



THE ENTERPRISE

Calendar	12
Church	9
Classified	10
Family Album	5
Obituaries	8
Sports	6
Viewpoints	4

Vol. 148 No. 35 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024 USPS 523-500 \$1.00

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

Solar project nixed due to 'fatal flaw'

By Taylor Boyd

The solar project on Commerce Street in Stuart has been canceled, and is no longer viable due to interconnection issues, according to Energix Vice-President of Development Seth Christman.

The project, proposed by Fairy Stone LLC, a subsidiary of Energix Renewables, was deemed to have a fatal flaw in its connection to the grid, he said.

"This was only learned after the condition of use permit was granted for the project earlier

this year. Unfortunately, the project would have triggered an unacceptable voltage change where it interconnected to the Stuart substation," he said.

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors approved the siting agreement in a hotly debated 3-2 vote at its March 11 meeting. The project was to encompass approximately 170-acres.

Christman said continuing the project would defeat the purpose of putting energy on the grid to create reliability.

The issues "was learned between us and AEP (Appalachian Power) who, of course, operates the distribution grid in that area, and that would have not allowed the project to move forward because it would significantly reduce the project's size to a point that it would not be feasible to be built," Christman said.

The solar project proposed by Moscato, LLC, also a subsidiary of Energix, in the Woolwine area, was on the docket to move forward, how-

(See Solar Project p.3)

School division ranked 9th in state for second year in a row



Patrick Schools Superintendent Jason Wood earlier this month at Patrick County High School.

By Taylor Boyd

For the second year in a row, the Patrick County School division ranked 9th in the state for Standards of Learning (SOL) performance, according to Superintendent Jason Wood, who noted that the division's total pass rate improved from 81.4 percent to 82.4 percent.

"We are very proud. Of the top ten schools, three of those are in Southwest Virginia, and all three of us have an economically disadvan-

tagged number, over 50 percent," he said.

While there is typically a correlation between SOL performance and the economically disadvantaged number, Wood said Patrick County and two other school divisions in Southwest Virginia with more than 50 percent are overcoming that barrier.

In English, Wood said the division is nine points above the state average at 82, and 14 points above

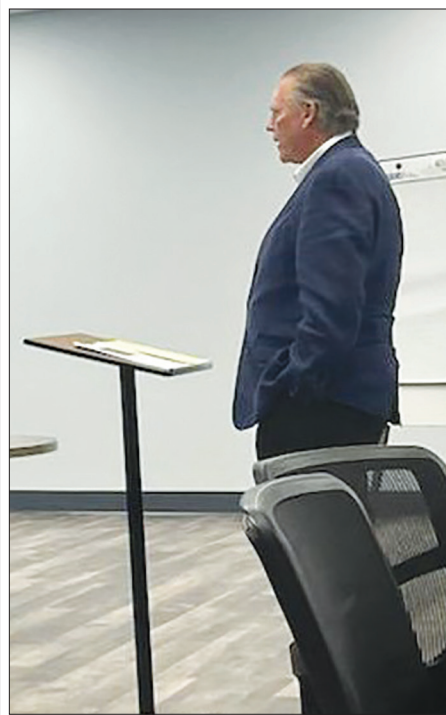
(See School Division p. 3)



Wood Brothers Racing team celebrates historic 100th victory

The pit crew of the #21 DEX Imaging Ford celebrated after Harrison Burton won the NASCAR Cup Series Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona International Speedway on August 24, 2024 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Story inside. (Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images)

Economic development guidance offered at joint meeting



Sanford Holshouser Managing Partner David Denny presented 18 actions in four categories that he and others believe the county should take to improve economic development efforts.



Economic Development and Tourism Director James Houchins requested input on his areas of focus.

By Taylor Boyd

Consultants offered more than a dozen recommendations to improve the county's economic development efforts during a recent joint meeting of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors and the Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board.

The recommendations, presented on August 19, were split into four categories - Economic Development Operations, Business Retention and Expansion, Project Develop-

ment, and Economic Development Toolkit - and included 18 actions.

Liz Povar, principal of RiverLink Group, one of the consulting organizations, said one purpose of the recommendations is to help facilitate a conversation between the boards about what each thinks needs to be done and potentially facilitate changes. Another goal is to get the boards to decide what Economic Development and Tourism Director (See Economic Development p.11)

Clinic celebrates 20 years of service to community

By Taylor Boyd

The Caring Hearts Free Clinic (CHFC) of Patrick County celebrated its 20th anniversary of serving the community on August 13.

Executive Director Christie Fain said the clinic was started in 2004 by a group of individuals that noticed there was a healthcare disparity. "They wanted something to have for the community that people that were uninsured could go to," she said.

Today, Fain said CHFC proudly continues to keep the vision of its original supporters and Executive Directors alive in order to serve the countless working indigent, uninsured individuals who are struggling in communities across Virginia with much needed healthcare.



Christie Fain, executive director of Caring Hearts Free Clinic at the clinic's 20th anniversary celebration.

Fain said CHFC sees patients who are 18-64 years old, are residents of Virginia, are completely uninsured, and are 300 percent or below the Federal Poverty Level.

"We have a formu-

la, and we have a little cheat sheet, so when somebody calls or comes in, we kind of plug their numbers in. I can't give an exact answer for that, it depends on how many

(See Clinic p.3)

Council approves support for Spooktacular

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council approved donating \$2,000 in financial assistance and in-kind support to One Family Productions for the 9th annual Spooktacular at its Wednesday, August 21 meeting.

Sarah Wray, president of One Family Productions, said after the Patrick County Young Professionals disbanded at the end of 2023, One Family was approached about continuing the annual event.

"We said yes because we love Stuart and Stuart Spooktacular. We are looking forward to moving for-

ward with that. I think this event has brought a lot of community members and organizations together. Regardless of who's doing the planning, people have kind of come together to rally behind its success," she said.

Currently, Wray said One Family is looking forward to continuing that legacy and growing it in a way that is sustainable, safe, and efficient for businesses and visitors on Main Street.

Spooktacular is set to be held Thursday, October 31 from 5:30-8 p.m.

(See Spooktacular p.11)



Stuart Mayor Ray Weiland signed a proclamation recognizing Constitution Week in Stuart. He is pictured with members of the Daughters of the American Revolution - Col. Abram Penn Chapter.

Bet on a fun and safe Labor Day holiday by hedging distractions and risks on the road

The odds of having a fantastic Labor Day weekend are in your favor, though the chances of becoming a traffic safety statistic are something to keep in mind.

Virginia State Police stopped 4,475 speeders and 1,945 reckless drivers during 2023's four-day Labor Day weekend. State troopers also cited 491 seat belt violations and 150 child restraint violations during that time period.

According to Virginia Traffic Crash Facts, 673 injuries resulted from 1,216 crashes throughout 2023's holiday weekend.

Fourteen individuals died in 10 of those Virginia traffic crashes. Half of them involved motorcycles; seven motorcycle operators and passengers lost their lives.

The fatal crashes occurred in Virginia Beach, and Campbell, Hanover, James City, Montgomery, Nelson, Pittsylvania, Rockbridge, Scott and

Wythe counties. Last year's 14 fatalities were up from 12 in 2022, and 10 in 2021.

Transportation officials, law enforcement and outreach organizations like Drive Smart Virginia work to push the number of crashes and fatalities toward zero. But it can't be done without motorists who are free of distraction or impairment, said David Tenenbaum, senior actuarial manager at Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co., who also serves as DSV treasurer.

"No matter where you are in Virginia, or how you plan to celebrate this long holiday weekend, we all share the responsibility of roadway safety," he said. "Part of that responsibility is knowing traffic safety laws recently adopted in Virginia."

In 2021, it became illegal in Virginia to hold a mobile device while driving. A "Do Not Disturb" app can block incoming correspondence while the vehicle is in motion. Otherwise, use your device's

hands-free options carefully.

Virginia's Move Over law for emergency vehicles was amended in 2023. Drivers must now change lanes when possible or slow down for any vehicle on the roadside flashing amber or hazard lights, triangles or flares. This includes utility, tow and roadside assistance trucks.

The American Red Cross offers tips for safe Labor Day travel:

Be well rested and alert, use your seatbelts, and observe speed limits. Clean your headlights, and turn them on as dusk approaches or in inclement weather.

Don't drink and drive. Have a designated driver available.

Give your full attention to the road.

Use caution in work zones (Virginia's Move Over law does not apply in highway work zones).

Don't follow other vehicles too closely.

Applications accepted for Beehive Lottery

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is currently accepting applications for the 2024 Beehive Distribution Program. The program provides free equipment for assembling new beehives to Virginia residents. Recipients of the equipment are selected at random from qualifying applications received during the application period. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 6.

Only residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia, aged 18 years or older at the time of application, qualify for the random drawing. Entities such as businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies are not eligible to receive beehive units. Multiple individuals with the same mailing and/or physical address (household) may apply to the program; however, distribution of beehive units will be limited to no more than three beehive units per household in the

same fiscal year, July 1 to June 30.

Recipients of beehive units must assemble the equipment and occupy it with a colony of honey bees within one year of receiving the equipment. VDACS does not provide honey bees or equipment for managing the hives, such as personal safety equipment or honey processing equipment.

To learn more about the Beehive Distribution Program or to submit an application before Sept. 6, please visit www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-beehive-distribution-program.shtml. Individuals interested in applying to receive beehive units through the program should review the complete application instructions within the Guidelines & Requirements.

For more information, contact the VDACS Office of Plant Industry Services at (804) 786-3515 or vabees@vdacs.virginia.gov.

Bridge repair to close a portion of road

Beginning Monday, September 9, a portion of Virginia 635 (Goblintown Creek Road) will be closed to through traffic from 0.10 mile from Virginia 57 (Fairystone Park Highway) to 0.40 mile from Virginia 788 (Thomas Farm Road) for a bridge

repair over Goblintown Creek.

Weather permitting, the road will re-open to traffic on Thursday, September 19.

A detour will be used and directional signs will be in place to assist motorists

Severe weather further strains Red Cross blood supply

The American Red Cross continues to experience a national blood emergency as remnants of Hurricane Debby and other severe weather events across the country have further complicated efforts to rebuild the nation's blood supply. Those in unaffected areas are urged to make an appointment to give now.

Weather in recent weeks has added to the summer shortfall in donations by forcing the cancellation of nearly 60 blood drives throughout the country, many of which were caused by Debby, causing approximately 1,500 lifesaving blood products to go uncollected. Annually, severe weather – such as blizzards, tornadoes, floods and hurricanes – impacts about 90,000 blood donations made to the Red Cross. In the month of August, Tropical Storm Debby led to several blood drive cancellations in the North Carolina region, causing about 500 donations to go uncollected. Because blood has a short shelf life and can only come from volunteer blood donors, any disruptions in the ability to collect lifesaving blood can have serious consequences for hospitals and patients.

First-time donors and those who give regularly are critical to blood supply recovery. To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org

or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). In thanks, all who come to give through Aug. 31 will get a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See RedCrossBlood.org/Help for details.

Those who come to give Sept. 1-15 will receive an exclusive Red Cross raglan T-shirt, while supplies last.

Be ready for emergencies

September is National Preparedness Month, and a strong blood supply is key to preparedness for disasters and medical emergencies. As disasters occur more often and become more powerful due to the climate crisis, the Red Cross also encourages people to get their households ready for emergencies. This year the country has already seen the earliest Category 5 storm ever recorded with Hurricane Beryl, and wildfires have burned 2.7 million more acres compared to all of 2023.

Disasters can happen anywhere, at any time, often without warning. Get ready by making a plan to stay safe, gathering important supplies and knowing how you'll stay connected. To learn what disasters may affect your community, visit redcross.org/hazard-map and then download the free Red Cross Emergency App for step-by-step guidance, real-time weather alerts and expert preparedness and safety advice in both English and Spanish.

Apple Juice recalled due to arsenic concerns

Virginia is among 25 states covered in a recall from Refresco Beverages US Inc., in Tampa, Fla. For Great Value Apple Juice.

Inorganic arsenic above the action level set in industry guidance spurred the recall, according to the company.

The affected products include Great Value 8oz Apple Juice in 6 pack; 100% Juice; packaged in 8 oz. PET plastic bottles; UPC 0-78742-29655-5.

The Best if Used by date is DEC2824 CT89-6.

Annual 5K, Apple Dumpling Fest set



Lace up those sneakers and join the annual Apple Dumpling Festival 5K on Saturday October 19th in Downtown Stuart. The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Dan River Basin Association is presenting this annual fundraiser. The 5K race is run

along the Mayo River Rail Trail prior to the Town's Apple Dumpling Festival. One of the most scenic and flat 5K's in Patrick County. Pre-registered runners receive a guaranteed T-shirt. All runners receive a finisher medal, marked course, chance for awards, and a great time! Proceeds benefit the Dan River basin Association's trail development in Patrick County.

The town's 23rd annual Apple Dumpling Festival is held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information and to register for the 5K visit www.patrick-chamber.com or call (276) 694-6012.

Pets of the Week



These handsome guys have been in the shelter for too long. They really need a home. Please come meet them and the many other dogs and cats needing homes. Visit the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) in person or view its Facebook page to view other available pets.

Remember, adoption fees are only \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination.

Call the shelter at (276) 694-6259 for additional information.

Class of '64 reunites



The Meadows of Dan High School Class of 1964 held its 60th reunion on August 17, 2024, at Olde Mill Golf Resort. Pictured are (left to right) Bufford Jessup, Grady Terry, Richard Conner, Smokey Shelor, Evelena Newman Dalton, Karen Spencer Womack, Buby Boyd Asbury, Hilda Stanley Vivier and mascot, Barbara Cruise (not pictured, David Hubbard)



WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Norris
Memorial Services

1500 Kings Mtn Rd.
Martinsville, VA,
276-638-2778

Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com

Solar Project

(cont. from page 1)

ever, Christman said there appeared to be organized community opposition to that project.

“We pulled it from consideration. We have not terminated that LLC, that project, or the land positions, we just did not move it forward at that time because of the organized opposition to the project and kind of relooking at the project and the viability in that location,” he said.

While the company could potentially opt to restart the project, Christman said Energix currently does not have anything in the works to push that project forward on the agenda.

“It is not a such as the Fairy Stone project, which is no longer viable from an interconnection standpoint, which is again a fatal flaw to that project from moving forward. That is not the case with the Moscato project, that is more of a consideration for understanding what the community wants and also for understanding the chances of that project moving forward,” he said.

According to the project’s review application, Moscato proposed the development and construction of a 13.2MWac solar facility to be located on three parcels on land that totals ap-

School Division

(cont. from page 1)

the state average in Writing at 90. In math, the county received 90, which is 12 points above the state average of 71. Wood said the score for science was 13 points above the state average at 81, and 15 points above the history state average at 80.

“Speaking with the director of the Instructional Consortium. He wants to come present at a school board meeting to showcase. I’m hoping he comes to our next school board meeting to show the trendline” compared to typical SOL performance based on economically disadvantaged numbers, “and Patrick County is one of the top three outperforming that trend line,” he said.

Despite the high SOL scores, Wood said he believes the school system still has room for improvement, especially in returning to pre-COVID-19 standards.

“I think every school has room to continue improving,” Wood said, but “I think we are approaching pre-pandemic performance faster than most of our surrounding school divisions. I think that’s just a testament to the hard work of every employee.”

While he knows it takes more than just classroom teachers, Wood said the division builds a family atmosphere every day for its students, “from the time they get on the bus with the bus drivers greeting them with a smile to making sure we give them free meals for breakfast and lunch, and amazing nurses taking care of physical needs.”

Wood added SOL performance is also not the

Clinic

(cont. from page 1)

family members you have, how much you make, and then we plug that in and that kind of gives us the number for that,” she said.

In 2023, CHFC saw 162 unduplicated patients with 65 of those being new patients and 97 being returning patients.

“We did a total of 437 total visits for the year. So, that would mean one of those 162 patients came back in for services that were needed throughout the year, and they were repeat visits,” she said.

While the majority of its patients are from Patrick County, Fain noted some are from Floyd, Henry County, Carroll County, and other places.

Fain said CHFC primarily provides medical care and laboratory work onsite.

“We partner with Lap Corp, and we actually do not pay anything for Lap Corp. We have a contract set up that our patients are free of charge, which is amazing because laboratory analysis is so expensive, so that saves the clinic a lot of money,” she said.

CHFC also partners with Patrick County Family Practice and Patrick County Urgent Care.

“If one of our patients needs an x-ray we send them upstairs, and Dr. Cole and his staff are wonderful to be able to provide that service to our patients,” she said.

