was because

he put the country first and was ready to pass the torch.

"I'm grateful for the president's selfless decision," Warner said, noting that Biden has about an eighth of his presidency left. "I think the president needs to continue to be strong in where his forte is, international affairs."

Warner said he wants to see Biden continue to rally the world against Iranian aggression and the threat of China in technology domains. He also believes in Biden's impact on student debt relief and possible supreme court reform.



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner during a remote meeting with media.

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Brenda Jacqueline Foley Adams

Mrs. Brenda Jacqueline Foley Adams, age 79, of Ferrum, Virginia passed away on Sunday, July 28, 2024, at SOVAH Hospital of Martinsville. She was born in Patrick County on May 18, 1945, to the late James "Boss" Foley and Vada Mary Sawyers Foley. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Harrison Adams, Sr.; four sisters, Pauline Foley, Odean Thomas, Allene Foley, Jeraldine Thomas; four brothers, Alexander Foley, Frank Foley, Grady Foley, and Alvis Foley. Brenda was a member of Ross Harbour Methodist Church for most of her life. She loved all animals, especially her beloved dogs. Brenda loved to travel,

but above all, she loved being "Grannie" to her grandchildren. Mrs. Adams will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Left to cherish the fond memories of Mrs. Adams are her children, Mary Adams Lyons of Stuart, Virginia, Carl Harrison Adams, Jr. (Marcia) of Stuart, Virginia, James Lemly Adams (Julie Coates) of Danville, Virginia; two grandchildren, Farren Brooke Adams Cummings (Justin), Sean Adam Lyons; one sister, Nannie Bett Martin (Fred) of Stuart, Virginia; one brother, Lewis Foley (Delores) of Stuart, Virginia; several nieces and nephews; several great nieces and great nephews; and many dear friends.

A funeral service for Mrs. Brenda Adams will be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Ross Harbour Methodist Church with Pastor David Gaylor officiating. Burial will immediately follow the funeral service in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the funeral service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Mrs. Adams may be made to Ross Harbour Methodist Church, c/o Cathy Adams, 35 Goblintown Road, Stuart, VA 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Adams family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Michael Ray Bridges

Michael Ray Bridges, age 68, of Meadows of Dan, VA, left this world peacefully on June 25, 2024. Michael was born in Stuart, VA, on January 25, 1956, to the late Virginia Rhumell Boyd Willett. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Luther and Irene Boyd of Meadows of Dan, VA. Throughout his life, Michael had several careers. He served as a River Boat Captain from 1973-1974 in Meadows of Dan. Following this, he worked at WHEO radio station as a DJ and ad sales associate from 1975-1977. In 1977, Michael began a distinguished 20-year career with the Patrick County Sheriff's Office, where he served under three sheriffs as a court officer, road deputy, and deputy jailer. Michael's greatest passion was



his love for music. In 1977, he joined The Joyful Noise with his two best friends, where he enjoyed singing the gospel of Jesus Christ and made many friends along the way. His voice and the sweet chords of his guitar will forever be remembered. Left to cherish his memory are his son, Phillip Bridges, of Meadows of Dan, VA; daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and Jeremiah Arnold of Florida;

three grandchildren, Brooklyn Holt, Elliot Holt, and Liam Arnold; half-brother Carl Bridges of VA beach, cousin, Ronnie Boyd of Meadows of Dan; Maxine Mullmax of North Carolina; Barry Boyd and his wife of Meadows of Dan, VA; and his bandmates and best friends, Bill Banks and Rick Hill, who shared over 40 years of music and love. A private memorial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Joyful Noise c/o Rick Hill. "When Jesus splits those Eastern skies and we hear that trumpet sound, then all our loved one's dead in Christ are gonna raise up from the ground. This life is short while here on earth, but we'll gain the victory. Our life's will be continued when Jesus comes again."

Melodi Gaye Hodges

Melodi Gaye Hodges, aged 53, passed away on July 26, 2024, in Gillette, WY. Born on August 3, 1970, in Pickens, SC, she was a beacon of joy and faith throughout her life.



Melodi was actively involved in Pleasant Garden Baptist Church in Pleasant Garden, NC and later at Roopville Road Baptist Church in Roopville, GA. Her faith was the cornerstone of her life, and she cherished the opportunity to serve her Lord through various ministries.

Known for her radiant smile and vivacious personality, Melodi lived life to the fullest. She had an innate ability to draw people to her with her warmth and generosity. Her hobbies included spending quality time with her family and friends, and traveling with The Nelons, which brought her immense joy and fulfill-

ment.

Melodi was predeceased by her mother, Lou O. (Billingsley) Hodges, and her brother, Bill Hodges. She is survived by her father, Irvin Ray Hodges, Sr.; brothers, Irvin R. Hodges, Jr. (Connie), J. Alan Hodges (Kellie), and Michael Hodges; sister, Donna Hodges; niece, Julianne; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins who will miss her dearly.

A memorial service to celebrate Melodi's life and homegoing will be held on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 11:00 am at Trinity Baptist Church in Claudville, VA. A private graveside service will be held at a later date. Her legacy of love, faith, and kindness will be remembered by all who knew her. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences can be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Judy Banks Keith



Our beloved Judy Banks Keith, age 76, of Meadows of Dan, Virginia went to be with her heavenly father on Sunday, July 28, 2024. Judy was surrounded by her loving family in her final days. Judy was born in Meadows of Dan, Virginia on September 14, 1947, to the late Waymon Avery Banks and Pauline Vera Banks. Judy married John William Keith on September 8, 1967, and raised their family in Meadows of Dan. Judy was a long-time employee of Micrometrics in Meadows of Dan as well as an active and faithful member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Stuart. Judy was a devout Christian and instilled these values in her children and

Keith are her husband, John William Keith of the home; two sons, Kevin Keith (Tabitha) of Bassett, Virginia, Todd Keith (Jaclyn) of Hardy, Virginia; five grandchildren, Madelyn Keith, Mitchell Keith, Mason Keith, Emma Keith, Carter Keith; and many dear friends.

A funeral service for Judy Keith will be held on Friday, August 2, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Reed Island Springs Baptist Church. Burial will immediately follow the funeral service in the church cemetery. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Keith family, and online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Left to cherish the memories of Judy

Robert "Bruce" Spence

Mr. Robert "Bruce" Spence, age 70, a resident of Washington died Sunday July 28, 2024, at ECU Health Inpatient Hospice in Greenville, NC.

A celebration of life will be held 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Monday August 12, 2024 at VFW, 939 VFW Rd., Patrick Springs, VA.

Bruce was born in Patrick County, VA on August 1, 1953, son of the late Walter Curtis Spence and the late Mary DeHart Spence Hensley. He was a graduate of Patrick County High School in Virginia and earned his bachelor's degree in biology from High Point University in North Carolina. On January 17, 1976, he married the former Phyllis Jean Coleman who survives. He worked in sales with many companies and retired from outside

sales in the safety equipment industry. Bruce loved history, traveling, camping, reading, and was an avid Washington Redskins fan who refused to refer to them by any other name. He lived his adult life in Richmond, VA where he raised his children. He was a member of Wares Chapel United Methodist Church and was President of the UMM until his health declined.

Surviving along with his wife Phyllis of the home are his children: Scott Spence and his wife Tara of East Longmeadow, MA, Ian Spence of Richmond, VA, and Nathan Spence and his wife Melanie of Richmond; brothers: Charles "Sonny" Spence (Betty), Raymond Spence (Earlean), Frank Spence (Francis), and Junior Spence all of Patrick County, VA, and Alvin Ayers of Eden, NC; a

sister: Margaret Massey of Patrick County, VA; grandchildren: Leo, Miriam, Seamus, Wren, and Parker Spence; and numerous nieces and nephews including one that was an extra daughter: Tammy Jones of Richmond.

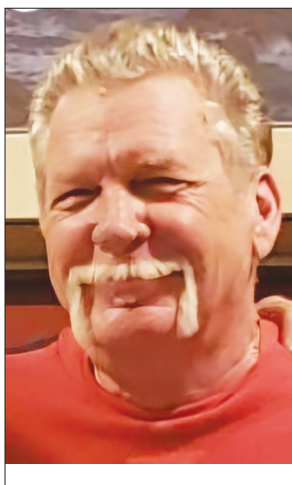
Bruce was predeceased along with his parents by his stepfather: Ellis Hensley, brother: Fred Spence, special cousin Judy Cassidy.

In lieu of flowers the family kindly asks that memorials contributions be made to Caring Hearts Free Clinic of Patrick County, 835 Woodland Ste 101, Stuart, VA 24171.

Online condolences may be offered to the family by visiting www.paulfuneralhome.com

Paul Funeral Home & Crematory of Washington is honored to serve Bruce's family.

David Wayne Handy



Mr. David Wayne Handy, age 71, of Meadows of Dan, Virginia passed away on Saturday, July 27, 2024, at his home. He was born in Martinsville, Virginia on April 16, 1953, to the late Cecil Akers Handy and Beulah Marshall Handy. David enjoyed riding his Harley, NASCAR, "picking," yard sales, auctions, and hanging out in his store, "Rusty Gold." He always kept everyone laughing with all the stories he would tell. David touched and loved so many people that he encountered. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Left to cherish the special memories of Mr. David Handy are his children, Kevin Handy (Michelle) of Stuart, Virginia, Trey Handy (Bambie) of Martinsville, Virginia, Amber Huffman (Lucas Terry) of Patrick Springs, Virginia, Sara Tatum of Dinwiddie, Virginia, Nickie Handy of Chesapeake, Virginia, Tia Strempsi of South Hill, VA; a bonus son, Clay Gregson (Angel) of Ararat, Virginia; 19 grandchildren; three sisters, Jean Pendleton of Stuart, Virginia, Patsy Fain of Stuart, Virginia, Sue Collins (Jerry) of Stuart, Vir-

The family will receive friends on Thursday, August 1, 2024, at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart from 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

The family of Mr. David Handy would like to thank all the doctors and nurses at Lewis Gale Cancer Center of Pulaski for all their kindness, care, and love shown to David during his illness. Also, the family would like to thank Aunt Katherine (Kat) Boyd for all her love and care shown to David.

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PATRICK PULPITS

The Father's Blessing

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

Gary Smalley and John Trent wrote in "The Blessing" that "All of us long to be accepted by others. While we may say out loud 'I don't care what other people think about me', on the inside we all yearn for intimacy and affection." This yearning is especially true in our relationship with our parents.

Gaining or missing out on parental approval has a tremendous effect on us, even if it has been years since we had any regular contact with them. Smalley and Trent tell about Brian, who spent a lifetime seeking his father's approval. His father, a career Marine officer, wanted him to be the best and the brightest. Brian tried desperately to do so.

When his father lay dying, Brian flew across the country to be by his bedside and pleaded, "Please say you love me, please!" But his father died without giving Brian the words he most wanted to hear.

Jacob and Esau both wanted the blessing of their father, Isaac. Jacob was willing to deceive and lie to receive it. Esau was willing to kill Jacob in order to get it back. It took many years and God's providences for the two brothers to iron out their differences.

Jesus Himself, the source of all our blessings, received His Father's blessing three times during His ministry: at His baptism, on the Mount of Transfiguration, and

in the temple. God spoke words of love and affirmation which was a blessing to Jesus. By these heavenly interventions we catch a glimpse of the deep love of the Godhead.

So, what is our mission today? "To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:6). Families and marriages would stay together if more words of love and appreciation were regularly spoken. The Apostle Paul writes to the fathers "Provoke not your children to anger, but bring them up in the nurture of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Then he writes to the husbands "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it. Let everyone of you so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverences (respects) her husband" (Ephesians 5:25,33).

Children learn parenting (or the lack of it) from their parents. Homes where children and spouses are blessed by others in the home, usually are stable, supportive, and harmonious. Children grow to be successful in life and are often leaders in the church. They become good parents themselves.

It's never too late to be a blessing to our family or others. Sharing love and affirmation will change our world even though the outside world crumbles.

Obituaries

(cont. from page 8)

Rosie Holley Willard

Mrs. Rosie Holley Willard, age 83 of Stuart, Virginia passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, July 29, 2024. She was born in Patrick County on March 6, 1941, to the late Oscar Nelus Holley and Sarah Jane Adkins Holley. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William Ray Willard;



a sister, Mary Holley Hale Wright, Elsie Holley Wade; and three brothers, Odell Jefferson Holley, Jesse Lewis Holley, and Charlie Holley. Mrs. Willard was a devoted member of the Elamsville Church of God of Prophecy and dearly loved attending church services. She also loved

to read. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends. Mrs. Willard is survived by two sisters, Pauline Haskins of Chatham and Annie Holley of Rocky Mount; four nephews, Larry Hale (Barbara) of Stuart, Danny Hale (Judy) of Ferrum, Bob-

Lawrence Wade of Ferrum; two nieces, Karen Green of Hurt, and Maggie Jane Wade of Ferrum; and several great-nephews and great-nieces.

A funeral service for Mrs. Willard will be held on Sunday, August 4, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Stuart with Rev. Greg Martin officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the Union Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service on Sunday afternoon at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Philemon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Luke 22, what "Mount of" did Jesus go to that His disciples also followed? Carmel, Zion, Olives, Pisgah
3. What future Israelite leader as a baby was described as "exceedingly fair"? Solomon, David, Herod, Moses
4. From Judges 16, how many times did Delilah say Samson mocked her? 2, 3, 7,

10

5. According to Ecclesiastes 6, what has already been named? Everything, Stars, Fishes, Great Sea

6. The name Lucifer means what kind of "bearer" in Latin? Gifts, False, Light, Demonic

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Olives, 3) Moses, 4) Three, 5) Everything, 6) Light

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.

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NOVEL INTRODUCTIONS

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| ACROSS | 55 President before Sadat | 93 "Hip Hop Is Dead" rapper | DOWN | 41 "As is" transaction | 78 Hailed vehicle |
| 1 Downgrade | 56 Not duped by | 94 Annual game at Aloha Stadium | 1 Cruel ruler | 42 Beseched | 83 Brand of root beer |
| 7 Morals | 57 Jungle beast | 101 Did perfectly | 2 Domain | 43 Acronym for four entertainment prizes | 84 Stranded cell stuff |
| 13 Rich fabric with a silky finish | 58 Said "There, there" to, e.g. | 104 Fliers' military branch | 3 Butcher's tool | 46 Scott Turow memoir | 86 Nintendo game console |
| 20 "Bam!" chef Lagasse | 60 Raised fortification | 105 He wrote "The Raven" | 4 Whale variety | 47 Actress Laura | 87 Fall away |
| 21 Result in | 62 Song closing a Catholic service | 106 Annual honor given by Sports Illustrated | 5 Dead heats | 48 Sp. woman | 89 Lighthouse lights |
| 22 Went to the polls again | 67 Kauai, e.g. | 113 Twin sister of He-Man | 6 Lilly of drugs | 49 Dress of India | 90 Sushi tuna |
| 23 1978 arcade classic | 68 Patch affixed with heat | 115 Actress on the sitcom "American Housewife" | 7 TV's | 50 Opulent, floor-length cloak | 91 Border |
| 25 Immemorial | 69 Many a hospital delivery | 116 Author of the novels whose titles are the starts of nine answers in this puzzle | 8 Brain gains | 51 Of lesser importance | 95 Noble sort |
| 26 Gyro breads | 70 Abbr. before an alias | 119 1990s talk show host | 11 Key near Alt | 52 Parisian pronoun | 96 Thawed |
| 27 Sue Grafton's "— for Alibi" | 71 "To quote myself ..." | 120 Fly planes | 12 Sammy of the diamond | 53 "You win" | 97 Beginning painting class |
| 28 Its highest mountain is Denali | 73 Opposed to bad witch?" | 121 Singer Dolly | 13 Car stopper | 54 Religious law | 98 Accepting of |
| 30 "... good witch — bad witch?" | 74 Colorado's nickname | 122 Calls a talk show, e.g. | 14 Of monarchs | 58 1040 ID | 99 Became tiresome to |
| 31 Emphasize | 77 Big name in car parts | 123 Went back over, as one's steps | 15 Coincide partly with | 59 Must-see | 100 Gets wiser |
| 33 Healthy | 79 "Evita" star | 124 Peripherals | 16 Coke, e.g. | 61 It's south of Tenn. | 102 Pop singer Lauper |
| 34 Bread sliced doubly thick | 80 Meadowland | | 17 Truckloads | 63 Become a participant | 103 City in southeast Minnesota |
| 37 College transcript no. | 81 Copy a lion | | 18 China's — Xiaoping | 64 Pollute | 104 Fess up to |
| 39 Charge to pitch a product | 82 Old video consoles | | 19 Border | 65 "Get what I'm talkin' about?" | 106 Frying fat |
| 44 Many a hospital delivery | 85 Not just moist | | 24 Mil. alliance since 1949 | 66 Home to Augusta | 107 "The Time Machine" race |
| 45 Bottled water brand | 86 Yard uglifiers | | 29 White birds | 71 It's south of Tenn. | 108 — monster |
| 49 " 'Tis a pity!" | 88 Aruba is in it | | 31 Pig's digs | 72 Senate | 109 No-show GI |
| 52 What a DJ talks into | 91 Barbecue serving | | 32 Auto garage brand | 74 Pigeon shed | 110 Not fully shut affirmatives |
| | 92 "Gypsy" composer | | 33 Car stopper | 75 Allay | 111 Super review |
| | 93 "Gypsy" composer | | 37 Enthusiastic greeting | 76 Home pest | 113 Food herring |
| | 94 "Gypsy" composer | | 38 Mas' mates | 77 Curved paths | 114 Cattle group |
| | 95 "Gypsy" composer | | 40 Stops harping on the subject | | 117 Cochlea site |
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Love for County

(cont. from page 1)

“My Home” was one of the first songs Dellenback ever wrote after moving to Patrick County.

Having only played gospel music in churches, when she moved here, Dellenback said she wanted to learn to play acoustic so she could write and sing her own stuff.

“I started taking lessons from Josh Pickett. He was an artist that worked with me, and he seemed to think I had promise and all as a musician and a singer. He encouraged me and he had a recording studio and he helped me make a CD. From there, I ran into a guy who made

videos and that type of thing,” she said.