Dr. Jorge Gonzalez, with Patrick County Eye Associates, also gives the organization’s patients vision exams and glasses as needed.

“We partner with Connect Health + Wellness for our dental program. They used to bring the bus here, so now they have the brick-and-mortar location in Patrick Springs. Now we send our dental patients down there to see their dentist, which is fantastic,” she said.

If there is something that cannot be done in house, like a specialty or referral visit, Fain said CHFC will refer patients.

“We have an amazing partnership with Carilion, so if someone needs to see a cardiologist or urology, physical therapy, things like that then we refer them to those specialty offices,” she said.

Since Carilion and Therapy Direct are not part of the free clinic, patients are required to fill out a financial aid application. Jeanette Redman, CHFC’s office manager, helps patients fill out their paperwork and financial aid applications.

“Nine times out of 10, all of those bills are paid for because they get charity financial aid awarded,” she said.

proximately 213 acres of privately-owned land. The review application also states that less than 100 acres were planned for panel coverage.

The vast resistance from county residents to solar projects is not a unique response, Christman said.

“If you’re following the industry, you’ve probably seen a lot of counties across Virginia, and the country for that matter. Obviously, solar has been coming in a lot of counties where it was not previously in three, four years ago, or even a couple of years ago, and it is very attractive,” he said. “Virginia particularly, because of where it’s located and the growth demand that Virginia has for electricity as well as the Virginia Clean Economy Act.”

While no other projects are being considered in Patrick County at this time, Christman said this is an attractive market for energy developers, Energix included. That is why there are a lot more projects being proposed in counties like Patrick County and all over Virginia.

“Pretty much every county in Virginia, there is probably a solar project that’s being proposed, but you are seeing a lot more opposition to those

only thing the school system focuses on, for instance, the Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs at Patrick County High School (PCHS) are extensive.

“We have a lot of opportunities for our students to prepare them for careers. We’re excited about SOL performance, but that’s just one thing that I feel makes our school division top notch and one of the best in the state,” he said.

The school division also achieved a Level 1 accreditation rating, the highest possible in Virginia. To determine a division’s accreditation rating, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Andrea Cassell said both state and federal measurements have benchmarks set for areas including academics, the graduation rate, and the attendance rates.

“We’re fortunate in Patrick County that we continue to not only meet expectations, but we’re exceeding the state and federal expectations. It’s from all of our staff members, and the support and instruction that they’ve always provided,” she said.

Cassell said she thinks since the COVID-19 pandemic, and particularly last year, staff members put in a lot of effort to specific, intensive interventions for students.

“We’re seeing that pay off both in our results and what we see every day when we’re in our schools in talking to our students, seeing how they’ve grown both emotionally and how they’ve grown academically, and in talking to our staff members,” she said.

projects just because they are particularly new, right? They weren’t there 10 years ago, and they might not have even been there five years ago, so it’s a new technology and they are perceived by some to have impacts that they don’t want in their counties,” he said.

Christman said Energix’s commitment is to be a community partner and provide reliable sustainable energy to the grid.

“With our projects come benefits that can certainly help local communities, in tax bases, or other partnerships that we strive to have with communities. Unfortunately, we weren’t able to do that with the Fairystone project in Patrick County,” he said.

According to Patrick County’s Comprehensive Plan, solar projects are limited to 1,000 acres of the county’s 486 square miles, or 309,120 acres.

Christman said Energix is a Virginia-based company interested in developing and operating projects in the long term across the state.

“We have 15 operation projects. We certainly are committed to being a partner with the community for the long term of our projects,” he said.

A release from Gov. Glenn Youngkin illustrated the need to ensure students have great school attendance, and according to Wood, “some of the most powerful statistics they put out were that chronically absent students have 19 percentage points lower in reading, and 26 percentage points lower in math.

“We’re still urging families to help us to ensure we have great school attendance because we know once we have the students in our classrooms, in our schools, they’ll feel loved, cared for, and then that ultimately makes a great learning environment where they’ll succeed,” he said.

Wood said the chronic absenteeism rate for 2023-2024 was calculated internally to be 11.58 percent, compared to the 2022-2023 rate of 18.4 percent.

The chronic absenteeism indicator improved for Blue Ridge Elementary School, from 23.68 percent to 13.18 percent. At Hardin Reynolds Memorial School, it went from 10.23 percent to 6.28 percent, and at Patrick Springs Primary School, from 27.59 percent to 16.24 percent.

Wood said at Meadows of Dan Elementary School, chronic absenteeism dropped to 2.4 percent from 2.8 percent, and at Patrick County High School (PCHS), it dropped by more than 10 percent, from 27.59 percent to 16.24 percent.

At Stuart Elementary School, it decreased from 15.06 percent to 10.34 percent, and at Woolwine Elementary School, from 10.85 percent to 7.09 percent.



Fain said if CHFC were to send patients to Therapy Direct or Connect Health + Wellness, for an x-ray, it is at no cost to the patient.

“The Free Clinic is billed from those providers, and we pay that bill on behalf of the patient. So essentially, they are coming in and receiving a free medical visit from us,” she said.

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, Fain said the organization did some interior remodeling by repainting the walls and removing the old carpet.

“We just kind of revamped what we have. We are so thankful to be here, and Dr. Cole lets us stay here,” she said. “But our thought process was when a patient comes into a doctor’s office, they want to feel that they’re here, and they’re welcome, and it be light and airy, and that was kind of our feelings to give it a revamped look.”

Fain said Caring Hearts is partially funded by the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, a non-profit organization. “They give us state funding yearly if we meet the membership requirements, and then also it depends on how many patients we see a year and also how many prescriptions that we write for those patients is the amount of funding that we get,” she said.

However, this is only a portion of the funding needed to operate the clinic. She said the other half is based off donations from local businesses and the community.

“Any amount helps. I think we kind of crunched some numbers, and I think \$6 would pay for a patient’s prescription, or a patient to get diabetic supplies, or something like that,” she said.

Fain said the clinic offers Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) credits, which is a program it applies for every year.

“There’s funding that comes down from the



Those wishing to donate to Caring Hearts Free Clinic (CHFC) can mail checks to 835 Woodland Drive Suite 101, Stuart, VA 24171.

state that we can offer donors. So, if an individual were to donate \$500 or more then I would fill out the NAP application on their behalf, simple, send it off with a copy of the donation check that they gave us, and then they receive 65 percent back on their state income tax. An example would be if someone donated \$500 you would get \$325 dollars back on your state income tax at the end of the year,” she said, emphasizing this is not money that comes from CHFC’s pocket. Fain believes the threshold for businesses is at least \$600.

Those wishing to donate can send checks to 835 Woodland Drive Suite 101, Stuart, VA 24171.

The organization is also starting a new incentive program to recruit new patients. New patients who make and keep an appointment in August and September will receive a gas card, courtesy of outreach funding from Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics. Current patients who refer someone who qualifies and is seen also will receive a gas card, in addition to the referred person.

“We’re open to see new patients at any time. We do accept walk-ins, so you don’t have to call for an appointment, but sometimes it makes it a little bit easier if you have an appointment so we kind of know what to tell you to bring when you come in,” she said.

Fain said the two nurse practitioners are Pamela Wright and Emily Turner. The clinic is open Mondays and Tuesdays to see patients from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It also is open Wednesday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., however providers are not available. Fain said staff will still be able to refill medication and answer questions.

For more information, call (276) 694-3410, visit caringheartssf.com, or on social media, Caring Hearts Free Clinic of Patrick County.

Constituent Work

As the final quarter of the 118th Congress is underway, there are pressing issues that will come to federal lawmakers' attention. Of issues that will likely be addressed, government funding for fiscal year 2025 is on the docket.



Morgan Griffith
Representative

Outside of Washington D.C., I am proud to reflect on the work my district team has done this Congress to assist our constituent service operations.

My mission statement since my first day in office has been to provide responsible leadership, principled representation and exceptional constituent services for the people of Virginia's Ninth District.

These services include but are not limited to helping people get their passports, working with people to cut through red tape regarding social security and veterans benefits and communicating with the IRS about disputes. Since January of 2023, my office has completed or worked on over 3,600 cases for constituents.

The Ninth District has twenty-eight cities and counties and consists of a landmass greater than nine U.S. states, including New Jersey. The Ninth District is the largest congressional district in Virginia.

Notwithstanding the significant size of the district, I have made 350 visits to different parts of the District over the last twenty months. Keep in mind, a significant portion of the time I am in Washington, DC representing you there.

Helping Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that the Ninth District is home to over 47,000 veterans.

Starting January of 2023, my office has worked on resolving over 380 veterans' cases.

These cases often involve assisting veterans in their claims for disability compensation, pensions and other types of benefits.

We also have tracked down medical records of our veterans to help them and their families in their cases seeking treatments and medals.

Medals and replacement medals can be awarded due to the veteran's experiences in conflicts such as World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm, among others.

I was honored to attend the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings this year at the Memorial in Bedford. More than a dozen WWII veterans were present.

Assisting and recognizing the service of our veterans has always been important to me.

AMLER

As the leading advocate in Virginia for the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program, it is encouraging to see extra efforts in Southwest Virginia to revitalize old mine lands and breathe life into coal communities.

Administered by the Virginia

Department of Energy, millions of federal dollars are pouring into AMLER projects, including but not limited to infrastructure improvements and site redevelopment. Such work may also include cleaning up gob piles and taking down high walls to make the area safe and developable.

I was proud to announce a new round of AMLER projects recently that total \$10 million!

Additionally, I successfully added an amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill this year to make the program run more effectively.

In 2024, I have been to ribbon cutting events recognizing the completed AMLER projects, most recently Devil's Bathtub in Scott County and improvements at Breaks Interstate Park.

Supporting these Southwest Virginia attractions through AMLER will drive tourist interest and garner new visitors to the region.

I will continue to monitor new opportunities to repurpose abandoned mine land for job creation and economic growth.

Rural Health

I regularly tour a variety of medical facilities in the district.

These experiences allow me to speak with medical professionals and see first-hand the difficulties and challenges they face, as well as the issues their patients see.

One concerning issue is the travel patients undergo to see their doctors and other providers. In some cases, folks in the Ninth District have to drive close to an hour or more to seek help!

One solution for our region is greater access to telemedicine.

In the Health Subcommittee this year, we passed H.R. 7623, the Telehealth Modernization Act of 2024, to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program and extend Americans' access to telehealth services.

In the full Energy and Commerce Committee, we voted to pass H.R. 7858, the TELEMH Act of 2024, to improve telemedicine for mental health services to Medicare recipients.

Advocating for solutions to complex health policy issues in rural areas will remain a priority of mine. I look forward to continued conversations with our region's hardworking and dedicated healthcare professionals.

These are some of the ways my team and I work to help constituents. Call my offices with questions, concerns, or comments: Abingdon, (276) 525-1405; Christiansburg, (540) 381-5671, or via email at <https://morgangriffith.house.gov/>.

Letters to the Editor

Fantasy at the 2024 DNC

(FAIR, AAA, AXIOS, NAIC, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Fox, Time, The Federalist, Todd Starnes, Pew Research, Gallup poll)

The Biden-Harris administration has called voter photo identification laws "burdensome" and "unnecessary." But for individuals to attend the DNC they must show proof of identity. Security is suddenly important to Democrats. So why not protect and secure our elections? 81% of Americans support requiring voters to show a "government-issued photo identification" in order to vote.

Free abortion medication and vasectomies are being offered at the DNC convention that will embrace a radical abortion-until-birth policy that would have been unthinkable, even for Democrats, just a decade ago.

The Democrat Party created a gender neutral Islamic prayer room at the DNC. It features two prayer rugs. According to Islamic tradition, men and women are forbidden from praying in the same room. The DNC eliminated women's restrooms in the media center. Journalists can either use the men's room or a gender neutral bathroom.

President Biden delivered his final speech at the DNC. In his speech, Biden touted the tremendous success of the Biden/Harris administration to rebuild the middle class. That is a lie. Here are some facts to consider. Do these increases in the cost of living, look like the middle class has been rebuilt under Biden/Harris?

- Gas – up 38%
- Food – up 21%
- Mortgage rates – up 148%
- Home insurance – up 61%

Car insurance – up 118%
Real wages – down 2.24%
Illegals – 8.5 million illegals and 2 million "gotaways" have crossed the border under the Biden/Harris. The state and federal cost of those illegals is 1.5 billion. Who pays? American taxpayers.

Crime – There has been a 9.6% increase in violent crimes, 6.4% increase in murders and 25% increase in aggravated assault in 66 cities under Biden/Harris. Who pays? American taxpayers.

Biden also touted that under Biden/Harris, the U.S has the best education system in the world. Another lie. According to government statistics, America's education system is failing. The average 4th grader has a 41% proficiency level in mathematics. By the 8th grade, the proficiency level drops to 34%. By the 12th grade, math proficiency level is only 24%. In reading, 4th graders have an average proficiency rate of 35%. By 8th grade, the proficiency level drops to 34%, and by the 12th grade, shows only a slight proficiency improvement to 37%. In writing, the proficiency levels are 28% in 4th grade with 8th and 12th graders sharing a score of 27%.

In science, 4th graders have only a 36% proficiency rate and 8th graders 35%. 12th graders have only a 22% rate of proficiency in science. The worst scores come in history, with 4th graders starting out with only 20% proficiency and dropping to 15% by the 8th grade. By grade 12, America's students have a paltry 12% proficiency level in history. Pray for our country.

William Salser,
Stuart

Enjoy Labor Day America, and keep working

By Glenn Mollette

Labor Day weekend is upon us. Let's celebrate the laborers.

The willing workers of America have been the backbone to making our country the greatest nation in the world. People from all over the world have come here in search of a better life by having the opportunity and the freedom to work hard in order to make their dreams come true. The will and the joy of working has made life better for millions who have realized their dreams in America.

An acquaintance of mine who has done very well throughout his life has always been a hard worker. He has said, "The harder I work, the luckier I get." Good fortune has never just fallen on him accidentally, but he has always worked hard, and good things have come his way.

There is no way that Americans can stop working. Our government and all that we have and know flourishes or dries up based upon our work. Our work produces products, delivers goods, raises crops, provides fuel, and feeds our families.

A country cannot sit down and expect that all the people will be clothed, fed, and medically cared for without a large group of working people. The nation who does not work will soon fold. Our government cares for a lot of people now. Millions of Americans receive Social Security checks and other types of government monetary support. This money does not grow on trees but is reproduced daily by America's laborers who have their nose to the grindstone.

If you have a job and are earning a paycheck, then rejoice for your good fortune. There are many less fortunate who would love to be working and who no longer have the physical or mental ability to do so.

Work is a good way to spend your

time. Good honest work will keep you out of trouble and is helpful in keeping you out of a state of depression. In most situations, work is physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy for people. There are always those dead-end jobs that may be very tough physically and mentally. Sometimes you may have to change jobs. In America, you can change jobs or start your own business, but you have the option of making a new plan.

My dad was a hard-working coal miner. We would have starved if he hadn't been willing to work in underground coal mines for almost 37 years. My mother was a hard worker. Thus, we always had food to eat. Work has a payoff; you can go to the grocery store. Of course, in this economy, we haven't been able to buy as much.

A dear friend manages a restaurant with 85 employees. Most of them are immigrants who have come into the country in the last three or four years. He said, "Without them I couldn't operate the restaurant. They are faithful, work hard, and do a good job. They also have a network of friends who want to work so I don't have trouble filling jobs. If I had to depend on the local American people in our community, then our restaurant would never survive. The locals don't want to work." Sadly, I've heard farmers in Ohio and Indiana talk the same way. Their farming labor is dependent on the immigrants.

America will continue to be a strong and great nation if all Americans will keep working. When we hand all our labor over to others and quit working, we will lose our country.

Glenn Mollette is read in all fifty states. Find books by Glenn Mollette at Amazon.com Learn more about his books, columns and music at GlennMollette.Com. Email him at gmollette@aol.com

DMV Select in Stuart closed Sept. 2

The DMV Select office in Stuart will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 2. The office resumes normal operating hours on Tuesday, September 3, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The office closes from 1 to 2 p.m. for lunch.

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.

**VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET**

Patrick Pioneers

Vera Eloise Conner Harvey
By Beverly Belcher Woody

When I am doing housework, I always have the television on for "company." One day, Steve Harvey, long-time TV and radio personality, was talking about his family and stated that his mother was born and raised in Woolwine, Virginia. My ears really perked up because Harvey pronounced Woolwine the way the old mountain folks pronounced it, "Wool-whine."