Dellenback notes she doesn’t have a favorite part of “My Home” because every part of the song is personal for her.

“I’m a faith person, and you know I’m thinking about my children being raised here in a nice place and hopefully, they’ll stay near here and be what they need to be” and similar sentiments, she said.

Before moving here, Dellenback said her only farming experience was helping with tobacco.

“But I married a farmer, so that was an eye-opening experience. It was hard, it was

hard work. We both worked full-time jobs, we had children, and we farmed. We were young and strong and healthy so we could do it, but it was a lot,” she said.

In “My Home,” Dellenback said she references this with “It’s always hot when you get up hay and work is hard but in the evenings the sun lights up the sky yellow, orange, and red.”

“It’s just a beautiful place. You can sit back and say, ‘Whew. I’ve done my due and now I can enjoy this,’” she said.

To listen to the song, go to <https://youtu.be/cubzDwRIKX8?si=wdlXMU2EXc6FKCDD>.

Health officials issue warning about fake Ozempic

The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a Medical Product Alert about three falsified batches of OZEMPIC (semaglutide). This falsified product has been detected in Brazil (October 2023), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (October 2023), and the United States of America (December 2023), and was supplied in the regulated supply chain.

OZEMPIC (semaglutide) is from a group of medicines called glucagon-like peptide-1 Receptor Agonists (GLP-1 RA) that are indicated for the treatment of hyperglycemia in type 2 diabetes mellitus in adults, adolescents, and children over 12 years of age.

The genuine manufacturer of OZEMPIC has confirmed that the three products referenced in the alert are falsified. The products misrepresent their identity and source as they were not manufactured by Novo Nordisk:

*batch number LP6F832 is not recognized.

*the combination of batch number NAR0074 with serial number 430834149057 does not correspond to genuine manufacturing records.

*batch number MP5E511 is genuine, but the product is falsified.

The WHO has previously communicated the need for diligence by national regulators on some of these batches and similar GLP-1 agonist products in general.

The use of falsified OZEMPIC may result in the ineffective treatment of patients due to incorrect dosage, contamination with harmful substances, or use of unknown or substituted ingredients. It may pose other serious risks to health because of its subcutaneous injection administration that could be life-threatening.

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any incident of adverse effects, lack of effectiveness and suspected falsification to the National Regulatory Authorities/National Pharmacovigilance Centre.

National regulatory/health authorities are encouraged to contact their marketing authorization holders for advice on identification of falsification, increase monitoring of informal including online sale of products, and are advised to immediately notify the WHO if they identify these falsified products.

If you have any of the affected products, the WHO recommends that you do not use them. If you, or someone you know, has or may have used the affected product, or suffered an adverse reaction or unexpected side-effect after use, you are advised to seek immediate medical advice from a healthcare professional.

All medical products must be obtained from authorized/licensed suppliers. If you have any information about the manufacture or supply of these falsified products, contact the WHO via rapidalert@who.int.

Ways to identify falsified products

*Check the Lot Number and Serial Number. The WHO advises not to distribute, use, or sell products labeled with batch numbers listed in Annex.

*Examine the Pen. Falsified Ozempic pens may have a scale extending out from the pen when setting the dose.

*Assess the Label Quality. The label might be of poor quality and may not adhere well to the pen.

*Look for Spelling Mistakes. The carton may have spelling mistakes on the front of the box.

Increases reported in cases of mumps, measles, and whooping cough

The Virginia Department of Health is reporting that diseases like mumps, measles, and whooping cough (pertussis) are starting to return to pre-pandemic levels in the commonwealth.

According to Virginia State Epidemiologist Dr. Laurie Forlano, there were fewer cases of those and other diseases during the pandemic because people were not spending much time together.

“Now that we are back to a state of normalcy, these diseases are still among us and able to transmit,” Forlano said.

Parents are encouraged to get their children vaccinated against preventable diseases. To see the Back to School immunization schedules for the schools in the West Piedmont Health District, visit West Piedmont Health District - West Piedmont (virginia.gov)

Up to \$2 million available for workforce housing projects

Developed with feedback from staff of Virginia Housing and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the Economic Development Workforce Housing Incentive Pilot Program is designed to make the commission’s footprint more attractive for economic development by directly addressing a major concern of expanding employers - insufficient housing for their workforce. The program takes advantage of the commission’s ability to offer innovative solutions to the challenges Southern and Southwest Virginia are facing and will allow commission funds to serve as a catalyst, bringing together public and private sector partners to address workforce housing needs.

Tobacco Commission member Del. Danny Marshall said, “In Southern Virginia we have had great success building our economy over the last decade or so by attracting new businesses and adding thousands of jobs. I want to see that growth continue, and I believe it can, but those workers are going to need places to live. We need to find solutions for the “missing middle,” those who fall into the gap between affordable housing programs and the housing that many developers choose to build that, in today’s market, is often too expensive for working families. This program offers an opportunity to bring together state agencies, local government and the private sector to generate innovative solutions so we can continue to attract the jobs of the future to Southern Virginia.”

“This pilot program was created after listening closely to the communities we serve as they expressed their needs, and in support of Governor Youngkin’s push for increased availability of affordable housing,” said Tobacco Commission Executive Director, James Campos. “I am certain that, working with Virginia’s housing community, our local partners, the private sector,

and others, we can find solutions that will meet the needs of Southern and Southwest Virginia and allow us to continue bringing great opportunities to the Commission footprint.”

Economic Development Workforce Housing Incentive Pilot Program allocated \$2 million to enhance the appeal of the Tobacco Region for major economic development projects by incentivizing localities and employers to develop affordable housing options for employees.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. A pre-application detailing the proposed project is required and serves as an opportunity for Commission staff to conduct a preliminary assessment of the project’s eligibility for funding and, to provide meaningful feedback to applicants before they prepare a full application package. Candidates will be notified by commission staff if their pre-application is selected to move on to the full application process. Full applications are evaluated by commission staff, and funding recommendations are put forward to the full commission for further discussion and approval at its spring, fall, and winter meetings.

Incentive structure:

Applications are made by political subdivisions of the Commonwealth on behalf of the housing developer, which may be for-profit or non-profit.

Applications are received and evaluated on a rolling basis.

Funds require a minimum three-to-one match and generally follow existing Tobacco Commission funding policies.

Units can be for rent or for sale.

For further program details, including additional requirements and how to apply, please visit the Economic Development Workforce Housing Incentive Pilot Program page at www.revitalizeva.org.

LEGAL

RFP #2024-SPED-01 - Patrick County Public Schools - ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) Services

The Patrick County School Board is accepting competitive sealed proposals from licensed certified behavioral analysts for ABA services for school session 2024-2025 (August 8, 2024 - June 30, 2025). Request for Proposals (RFP) packets can be picked up Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM at the Patrick County School Board Office, 132 N. Main St., Stuart, VA 24171. RFPs will be accepted at the school board until 4:30 PM on August 16, 2024. For further information, call 276-694-3163, Director of Special Education.

LEGAL

PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AMENDMENT TO THE TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF PATRICK, VIRGINIA

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon as thereafter as may be, in the board chamber located on the third floor of the Veterans Memorial Administration Building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA 24171 to consider an amendment to the transient occupancy tax ordinance to increase the amount of tax levied from five percent (5%) to six percent (6%) and the amount available for administration of this tax and for the general budget from two percent (2%) to three percent (3%), pursuant to Virginia Code § 58.1-3819. This amendment is necessary as a result of recent exigencies.

All interested parties are encouraged to submit comments or attend the public hearing on August 12, 2024, to present their views.

If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at (276) 694-6094.

LEGAL

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.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.ENTERTPRISE.NET

Audit on 911 Center meets with success

The Patrick County Sheriff’s Office 911 Communication Center has recently successfully completed its three year audit, according to Sheriff Dan Smith.

Conducted by the Virginia State Police Bureau of Administrative and Support Services Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, the audit is performed to ensure compliance with Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) and FBI CJIS policies and regulations.

“This ongoing process involves a tremendous amount of knowledge and organization, and our staff continually rises to the occasion in achieving compliance,” Smith stated in a Monday news release.

Smith indicated that the audit covers items and persons who are entered into the nationwide database as wanted, missing, stolen and/or endangered.

He added that being a 911 operator is a stressful, yet rewarding, occupation.

“Our operators are the first voice a caller hears in a time of crisis, and they have a distinct opportunity to offer comfort in that time of need,” Smith

said.

The 911 operators are supervised by Tracy Puckett, who has served the county for 28 years, all in the 911 center.

Patrick County’s full time 911 operators are Taylor Adams, Shannon Anderson, Karen Campbell, Susan Elliot, Eli Lanham, Kimberly Martin, Savannah Meadows, Sallie Scales, Tracy Puckett, and Teresa Stowe. Scales and Stowe have served the county as 911 operators for 26 and 24 years respectively.

Christina Frick and Susan Fulcher serve as part time operators.

Deputy Sheriff Cameron Adkins serves as the 911 Communications and Technology Coordinator, ensuring the technical operation of all radio, computer and communications apparatus relating to the 911 center and sheriff’s office.

The 911 center receives more than 17,000 contacts per year, with roughly 80 percent of calls being law enforcement related, and 20 percent being EMS and fire, Smith said.

Meetings

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

Monday, Aug. 12
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors meets at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration building.

Wednesday, Aug. 21
The Stuart Town Council meets at 7 p.m. in the town office.

Events

Thursday, Aug. 8
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group meets 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.

Friday, Aug. 9
Fairystone State Park will hold a Moonshine Hollow Hike at 10 a.m. at the Visitor Center; Fairy Stone Hunt, 12:30 p.m. at the Visitors Center; an ADA Trail Hike at 1:15 p.m. (Reservation required); Fayerdale: The Missing Town, 2:30 p.m. at Shelter 4; Native Plants and Pollinators, 3:30 p.m. at Shelter 4, and a Town Under the Lake, 6 p.m. at the Beach Breezeway.

Saturday, August 10
Fairystone State Park will hold a Second Saturday at Mayo River Trails: Redbud Trail Hike (approx. 2 miles), at 10 a.m. at 500 Pratt Road, Spencer; Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m. at the Visitors Center; Turtle Time, 1 p.m. at the Visitor Center; Fairy Stone Workshop, 2 p.m. at Shelter 4; For Goodness Snakes! 2 p.m. at Shelter 3; CSI: Creek Scene Investigation, 4:30 p.m. at Shelter 4, and Mystery Moths, 9 p.m. at Shelters 3 & 4.

Sunday, August 11
Fairystone State Park will hold a Moonshine Hollow Hike at 10 a.m. at the Visitor Center; Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m. at Visitors Center; Moonshine Murders, 2:30 p.m. at Shelter 4; Insect Safari, 3:30 p.m. at Shelter 4, and Fungal Friends, 5 p.m. at Shelter 4.

The Boyd Family Reunion will be held at Vesta Community Building starting at 12 p.m. All family and friends are invited to bring a dish and musical instruments. For more information, call Chris Boyd at (336) 344-2365, or Benny Pendleton at (540) 521-5260.

Monday, August 12
The Rotary Club of Stuart welcomes Magician Jack Kelly, who will perform a free show at The Star Theatre from 6 - 7 p.m. Attendees may arrive as early as 5 p.m. to enjoy fellowship, grab a seat and concessions before the show. For more information on the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/3871741739623547>

Fairystone State Park will hold a Fairy Stone Hunt at 12 p.m. at Visitors Center and Monday Market, 5-7 p.m. at Shelters 3 & 4.

Tuesday, August 13
Fairystone State Park will hold a Fairy Stone Hunt at 12 p.m. at the Visitors Center.

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.

Fairystone State Park will hold a Mountain View/Horse Camp Trail at 8:30 a.m. at the Amphitheater Parking Lot and Moonshine Murders at 2:30 p.m. at Shelter 4.

Friday, Aug. 16
The community food truck will be at the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department from 3-4:30 p.m.

Fairystone State Park will hold a Whiskey Run Hike at 8:30 a.m. at Iron Mine Parking Lot, a Fairy Stone Hunt at 11:30 a.m. at Visitors Center, and Who Made Those Tracks While You Slept? at 3 p.m. at Shelter 4.

Saturday, Aug. 17
New Hope Church of the Brethren will have music by The Churchmen from 4-7 p.m., with food, games, and a prayer tent onsite. Free event. Bring your own lawn chair.

Mt. Nebo Holiness Church 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., and vendors will be on site.

Sunday, Aug. 18
The 72nd annual Griffith Family Reunion will be held at Griffith Valley. Bring food and drinks. Lunch starts at 1 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 22
The Patrick County Democratic Committee will host its annual mixer at the Hooker Building at Rotary Field from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Karen Baker, candidate for U.S. House of Representatives will be at the event.

Friday, Aug. 23
Girl Scout Troop #1302 will hold a yard sale from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Providence United Methodist Church in Patrick Springs. Proceeds from the event will go to help with travel and events for the girls.

Saturday, Aug. 24
Girl Scout Troop #1302 will hold a yard and bake sale from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and lunch - starting at 10:30 a.m., that includes hotdogs, chips, soda, and water, at the Providence United Methodist Church in Patrick Springs. Proceeds from the event will go to help with travel and events for the girls.

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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Mark Pendleton Jason Pendleton

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

7	3	8					9	
	8			2				5
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8				6				3
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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WHEO

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BREAKFAST

AUGUST 2024

Patrick County Public Schools

STUDENT – ONE FREE MEAL TO ALL
ADULTS- \$2.75

Due to continued supply chain shortages, menu is subject to change without notice.

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Grab & Go Carts in all schools.
Cart Choice: First item listed on the Menu/Juice OR
2 oz. WG Cereal/ Juice
May also take fruit and/or milk WITH ANY CHOICE.
Must have 3 components, 1 must be a fruit or juice.
Traditional Breakfast served in dining area of cafeteria.

Dietary Information Available:
<https://patrick.k12.va.us>
Division Information-
Departments -
Food Service

12
GRAB & GO: WG CINNAMON ROLL
CAFETERIA: WG BISCUIT/CHICKEN
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

13
GRAB & GO: WG SOFT COCOA
PUFF BAR
CAFETERIA: WG TOAST/SCRAMBLED
EGGS
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

14
GRAB & GO: WG BENEFIT BAR
CAFETERIA: WG MINI MAPLE PANCAKES
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

15
GRAB & GO: WG CHEEZ ITS/STRING
CHEESE
CAFETERIA: WG PANCAKE/SAUSAGE
STICK
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

16
MANAGER'S
CHOICE

19
MANAGER'S
CHOICE

20
GRAB & GO: WG RICE KRISPIE TREA
with WG GOLDFISH CRACKERS
CAFETERIA: WG SAUSAGE BREAKFAST
PIZZA
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

21
GRAB & GO: WG APPLE FRUDEL
CAFETERIA: WG MINI CINNIS
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

22
GRAB & GO: WG BLUEBERRY MUFFIN
CAFETERIA: WG MINI CHOCOLATE
CHIP PANCAKES
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

23
GRAB & GO: WG BREAKFAST BUN
CAFETERIA: WG DUTCH WAFFLE
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

26
GRAB & GO: WG WHITE DONUT
CAFETERIA: WG WARM GLAZED DONUT
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

27
GRAB & GO: WG STRAWBERRY
MINI BAGEL
CAFETERIA: WG FRENCH TOAST
STICKS/SYRUP
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

28
GRAB & GO: WG OATMEAL
CHOCOLATE CHIP BAR
CAFETERIA: WG MINI STRAWBERRY
PANCAKES
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

29
GRAB & GO: MANAGER'S CHOICE
CAFETERIA: WG GRANOLA WITH FRUIT
& YOGURT PARFAIT
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

30
GRAB & GO: WG BLUEBERRY MUFFIN
CAFETERIA: WG BISCUIT/CHICKEN
WG CEREAL – 2 oz.
100% FRUIT JUICE
FRUIT
MILK (1% OR FF)

WELCOME BACK! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EACH OF YOU AT BREAKFAST. WE WILL HAVE GRAB & GO, TRADITIONAL BREAKFAST IN THE CAFETERIA & ALSO SECOND CHANCE FOR ANYONE THAT DIDN'T GET BREAKFAST THE FIRST TIME. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR FREE BREAKFAST TO FUEL YOUR BRAIN FOR THE DAY TO GET OFF TO A FANTASTIC START TO YOUR DAY AND YEAR!

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LUNCH

AUGUST 2024

PATRICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STUDENTS –ONE FREE TO ALL DAILY

ADULTS - \$4.75

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

DUE TO CONTINUED SUPPLY CHAIN SHORTAGES, MENU MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

All cafeterias must offer food items containing the USDA's 5 (FIVE) food components (fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, and milk).

The student MUST SELECT 3 FOOD COMPONENTS, but MAY CHOOSE ALL 5. One component, MUST be at least 1/2 cup fruit or 1/2 cup vegetable, to have a REIMBURSABLE MEAL.

Dietary Information Available: www.patrick.k12.va.us
Division Information- Departments - Food Service

Entrees Offered Daily in Addition to Menu
WG Toasted Cheese Sandwich
WG WOW/Jelly Sandwich
Chef Salad with M/MA & Crackers

Offered Daily
Tossed Salad
Fruit

Harvest of the Month – **Tomatoes**
<https://cdn.aqclassroom.org/va/teachers/harvest/08.pdf>
Did you know? Fruit or vegetable? While scientifically a fruit, the Supreme Court in 1893 ruled that tomatoes are a vegetable for taxation purposes.