I went right to work finding out more about Harvey's mother, Mrs. Vera Eloise Conner Harvey. On the 27th of March 1915, Eloise was born to Frederick D. Conner and Hattie Lillian Prillaman Conner at Woolwine, Patrick County, Virginia. Eloise was the third child of Fred and Hattie Conner to be born in Woolwine: their first Ruby, was born in 1911; Lessie in 1913; Eloise in 1915; Nannie Mabel in 1917; Theodore Eric in 1919; and Verna Lowell Prillaman Conner in 1921.

Frederick and Hattie Conner moved their growing family to McDowell County, West Virginia where Frederick went to work in the coal mines and their daughter Adell Claudia was born in 1924. The Conner family would go on to have five more children, all born in West Virginia: Willis Clifford, born in 1926; Sybil Hortense in 1929; Jasmine Gloria in 1931; Douglas Laman in 1934; and Donald in 1939. Hattie Prillaman Conner was 46 years old when her youngest child, Donald was born.

Vera Eloise Conner married coal miner, Jesse Willard Harvey, Sr. in 1936 in McDowell County, West Virginia. According to the 1950 census, Eloise and Jesse Harvey and their four children, lived in Tipple Hollow in Elbert, West Virginia. The couple's son, Broderick Stephen "Steve" Harvey, came along later in 1957, when Eloise was 42 years old.

Now that we have the connection established between Eloise and her son, Steve, let's go back to Woolwine, Patrick County, Virginia and find out more about Eloise Conner Harvey's parents and grandparents.

Eloise Conner Harvey's father, Frederick D. Conner was born on the 18th of December 1893 to Matt

Conner and his second wife, Sarah "Sally" Snell. Frederick's father, Matthew (Matt) Conner was born in July of 1858 in Patrick County, Virginia. Matt's parents were Benjamin Conner and America Prillaman of the Elamsville district of Patrick County. I was able to find records for three of Matt's siblings: Jefferson Conner married Queen Victoria Morrison (what a great name!) on the 29th of January 1880 in Patrick County, where they raised at least four children. Queen Victoria Morrison was born in 1860 to Americus Morrison in Patrick County. Matt's sister, Milly married Preston G. Ross on the 28th of April 1882 in Patrick County. Milly and Preston had at least ten children, according to the Patrick County census records from 1900 and 1910. Matt's sister, 2-year-old Eliza and their mother, America Prillaman were living with Charles Patterson Nolen, his wife Nancy, and their children in the 1870 census records for the Smith River district.

Frederick's Conner's father, Matt was married three times; his first wife was Ellen Ross with whom he had four children, Genora, John Jefferson, Tissie Jane, and James Edgar Lee Conner. All these children remained in and around Patrick County with John Jefferson marrying Beulah Prillaman, Tissie Jane marrying Robert Smith, and James Edgar Lee marrying Millie Jane Houchins.

After Ellen Ross Conner died in childbirth on June 10th, 1890 (from Patrick County Death Register) Matt Conner married Sarah "Sally" Snell on the 6th of December 1891. Frederick Conner (father of Eloise) was Matt and Sally's oldest child, followed by Maggie, born in 1894; Ellis George, born in 1895; Hattie, born in 1898; and Early Conner, born in 1900. Sally Snell Conner passed away after Early was born. It is interesting to note that Matt and Sally Snell Conner's daughter, Hattie married John Fred Rucker, the subject of a past Patrick Pioneer story. When Hattie Conner Rucker passed away at the age of 52, Mr. Rucker married Miss Alberta Tatum and they were the parents of my dear friend, Lillian Rucker King.

Matt Conner married for the

(1) PLACE OF BIRTH County of <u>Patrick</u> District of <u>Smith River</u> City of _____		COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS 10985	
Registration District No. _____ Primary Registration Dist. No. <u>702 B</u>		File No. _____ Registered No. <u>22</u>	
(2) FULL NAME OF CHILD <u>Vera Eloise Conner</u>		St. _____ Ward _____	
(3) BOY OR GIRL? <u>Girl</u>	(4) Twin, triplet, or other? <u>No</u>	(5) Number in order of birth <u>3</u>	(6) Legit-imate? <u>yes</u>
(7) DATE OF BIRTH <u>March 6, 1915</u>	(8) FATHER (9) FULL NAME <u>Frederick William Conner</u> (10) RESIDENCE OF FATHER <u>Woolwine Va</u> (11) COLOR OR RACE <u>Colored</u> (12) BIRTHPLACE <u>Woolwine Va</u> (13) OCCUPATION <u>Farmer</u>		
(14) MOTHER (15) FULL NAME <u>Hattie Lillian Prillaman</u> (16) RESIDENCE OF MOTHER <u>Woolwine Va</u> (17) COLOR OR RACE <u>Colored</u> (18) BIRTHPLACE <u>Woolwine Pat Co Va</u> (19) OCCUPATION <u>Housekeeping</u>		(20) Number of children born to this mother, including present birth <u>3</u>	
(21) Number of children of this mother now living, including present birth <u>3</u>		CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*	
(22) I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was <u>Alive</u> at <u>7</u> P.M. on the date above stated.			
*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.			
(23) Signature <u>Hannie Nolen</u>		(24) Address of Physician or Midwife <u>Woolwine Va</u>	
(25) Address of Physician or Midwife <u>Woolwine Va</u>		(26) Filed <u>March 16, 1915</u>	

Vera Eloise Conner Harvey, Patrick County Birth Record

third time to Dicey Ross Prillaman on the 20th of October 1907. Matt and Dicey had two children, George Washington Conner who married Ruby Price and Bessie Conner who married Nathaniel Saunders.

Eloise Conner Harvey's mother, Hattie Lillian Prillaman, was born to Charles L. Prillaman and Rosa Belle Wood on the 8th of June 1893. Charles and Rosa Belle's marriage is recorded in the Floyd County Circuit Court Clerk's Office. Hattie and her siblings, Fred Lincoln, Wayland, Clara, Raymond, Horace, and Clarence grew up in Patrick County, but left in the 1920's to work in the West Virginia coal mines or marry men who were coal miners. In the 1940's, several of the siblings moved to Washington, D.C. Fred Lincoln Prillaman served in WWI and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

In an LA Times article on October 5th, 2014, Steve Harvey talks about his parents, "I was a surprise," he stated. "My mother was 42 years old when she had me. My father, when I asked him stuff, he used to tell me, "Son, why are you asking me? You are not even supposed to be here!" The family moved to Cleveland, Ohio when Steve was four years old, and his father switched to construction work. "My parents were very loving," Harvey recalled. "They didn't have any money, but my mother taught me faith and my father gave me a strong work ethic."



Vera Eloise Conner Harvey (Photo from Find a Grave)

While Steve Harvey grew up in Ohio, in interviews with the press, he often talks about spending summers on his Grandpa Conner's farm in West Virginia. I suspect he heard many stories from both of his grandparents, Frederick and Hattie, about life in Patrick County. Eloise Conner Harvey passed away on October 8th, 1997, and Jesse Harvey followed on April 7th, 2000; they are buried at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio.

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 - Retiree Asks About His Social Security

Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I retired with a (gross) \$4600 per month Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuity from the US Postal Service in December 2022. I am 66 and will attain full retirement age in November of this year. I know at that point I will not be subject to the "earnings" test, but I will be affected by the dreaded "government offset." I HAVE earned enough quarters and will be eligible for a small social security benefit. First question: will my Social Security benefit just be reduced, or will it be eliminated? Second: will it make a difference if I apply in November or when I turn 70? I am currently working part-time and paying Social Security FICA taxes. Third: if my SS is being eliminated, do I even have to apply? Fourth and last: I am married, filing jointly and my wife is currently receiving SS benefits (only). Could I also be affected by the "windfall" provision if my wife predeceased me?

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

Signed: Upset to Offset and Downfall to Windfall

Dear Upset: You are correct that when you reach your full retirement age (FRA) in November you will no longer be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. But if you apply for your So-

cial Security to start in November, your SS benefits will be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) due to your non-covered CSRS pension (because you didn't pay into SS while earning your CSRS pension). As you may know, only those federal employees who retired under CSRS (Civil Service Retirement System) are affected by WEP; newer Federal employees who retire under the more recent FERS (Federal Employee Retirement Program) program are not affected.

Because of your CSRS pension, your Social Security benefit will be reduced, but not eliminated. The amount of reduction will be based on the number of years of non-government employment you had (where you paid into Social Security). Usually, those who have spent a lifetime earning a pension without contributing to SS, but who have a separately earned SS pension, will see their SS benefit cut approximately in half.

To answer your second question, your benefit will, indeed, continue to grow if you wait until you are age 70 to claim Social Security. Benefits taken after one's full retirement age earn "delayed retirement credits" (DRCs), which add to your final benefit amount. Your benefit will still be reduced by WEP, but your final amount will be more because you waited longer to claim.

Re your third question, your SS benefit will only be reduced (not eliminated), so it's always worthwhile to apply. Otherwise, you are forfeiting Social Security money you are entitled to.

And lastly, if your wife dies before you, your CSRS pension will also cause another provision called

the Government Pension Offset (GPO) provision to apply. The GPO will reduce your surviving spouse benefits by 2/3rds of the amount of your government CSRS pension, which will likely eliminate any spousal benefit you are entitled to (except the so-called "death benefit" - which is a one-time lump sum \$255 benefit paid to a surviving spouse).

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.

Chamber hosts ribbon cutting at Tony's Pizza



The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting at Tony's Pizza Thursday in Downtown Stuart. The eatery is open Wednesday through Sunday, with offerings that include fresh pizza by the slice or whole, along with other goodies. Pictured are Mike Fiumara and Steven Frankenbach, owners, employees, members of chamber board, Executive Director Rebecca Adcock, Stuart Town Council members and the community.

Harrison Burton posts first Cup Series victory at Daytona

By Holly Cain
NASCAR Wire Service

In one of the most dramatic races of the season, 23-year-old second-generation driver Harrison Burton made a last lap pass on two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Kyle Busch in overtime at Daytona International Speedway to earn his first career NASCAR Cup Series win and deliver his legendary Wood Brothers Racing team its historic 100th victory.

Big wrecks, amazing passes, and ultimately one of the most memorable and popular victories of the year characterized a busy, busy Coke Zero Sugar 400 on the Daytona high banks that had tremendous effect on the NASCAR Playoff outlook now with only a single race left to decide which 16 drivers will advance to championship contention.

Burton got a huge push on the backstretch from a first-time NASCAR Cup Series starter, Parker Retzlaff, allowing Burton's No. 21 Wood Brothers Ford to pull alongside and ultimately by race leader Busch who stayed on Burton's bumper to the finish line, but was unable to pass him back.

The win is an automatic ticket for Burton into the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs after not even being among the top 20 in points coming into the race. It was a hugely popular victory for the young driver with many of his competitors coming by to congratulate him on pit road and in victory lane.

"That is what the sport is about," Burton's father, NBC Sports broadcaster and former NASCAR Cup Series stand-out Jeff Burton said after high fiving his colleagues in the television booth, overcome with emotion watching his son claim his first major race victory.

Harrison Burton was equally as emotional – claiming his win by a fraction of a second – .047-second – over the two-time series champion Busch.

"I cried the whole victory lap," Burton said. "I obviously got fired from this job and wanted to do everything for the Wood Brothers I could, they've given me an amazing opportunity in life and to give the 100th [win] on my way out is amazing. We're in the Playoffs now. Let's go to Darlington and see what happens."

On Saturday night, the question, was "what didn't happen?" The race featured 16 leaders and 40 lead changes. The winner only led a single lap. There were two versions of the Daytona "Big One" – multi-car accidents that on this night, eliminated one race leader after another. Only five cars took the checkered flag without being involved in some sort of incident.

Burton and Busch got the chance to settle the trophy after an accident at the front of the field with only two laps of regulation remaining forced the overtime period.

Late race leader, Team Penske's Austin Cindric was pushed from behind causing his No. 2 Ford to move into Josh Berry's No. 4 Stewart-Haas Racing Ford alongside him. The side impact launched Berry's Mustang airward sending it on a wild ride on the backstretch.

Berry, who led eight laps, earned his first stage win of the season and contended for the victory all night, climbed out of the upside down car on the



Harrison Burton, driver of the #21 DEX Imaging Ford, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona International Speedway on August 24, 2024 in Daytona Beach, Florida. (Photo by Sean Gardner/Getty Images)



backstraight with the help of the safety team, then waved to the crowd and received a huge round of applause.

"I'm all good, actually it probably wasn't as bad as it looked," Berry said after being checked in the infield medical center. "But man, I'm bummed. We had a helluva night going. We were in position and really proud of the job I did tonight, and the team did tonight. We were in contention."

Only seven laps earlier there was a 14-car crash at the front of the field that eliminated another race leader – pole winner Michael McDowell, whose No. 34 Front Row Motorsports Ford launched airborne, turned sideways and came back down on all four tires, the melee collecting frontrunners Joey Logano – who led a race best 34 of the 164 laps on the night, Justin Haley, Kyle Larson and championship points leader Tyler Reddick among others.

Bubba Wallace, who is in a tight three-car battle for the final Playoff points position was involved too, but his 23XI Racing team was able to make quick repairs and return to the track. He finished sixth but is still on the outside looking in for a Playoff position.

With Burton's win, Wallace now finds himself ranked 17th in the standings – 21 points off the pace of Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing's Chris Buescher, who is holding down that 16th and final Playoff position after earning a 10th place finish Saturday.

Ross Chastain, the third driver in tight contention for the final Playoff position based on points, rallied to finish 12th. He is ranked 18th, 27 points behind Buescher.

Busch, who now has top five finishes in the last three races, is essentially in need of a victory next weekend in the regular season finale at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway. He is 106 points below the cutoff line despite his recent string of strong finishes.

"Just frustrating you know," the Richard Childress Racing driver Busch said of just missing out on the win, which would not only have punched his Playoff ticket but also extended his streak of 19 seasons with at least one victory.

"We win races here in Daytona going into the last restart but haven't been able to pull off the victory, not sure what I'm doing wrong or missing," Busch said, explaining, "I wanted to get up in front of the 21 [Burton] because I knew the momentum was coming there but I knew the 20 [former teammate

Christopher Bell] was a better friend [behind], just didn't work out. As usual."

The Joe Gibbs Racing driver Bell finished third, followed by Rick Ware Racing's Cody Ware, and JGR's Ty Gibbs. Wallace was sixth. Brad Keselowski was seventh, followed by Retzlaff in his series debut, Daniel Hemric and Buescher.

The first round of drama – the opening "Big One" as the large wrecks at Daytona International Speedway are called - happened on Lap 61 when 17 cars were involved in an accident exiting Turn 4.

Corey LaJoie's No. 7 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet triggered the accident in tight-quarter racing. It collected Chastain and forcing numerous pit stops for the Floridian who is trying to earn one of the last points positions in the Playoffs.

It also involved championship frontrunners Tyler Reddick, Chase Elliott, Denny Hamlin and Kyle Larson in varying degrees.

Elliott and Hamlin had to retire their cars with the damage and were scored 36th and 38th respectively. Reddick still managed to finish 28th. Larson, who was involved in multiple incidents on the night, finished 21st.

Heading to the regular season finale next weekend, Reddick maintains a 17-point edge atop the standings over Larson. Elliott is now 18 points back. The regular season champion earns a valuable 15-point bonus to carry with him through the 10-race Playoffs.

The regular season concludes with next Sunday night's Cook Out Southern 500 at the historic Darlington Raceway (6 p.m. ET, USA Network, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Larson is the defending race winner.

*Trackhouse Racing formally announced Shane van Gisbergen will drive the No. 88 Chevrolet for the team in the 2025 NASCAR Cup Series season – marking the return of the number famously carried by NASCAR Hall of Famers Dale Jarrett and Dale Earnhardt Jr. and most recently current Hendrick Motorsports driver Alex Bowman.

The New Zealander Van Gisbergen famously won his first ever NASCAR Cup Series start, claiming the trophy in the inaugural Chicago Street Course race two years ago. Van Gisbergen is currently running a full NASCAR Xfinity Series season and leads the Playoff standings thanks to a series-best three wins this year.

Reservations open Sept. 3 for hunting opportunities at state parks



Installing deer stand



Wadswater hunting blind



Checking hunting license

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation manages Virginia State Parks which offer hunting opportunities each year to select parks. Managed hunts are a key tool in managing the deer population and herd health. Participating hunters are asked to support this effort by following harvest guidelines associated with each hunt.