12
WG Mozzarella Cheese Sticks
With Pizza Sauce
Steak & Cheese/WG Hoagie
Sautéed Peppers & Onions
Twister Fries
9-12: Yellow Squash with Onions

13
Spicy Chicken Fillet/WG Bun
Original Chicken Fillet/WG Bun
Lettuce/**Tomato**
Pinto Beans
Seasoned Turnip Greens
9-12: Vegetable Medley

14
WG Spaghetti with
School Made Meat Sauce
WG Garlic Texas Toast
Ranch Roasted Broccoli
Seasoned Corn
9-12: Waldorf Salad

15
Manwich/WG Bun
Fish Sticks/WG Cornbread
Creamy Coleslaw
Baked Beans
Crinkle Cut Fries
Peach Cobbler
9-12: Steamed Spinach

16
Taco or Pork Carnitas
WG Soft Shell Tortilla/ WG Rice
Lettuce/**Tomato**/Salsa
Refried Beans
Sweet Glazed Carrots
9-12: Pico de Gallo

19
MANAGER'S MONDAY

20
Pork Patty
White Gravy
WG Yeast Roll
Creamy Mashed Potatoes
Seasoned Green Peas
9-12: Orange & Cream Slushie

21
Lasagna
Popcorn Chicken
WG Hawaiian Roll
Fresh Baby Carrots/Celery/Dip
Ranch Roasted Broccoli
9-12: Spiced Apples

22
Pulled Pork BBQ/ WG Bun
Manwich/WG Bun
Creamy Coleslaw
Loopy Fries
Seasoned Turnip Greens
9-12: Pinto Beans

23
WG Cheese Pizza
WG Pepperoni Pizza
Seasoned Corn
Sweet Potato Casserole
9-12: Fruit Salad

26
Sausage & Egg
WG Biscuit
White Gravy
Seasoned Green Peas
Honey Apple Crisp
9-12: Orange Glazed Sweet Potatoes

27
Hot Dog/Chili/Onions/WG Bun
Fish Square/WG Bun
Creamy Coleslaw
Crispy French Fries
Baked Beans
9-12: Lemon Roasted Diced Carrots

28
Italian Pasta Bake (BeeFaroni)
WG Garlic Texas Toast
Mediterranean Blend Vegetables
Seasoned Corn
9-12: Cucumbers/Cherry **Tomatoes**

29
WG Southwest Pull Apart
Jalapeno Veggie Wrap
Hot Vegetable Soup/Crackers
Parmesan Roasted Cauliflower
Berry Smoothie
9-12: Scalloped Tomatoes

30
Chili con Carne
Pulled Pork/Cheese
WG Cornbread Muffin
Baked Potato
Steamed Broccoli
WG Mini Chocolate Chip Muffin
9-12: Manager's Choice

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fun Summer! Please join us for lunch today to fuel that body for learning. The food service staff wishes everyone has a year full of adventures in growing & learning!

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AUGUST PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY 2024					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3
Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. * Registration required.				Sit & Stitch 11:00	Family Movie 11:00 Descendants: The Rise of Red
5	6	7	8	9	10
Closing early for building maintenance.	Closed for maintenance.	Closed for maintenance.	Call before coming. We aren't sure if we'll be open.		Board Game Day
12	13	14	15	16	17
Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club 9:00	Open Art Studio 1:00	Chair Exercise 10:30	
Chair Exercise 1:30		Book Bingo 10:30			
LEGO Club 4:00		Yoga 1:15*		Sit & Stitch 11:00	
19	20	21	22	23	24
Yoga 10:00*	Storytime 10:30 Bubbles	Walking Club 9:00		Chair Exercise 10:30	
Chair Exercise 1:30		Retired Teacher's Book Club 11:00			
LEGO Club 4:00		Yoga 1:15*			
26	27	28	29	30	31
Yoga 10:00*	Storytime 10:30 Magic	Walking Club 9:00		Chair Exercise 10:30	
Chair Exercise 1:30		Yoga 1:15*			
LEGO Club 4:00					

THANK YOU FOR READING
THE ENTERPRISE

Portion of road to close Aug. 12

Beginning Monday, August 12, a portion of Virginia 699 (Hughes Brown Road) will be closed to through traffic from 0.60 mile from Virginia 631 (Moorefield Store Road) to 0.80 mile from the North Carolina state line for a bridge repair over White Mud Creek, accord-

ing to a release from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Weather permitting, the road will re-open to traffic on Thursday, August 22.

A detour and directional signs will be in place to help motorists.

Tick-borne illness can cause confounding symptoms

Tick bites often go undetected until symptoms arise.

Charles Green, deputy commissioner for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, ate a cheeseburger at lunchtime one day, and by dinnertime suffered a mild heart attack.

"I knew something was really wrong," Green said.

It took five months for Green and multiple doctors to realize the symptoms were an allergic reaction to red meat and dairy from a molecule transmitted by the Lone Star tick.

Alpha-gal syndrome wasn't high on Green's "worry radar" as he worked on his King William County family farm in 2022.

"I was dressing for the summer weather," he said. "But not dressing to avoid tick bites."

Initial blood tests revealed elevated troponin, which suggests cardiac stress. Multiple procedures did not find anything amiss.

"In a last-ditch effort, I asked my primary care physicians to run odd-ball tests," he said. "Luckily we included alpha-gal."

The diagnosis was a game changer.

In addition to avoiding red meat and dairy, he also has to be careful with mammalian derivatives used in products like gel caps and lanolin lotions.

Subsequent tick bites can worsen or awaken the condition, Green noted, so he now wears layers and tucks in permethrin-treated clothing while working outside.

"It took months to figure out what was going on with me, while others go years without an answer," he said. "If any person has unexplained symptoms, this awareness may help find a path forward."

Sometimes tick bites happen out of season, like they did for the Gwaltney family in Giles County.

Jessica and Wes Gwaltney spent time outside on a warm winter day in 2022 with their two young daughters. They checked them for ticks, but didn't find any.

Three days later, their 3-year-old daughter, Ella, felt one on her neck. It was a blacklegged deer tick, which carries Lyme disease.

The family called their doctor, who advised keeping an eye on the bite zone.

A month later, Ella complained of sore knees. "We asked the pediatrician to test her specifically for Lyme, and it was positive," Wes said.

Antibiotics were prescribed, but were followed by headaches, stomach pain and night terrors. Ella was prescribed a more aggressive antibiotic.

One night she woke up not breathing, and that snowballed. Finally, an allergist helped the Gwaltneys navigate Lyme disease, and Ella was prescribed a steroid for flare-ups, which helped.

"We don't want other families to experience this. Take tick bites seriously," Jessica said.

To prevent tick bites, the Virginia Department of Health recommends:

- Walking in the center of trails, and avoiding brushing against weeds and tall grass.

- Keeping grass and underbrush cut down. Place a 3-foot-wide barrier of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas to restrict tick migration into recreational areas.

- Wearing light-colored clothing so ticks can be seen easily, and tuck pant legs into socks.

- Conducting tick checks on children and pets every four hours when staying outside.

- Applying insect repellents containing active ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, oil of eucalyptus, Bio-UD or IR3535 to exposed skin.

- Checking armpits, ears and hair, belly button, backs of knees and groin.

If bitten by a tick, Virginia Cooperative Extension recommends using tweezers to grasp the tick as close as possible to the skin, and pull slowly with even pressure. Wash the bite wound with antiseptic.

Drop the tick in rubbing alcohol, and keep it for a few months to identify it in case any disease symptoms develop.

Get help with tick identification through the VDH website at vdh.virginia.gov/ticks.

Set teens up for success with safe driving tools

The riskiest time for a teen driver is often at the start of their driving career.

According to data from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, the fatal crash rate per mile driven for 16-year-olds is 40% higher than for 18-year-olds.

There's a lot of anxiety that comes with sending your teen off to drive. Fortunately, there are plenty of tools available for helping teens achieve a safe and successful driving career.

Parents can help their teen driver get off to a solid start by enrolling in Virginia Farm Bureau's Smart Start Program.

"It's all about starting off with good driving habits," explained Barry Light, Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. senior product development manager.

The program takes about 30 minutes to complete and includes a video, booklet and quiz on covered materials. Participants will find helpful tips on Virginia driving laws and a review of safe driving habits, as well as a pledge to drive smart.

New drivers under 18 who successfully complete the course can receive an extra 5% off auto insurance premiums.

Teens may enroll online or through their Farm Bureau agent starting at age 16, but they must be accident-

and conviction-free to qualify for the discount. Enrolled drivers also must maintain a valid Virginia driver's license and stay listed on a VFB personal auto policy.

To learn more, visit vafb.com/insurance/Information-center/smart-start-program. To enroll, contact your local Farm Bureau insurance agent.

Evaluating teens' driving habits also has gotten much easier, thanks to a wealth of no-hassle safe driving mobile apps.

VFB's Drive2Save program offers extra incentives for downloading the Routely app, which helps users assess their driving habits in real time. Customers can receive a 10% discount on their auto insurance for enrolling in the program, and the safest drivers can save up to 30% at their next renewal.

"Safer drivers make safer roads," Light noted. "Drive2Save is a great tool to supplement creating those good habits."

Routely detects distracted driving, high speeds, sudden braking and time of day. Once the app is set up, it will automatically assess trips and provide tips to improve driving scores. Rates will be adjusted automatically at renewal.

Contact a VFB agent to enroll in Drive2Save and request an activation code. Visit vafb.com/drive2save for more information.

Virginians encouraged to serve as officers of election

Although it's past the National Poll Worker Recruitment Day on Aug. 1, Gov. Glenn Youngkin is encouraging Virginians to sign up to serve as Officers of Election to ensure accurate and secure elections this November.

"I am asking every eligible voter in Virginia to consider serving their community as an officer of election. We are incredibly grateful for Virginia's Officers of Election who staff polling places and check-in voters, but we need more officers," said Youngkin. "As we approach a presidential election, please consider volunteering so we can ensure accurate and secure elections in the Commonwealth and in your community."

Each year, thousands of Virginia voters participate in the election process not just by casting ballots but by working in their polling place as Officers of Election.

All Election Day polling locations and early voting locations need Of-

ficers of Election for every day that they are open, requiring more than 20,000 officers of election to staff voting locations across the Commonwealth.

Officers of Election must be qualified Virginia voters. Anyone interested in becoming an Officer of Election should review the information found at Virginia Department of Elections - Officer of Elections and fill out the online application.

Officers of Election are compensated for their service and Virginia law requires employers to allow anyone who serves as an Officer of Election to take leave on Election Day without using vacation time or being subject to disciplinary action.

Election Day is November 5, 2024, with early voting beginning on Friday, September 20. Virginia's ballot will include races for president, all 11 congressional districts, a Senate seat, and a variety of local offices.

Initial claims for benefits jump

The 2,682 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims that were filed during the week ending July 27, 2024, is 31.1 percent higher than last week's 2,045 claims and 18.2 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,269), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 82 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (64 percent) were Manufacturing (426); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (253); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (240); Health Care and Social Assistance (212); and Retail Trade (203).

Continued weeks claims (16,858) were 0.8 percent higher than last week (16,721) and were 22.8 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,727). Nearly 94 percent of claimants self-reported an associ-

ated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,495); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,236); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,713); Retail Trade (1,541); and Accommodation and Food Services (1,415).

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.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Landry Delaine Morrison, 35, address unavailable, was charged July 28 with destruction of property. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Felton Lewis Mayfield, Jr., 45, of Bassett, was charged July 30 with grand larceny. Sgt. L.K. Carroll, Jr., was the arresting officer.

*Brenda Floyd, 56, of Claudville, was charged July 30 with trespass. Sgt. L.K. Carroll, Jr., was the arresting officer.

*Robert Alan Wells, 40, of Patrick County Jail, was charged July 31

with probation violation. Deputy C. Merriman made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Eric Alexander Stevens, 41, of Ridgeway, was charged July 31 with probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Ricky Dale Gordon, 63, of Danbury, NC, was charged July 31 with drive while intoxicated. Senior Trooper R.S. Lawson was the arresting officer.

*Don Eric Rucker, 53, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 1 with assault. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

Patrick Henry Correctional Unit now has expanded video visitation

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) and partners ViaPath and Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI) have expanded video visitation at Patrick Henry Correctional Unit in Ridgeway. The expansion went live around 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30.

Every living area at the facility is now equipped with video visitation equipment, allowing inmates to conduct visits from their living areas.

The hours of operation for the general population will be 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on weekends.

Any previously scheduled visit outside of those hours will need to be rescheduled once the new hours are implemented.

If two inmates in the same living area are

scheduled for a visit simultaneously, one visit will remain and the other will be canceled. For the canceled visit, the visitor can reschedule their visit in the Visitation Scheduler.

Video visitation will not be available when facilities are operating on lockdown status.

Several VADOC facilities have expanded access to video visitation in 2024. Facilities with expanded access are listed as follows: Greensville Correctional Center, Central Virginia Correctional Unit 13, State Farm Work Center, State Farm Correctional Center, Sussex I State Prison, Cold Springs Correctional Unit, Keen Mountain Correctional Center, Deerfield Correctional Complex, Pocahontas State Correctional Center, Baskerville Correctional Center

and Virginia Correctional Center for Women.

In late 2023, video visitation expanded at Green Rock and River North correctional centers.

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Latest survey indicates increase in workers switching jobs

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' May 2024 Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) reports the churn rate, an indicator of worker movement from job to job, increased over the month, according to Virginia Works (the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement).

The most recent BLS JOLTS survey data suggests the number of May 2024 hires in Virginia rose by 23,000 over the month and was up by 28 percent from five years earlier. BLS JOLTS data provides information on all the pieces that go into the net change in the number of jobs. These components include job openings, hires, layoffs, voluntary quits, and other job separations (which includes retirements and worker deaths). Putting those components together reveals the overall change in payroll employment. JOLTS data is seasonally adjusted and describes conditions on the last business day of the month. Current month's data are preliminary and the previous month's data have been revised.

On the last business day in May, there were 257,000 job openings in Virginia, seasonally adjusted, a 4,000 increase from April's revised figure. The number of U.S. job openings the number of job openings changed little at 8.1 million. This measure was down by 1.2 million over the year. Job openings decreased in accommodation and food services (-147,000) and in private educational services (-34,000). The number of job openings increased in state and local government, excluding education (+117,000), durable goods manufacturing (+97,000), and federal government (+37,000). The largest increases in the job openings level occurred in California (+90,000) and New York (+45,000), as well as in New Jersey and Washington +38,000 each). The decreases occurred in Texas (-76,000), Tennessee (-22,000), and Arizona (-21,000).

In Virginia, the May job openings rate was 5.7 percent, little changed from April's rate. The U.S. rate was little changed at 4.9 percent in May. The largest increases in job openings rates occurred in Washington (+1.0 percentage point) and in Indiana and New Jersey (+0.8 point each). A significant decrease occurred in Texas (-0.5 point).

The number of hires in Virginia rose to 189,000 in May, an increase of 23,000 over the month and up by 11,000 from May 2023. JOLTS defines hires as all additions to the payroll during the month. The number of hires was 29 percent lower than the series high of 267,000 set in June 2020. In May, the number of hires was little changed at 5.8 million.

Over the year, hires were down by 415,000. The largest increases in the hires level occurred in New York (+43,000), Michigan (+32,000), and North Dakota (+4,000). A significant decrease occurred in Louisiana (-15,000). In Virginia, the 4.5 hires rate was an increase from April's revised 3.9 percent rate. The U.S. rate, at 3.6 percent, changed little in May. Large increases in the hires rate occurred in North Dakota (+0.8 percentage point), Michigan (+0.7 point), and New York (+0.4 point). The decrease occurred in Louisiana (-0.8 point).

The Virginia hires-per-job-openings (HPJO) ratio rose to 0.74, its highest level since December 2020. This measure shows the rate of hiring compared to open jobs and is a proxy for time to fill positions.

In May 2024, there were 0.5 unemployed per job opening in the Commonwealth, compared to nationwide, with 0.8 unemployed per job opening nationwide. In Virginia, the unemployed per job opening ratio (sometimes called the 'job seekers ratio') peaked at 4.4 unemployed per job opening in February 2010 during the Great Recession, while the number of unemployed workers per job opening stood at 3.3 in April 2020 during the height of pandemic employment impacts.

Total separations in Virginia increased by 17,000 to 168,000. Nationwide, the number of total separations in May changed little at 5.4 million. This measure was down by 424,000 over the year. Large increases in the total separations level occurred in Massachusetts (+30,000), as well as in Idaho and Montana (+9,000 each). A significant decrease occurred in Ohio (-32,000). The Virginia total separations rate rose to 4.0 percent, the highest rate in a year. The U.S. total separations rate changed little at 3.4 percent. Significant increases in total separations rates occurred in Montana (+1.6 percentage points), Idaho (+1.0 point), and Massachusetts (+0.8 point). A significant decrease occurred in Ohio (-0.5 point).

An estimated 111,000 workers quit jobs from Virginia employers in May. The number of quits increased 15,000 from April's revised figure. That was lower by 16 percent over-the-year but 19 percent higher than five years earlier. Quits, a component of total separations, are voluntary separations initiated by the employee. In May, the number of quits nationwide was little changed at 3.5 million. Over the year, quits were down by 550,000.

Significant increases in the quits level occurred in California (+75,000) and Massachusetts (+19,000),

as well as in Idaho and Mississippi (+7,000 each). Large decreases occurred in Florida (-71,000), Ohio (-25,000), and Colorado (-23,000). The quits rate in the Commonwealth edged up to 2.6 percent and remained at levels seen over the last two years. The U.S. rate was 2.2 percent for the seventh month in a row in May. Significant increases in quits rates occurred in Idaho (+0.7 percentage point), Massachusetts (+0.5 point), and California (+0.4 point). Significant decreases occurred in Colorado (-0.8 point), Florida (-0.7 point), and Ohio (-0.4 point).

The number of layoffs and discharges in Virginia was 49,000 in May. This was up by 20 percent over the year and up by a third from five years earlier. Layoffs and discharges are countercyclical, which means that layoffs typically increase during economic contractions and decrease during economic expansions. In May, the number of U.S. layoffs and discharges changed little at 1.7 million. Significant increases in the layoffs and discharges level occurred in Florida (+51,000), Texas (+34,000), as well as in Montana and Oklahoma (+9,000 each). Significant decreases occurred in Arizona (-12,000) and Connecticut (-7,000).

The Virginia layoffs and discharges rate edged up to 1.2 percent, while the U.S. rate was little changed at 1.0 percent but for establishments with 5,000 or more employees, the layoffs and discharges rate increased. The largest increases occurred in Montana (+1.7 percentage points), Florida (+0.6 point), and Oklahoma (+0.5 point). The decreases occurred in Connecticut (-0.5 point) and Arizona (-0.4 point).