New this year is a hunting opportunity near Staunton River State Park on what was formerly known as Falkland Farms.

All terms and conditions must be followed as safety is a key factor in hunting, especially at a Virginia State Park. Terms and conditions address weapon types that can be used, the amount of blaze orange to be worn and a required safety course. Find more information, including dates, hunt packets, and hunt maps, by visiting the website: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting>

Overarching Virginia State Parks Hunting Rules are listed below. Review additional Terms and Conditions per individual park in the hunt packets on the website.

Hunting and camping is permitted only in designated areas.

Virginia game laws apply in all

designated hunting areas.

Hunting is prohibited within 100 yards of all state park buildings and roads.

Lottery and reservation hunts require proof of completion of a hunter safety course.

State law requires hunters to wear blaze orange or blaze pink. The minimum required by law is a blaze orange or blaze pink cap or vest; most managed hunts at state parks require a blaze orange or blaze pink vest, at a minimum, which is more than required by state regulations.

Hunting opportunities range from open hunting in designated areas to managed deer hunts. Hunters can also reserve stands or zones on a first-come, first-served basis using the online system.

To make a reservation, visit, <https://reservevaparks.com/Web/> to participate. All reservation hunts have a \$15 reservation fee. Hunters must have an email to create an account in order to reserve a hunting date and location. It is encouraged that you set up this account well in advance before the reservation period opens, as it can take some time for the information to process.

The first hunt reservation will go

live on Sept. 3 and then open individually per park throughout the rest of the month. The reservation period begins at 9 a.m. and interested participants can view a grid on the website for more details on hunt locations and dates. Each park may have special regulations so be sure to read all the information before making a reservation.

For those interested in applying for a hunting opportunity but do not

have access to the internet, call 1-800-933-PARK (7275) and select option 5. Please be advised that customer service representatives may not have access to all the hunt details. Hunters are strongly encouraged to apply online for the best experience.

For more information about hunting opportunities and programs in Virginia State Parks, visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting>.

Varsity Golf Competes in District Matches

By Ashlee Mullis

The Patrick County High School Varsity Golf Team traveled to the Great Oaks Country Club, August 12, and finished in 5th place with a score of 376. Parker Roop led the Cougars with a score of 93. Kendra Worley and Carter Gregory had a score of 94 each, and Chance Corns shot a 95.

On August 15, the Cougars finished 7th at the Botetourt Golf and Swim Club with a score of 351. Roop shot an 80, Corns shot an 87, Worley shot a 90, and Riley Belcher finished

with a score of 93.

"Parker played a solid round of golf today," Coach Philip Steagall said.

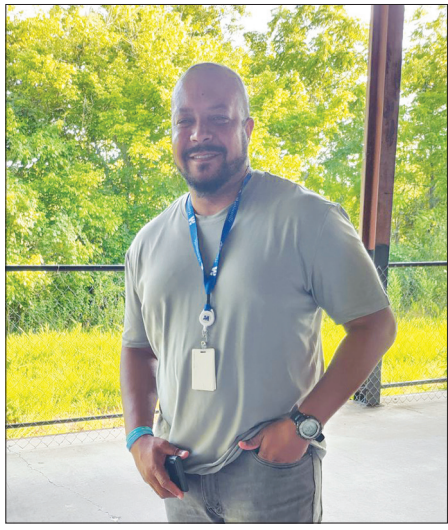
Corns finished on top for the Cougars with a score of 84 when the team traveled to the Virginia Tech River Course on August 22. The Cougars finished last in the match, shooting a 374. Worley shot an 86, Roop shot a 98, and Gregory shot a 106.

"Chance and Kendra both played good rounds of golf today," said Coach Steagall. "As a team, we just have to keep working on our game 50 yards and in."

Crossing the Lines

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

Differing opinions create tension among leaders



Martinsville Mayor LC Jones



Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls and his family

Tensions have arisen between Martinsville Mayor LC Jones and Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls due to their differences of opinion about a city council candidate. Jones supports the candidate, and said he is mentoring him; Rawls cites a lack of experience and past legal issues.

Rayshaun Gravely, who is seeking one of the three seats on city council in the November election, lost his job as a Henry County deputy in 2021, after he was arrested in connection with charges related to domestic abuse, according to on-line reports.

Gravely said he was prepared for his past to be brought up during the campaign, and that he's open about it.

Jones said he is aware of the previous charges against Gravely, including the dismissed charges of abduction by force/intimidation, malicious wounding, and strangle wound/injury.

"Both of those charges, from my understanding, were dropped," Jones said, adding that he talked to Gravely about the issues and has known him since the candidate attended high school.

Goats used to mow nearly five acres of land



Carter Bank recently went outside the box—but inside the pen—when looking for help clearing an overgrown area behind the Bank's Corporate Headquarters, Beaver Creek, a historic home that sits on 26 acres of land.

In an economically and environmentally friendly move, the bank teamed up with Goatbusters, a Charlottesville-based company, to enlist a herd of goats to transform a wooded area that had become over-

grown and untamed over the years.

"We're battling nature with nature," Carter Bank Senior Vice President and Director of Facilities Olivia Karavatakis said. "These five acres of land had become overgrown with vegetation, creating a perfect hiding place for varmints trying to seek refuge in our buildings. This was the perfect solution for a pesky situation we've been battling the last several years."

Officials advocate for inclusion of survivors in opioid settlement discussions

The OMNI Institute, a nonprofit social science consultancy, is leading a series of meetings with local leaders, law enforcement, mental health professionals, and recovery specialists to determine the best use of funds from the Opioid settlement agreement. The goal is to reduce drug use in both the county and city. While these discussions have been productive, some participants believe that an essential voice is missing – those who have experience with substance use disorder (SUD).

Courtney Downs, a Virginia Harm Reduction patient navigator and a former addict, expressed her concern that not enough people with direct experience of the opioid crisis were included in the discussions. "I personally don't think there were enough people with lived experience that were affected by the opioid epidemic," Downs said. She emphasized the importance of including individuals who have successfully recovered from substance use disorders in the conversation, believing that their insights could be crucial to developing effective strategies.

"I am certainly open to that. Sometimes, the best people to get this information are people who have that type of life experience," Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said. He noted that those who have lived through substance use might offer valuable perspectives on what strategies have been effective or ineffective in combating addiction.

"I think what you would need to do is find people in the community who have successfully recovered from substance use disorders," Davis said, adding the goal is to "help them recover."

One of the main challenges in recovery, according to Downs, is the stigma surrounding drug use. She said that more resources like medical detox and rehabilitation are needed in the community. Downs pointed out that many success stories go unheard because individuals often leave their communities to recover and do not return. This lack of a local recovery ecosystem negatively impacts the morale of those still struggling, as they are only exposed to the "mess" and not the potential for recovery.

Volunteers Remove Nearly a Ton of Litter from the Smith River

More than 40 volunteers removed nearly 1,200 pounds of trash from the Smith River, tributaries and roads in Martinsville and Henry County during the 15th Annual Smith River Cleanup event that is hosted by the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) and Henry County.

"It is amazing how hard these volunteers work during the 3-hour event and we are so grateful to each and every one of them who generously donates their time to try and reverse the impact of the people who litter in our area," DRBA Virginia Program Manager Brian Williams said. "We have all ages come out to help keep our river healthy for people and wildlife. These volunteers are truly making a huge impact for every person who lives in Henry County and Martinsville as well

as the thousands of people who live downstream. The good news is that we are seeing a bit less trash every year. That means a lot of people are taking better care of their community and making a difference for the future generations."



Efforts continue to expand water service to underserved community



Curtis Millner represents the Iriswood District on the Henry County PSA's Board of Directors.

Curtis Millner, who represents the Iriswood District on the Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) Board of Directors, renewed his call Monday for more state and federal support to extend a water line along Virginia 57 East and Stoney Mountain Road.

This comes after news that the extension would not be included in this year's congressional district project funding and after a failed

application through the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water.

"This is a very important project for my district," Millner said. "Parts of the Iriswood district are very rural, but in the times that we are living in, they deserve equal access to safe, public drinking water. We have to keep trying. I hope the state will eventually come around and help us fund this project."

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

SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS JUST \$5

HOLLYWOOD GINEMA beside WALMART Martinsville 276-658-3456

<p>1-3-5</p>	<p>1-4-7-9:15PM</p>	<p>1-3-5-7-9PM</p>	<p>12:45-3-5:10-7:15-9:20</p>	<p>1-3-5-7-9PM</p>
--------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------

Lony Ora Hylton Hall

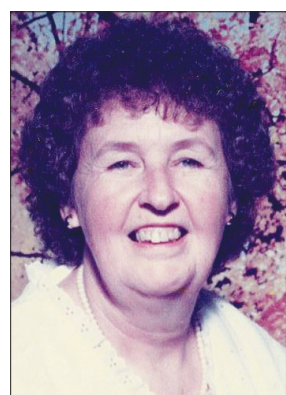


Mrs. Lony Ora Hylton Hall, age 91 of Woolwine, Virginia passed away Sunday, August 18, 2024, at her home. She was born in Patrick County on January 18, 1933, to the late Moses Lee Benjamin Hylton and Martha Jane Boyd Hylton. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Hall was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel Thurman Hall; two children, Carolyn Hall Wright, and Douglas Hall; one granddaughter, Stephanie Carol Wright; three sisters, Beadie Elizabeth Hylton Belcher, Rozina Lorene Hylton Belcher, Liddy Christine Boothe; six brothers, Isaac Arthur Hylton, Elzie Clyde Hylton, Homer Lester Hylton, George Herman Hylton, Fred Lee Hylton and Harvie Le-

Mrs. Hall is survived by a sister-in-law, Meda Hylton of Woolwine, and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The funeral for Mrs. Hall will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Tim Hylton and Tony Holt officiating. Burial will follow in Woolwine Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Smith River Church of the Brethren, 2282 Bob White Road, Stuart, Virginia 24171 or to the American Diabetes Foundation. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Mamie "Ruth" Anderson Hill



Mrs. Mamie "Ruth" Anderson Hill, 95 of Stuart, VA passed away peacefully at The Landmark Center on Wednesday, August 21, 2024. She was born in Patrick County on June 1, 1929 to the late Acca Berry Anderson and Mamie Overby Anderson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband William Lowell Hill; sisters, Esther Hill and Lillian Hill; brothers, Hobert Anderson and Bill Anderson.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Hill worked at United Elastic and Blue Ridge Nursing Home. She was a member of Collinstown Presbyterian Church, and CCDF Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. She was humble, loving and caring who loved cats especially kittens and birds. She was also an avid letter writer.

Left to cherish her memory is a daughter; Patsy Hill Oakley (Roger) of Stuart, VA; one son; Allan Hill of Stuart, VA; one grandson; Wayne Hill of Stuart, VA; and several nieces and nephews.

A Graveside Service

Benjamin Lee Byrd



Mr. Benjamin Lee Byrd, age 37 of Patrick Springs, Virginia went to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, August 24, 2024, at his home. He was born in Martinsville, Virginia on June 25, 1987. He was preceded in death by his twin brother, Matthew Alan Byrd. Ben is survived by his devoted parents, David and Carol Byrd of Patrick Springs, Virginia; one sister, Katie Byrd-Huffnagle, her husband, Rich and their two daughters, his nieces, Riley Jean Huffnagle and Taylor Kate Huffnagle of Fort Walton Beach, FL; and several loving aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who were more like family.

Ben deeply loved people, animals, nature and the math & sciences. Some of his happiest and most fulfilling moments were when he was tutoring for New River Community College or traveling to Ohio to observe the solar eclipse. He loved helping people whether it was helping John Bell and others move from place to place in their homes or delivering prescriptions for Spring Drug. Ben was a Christian man who loved God. His values and faith guided his actions, and he shared that love with everyone he met. He had a larger-than-life personality with unusual wit and humor. As one of his friends, John Welborn, put it: "Some of the moments I've laughed the hardest in my life were with Ben. He gave me joy, pure joy." Ben was very loved, and he will be deeply missed here

on earth.

I picture him in heaven entertaining his Grammy, Papa Joe, Grandpa Dale, Grandma and Pop. He leaves a big void here on earth, but heaven has been enriched with his presence. Carry on Ben, we love you!

Ben's celebration of life service will be held on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Grace Baptist Church with Pastor Mark Elkins officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services at the church on Thursday afternoon. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Grace Baptist Church Benevolent Fund, P.O. Box 1108, Stuart, VA 24171. The family has entrusted Moody Funeral Services in Stuart with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Mr. Bobby Lee Hale, age 65 of Ferrum, Virginia passed away Thursday, August 22, 2024 at the home of his brother. He was born on May 23, 1959 to the late William Ray Hale and Mary Holley Hale Wright. In addition to his parents, Mr. Hale was preceded in death by an infant brother, Michael Ray Hale, and a special aunt, Rosie Willard. He enjoyed going to car races in Franklin County and watching W.W.E. wrestling.

Bobby Lee Hale

Mr. Hale is survived by two brothers and sisters-in-law, Larry Wayne Hale and Barbara of Stuart and Danny Ray Hale and Judy of Stuart; two nephews, Michael Hale and Steven Hale; two nieces, April Goforth and Barbara Hale Gammons; and two special aunts, Pauline Haskins of Chatham and Annie Holley of Rocky Mount.

Funeral services for Mr. Hale will be held Monday, August 26, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home

in Stuart with Pastor Greg Martin officiating. Burial will follow in the Holley Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Elamsville Church of God of Prophecy, c/o Judy Jones, 3300 Elamsville Road, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Steven Augustus Glenn, Sr.



Steven Augustus Glenn, Sr., "Phoebie" 52, of Critz, Virginia passed away on Monday August 19, 2024 Sovah Health Care in Martinsville, Va.

Steven was preceded in death by his parents; Emory Ronald Hughes and Mary Idella Glenn and two sisters; Susan Glenn and Melissa Glenn.

Steven was born on February 1, 1972 in Patrick County. He is survived by "the one that he kicked it with for 28 years" Dollie Glenn. He is also survived by his daughter Melissa Montgomery (Justin) and Son; Steven Augustus Glenn, Jr. (Julia). Also sur-

nieces and nephews and friends and his beloved cat; Spooky.

A service will be on Friday, August 23, 2024 at 11:00 at The Norris Funeral Chapel in Stuart. There will be a visitation prior to the service at 10:00 with Pastor Shannon Hicks officiating. Burial will be private.

Memorials can be made in his honor to Norris Funeral Services at 129 Howell Lane, Stuart, Va. 24171. Norris Funeral Services in Stuart is serving the Glenn family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

living is a sister Felicia Becerril (Ricardo). Grandchildren; Raygan Lyn, Joanna Mae, & Jay Jay. Also mentioned are his best friends; Clyde Flannagan (Tina) & Aunt & Uncle Henry and Barbara Hairston, also numerous cousins,

Kenneth "Howie" Howard Rogers



Mr. Kenneth "Howie" Howard Rogers, age 61 of Lawsonville, North Carolina passed away on Friday, August 23, 2024. He was born in Danbury, North Carolina on June 4, 1963, to the late Thomas Kenneth Rogers and Annie Marshall Rogers. A hardworking soul at his core, Howie found solace and happiness in labor. He thrived in the fields, dedicating himself to the land and the animals he loved dearly. Those darn cows were more than just livestock to him; they were a passion until they got out of the fence! Once he took on a task, Howie approached it with unwavering determination, never shying away from hard work. He wasn't truly happy unless he was in the midst of his labors. Let us carry forward the lessons he imparted: the value of hard work, the importance of family, and the power of dedication. He loved being daddy to his children, but his grandchildren were the light of his life and they adored him and called him Papa, a title that brought him immense pride and joy. In their eyes, he was a hero, a figure of strength and warmth. Howie's simplicity made the most mundane moments shine brightly; he had a unique gift for mak-

ing perfection look effortless. Howie Rogers leaves behind a world that is undeniably brighter for having known him. His memory will be cherished by all who were lucky enough to experience his love, humor, and earnest spirit. Howie will be dearly missed, but his legacy will live on in the hearts of his family and the many lives he touched.

Mr. Howie Rogers is survived by his loving wife, Lisa Gammons Rogers of the home; two children, Meagan Lawson (Andy) of Sandy Ridge, NC and Dillon Rogers (Shelby) of Lawsonville, NC; three grandchildren, Jacob Lawson, Maggie Lawson, and Lane Rogers; three siblings, Randy Rogers of Lawsonville, NC, Jeff Rogers (Donna) of Lawsonville, NC, and Pam Fulp (Kent) of Westfield, NC; and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Howie Rogers' funeral service will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Brother Jimmy Willard officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the Rogers Family Cemetery in Lawsonville, NC. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service on Tuesday afternoon at the funeral home and at other times at the home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Brenner Children's Hospital in Winston Salem, NC. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

(See Obituaries Cont. p. 9)

MOODY 
Funeral Services, Inc.