The May 'churn' rate (the sum of the hires rate and total separations rate) in Virginia rose by a full percentage point from April's revised 7.5 percent figure, the fastest pace in a year. This was a departure from nationwide as recent U.S. trends indicated a continued deceleration of movement of workers from job to job since the beginning of 2022. While more volatile month-to-month, Virginia's pace has been more active for over a year.

On the last business day in May 2024, hiring in Virginia remained more prevalent than before the pandemic as the number of hires and hires per job opening rose to their highest level in a year. At the same time, job separations also rose over the month, primarily driven by job quitting. This increased hiring and separation activity pushed a measure of job change velocity, the churn rate, upward, indicating a still-active labor market for job seekers in the Commonwealth heading into summer.

Meat, poultry recall expanded

Boar's Head Provisions Co., Inc., a Jarratt, Va., establishment, is expanding its July 26 recall of deli meat products that may be adulterated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The company is recalling approximately 7 million additional pounds of ready-to-eat meat and poultry products.

The expansion includes 71 products produced between May 10 and July 29, under the Boar's Head and Old Country brand names. These items include meat intended for slicing at retail delis as well as some packaged meat and poultry products sold at retail locations. These products have "sell by" dates ranging from 29-JUL-2024 through 17-OCT-24.

As of July 30, 34 sick people in 13 states reported becoming sick after consumption of one of the products. The illnesses included 33 hospitalizations and two deaths. Samples were collected from sick people from May 29 to July 12. The investigation is ongoing, and FSIS continues to work with the CDC and state partners. The CDC Food Safety Alert, *Listeria* Outbreak Linked to Meats Sliced at Delis, will continue to be updated with the latest investigation details.

The products subject to recall were distributed to retail locations nationwide and some were exported to the Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Panama. The products shipped to retailers bear establishment number "EST. 12612" or "P-12612" inside the USDA mark of inspection on the product labels.

The problem was discovered when FSIS was notified that a liverwurst 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 determined the product sample tested positive for the outbreak strain. Anyone concerned about illness should contact a health-care 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.

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 weakened 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. Those in the higher-risk categories who experience flu-like symptoms within two months after eating contam-

inated food should seek medical care and tell the health care provider about eating the contaminated food.

The FSIS is concerned that some of the product may be in consumers' refrigerators and in retail deli cases. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them and retailers are urged not to sell these products with the referenced sell by dates. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase. Consumers who have purchased these products are also urged to clean refrigerators thoroughly to prevent the risk of cross-contamination.

The FSIS recommends retail delis clean and sanitize all food and non-food surfaces and discard any open meats and cheeses in the deli.

The FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify recalling firms notify their customers of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers. When available, the retail distribution list(s) will be posted on the FSIS website at www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls.

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 email MPHotline@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/>.



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

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ROLONDA AVIATE PARTON
DIALSIN RETROD ADDONS

Vaping use increases as tobacco use drops

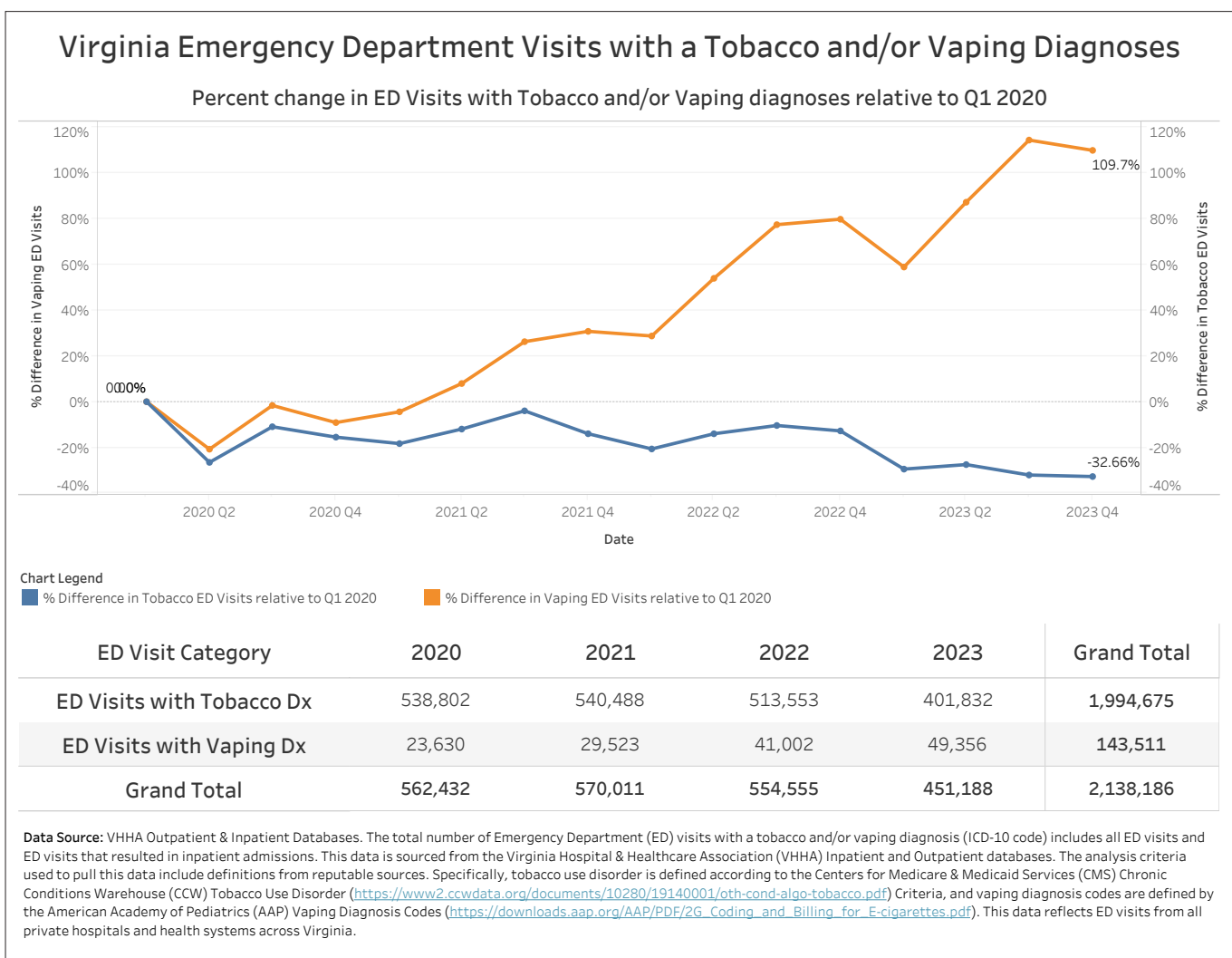
A new Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) data analysis shows that hospital emergency department (ED) visits where vaping is documented during the patient diagnosis process have dramatically increased in recent years, when there has also been a corresponding decline in the number of hospital ED visits involving patient diagnoses that include the use of traditional tobacco products such as cigarettes and chewing tobacco.

The analysis shows that the number of ED visits involving patients who vape have more than doubled from 2020 (23,630) to 2023 (49,356), representing a 108.9 percent increase over that time.

In 2020, ED visits in which vaping was recorded as a tobacco-related diagnosis among patients accounted for just 4.2 percent of ED visits. By the end of 2023, vaping was diagnosed in 10.9 percent of such ED visits, a more than twofold increase over four years.

Meanwhile, the number of ED visits in which patients were diagnosed with traditional tobacco use dropped 25.4 percent between 2020 (538,802) and 2023 (401,832), though conventional tobacco products still account for the majority of ED visits with a tobacco or vaping-related diagnosis.

Taken together, the trend data may suggest a shift away from traditional tobacco products in favor of e-cigarettes and vaping devices



This image illustrates the percentage change of these documented emergency department (ED) visits on a quarterly basis from the first quarter of 2020 to the fourth quarter of 2023, which equates to a 109.7 percent increase between the beginning and ending quarter of the analysis period.

among some users of these products (federal survey data from 2021 indicates 22 percent of the U.S. population “reported using tobacco

products or nicotine in the past 30 days.”)

This data analysis is based on a review of the VHHA emergency de-

partment database and spans the period from the first quarter of 2020 through the fourth quarter of 2023.

New policy would reduce Salmonella in raw poultry products

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a comprehensive proposed rule and determination to more effectively reduce Salmonella contamination and illnesses associated with raw poultry products. This is the culmination of FSIS’ three-year effort to reevaluate their strategy for controlling Salmonella rates in poultry and protect American consumers from foodborne illness linked to consumption of poultry products.

Salmonella bacteria cause over 1 million human infections in the United States each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Food is the leading source of Salmonella infections and poultry is among the leading sources of foodborne Salmonella illnesses. FSIS estimates that there are 125,000 chicken-associated and almost 43,000 turkey-associated foodborne Salmonella illnesses per year. Despite FSIS data indicating that Salmonella contamination in poultry products has been decreasing, there has not been an observed reduction in Salmonella illnesses.