"We appreciate the confidence you have shown in us for over 60 years."

202 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA
Phone 276-694-3145
www.moodyfuneralservices.com

Terri S. Wood, Manager

PCHS Golf Team Opens Season

By Ashlee Mullis

The Patrick County High School Golf Team started its season August 8 at the Cliff View Country Club in Covington, taking on all the schools in the district. Floyd County came out on top with a score of 301 with the Cougars finishing in the middle of the pack with a score of 348. Chance Corns and Parker Roop shot an 82

each, and Carter Gregory and Kendra Worley finished with a score of 92.

The team traveled to Olde Mill Golf Club for a district match on August 7. There, Patrick County finished 3rd in the field of 7 with a score of 365. Roop shot an 89, the top score for the Cougars. Gregory, Worley and Corns shot a 91, 92, and 93, respectively.

PATRICK PULPITS

The elderly are people too

By Van Yandell

Genesis 7: 11 "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."

The American population is growing older. Sixty-two million (17%) were sixty-five years of age or older in 2020. By 2050 the projection of those in that age group is estimated to be as many as 23%.

Conditions such as depression, loneliness, and anxiety exist among many of the elderly. A primary need is for those in that age group to stay connected. Feeling connected to one's family, church and community groups is of extreme importance.

Many jokes are told concerning the plight of the elderly but when one reaches that stage in life, there's nothing funny about it.

Walking awkwardly because of the pain in the joints is not laughable in the least. The stiffness in the muscles that results from an extended car ride is a certainty for the elderly.

Balance is lessened and the ability to climb steps is certainly not what it once was. And because of the abuse of prescription painkillers, people that need them cannot get them.

The physical conditions that result from those accumulated years is horrible at times. But the potential treatment by the younger ones that do not understand the pain and vulnerability can be insulting and hurtful.

An occasional call from a child or grandchild would be cherished but many have come to a point of not expecting that to happen.

The elderly are marginalized in many situations. Some governments have determined that past the age of sixty-five, one's usefulness is limited and it certainly appears the choice to put the aged "out to pasture" is a norm.

Our Bearcat is also getting up in years. I noticed he never runs these days. His playing days are over. He even walks to the cat food bowl. We still pet him and cater to his every demand. Bear has his own hair brush with which Margie brushes him most every day.

His memory is still amazing and his cat-body-clock is working perfectly. Every morning when I arise, sometimes before daylight, Bear is at the back door ready to be fed. Afternoons, usually around 3: 30, he reminds us of his afternoon snack.

The Bearcat is a cat, not human, but he has feelings too. We take care of him like we would hope to be cared for in a couple of decades.

A quote by Lailah Gifty Akita states "The glory of the elderly is their insight, their knowledge, and their wisdom." So often at the passing of friends or acquaintances, I've thought about the knowledge that died with them. The knowledge and wisdom possessed by

the elderly is a treasure that few ever realize.

Another misfortune of the elderly is to see their friends pass away. In the last few years, several of my closest friends have died. The thought of their deaths and being left without them is heartbreaking.

At times, I've promoted for the elderly to write their experiences and growing up and living in America in their generation. Do not allow all those memories to die! So many times I've wished my Dad had written some of his memories. If the hands are in too much pain to write, perhaps a digital recorder would suffice. For a child or grandchild to hear their voice might be a blessing in years to come.

For young parents not to teach their children the blessings of grandparents and other elderly people they may know is alarming. The values and priorities of the older ones is a treasure that should never be forgotten or taken for granted. When they're dead, they're gone from this life forever.

And above all, the elderly have feelings. To be treated as having no worth is heartbreaking. A recent statement heard by an elderly man was, "My son never calls and I barely know my grandchildren." The tears in his eyes brought tears to mine.

The ignoring of the elderly in their churches is unconscionable. The elderly built the church on the Solid Rock, Jesus and to see the church abandon the values of Christianity is distressing.

In the past they taught the Bible study classes, cooked, cleaned, prayed, supported the preacher, led the missions groups, sang in the choir and led the music. They worked with the youth and were an outreach endeavor unsurpassed by any missionary. They organized and worked the Vacation Bible School that led more children to Jesus than any outreach in the history of the church.

The love and care we share to the elderly is a benchmark of our level of humanity. To discard, disregard or ignore those that have reached their declining years is unacceptable.

To regard as of lesser importance to God is a total misconception. Proverbs 16: 31 "Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life." The words of our creator written in the scriptures verify HIS attitude toward the elderly.

Revelation 21: 4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Perhaps we could wake up to the value and feelings of the elderly. We would never make a joke of, or ignore a handicapped person; so why the elderly?

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Galatians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Joshua 6, on the seventh day, how many times did the men of war march around Jericho? 1, 3, 5, 7
3. In His first recorded miracle, what did Jesus turn into wine? Goat's milk, Grape juice, Fig cider, Water
4. From 1 Chronicles, what king was buried with his sons under an oak tree? Neco, Jehoash, Saul, Rezin

5. In the story of creation, what did God call the darkness? Blackness, Night, Four-score, Trinity

6. In Exodus 17:15, who built an altar and called it Jehovah-Nissi? Moses, Abraham, Jacob, Aaron

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Seven, 3) Water, 4) Saul, 5) Night, 6) Moses

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/trivia-guy.

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church
1515 Rock Church Rd.
Meadows of Dan, Virginia
Rev. Tommy Gosnell
CHURCH SERVICES
Sunday School 10 am
Worship Services 11 am

FAIRWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
9427 Fairystone Park Hwy., Bassett
Located 15 miles from Stuart - 276-629-6088
Sunday School 9:45 • Worship 10:50 am
Sunday Night 6:00 pm
Wed. Night - Adult Bible Study 7:00
"Be the Change" Youth Night 6:30-8:00 pm
Our Mission: "Love God more, Love people more, and serve our community more with the gospel of Christ!"

Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness
260 Spring Rd., Patrick Springs, VA - 276-694-6357
Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm
Food Distribution Ministry:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Stuart Baptist Church
Bringing the World to Christ
108 W. Blue Ridge St. 9:45 Sunday School
276-694-3440 11:00 Worship Service
www.stuartbaptist.org office@stuartbaptist.org

Risen Lord Catholic Church
59 Mountain View Loop
Stuart
(actually in Patrick Springs)
276.236.7814
Office Hours (Tue-Thu 8 am - 3 pm)
Mass Schedule
Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church
220 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 1078, Stuart, VA 24171
276-694-7677 • www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org
SATURDAY SERVICES:
Sabbath School - 9:20; Worship 11:00 a.m.
Come visit our Bible-believing church

Join the Church Page!
Call (276) 694-3101 Today

Super Crossword THE ROD SQUAD

- ACROSS**
- 1 It's removed from skim
 - 8 Guitar's cousin
 - 16 Nautical mop
 - 20 Be cautious
 - 21 Conditionally free, in a way
 - 22 Rock's ZZ Top, e.g.
 - 23 Building full of periodicals for soldiers?
 - 25 Outer edges
 - 26 Cursed
 - 27 Takes too much, in brief
 - 28 Moose cousin
 - 29 Fries lightly
 - 31 Unit of work
 - 32 Body of water on which there are frequent haircutters' cruises?
 - 35 Not sinking
 - 40 Smart — (wiseacres)
 - 42 Safecracker, informally
 - 43 Hailstorm on the highway?
 - 45 Deg. from MIT Sloan
 - 47 "Anaconda" director Luis
 - 51 Savoir faire
 - 52 Dumbbell selling for half off?
 - 55 1950s-'70s defense gp.
 - 56 Weapon in a boxing ring
 - 58 MGM motto
 - 59 Deliver, as a verdict
 - 60 Politico Hatch
 - 62 "Sure thing, guv'nor!"
 - 64 "Sommersby" star Richard
 - 65 Cleo's snake
 - 68 World's best singer of Venetian gondoliers' songs?
 - 72 Born, in Brest
 - 73 South African Dutch
 - 75 First name of Dr. Oz
 - 76 Cereal grass disease
 - 78 Quick on the uptake
 - 80 Many eras
 - 81 — -Seltzer
 - 83 Suggest
 - 87 Sticking the singer of "White Christmas" with a fishhook?
 - 90 Tell the story of
 - 92 Certain building brick
 - 93 Guitar's cousin, for short
 - 94 Actress Brigitte playing a Bohemian dancer?
 - 96 "NFL Live" aier
 - 98 Disconnect
 - 99 Sailor's "Roger!"
 - 100 16-ounce drink from a Starbucks next to a bodega?
 - 105 Quick on the uptake
 - 107 "No idea"
 - 108 Frozen cubes
 - 109 Gloomy —
 - 110 Tent securer
 - 115 Unleavened cornbread
 - 116 One-wheeled cart carrying supplies for a toga party?
 - 121 Guitarist Clapton
 - 122 Dining places
 - 123 Perfume
 - 124 Marina fixture
 - 125 Area with bad reception
 - 126 Frankfurters
 - 2 Caesar's "vidi," in English
 - 3 Certain building brick
 - 4 1980s Chrysler
 - 5 Unnerve
 - 6 Jackie's hubby #2
 - 7 Choir male
 - 8 Irate crowds
 - 9 Ortiz of "Kristin"
 - 10 "Ask Me Another" aier
 - 11 Risk-taking types
 - 12 Toothbrush brand
 - 13 Actress Sondra
 - 14 Type
 - 15 Moniker of a loch monster
 - 16 Having a hard time
 - 17 Judges' orders
 - 18 Singer Mann
 - 19 — nova
 - 24 Artist Degas
 - 30 "Gemini Man" director
 - 31 Capts.' guesses
 - 32 Sired, biblical-style
 - 33 Aspire PC company
 - 34 "French Kiss" co-star Meg
 - 35 Pooch barks
 - 36 — gras (goose-liver paste)
 - 37 Singer — Del Rey
 - 38 Keats' "— Autumn"
 - 39 Soak up
 - 41 Test centers
 - 44 Shoot again, as a gun
 - 45 Mother of Bart Simpson
 - 46 Capital of Kyrgyzstan
 - 48 Witty Nash
 - 49 — Khan ("The Jungle Book" tiger)
 - 50 "If — falls in the forest ..."
 - 53 Author Sheehy
 - 54 Incorrect
 - 57 Restrained
 - 61 Noodle soup
 - 62 Turn sour
 - 63 Capital of Albania
 - 65 Addis — (capital of Ethiopia)
 - 66 "What a pity"
 - 67 — -Canada (oil brand)
 - 69 Love, to Luigi
 - 70 City near Lake Tahoe
 - 71 Become silver-haired
 - 74 Gawk
 - 77 — Haute
 - 79 Links (with)
 - 81 Higher than
 - 82 Country rocker Lovett
 - 84 "I did it!"
 - 85 "This is not —" (warning label)
 - 86 Head, in Nice
 - 88 — -ho (keen)
 - 89 Raced
 - 91 Blind as —
 - 95 "Sauer" topping
 - 97 Vanished, informally
 - 98 Villains' looks
 - 100 Two-legged beast
 - 101 Love a lot
 - 102 Of an ancient alphabet
 - 103 Ranch rope
 - 104 Made believe
 - 106 Amp (up)
 - 109 Main idea
 - 110 Curing stuff
 - 111 Trampled
 - 112 Mythical ship
 - 113 Donkey or Hong follower
 - 114 Some sheep
 - 117 "Norma —"
 - 118 Put a tear in
 - 119 — -noir
 - 120 Ghostly cry

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
20							21								22						
23							24								25						
26						27				28				29	30						
						31				32	33			34							
35	36	37	38	39			40	41					42								
43							44					45	46		47		48	49	50		
51										52		53			54						
55										56	57			58			59				
						60								62			63		64		
65	66	67			68					69	70					71		72			
73					74									76			77				
78						79								81	82			83	84	85	86
87										88				89			90	91			
92																					
100	101	102								103	104				105	106					
107																					
115																					
121																					
124																					

Obituaries Continued

(cont. from page 8)

Thomas Henry "Pete" Eanes

Thomas Henry "Pete" Eanes, 95, of Critz, VA passed away on Friday, August 23, 2024 at his home. He was born on February 24, 1929 in Leaksville, NC to the late Virginia Dare Wilson Eanes and Franklin Hannibal Eanes. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by siblings: Everett Eanes, Joseph Eanes, Hannibal "Dick" Eanes, Benjamin Eanes, Ealane King, Margaret Kirkman, Ora Nell Rathgeb, and Reva Harris.



Greensboro Police Department and Guilford County Sheriff's Department in their crime lab.

Pete was an amateur photographer, loved to hunt and fish, loved the outdoors, and loved his family most of all.

Surviving are his wife of 73 years, Joan Marie Stanley Eanes of the home, Kathy Lee Eanes Giles (D.L. "Pete"), Paula Kay Eanes, Melanie Hope Eanes Campbell (J. Stuart), Lorie Dawn Eanes Jo-

hannessen (Raymond), eight grandchildren: Joshua David and Michael Sean Giles, J. Scott and Brandon Jay Blackwood, Jennifer Lee Johannessen Johnson, April Laine Peeden Nickell, Erik Nathaniel Johannessen, Kacie Rae Johannessen Thornton, and sixteen great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00pm on Saturday, August 31, 2024 at Norris Funeral Services Chapel in Stuart, Virginia with military rites by the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard

The family will receive friends from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm at Norris Chapel in Stuart.

Norris Funeral Services in Stuart is serving the Eanes family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON
Call (276) 694-3101

SERVICES

KENDRICK PAVING & TRUCKING, PAVING, Sealing, Line Striping, Gravel Hauling and Mulch. Rodney Kendrick 276-629-3913 or 276-340-7786. Email at kendrickpaving@gmail.com Carrying on the tradition of quality.

CLAYTON KENDRICK PAVING (Original Kendrick Paving) Gravel hauling and spreading, grading, mulch, dirt, pavement maintenance and striping. 42 years experience. Reasonable prices. Call (276) 694-7786 (office) or (276)-340-8786 (cell) Email: ckendrick@embarqmail.com or claytonk81@gmail.com

WOODWRX, INC. Est. since 1988 Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc. Originally based in Palm Beach County-References Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net

THOMAS LAND SOLUTIONS LLC Forestry mulching, overgrown property cleanup, bush-hogging, pasture & field reclamation, ATV & walking trails, hunting lanes, skid-steer, tractor and mini-excavator work. Free estimates. Call 276-229-9410 or Facebook Thomas Land Solutions LLC

Morris Construction LLC Home remodeling & repairs, carpentry, roofing, siding, painting, fencing, tree work & more! Contact Nick @ 276-259-4030 or 757-621-5219.

STEVE'S MOWER REPAIR Service and repair for all makes of lawn mowers. Pick up and delivery for a reasonable charge based on your location. We offer disposal of old mowers with free pick up. Call 276-694-3748. If no answer, leave your name and number. We'll call you back.

HYDRO AIR SYTEMS Heating, Cooling & Electrical Contractors, SALES & SERVICES, Licensed in VA & NC, 276-694-7308

HELP WANTED

WORK FROM HOME conveniently for 2-3 hours daily and earn more cash. Job Descriptions:
• Data Entry Position
• Account Payable/Receivable
• Data Analyst

If you are qualified for any of the above jobs, kindly write to robertedwardrealtor7@gmail.com for more details.

Candy Production Team Member

Nancy's Candy Company - Meadows of Dan, VA
Job description Must be interested in making candy. Must work well on a team. Must be flexible and willing to work on your team and other teams. Must be willing to learn new skills. Prefer interest in a long-term career, committed to the company and its success for at least the next 5 years, preferably longer. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Must be able to work on your feet all day. Must have a positive attitude.

Job Type: Full-time Wonderful Benefits Schedule:
• 10-hour shift Monday-Thursday with a 3-day weekend
Education:
• High school or equivalent (Preferred)
Ability to Relocate:
• Meadows Of Dan, VA 24120: Relocate before starting work (Preferred)
Work Location: In person Apply in person

YARD SALE

Fellowship Church Yardsale Aug 30-31 5010 Ararat Hwy Ararat Va. Proceeds to benefit local fire and rescue squads 7am-1pm both days Bag Sale/Half Price Sale Aug 31 11am-1pm Household items, clothes, shoes and baked goods.

HUGE Yard Sale Friday & Saturday Across 58 from Stuart Walmart. Large amount of Tools, fishing rods & Tackle, household items, antiques, 3X Clothing, Jellys and pickles, 3 BIG loads of goodies!



AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Ad-

JAMIE'S RECYCLING CENTER

BUYING: Cans, #1 Copper, #2 Copper, Brass, Metal, Different types of Aluminum, Vehicles, Stainless Steel, etc.
Call for prices.



Roll off container & pick up service available. Call for details.

(276) 694-5692 or 276-694-5697

Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm, closed 12-1 pm for lunch
3609 South Mayo Dr., Stuart
God Bless You

vertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-947-1479

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-866-447-0001.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from

Max Kendall Lumber & Tin Price Reduced Metal Roofing

Now Made In Axton, Va. 276-650-2825 Free call 1-888-434-2825
Lynchburg, Va. 434-821-3251 Free Call 1-833-593-3251

Reidsville, NC 336-348-1600 Free call 1-833-205-1600

20 COLORS
Classic Rib - PBR Panel Standing Seam - 5V

Buy Direct and Save!

American Made Top Quality Low Prices Made Same Day 40 Year Warranty

WE FINANCE METAL ROOFS ON YOUR HOME

Snow Guards Lumber
Rough - Dressed - Treated
PACKAGE BUILDINGS Contractors Welcome
maxkendalllumber.com
8261 Mountain Valley Rd

Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & profes-

sional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliver-attorneyva.com.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company.

Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 www.dental50plus.com/virginia #6258

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-888-366-7596 or visit dorranceinfo.com/vapress

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564

Need a Small Business website? We're your experienced small team of local web designers! Contact us for a quote today- visit Webizyte.com or call 202-656-7416.

Your relationships are why Ashbrook Audiology has corrected hearing issues for 20 years. Your relationships are more important than anything else in your life. Correcting your hearing issues positively improves every relationship you have. People just like you regain and strengthen their relationships with their family and friends everyday because they discovered Ashbrook Audiology. Come in today and experience firsthand the incredible and affordable increase in your quality of life these communication systems can bring you, and from professionals who wear hearing instruments themselves.

WE TAKE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS SERIOUSLY! DO YOU!

WHERE RELATIONSHIPS MATTER

1111 Spruce Street MARTINSVILLE, VA (276) 666-0401
4500 Riverside Drive DANVILLE, VA (434) 792-2182
1-877-610-HEAR (4327)

When Family or Friends Need Care, Choose the Best

- ◆Home Health Care Services
- ◆Nursing Services
- ◆Social Work Services
- ◆Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy
- ◆Disease Management Programs
- ◆Caring Staff to Help with Recovery from an Illness or Injury

Now Open, Call today for services!

Liberty opens the door for patients to recover from injury, illness or accident, in the comfort of their home. Treatment at home supports improved results for patients, while creating peace of mind for caregivers. Our Staff, compassionate with their care, matched by experience and training, help patients and their caregivers with approaches that avoid a return to the hospital.

Liberty HomeCare
Caring about independence

797 Woodland Drive, Suite 103
Stuart, VA 24171
(276) 694-4424

Economic Development

(cont. from page 1)



The Patrick County Board of Supervisors and the Economic Development Authority (EDA) held a joint meeting on Monday, August 19.



Several community partners and residents also attended the meeting.

James Houchins should focus on with his duties regarding the county's economic development.

"He needs your help to help focus time, resources, energy, staff support," she said.

Sanford Holshouser Managing Partner David Denny said the meeting was just the beginning of trying to develop a longer-term vision and get established groups like the county and other stakeholders all working together to come up with the longer-term visions and action items.

"The recommendations that we have, we try to be cognizant of the fact that you can get overwhelmed with too many things to tackle. You get too overwhelmed with too many complex things to tackle," he said. "So, what we wanted to do is to recommend some very meaningful things that could be done and tackled, but things that are low-hanging fruit."

Under the Economic Development Operations category, Denny said one thing the county should focus on completing the EDA bylaws.

"The bylaws really are a guideline" to explain how the agency operates and conducts business, he said. "It's extremely important to have those bylaws finished and implemented," he said.

Denny said the county should also redesign and implement the organization structure of the Economic Development & Tourism departments. In his work, he noted many rural communities have economic development organizations serve as both, "so, there's plenty of great models to help with your structure, but it needs to be organizationally restructured or structured" so that it will take "both of those components of economic development and implement them properly."

The last action is to ensure alignment with the vision and goals of the board of supervisors, he said.

"That's where I'm talking about collaboration, not lock-step EDA and board of supervisors in particular. There are other groups too, but we need to have whatever comes out of all of this be a vision that you create combined as two bodies as one body," he said.

In the Business Retention and Expansion category, Denny said the county has great existing companies that it needs to work to keep as well as keep them thriving and create new jobs to their growth.

"We recommend you track all the open projects that closeout at the end of the performance year periods. If there's incentives that have been given or other things, performance items that need to be completed, you need to track those all the way down to the end and then see what's next to help them," he said.

The county also should develop a strategy, and begin to implement a structured business retention program, to include calling local companies and their headquarters, Denny said.

"I'm a firm believer that if you don't have a structured and written plan, it's easy to drift on anything that you do. I think it's important that you do have a structured plan for business retention," he said.

Recommendations in the Product Development category are centered on major sites in the county that need to be addressed.

He added that when the U.S. 58 project is completed, it will be "a phenomenal way" into the county.

"You've already got the Martinsville sign on 58, you got a new gateway coming in" and coming back. "In our opinion, there needs to be a master plan to include Meadows of Dan and Mabry Mill," he said, adding stakeholder input from the area's residents and companies are important when crafting the master plan.

The county needs to complete the landscaping, upgrade the utility capacities, and look into water storage tank and gas tap for the Rich Creek Park site, he said. "Review the recommendations. Dewberry did their report about purify certification. Tier 5 is the top of that, but there's always little things that you can do to enhance that Tier 5, so companies are just ready to come in."

A development strategy needs to be created for the Martin Road Farm property, Denny said, and with Cockram's Mill, he recommended a closeout of existing deliverables.

The "hospital site, that's a big question with a big issue obviously. Work with the current owners to find a tenant or maybe the new owner" that needs the building "and try to turn that valuable piece of property into something," he said.

The county should also launch the small business incubator site, Denny said, and design and solicit a hotel market study. He believes the county should create and maintain a list of available properties, publicly and privately owned.

"You've got your main pieces - the one you're going to put a lot of money in, but you always need to have a niche. You also need to have some inventory in your back pocket, so you need to know where they are," he said.

In the Economic Development Toolkit category, Denny suggested the county should review and assess outcomes from the Enterprise Zone to prepare for zone renewal in 2026.

"Develop a Patrick County incentive philosophy, and update and revise the existing incentive program. It's the old adage that you don't start" the conversation with a company with incentives. Rather, "incentives are just the cherry on top of the cupcake," he said.

Denny also believes a budget/business plan for the EDA and a Strategic Economic development Action Plan (SEDAP) should be created, and the county should look at the benefits of developing a tourism zone.

Povar said the boards should use the recommendations as a starting point for conversations about what should be a priority and done in the county.

"Critical elements over the next 2 to 3 months is ensuring that your vision is here, your goals are clear, and that there is alignment between you two governing bodies," she said. "It's really

important."

Following Denny's presentation, Houchins asked the supervisors and the authority to identify the initial things on his list.

"That's what we're here for," Houchins said. "We need data and the facts, not hearsay, not just wannabes just because that's what we want, but what can we do," Houchins said, and added the county needs infrastructure to increase the sewer and water to existing properties.

"We need to work closer with our CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs, making sure that we are looking at what the (Patrick County Public Schools are), for the lack of better words, producing through the CTE program. Then maybe we can get businesses that may say, 'in the year 2026, we are going to graduate X amount of welders or some other technical jobs.' Maybe then we can actually start to go out and look and see how we can facilitate getting a business because we may have the workforce in place for them to do," he said.

Doug Perry, chairman, and of the Smith River District, said he thinks the county should do an analysis of its strengths and weaknesses.

"What are our strengths and what are our weaknesses, and then come up with a plan to improve those weaknesses and then those strengths, that's key points to help market the county as a place of business," he said.

Perry also wants ways to recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the businesses in the county.

"Even if it means each month as a business reaches a milestone, let's bring that certificate in front of the board so at a board meeting we can recognize them and present a certificate of appreciation, or just that recognition because as a business looks at relocating or expanding and they're looking at Patrick County," Perry said. Then, "look at the news and you see, 'hey, county celebrates local business milestone' or something and that creates that positive environment that they would want to be in."

Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, said he would like to see a focus on family necessities like affordable housing, medical facilities, and fixing the county's daycare issue.

"I believe Mrs. Simms told us a couple months ago that the average house sale price last year in the county was over \$300,000. I can't afford that, and there's very few people in this room that can afford that, especially if we're trying to keep our kids here after high school. We need some form of housing that is affordable," he said.

Other recommendations included the preservation of the county's landscape and farmland, talking to county residents for input, and tackling the county's unemployment rate.

Southern Virginia Regional Alliance (SVRA) Vice-President of Economic Development Linda Green also discussed how to market the county, and Povar defined economic development.

Houchins provided a presentation on the county's assets.

Spooktacular

(cont. from page 1)

"Last year, the council approved \$2,000 in financial support for the event to offset some of our expenses logistically, when it came to porta johns, safety, light towers. Things that we hope will provide an outlet for our visitors so they're not having a negative impact on our

businesses and running them to the door," she said.

The in-kind support, Wray said, could include allowing One Family to use some of the town's materials, coordinating with Town Manager Bryce Simmons to facilitate the placement of barricades, cones, and other items for the event, and working with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to close Main Street.

Noting that Spooktacular has been well-attended, Mayor Ray Weiland said, "It just brings in so many people, and I think every year they rave about it. It's been a good thing. It's for the town and for all the businesses as well."

In other matters, the council:

- *Approved the meeting minutes as amended.
- *Approved a proclamation recognizing Constitution Week.
- *Paid the bills.
- *Discussed the need to repaint the blue lines on handicapped parking spaces on Main Street.
- *Discussed water meter leaks and the need to replace meters.
- *Discussed the Downtown Revitalization Project.
- *Talked about the town's new garbage truck.
- *Heard public works updates.
- *Discussed creating plaques for businesses celebrating milestone years in business.

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2024-2025. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. DOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and **may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.**

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Wednesday October 2, 2024, may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Martinsville from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday. Phone: 276-629-2582
Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov

EEO/AA Employer

WEATHERIZATION 2024-2025

SEASONS ARE CHANGING - SUMMERS ARE HOTTER, WINTERS ARE COLDER! Is your home insulated or in need of other measures to keep you warm or cool? STEP, Inc.'s Weatherization Program is accepting applications from income eligible families in Franklin and Patrick Counties, VA. If you need weatherization measures to prevent the loss of heating and/or cooling of your home, please call to arrange for an application to be mailed or picked up at our offices. Currently there is absolutely no charge to either the income eligible homeowner and/or a rental landlord for these upgrades.

The information to contact our Housing Department is:

Mr. Steve Hall, Housing Specialist STEP, Inc.
200 Dent Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Phone: 540-483-5142 extension 3034 Email:
steve.hall@stepincva.com

"We Feed What We Sell"

Economically priced and more feed value for your money.

AVAILABLE IN BAG OR BULK

• Horse Feed	• Sheep & Goat Feed
• Chicken Feed	• Hay Stretcher
• Beef Grower Feeds	• Calf Feed
• Corn Gluten Pellets	• Soyhull Pellets

Whole Beef Hamburger \$5.75/lb.
HAMBURGER PATTIES \$6.00 LB.

We buy Corn, Oats, Wheat & Barley. Call for price.

Call for prices today!
888-777-5912

Mark Pendleton
Jason Pendleton

Meetings

Monday, Sept. 9
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Thursday, Sept. 12
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Patrick County School Board Office.

Wednesday, Sept. 18
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

Events

Friday, Aug. 30 – Saturday, Aug. 31
Fellowship Church Yard Sale, 5010 Ararat Hwy., Ararat, Va. Proceeds to benefit local fire and rescue squads, 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. both days. Bag Sale/Half Price Sale Aug 31 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Household items, clothes, shoes and baked goods.

Creasey's Chapel will hold a yard sale, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Family Life Center, 73 Creaseys Chapel Road, Stuart.

Monday, Sept. 1 – Wednesday, Sept. 4
Summer Revival at New Beginnings Baptist Church. Sunday morning service starts at 11 a.m. Revival services begin at 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, with special singing each night.

Friday, Sept. 6
The community food truck will be at Woolwine SRRS from 3-4:30 pm.

Saturday, Sept. 7
Piedmont Community Services (PCS) will hold

its 4th annual National Recovery Month event at Dehart Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's theme is "Peers Soar in 2024."

Stuart Church of Living Water, 101 E Blue Ridge St, Stuart, will hold a movie night from 4-6 p.m., with Night at the Discovery Center. All ages are welcome, and refreshments will be provided.

Sunday, Sept. 8
The 48th Hughes Family Reunion will be held at the Hughes Family Shelter on Trot Valley Road. A covered dish lunch will be served at 1 p.m. following a brief meeting. Paper products and drinks will be provided. For more information, call Mary Martin at (276) 692-5507.

Wednesday, Sept. 11
The Patrick County Food Bank will hold distribution at the Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m., at Ararat starting at 8:30 a.m., and at Meadows of Dan starting at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 20
The community food truck will be at Woolwine VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 21
Mayo Mountain Church will hold a Women's Conference from 2-6 p.m.

Ongoing

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 wel-

come. 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.

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.

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.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food. The music and dancing are 6:30-9 p.m.; 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.

Workers hired in Virginia were 33,000 lower in June

The latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' June 2024 Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) indicates that hiring is lower compared to a year earlier, according to Virginia Works (the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement). The ability to fill open positions also weakened over the month.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin noted the survey also showed a continued low unemployment rate of 2.7 percent, or 1.6 points below the national rate.

Virginia reported non-farm payroll employment gains of 4,800 in the month of July. According to BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics ("LAUS", or "the household survey"), Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in July remained unchanged at 2.7 percent, 1.6 points below the national rate which climbed 0.2 points to 4.3 percent this month.

"Virginia's payroll employment gains and steady unemployment rate this month reflect the positive momentum and resilience of our state's economy. This is a testament to the effectiveness of our focus on job creation and business-friendliness in Virginia as nationwide pressures from inflation and elevated interest rates continue impacting families in the Commonwealth and across the country," Youngkin said.

In June, according to the most recent BLS JOLTS survey data, the number of hires in Virginia fell by 33,000 over the month but remained comparable to 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 sep-

arations (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.

The current month's data are preliminary and the previous month's data have been revised.

On the last business day in June, there were 250,000 job openings in Virginia, seasonally adjusted, unchanged from May's revised figure. On the last business day of June, the number of U.S. job openings was unchanged at 8.2 million and was down by nearly a million over the year. U.S. job openings increased in accommodation and food services (+120,000) and in state and local government, excluding education (+94,000). The number of job openings decreased in durable goods manufacturing (-88,000) and in federal government (-62,000). Significant increases in the job openings level occurred in New York (+39,000) and Arizona (+33,000). The decreases included New Jersey (-31,000) and Indiana (-28,000).

In Virginia, the June job openings rate was 5.5 percent, little changed from May's rate. The U.S. rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in June. Nationwide, within government, the federal government job openings rate was 3.4 percent, the lowest since February 2021. Additional U.S. industries with job openings rates below 4.0 percent in June 2024 include mining and logging

(3.1 percent), construction (3.5 percent), and manufacturing and information (3.6 percent each). The job openings rate in professional and business services was 6.1 percent in June; the recent peak was 9.7 percent in March 2022. Significant increases in job openings rates occurred in Arizona (+0.9 percentage point) and New York (+0.4 point). The decreases occurred in Indiana (-0.8 point) and New Jersey (-0.7 point).

The number of hires in Virginia fell to 147,000 in June, a decrease of 33,000 over the month and down by 39,000 from June 2023. JOLTS defines hires as all additions to the payroll during the month. The number of hires was 45 percent lower than the series high of 267,000 set in June 2020. In June, the number of U.S. hires was little changed at 5.3 million in June but was down by 554,000 over the year. The largest decreases in the hires level occurred in California (-71,000), Michigan (-49,000), and Tennessee (-39,000). The increases occurred in Colorado (+22,000), Montana (+10,000), and Alaska (+3,000). A significant decrease occurred in Louisiana (-15,000). In Virginia, the 3.4 hires rate decreased from May's revised 4.2 percent rate. This equaled the U.S. rate, which was little changed over the month. The largest decreases in the hires rate occurred in Tennessee (-1.2 percentage points), Michigan (-1.1 points), and Mississippi (-0.9 point). The increases included Montana (+1.8 points), Alaska (+0.9 point), and Colorado (+0.8 point).