“Far too many consumers become sick from poultry contaminated with Salmonella, and today’s announcement marks a historic step forward to combat this threat,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “This proposed framework is a systematic approach to addressing Salmonella contamination at poultry slaughter and processing, which includes enforceable standards that will result in safer food for consumers and fewer illnesses.”

The proposal would establish fi-

nal product standards to prevent raw chicken carcasses, chicken parts, ground chicken, and ground turkey products that contain any type of Salmonella at or above 10 colony forming units (CFU) per gram/ml and any detectable level of at least one of the Salmonella serotypes of public health significance from entering commerce. The proposed Salmonella serotypes of public health significance identified for raw chicken carcasses, chicken parts, and comminuted chicken are Enteritidis, Typhimurium, ... and for raw comminuted turkey are Hadar, Typhimurium, and Muenchen. The proposal would also require poultry establishments to develop a microbial monitoring program to prevent pathogen contamination throughout the slaughter system.

“The proposed Salmonella framework is grounded in data and rigorous scientific evaluation, and it reflects feedback from extensive stakeholder engagement,” said USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Emilio Esteban. “We encourage all interested stakeholders to submit comments and relevant data on the proposal as we work to finalize data-driven, science-based regulatory policies to address Salmonella in poultry.”

Since 2021, the FSIS initiated several activities designed to gather data and information to inform the framework proposed rule and determination. These activities included charging the National Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food to provide guidance on the types of microbiological criteria the agency might use to better

prevent Salmonella infections associated with poultry products; conducting a risk profile for pathogenic Salmonella subtypes in poultry and developing two quantitative risk assessments; hosting a public meeting and several roundtables; conducting an exploratory sampling program for young chicken carcasses to generate microbial data and adding quantification to FSIS’ Salmonella testing program.

The Salmonella framework proposed rule and determination builds on the FSIS’ continued efforts under the Biden-Harris Administration to protect American consumers, including preventing false and misleading label claims. As part of this effort, earlier this year, the FSIS published a final determination to declare Salmonella an adulterant in raw breaded stuffed chicken products when they exceed the threshold of 1 CFU per gram of Salmonella contamination. FSIS also an-

nounced this year a final rule allowing the voluntary “Product of USA” claim to be applied only to those FSIS-regulated products that are derived from animals born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States.

Comments on this proposal must be received within 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Comments may be submitted online via the federal eRulemaking portal, available at www.regulations.gov; by mail sent to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, Washington, D.C. 20250-3700, or by hand or courier delivery to 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 350-E, Washington, D.C. 20250-3700. All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the agency name and docket number FSIS-2023-0028.

Policy for Providing Free Meals for School Divisions Participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for All Schools in the Division

Patrick County Public Schools are happy to announce its policy for providing free meals to all students served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Each school and/or central school nutrition office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

All schools in the division will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as implemented under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Students attending a participating school will be provided a nutritious meal for breakfast and lunch each day at no charge to the household. Households will not be required to submit a meal application form to receive meals at no charge.

Any questions can be directed to:

Name: Darlene Rogers
School: Patrick County Public Schools
Address: 132 N. Main Street, Stuart, Va 24171
Phone: 276-694-3836
Email: darlene.rogers@patrick.k12.va.us

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(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
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program.intake@usda.gov

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VDOC assumes control of Lawrenceville center

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) has officially assumed control of Lawrenceville Correctional Center, according to Director Chad Dotson. The move was announced in December 2023.

Lawrenceville Correctional Center opened in 1998 and, until the switch, was the only privately-operated state responsible prison in Virginia.

“Today marks a new day at Law-

renceville Correctional Center,” said Dotson. “Our Department is excited to assume operations at this facility – and to continue achieving the VADOC’s mission of ensuring public safety for the Commonwealth by providing effective incarceration, supervision, and evidence-based re-entry services. I thank the corrections team at Lawrenceville for their professionalism and dedication throughout this process.”

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Milepost Music brings live music to Mabry Mill in August

Free concerts held Sunday afternoons at iconic destination

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

Lovely Mountaineers will perform on Sunday, Aug. 18. Gina and Jason Dilg of Lovely Mountaineers are based in the rolling hills of Southwest Virginia, and play the foot-stomping dance tunes and old country ballads of the American string band repertoire. Both multi-instrumentalists love performing for country dances as much as putting on concerts. These days they can be found performing as both a duo and as part of the Agents of Old Time supporting Fiddling Earl White.



Lovely Mountaineers, Gina and Jason Dilg.



Mac Walker was among the recent performers.

dling Earl White.

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

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

Visitors should bring a chair or blanket for seating. Food and drinks are allowed on site,

but alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

Upcoming Milepost Music concerts at Mabry Mill include Erynn Marshall & Carl Jones on Sept. 1, and the Slate Mountain Ramblers on Sept. 15.

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Associate in Engineering Pathway unveiled at SCC

Are you a high school junior or senior looking to get a head start on your engineering degree? Look no further than Surry Community College. Surry Community College is introducing a new Associate in Engineering Pathway under the Career and College Promise (CCP) dual enrollment program.

The Associate in Engineering Pathway for CCP students is designed for those who wish to begin study towards a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. This pathway is a structured set of general education courses that, upon successful completion, will transfer to any of the North Carolina public universities. The pathway provides up to 34 credit hours.

CCP students pay no tuition. Students can earn both high school and college credit for courses. The CCP program is available to high school juniors and seniors



Surry Community College is introducing a new Associate in Engineering Pathway under the Career and College Promise (CCP) dual enrollment program. The Associate in Engineering Pathway is intended for high school juniors and seniors who plan on transferring to a four-year university. Pictured: Students build towers using only marshmallows and toothpicks as a part of a team project in Intro to Engineering EGR-150.

who attend public, private, and homeschools.

Registration is now open. Classes begin August 15. For more information, contact Dr. Susan Worth, Division Chair of

Mathematics at (336) 386-3357 or worths@surry.edu, or contact Dr. Melissa Recknor, Director of Student Success and Academic Advising, at (336) 386-3628 or recknorm@surry.edu.

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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."



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Visitors from as far away as Africa flock to music jams

Over the last several months, Ararat has welcomed visitors from Arizona, the USA, Ontario, Canada,

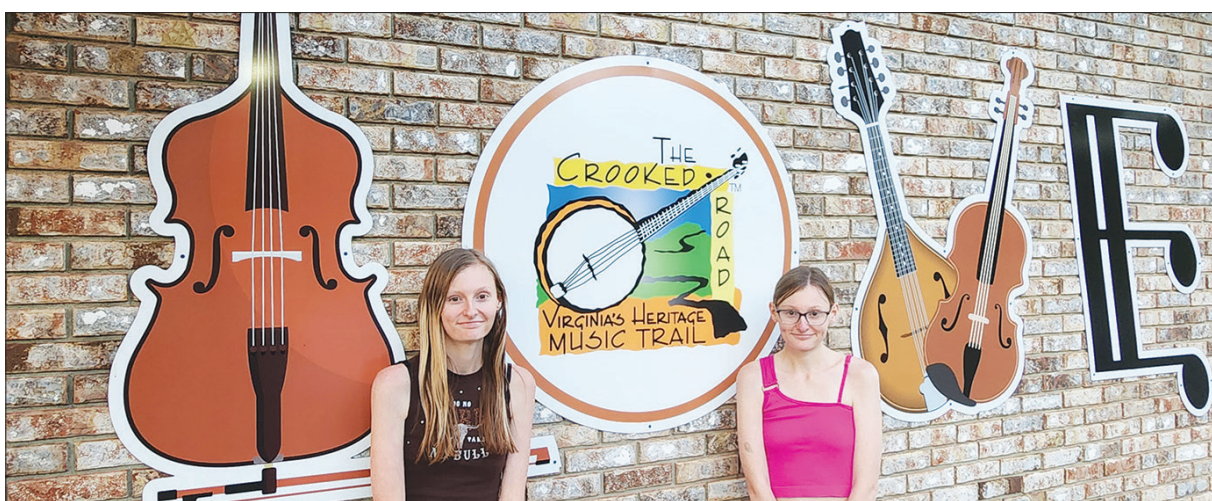
and the Republic of Kenya, Africa, at the Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam on Friday Nights, an affiliated partner of The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail.

Several visitors took time to have their photos taken with the Virginia LOVEWORKS sign at the event, which is held every Friday Night at 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food and drink, Appalachian Acoustic Music, and Dancing from 6:30 to 9

p.m.

On the last Tuesday of the month, doors open at 6:00 p.m. for food and drink, a Golden Oldies Open Jam is held. It featured 50s, 60s,

and 70s rock and roll music, and dancing from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Both jams include a 50/50 drawing held around 8:15 p.m., with all proceeds benefiting the Willis Gap Community Center.



Twins Jetha and Jesica from Arizona on June 7.



Ed and Fil Peel, with Catharine Mcnaulty, from Ontario, Canada, on June 28.



Debbie, Robin Young, from Ararat, VA, Pastor Wilson Oberoi from the Republic of Kenya, Africa, with By Young and Pastor of Willow Hill Church, Kenny King, from Ararat, VA, on July 19. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill, Representative, Dan River District, Patrick County Tourism.)

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