Check man in critical condition after pursuit

A Virginia State Police Trooper observed a 2003 Kawasaki motorcycle traveling south on Interstate 581 at 115 mph at 12:10 a.m. on Saturday, August 24, according to a release. The trooper activated his emergency equipment and attempted to pull the motorcycle over. The Kawasaki refused to stop and exited the Interstate onto Orange Avenue traveling toward Melrose reaching the speed of 120 mph. The motorcycle continued into the City of Salem onto Electric Road where the motorcycle lost con-

trol and crashed.

Chad Cicero Waldron, 46, of Check, Va., was identified as the operator of the Kawasaki. Waldron was wearing his helmet and was injured in the crash. He was transported to Roanoke Memorial Hospital where remained on life support Monday.

The Virginia State Police Crash Reconstruction Team was called to assist with the investigation.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

WHEO



92.7 FM
Classic Hits

wheoradio.com

"Small Town Station with a BIG Town Sound"

3 Days and 3 Keys to Undo Diabetes and Restart Your Health - Part 2

Three days and three goals for a healthy new you! (see last week for 1st Key)

2. Restart Your Food

Goal to have 45+ grams of fiber daily with meals.

Three balanced meals daily without snacking. Limit pasta and rice by emphasizing vegetables with healthy fats and proteins.

Starches should not compose more than ¼ of overall food volume for meals. Serve non-starches first to avoid over consumption.

3. Restart Your Exercise Plan

Step 1:

Walk for 15-20 minutes after each meal.

You already know that healthy meals help control blood sugars. But did you know that what you do right after you eat also makes a big difference? After-meal exercise is one of the most powerful (and yet little known) strategies for diabetes reversal. But why is it so effective? Isn't exercise healthy at any time of the day?

It's very important to minimize after-meal blood sugar spikes, and that's where exercise comes in. When you engage in light to moder-

ate exercise right after your meal, your muscles become eager to accept the glucose you just ate.

You can potentially reduce your after-meal blood sugar spike from 1 to 3 points for every minute you exercise after a meal. For example, if your after-meal blood sugar usually spikes to 200, you could potentially prevent that spike and lower it to somewhere between 140 and 180 by simply taking a 20-minute walk right after eating. It doesn't take long for the benefits to add up and show up in your Hemoglobin A1C results.

One study from the Mayo Clinic found that diabetics have significantly lower blood sugars four and a half hours after a meal if they go for a walk right after eating.

After-meal exercise is powerful. It improves blood sugars, lowers triglycerides, helps control weight, aids in digestion, and prevents the awful feeling of a food coma. After-meal exercise is a valuable tool for battling diabetes and optimizing wellness.

So why not start today? Get some light exer-

cise after each meal. Just stand up and go for a walk. You don't need to change your clothes or work up a sweat. Keep it simple. 15-20 minutes is a great goal, but anything is better than nothing. You'll notice a big difference when you move after your meals.

Step 2:

Once you've mastered after-meal exercise, you can build on it by adding 30+ minutes of aerobic exercise, 3-4 times per week. This can be brisk walking, jogging, biking, or anything else that gets your heart pumping, your blood flowing, and your health celebrating.

Step 3:

If you're feeling extra ambitious, you can add a strength-training workout 20-40 minutes, 2-3 times per week. Strengthening your muscles works wonders to help control your blood sugars.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Elise Harboldt, RN, BSN. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

Savor the flavors of summer with Virginia-grown squash

While summer is almost over, there's still plenty of time to enjoy the season's bounty of Virginia-grown squash.

Squash is plentiful in Virginia, with 401 farms growing squash on 726 acres in 2022, according to the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture. While peak season for winter squash is right around the corner, several varieties of summer squash still are available at local farm stands and farmers markets through October.

These seasonal squash come in a variety of shapes, colors and sizes. The three main types of summer squash are yellow, zucchini and white patty pan.

James Smith of Stonefield Farms in Buckingham County began harvesting his zucchini and yellow crookneck squash in late June despite weather-driven setbacks.

"Squash and zucchini are probably what we did the best with this year," Smith said. "It's been up and down—too little rain; too much rain; all of the above."

A majority of Virginia was placed under a drought watch in June by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Virgin-

ia Drought Monitoring Task Force. As of Aug. 13, the Big Sandy region in Southwest Virginia remained under a drought watch, but drought warnings have been lifted in other affected areas except the Shenandoah region following excessive rain from Hurricane Debby.

Smith was able to mitigate drought challenges through fertigation—the process of applying water and fertilizer to crops through an irrigation system.

"The zucchinis were incredible. The squash are a little slower-growing, but we've had good results," he said. "I've been able to produce enough to put away ourselves."

Next to supplying a commercial customer, Smith sells his squash at the Powhatan Village Farmers Market on Thursdays, and Farmville and Forest farmers markets on Saturdays.

"If I can keep these plants alive with succession planting, I'll go all the way through the first frost—maybe early October," he explained.

Cindy Weatherly of Cindy's Produce in Virginia Beach usually harvests her zucchini and yellow straight neck squash through October—if "Mother Nature cooperates." Customers can

purchase her summer squash along with butternut, acorn and delicata squash at the farm's roadside stand.

Weatherly enjoys experimenting with recipes and sharing them with customers. When it comes to preparing summer squash, it depends on her mood.

"For yellow squash, you've got to have it with onions and bacon. Some days it gets potatoes with it, and some days it goes in a pan with some cheese in there somewhere."

Harvested well before they reach their mature size, summer squash is often enjoyed raw, lightly steamed or stir-fried.

"I like them best when they're chopped up and fried in a pan with some bacon," Smith said.

His customers quarter, batter and deep fry zucchini with cheese, and other customers favor zucchini boats, which are made with halved squashes stuffed with a breadcrumbs and cheese mixture. Smith's farm also sells homemade zucchini bread.

To find summer squash near you, visit the Virginia Grown website at vdacs.virginia.gov.



Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony Held

Girl Scout Troop #1302 held their beginning of year Bridging Ceremony on Mon. Aug. 12 at Patrick Springs Park. Many of the girls were moving up to another level in scouting.

Moving from Daisies to Brownies were Cannon Cobler and Rylan Holt. From Brownies to Juniors were Rebecca Handy, Natalie Lawrence, Taylor Ragsdale, and Sarah Wyatt. Finally going

from Cadettes to Seniors were Halo Martin, Emma Purdy and Alexis Rodriguez.

The troop traveled to Savannah Georgia this summer to see and learn a bit more about their founder Juliette Low. Now the girls will be working on more patches, badges, learning new skills and selling nuts/candy (Sept.-Oct) and cookies (Dec.-Mar.). They will begin to save for more trips and other events

as a new scout year begins. Many thanks to all those who support this troop in their events throughout the year!

Anyone interested in joining Girl Scouts may call Cathy Natoli at (276) 692-7194.

Initial unemployment claims continue to rise

The 2,702 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending August 17, 2024, is 17.8 percent higher than last week's 2,294 claims and 16.9 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,311), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 82 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reporting, the top five industries (64 percent) were Manufacturing (401); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (251); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (247); Health Care and Social Assistance (205); and Retail Trade (170).

Continued weeks claims (16,290) were 2.3 percent lower than last week (16,675) and were 18.8 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,715). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-report-

ed an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,437); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,245); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,543); Manufacturing (1,363); and Retail Trade (1,297).

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To Class "A, B, & C" CONTRACTORS
To Include Minority and Female Contractors

STEP, Inc. provides home weatherization services funded by the Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). In these activities, STEP, Inc., its contractors and sub-contractors will, to the greatest extent feasible, utilize qualified persons and businesses who permanently reside within Patrick, Franklin and surrounding counties for employment and training positions. Candidates for weatherization measures must be in compliance with the Virginia Weatherization Standards and Field Guide requirements. Activities may include: windows, HVAC, electrical and plumbing repairs and/or replacement, insulation and other measures.

Individuals and businesses interested in participating in the competitive opportunities associated with these projects should submit written requests, including their name address, phone number and the product or services provided to:

Sharon Lambert, Director of Housing
Steve Hall, Housing Specialist
 STEP, Inc.
 200 Dent Street
 Rocky Mount, VA 24151
 Fax: 540-483-2506

Message Relay Service for the Hearing Impaired: TDD: 711

STEP, Inc., is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

THINKING ABOUT SELLING YOUR HOME?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

LINDSEY PUCKETT
 LPUCKETT@FOURRIVERSVA.COM
 276-732-6544
 LINDSEYPUCKETT.COM

Tired of driving to the landfill? We'll pick it up at your curb!

Household pickup once a week - \$30 month
 Dumpsters for residential and business use available.

WE ARE NOW OFFERING ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS.
 Please call for pricing. 276-251-1303

RURAL SERVICES
 Residential & Commercial Garbage Collection in P.C.
 ruralservicesinc@svwa.net

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

M	I	L	K	F	A	T	M	A	N	D	O	L	I	N	S	W	A	B		
U	S	E	C	A	R	E	O	N	P	A	R	O	L	E	T	R	I	O		
M	A	G	A	Z	I	N	E	B	A	R	R	A	C	K	S	T	R	I	M	S
S	W	O	R	E	O	D	S	E	L	K	S	A	U	T	E	S				
				E	R	G	B	A	R	B	E	R	I	N	G	S	E	A		
A	F	L	O	A	T	A	L	E	C	S	Y	E	G	G						
R	O	A	D	B	A	R	R	A	G	E	S	M	B	A	L	L	O	S	A	
F	I	N	E	S	S	E	B	A	R	G	A	I	N	W	E	I	G	H	T	
S	E	A	T	O	R	F	I	S	T	A	R	S	R	E	N	D	E	R		
				O	R	R	I	N	R	I	G	H	T	O	G	E	R			
A	S	P	B	A	R	C	A	R	O	L	E	K	I	N	G	N	E			
B	O	E	R	M	E	H	M	E	T	E	R	G	O	T						
A	S	T	U	T	E	E	O	N	A	L	K	A	G	E	T	A	T			
B	A	R	B	I	N	G	C	R	O	S	B	Y	N	A	R	R	A	T		
A	D	O	B	E	U	K	E	P	O	L	K	A	B	A	R	D	O	T		
				E	S	P	N	S	E	V	E	R	A	Y	E	A	Y	E		
B	A	R	R	I	O	G	R	A	N	D	E	A	P	T						
I	D	U	N	N	O	I	C	E	G	U	S	S	T	A	K	E				
P	O	N	E	F	R	A	T	E	R	N	I	T	Y	B	A	R	R	O	W	
E	R	I	C	E	A	T	E	R	I	E	S	C	O	L	O	G	N	E		
D	E	C	K	D	E	A	D	S	P	O	T	H	O	T	D	O	G	S		

Recent order intends to improve reentry success, prevent recidivism

Recently, Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order 36, formally establishing the Stand Tall – Stay Strong – Succeed Together Initiative (Stand Tall Initiative), a first-in-the-nation proactive, dynamic, data-driven and comprehensive across-government approach, to support reentry success and prevent recidivism.

“Every single returning Virginian has the opportunity to be a testimonial of hope or a recidivism statistic. Today, I unveiled the Stand Tall – Stay Strong – Succeed Together Initiative, a comprehensive effort to help those Virginians succeed. The Stand Tall Initiative Executive Order formalizes the work we have been doing since April of last year, leading to over 3,000 more returning Virginians having gained employment and over 7,000 more having gained health insurance. Our approach is proactive, measuring the achievement of key metrics for success and strategically using state resources through cross-agency partnerships. We want more testimonials of hope in Virginia and that’s what the Stand Tall Initiative is all about,” said Youngkin.

“Our focus must be on supporting the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable,” said First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin. “By expanding assessments, improving treatment programs, and fostering strong partnerships, we are dedicated to providing the necessary resources for successful reintegration and healthier futures.”

“Employment for returning citizens is more than just a second chance—it’s a cornerstone of public safety and community well-being,” said Attorney General Jason Miyares. “We must continue to improve the re-entry process, because effective re-entry is not just a matter of redemption—it’s essential in keeping Virginia safe and strong.”

“One could sum up our administration’s commitment to prisoner re-entry as our belief that people deserve a chance to rebuild their life,” said Lt. Gov. Winsome Earl-Sears. “So, we are restoring hope, reuniting families, and changing people’s destiny for the better.”

“Since taking over the Department of Corrections less than a year ago, Judge Chad Dotson and his team have consistently prioritized the safety and wellbeing of corrections staff and inmates as part of the core mission at VADOC,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Terry Cole. “Despite numerous challenges, Judge Dotson has continued to innovate and enhance programming for those who are reentering society to ensure they are law abiding citizens following their release. I am grateful for the efforts of the entire VADOC team and for the leadership of Governor Youngkin in supporting our men and women in law enforcement.”

“Public safety is our highest priority,” said VADOC Director Chad Dotson. “Ensuring re-entry success creates long-term, lasting public safety in

our communities. Virginia already has the best probation officers in America, and I’m excited that the partnerships forged by this effort will provide even more tools to our dedicated team.”

Each year, around 10,000 adults and juveniles are released from incarceration into supervision in Virginia. Fifty thousand returning citizens are managed by the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) at any one time and remain on supervision for an average of three years. Unfortunately, one in two returning citizens is rearrested and reconvicted of a felony within three years of release and more than half of our prison and jail population was previously incarcerated.

Reentry success critically depends on returning citizens receiving effective support and their own individual engagement. Each failure is a wasted opportunity for a Virginian to reach their full potential.

The Stand Tall – Stay Strong – Succeed Together Initiative contributes to reentry success by addressing employment, benefit enrollment, reentry programming, parenthood and public safety efforts.

The Executive Order formalizes and builds on the Governor’s reentry transformation efforts that began in April 2023.

Students are starting to recover from post-pandemic learning loss

Showing the start of learning recovery from the extended pandemic school closures and the most significant learning loss of students’ nationwide, Virginia students in Grades 3-8 showed some improvement in the Standards of Learning testing in Math and Reading in the 2023-2024 school year, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced last week.

This year’s improvements followed the extensive work done by many Virginia educators on Virginia’s ALL In Virginia initiative initiated by Youngkin to improve attendance, accelerate literacy, and prioritize learning in Virginia classrooms in grades 3-8. Additionally, after intense focus from school divisions, parents, and community members as part of ALL In, Virginia’s K-12 chronic absenteeism rate has decreased 16% since 2022-2023. 40,974 fewer students were chronically absent in 2023-2024 than in 2022-2023.

“Since day one, our commitment to Virginia’s students has been a primary focus and last year, on a bipartisan basis, Virginia went ALL In to tackle core issues in K-12 education: attendance, literacy and learning loss,” said Youngkin. “Virginia’s students and parents were facing the worst pandemic learning loss in the nation from Virginia being 46th in reopening in-classroom learning, an ‘honesty gap’ between what the data told us and true student proficiency, and a systematic reduction of expectations by previous administrations on Virginia’s historically high academic standards. It’s clear our ALL In Virginia strategy is working, the signs are appearing, and Virginia’s students and parents are benefiting from our collective efforts.”

“These results show that Virginia students

are beginning to recover from the post-pandemic learning loss they suffered after 2020 and 2021. But the results also show that we must continue to focus every day on helping them catch up to pre-pandemic levels and move ahead,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons. “I’m proud of the way so many of our teachers and educators committed themselves to the ALL In high-intensity tutoring, and these results show that we are starting to make a real difference. With many more school divisions putting these proven measures in place this school year, we have more resources available to students than ever before, including the Virginia Literacy Act being implemented this year.”

Statewide Grades 3-8 Reading SOL Results

* 70% of school divisions showed student improvement in Reading SOL scores (93 school divisions)

* 10.7% of school divisions maintained their Reading SOL scores

* 19.1% of school divisions showed decline in Reading SOL scores

Statewide Grades 3-8 Math SOL Results

* 75% of school divisions showed student improvement in Math SOL scores (99 school divisions)

* 4.6% of school divisions maintained their Math Reading SOL scores

* 19.8% of school divisions showed decline in Reading SOL scores

Statewide High School SOL Results

* In math, high school students raised their SOL results to 84% in 2023-2024 from 81% in 2022-2023, seeing increased pass rates on all 3 high school math end-of-course exams.

* In reading, high school students showed a slight decrease in SOL results with 84% of students passing in 2023-2024 versus 85% passing in 2022-2023 on the reading exam.

* In science, high school students showed slight improvement in their SOL results rising to 71% in 2023-2024 from 70% in 2022-2023, seeing increased pass rates on all 3 high school science end-of-course exams.

Statewide K-12 Chronic Absenteeism Reduction

Virginia’s K-12 schools saw a 16% reduction in students who were chronically absent last year. The rate of chronic absenteeism fell to 16.1% in 2023-2024 from 19.3% in 2022-2023.

All K-12 students had 1,276,522 fewer absent days, which resulted in an increase of 8,935,654 hours of instruction.

Reinforcing the importance of regular school attendance, chronically absent students (attending less than 90% of the school year) performed 19 percentage points below their peers in reading and 26 percentage points below in math.

School division chronic absenteeism rates will be released later this fall.

Many student groups saw increases in their SOL 3-8 pass rates, many rising faster than Virginia students overall.

In 3-8 Reading:

* Economically dis-

advantaged students doubled the rate of growth of all students post-pandemic.

* English learners’ rate of growth in reading was more than 6 times the rate of growth of all students.

* Students with disabilities’ rate of growth in reading that was 1.7 times the rate of growth of all students.

In 3-8 Math:

* Economically disadvantaged students more than doubled the rate of growth of all students post-pandemic.

* English learners have almost doubled their performance in math post-pandemic.

* Students with disabilities’ rate of growth in math was 1.2 times the rate of growth of all students.

* Black students rate of growth was 3 times the rate of growth of all students.

More detailed SOL Test Results can be found on the VDOE website.

Are you looking to sell or buy a home or property in VA or NC?

Country Homes, Farms, Land, Mountain & Waterfront Property

Let Our Experience Work For You.

Broker in Virginia and North Carolina

Call 276-694-2646 or email jlambert@swva.net

Check out our full listings at www.uclambertrealty.com

United Country Real Estate Lambert Realty
Broker, Johnny Lambert

NEW LOCATION
Now located at 22199 Jeb Stuart Hwy. Stuart, VA



Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.
Buying Logs
Standing Timber or Timberland
Stuart, VA

Contact Ronnie Bolt at
(276) 694-4432

MOVIE NIGHT!
Join us Saturday, September 7th from 4-6 PM for Night At The Discovery Center!
Every age is welcome!
Refreshments will be provided.

NIGHT AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER
MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY SEPT. 7

Don't miss it - we hear it's rawr-ing good fun
Stuart Church of Living Water
276-694-3322 | 101 E Blue Ridge St, Stuart, VA

SPRINGLAKE STOCKYARD

LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website: www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.

We appreciate your business!

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121

Poll shows sheer numbers of older caregivers in U.S.

Will Walkey

Virginia News Connection

One in four people over age 50 is taking care of at least one person with a health issue or disability, according to a new poll.

In Virginia, just under a million caregivers are providing more than \$14 billion in unpaid economic value.

Jared Calfee, state advocacy director for AARP Virginia, said these numbers are growing as people are living longer and nursing homes are struggling with understaffing.

"I don't know how much capacity there is to add additional burden onto these folks plates," said Calfee. "And that's the direction we're heading in. And so both at the state and the federal level, we are going to have to start to figure out ways to do more for these



folks."

He said the average caregiver pays more than \$7,000 a year out of pocket. Many older caregivers are adding that on top of other jobs or kids.

State and federal lawmakers have proposed bills to help

find solutions. Those include tax credits for caregivers, reducing red tape around Medicare and Social Security, and lowering healthcare expenses.

Public opinion on who should cover the cost of caring for older people is mixed.

Forty-five percent of those over 50 think it should be the government; 27% said it should be the person receiving the care, and 18% said family or friends.

Calfee said no matter what, caregiving should be a top-of-mind issue.

"Think about the people in your family that you may someday have to care for," said Calfee. "Think about the people in your family that may someday have to care for you as you age. And understand that these issues are so important and impact so many people, and very few of us are not going to be impacted by them at some point."

The U.S. Census Bureau says in a couple of decades, older Americans will outnumber children for the first time in history.

WEEKEND AND DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE GATE

Patrick County, VA Aug. 29th - Sept. 1st, 2024

Front Porch Fest 15

Love Grows Here

PATRICK COUNTY Virginia ONE FAMILY PRODUCTIONS VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

Firewater SERVICE CENTER

1329 Scenic Drive, Stuart, VA 24171
(276) 694-7417 or (276) 358-1580

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 to 5:30, Sat 8:00 to 2:00

VALVOLINE AND SCHAEFFER OIL PRODUCTS

Now Offering

TIRES & FRONT END ALIGNMENT

- State Inspections
- Oil Changes using Amsoil, Valvoline & Schaeffer Oil Products
- Full Brake Service for Disc and Drum Brakes
- Replacement of Belts and Hoses
- Tune Ups
- Tire Rotations
- Starter and Alternator Replacement
- Battery Replacement

10% DISCOUNT FOR VETERANS

Thank You for reading The Enterprise

Dr. Blake Brockbank is here! And we're all smiles.

Martinsville Smiles is happy to announce the addition of Dr. Blake Brockbank to our family dentistry practice.

A graduate of the School of Dentistry at VCU, Dr. Brockbank is welcoming new patients and is pleased to provide comprehensive family dental care at Martinsville Smiles. Please call **(276) 632-9266** to schedule your appointment with Dr. Brockbank.

He'd love to see your smile.

Martinsville Smiles, PLLC
(276) 632-9266 • MartinsvilleSmiles.com
407 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112

HUGE ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION SAT., SEPT. 7th, 2024 – 10:00 AM

2013 J.D. TRACTOR W/Front END LOADER – 1967 CHEVY CUSTOM PICKUP – 2014 FORD ESCAPE SUV – J.D. GATOR – GUNS- FARM EQUIP. – TOOLS – COLLECTIBLES-FURNITURE – 1997 FORD F-250 PICKUP & Personal Property of the late Everett "Junior" & Vicie Smith
2926 Gladesboro Rd. – Hillsville, VA 24343

Vehicles/Tractor.: 1967 Chevrolet Custom 10 Pickup (250, 6 cyl., 3 sp. on column, ps, pb, short bed, 2nd owner same family, new brakes & wheel cylinders & 66,250 original mi.), 2014 Ford Escape SPE (1 owner, garage kept, auto, ps, pb, pw, pdl, am/fm & 73,114 mi.), 1997 Ford F250 ext. cab pickup (4x4, power stroke 7.3 liter diesel, ps, pb, pw, pdl, 2nd owner & 116,300 mi.), 2013 J.D. mod. 508E Tractor w/front end loader-forks & bucket (4x4-85hp.-enclosed cab-air-heat-stereo-hydraulic connections-one owner- shed kept - 1,489 hrs.), J.D. Gator 6x4 (1 Owner, garage kept & 1,783 hrs.) NOTE: All vehicles have been driven by seniors and WELL cared for.

Equip./Tools: Husqvarna YTH1848XP riding mower (425 hrs.), elec. fence controller, Equip-Tools 4 wheel wagon, M.F. 2 bottom plow, 6' scraper blade, N.H. & other hay conveyor, Stihl HT011 tree trimmer, manual tree saw, (2) Stihl 170 chain saws, hydraulic 4,400 lb. floor jack, Wilton 645 vise, circular saw, wood chisel set, Irwin bits, shop vacs, hand tools, tool boxes, jacks, oil-filters-lubricants, floor creeper, draw bar, Craftsman air wrench & impact wrench, Dayton 7" bench grinder, Ryobi grinder, air tank, rigid step ladder, alum. ext. ladder, yard/garden tools, gas cans, 12 metal fence posts, Honda tiller, Troybilt cycle mower, 2 power mowers, (2) weed eaters, chains, water troughs, 3pt. tow hitch, 6' scraper blade, Woods 6' bush hog, metal beams, post driver bits, tractor forks, 500gal. diesel tank, hay unroller, wheel barrow, Woods GHT 72 6' cultivator, potato plow, copper tubing, PVC pipe, rolls of wire, light fixtures, outlet boxes, breaker boxes, sump pumps, fittings, pet kennels/houses, vinyl & alum. windows & more!

Guns: Colt Trooper 38 police special, Win. Mod. 77 22 LR, Rem. Auto 1100 3" magnum 12 ga., Moss-berg 12 ga. pump (modified choke – 3" shells), Rem. Woodmaster mod. 742 30-06 w/sling, H&R Topper mod. 158 410 ga., H&R Topper mod. 158 12 ga., Springfield Stevens Arms Co. 12 ga. double barrel, Rem. Mod. 742 Bicentennial 1776 model 30-06 w/Redfield 6x18 scope, Stevens Savage mod. 1071 16 ga. single shot, Marlin mod. 22 – 22 cal., Missouri black powder 50 cal. w/sling, made in Italy black powder 50 cal., Knight mod. 9322 – 50 cal.

Household/Collectibles/Misc.: Beautiful dining room table w/6 chairs, bow front curio cabinet, oval marble top walnut table, drop leaf table, wing back chairs, 2 secretaries, settee, antique dressing table, primitive curio cabinet, curio cabinet, Howard Miller grandfather clock, 2 bar stools, 3 recliners, sofa, coffee/end tables, ottomans, platform rocker, TV table, 2 wicker single beds-chest & night stand, daybed, queen bed, vanity, dresser, chest, 4 pc. bedroom suite, jewelry cabinet, wooden wardrobe, wood gun cabinet, lamps, rugs, pictures/prints, card table w/4 chairs, metal patio love seat & chair, outdoor table & chairs, Hotpoint ref., gas range, washers & dryers, Sony flatscreen TV, G.E. ref., kitchen appliances, Montgomery Ward elec. sewing machine, costume jewelry, antique tin coffee pot, canning jars, #2 & #6 crocks, (2) #13 1/2 gal. jars, several sets of cookware, roaster ovens, pressure canners glassware (candy dishes-pitchers-butter dishes-vinegar cruets-vases-pitcher/bowl-glasses/cups), milk glass, Capodimonte pieces, flatware stainless steel (Queen's Fancy #857), Gotham serving pieces, what knots, linens, afghans, J.D. cast iron tractor, Hess gasoline truck, Doll Collection (Cabbage patch, etc.), child's Raggedy Ann & Andy toy chest, Sesame Street play house, child's rocker, cookbooks, several baskets (Longaberger, etc.), ceramic lighted Christmas tree, Christmas decorations, metal picnic table, 2 drawer file cabinet, walking canes, contemporary record player/cassette/radio, limited edition Living Presidents bank note, metal racks, Gazelle walking machine, exercise bike & more!

Terms: Cash, check or credit/debit card day of auction. **Inspection:** 1.5 hrs. prior to auction.
Directions: From stoplight in Hillsville, VA at int. of Rt.# 58 & Rt.# 52 go E. on Rt.# 58 for 8.4 mi. to Rt.# 680 (Crooked Oak Rd.), turn R & go 2.3 mi. to Rt.# 654 (Gladesboro Rd.), turn L & go 7/10 mi. to Sale Site on Left.

Dawn Auction Company
276-728-9181

235 W. STUART DRIVE
HILLSVILLE, VA 24343
dawnauction@embarqmail.com
VAAF # 789

DENNIS WARD 276-733-6633
CHRIS WARD 276-733-9811

MIKE DALTON 276-733-5614
BRIAN HALL 276-237-1419

Guitar virtuoso Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway bring Grammy-winning bluegrass to Blue Ridge Music Center on Aug. 31



Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway

Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway will perform as part of the Deep Roots, Many Voices: Summer Outdoor Concert Series at 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 31, in the Blue Ridge Music Center's outdoor amphitheater on the Blue Ridge Parkway just south of Galax, Va. Harper O'Neill will open the show.

Tuttle is a virtuosic, award-winning guitarist with a gift for insightful songwriting. She is one of The First Ladies of Bluegrass, an elite group of women who were the first in their categories to win Instrument of the Year awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association. Tuttle is also a two-time Grammy winner and was crowned Instrumentalist of the Year at the Americana Music Awards in 2018.

Graced with a clear, true voice, and a keen melodic sense, Tuttle's range and ver-

satility show that she is more than an Americana artist. Called "one of the world's best guitar players" by American Songwriter, she has garnered the respect of her peers and won fans with her incredible flatpicking technique and confessional songwriting.

Tuttle and her band Golden Highway, which includes Bronwyn Keith-Hynes (fiddle, vocals), Dominick Leslie (mandolin), Kyle Tuttle (banjo, vocals), and Shelby Means (bass, vocals) will release a new EP Into the Wild on Sept. 20. The eagerly anticipated album, which includes two new original songs, favorite covers, and a reimagined version of the band's hit "Stranger Things," follows the Grammy-winning albums Crooked Tree (2022) and City of Gold (2023).

O'Neill is one of the most exciting young voices in country music. A Texas native, the up-and-coming singer-songwriter



Harper O'Neill

moved to Nashville in 2018 after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin. She was discovered by former BMI executive Jody Williams when he saw a video of her performing on TikTok. In short order, she signed a publishing deal with Williams' company, took home first place in the American Songwriter song contest, and released her debut album Dark Bar Daisy, which has earned rave reviews for its honest, clear-eyed expression and fresh take on Texas soul music. Her song "Somebody" also earned her a feature as a Next Up Now Artist on CMT.

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for children ages 12 and younger. Advance tickets are available at BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org. Tickets can be purchased on the evening

of the show at the admission gates.

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

The Bluffs Restaurant and The Galax Smokehouse will offer homestyle food and beverages for purchase during the concert. Visitors are invited to pack a picnic to enjoy at the amphitheater. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

This performance in the series is sponsored by Grayson County, Virginia and Great Outdoors Provisions Co. The presenting sponsors for the series are W.L.A. Trucking and Yadkin Arts Council.



ONLINE ONLY AUCTIONS

REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY MACHINERY SALES, LLC

27399 Jeb Stuart Hwy., Stuart, VA
 Bid Monday, Aug. 26 - Ending Thursday, Sept. 5 at 11am
 Preview: Friday, Aug. 30 & Saturday, Aug. 31 from 9am-4pm



Large 54'x70' Metal Building on 2.8 Acres



Liquidation Auction

69 Corvette Stingray, Service Trucks, Trailer, Vehicles, Vintage & Collectible Signs, Gas Pumps, Clocks, Toolboxes, Welder, Tools, Shop Equipment & More!



See Website for Terms and Details.

www.RogersAuctionGroup.com



Keith Gunter
 Auctioneer/Sale Manager
 276-952-5281 VAAL#2
 1310 EMS Dr, Mount Airy
 336-789-2926 NCAL#685



Norris FUNERAL SERVICES, INC. AND CREMATORY
www.norrisfuneral.com 129 Howell Lane
 Stuart, VA 276-694-2012
Affordable Funerals And Cremations With Updated Facilities



ONLINE AUCTION

Log Home & Acreage for Sale in Stuart, VA
 Bidding Ends Wednesday, September 18th at 4 PM
 2311 Central Academy Rd., Stuart, VA 24171
 Bid NOW at VAAuctionPro.com

Searching for your weekend retreat or permanent home in the mountains of Patrick County, VA? Check out this 1,664 sq ft log home which features 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. The kitchen appliances included a range, fridge, microwave and wood cook stove. The walls in the kitchen, living room, and dining area are wood, while the bedrooms and baths are a mix of wood and drywall. You will find hardwood flooring throughout the home, ceramic tile in the bathrooms, and vinyl in the laundry area. This home, which was constructed in 1999, features a full unfinished basement. The basement has been plumbed for a bathroom and could easily be finished into more living space. Downstairs you will also find a 2 car garage.

The home is surrounded by +/- 55.98 acres of wooded and open land with a small stream. Enjoy the views from the front porch. The barn would be ideal for equipment storage. Home does have a well, but it is no longer in working order, the current water source is a spring. The first approximately 400ft of the driveway is through a private, gravel right of way. The driveway leading to the home is paved.



Preview Date: Saturday, August 31st at 10 AM

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 is required on the day of sale. Close on or before November 4th, 2024. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 18th, 2024. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps.

CONTACT: Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Levi Cox 540-230-7162 or email LeviCox87@gmail.com

102 S. Locust Street,
 Floyd, VA 24901
 Lic#2907004059
 (540) 745-2005
VAAuctionPro.com



Blue Ridge Land & Auction