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

Hospital property for sale in online auction

By Debbie Hall
 The former Pioneer Community Hospital of Patrick County, a 63,000-square-foot facility, is up for sale in an online auction with a starting bid of \$599,000 and a suggested value of \$3.6 million, according to fre.com.

Located at 18688 Jeb Stuart Highway, the property includes a 10.08-acre tract with excellent highway frontage. The two-story brick and block building, once a 50-bed regional hospital, features an emergency room, exam and trauma rooms, radiology, clinic/medical offices, and operating rooms. It also has a large parking lot with 75 spots and ambulance access. The facility, vacant since 2017, is equipped with a fire sprinkler system. Property taxes are \$32,776.91.



A sign recently added to the former hospital property indicates it is for sale in an online auction. (Photo by Pat Delaney)

The hospital closed after Pioneer filed for bankruptcy in 2016. Virginia Community Capital (VCC) purchased the property for \$5.7 million

at a 2019 auction. Foresight Hospital and Health Systems acquired it in 2022, planning to open an emergency department and establish

about five critical access beds, along with support services like radiology, imaging, laboratory, and pharmacy. Other services were to be phased in as needed.

Last year, Foresight offered to donate the property to the county in exchange for \$815,000, about half of the costs the company had incurred. The county declined the offer. In March 2024, Wolf of Wabash, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, bought the property for \$1.6 million from Foresight HS Property Holdings - Blue Ridge, LLC. The assessed value at the time was \$4,534,300.

Bids for the online auction are due by 5 p.m. on October 3. A bid constitutes an irrevocable offer to purchase the property, according to the auction company's terms and conditions.



Patrick County Sheriff's Investigator Jason Kruse reviewed some of the more prevalent scams and related stories of incidents of scams perpetrated locally at a recent Ararat Community Crime Watch meeting.

Scams are increasingly common, even in Patrick County

By Pat Delaney
 According to statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), there are more than 750,000 complaints received each year from those who have fallen victim to a scammer. In 2023, scammers caused people to lose \$12.5 billion, and this is happening everywhere. Even here in Patrick County.

"Honestly, I think the mentality is, I'm not a victim. It's not going to happen to me. People need to realize this can happen in Patrick County," Patrick County Sheriff Lt. Steve Austin said.

The reality is that even recently, a resident lost nearly \$2,000 to scammers. The scam required the resident to buy gift cards to receive something of greater value. While that might seem suspicious to some, there is more to the story.

A Facebook friend endorsed the plan, validating everything the scammer had said - including the results. What the resident didn't know was that their friend's Facebook profile had been compromised, and the individual endorsing the scam was not a long-time friend, Steve Austin said.

(See Scams p. 3)

PCS hosts celebration for National Recovery Month on Saturday

By Taylor Boyd
 Piedmont Community Services (PCS) will hold its 4th annual National Recovery Month Celebration on Saturday, September 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Dehart Park in Stuart.

PCS Community Recovery Coordinator Kat Heredia said every year the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) hosts September as its National Recovery Month from substance use and or mental health.

"It's really just a day where a lot of our staff who, like myself, I'm a person in long-term recovery, we come out, we want to have a really good time, kind of 'destigma' around what it's like to get into recovery. It's a really great way to get out in the community and let people know recovery is for everyone and they don't have to be alone," she said, adding the event is rotated each year to different areas served.

Heredia said she believes it's important for people to know that even though the event is based around recovery and celebrating the journey of recovery, it's open for anyone in the community.

"It doesn't have to just be someone who has a lived experience. It can be for friends and family members and senior citizens and kids. It's really all across the board. I want everyone to feel welcome," she said.

Heredia said the event will start at 10 a.m. with opening comments

from Patrick County Board of Supervisors Chairman Doug Perry, of the Smith River District.

The Walk for Hope begins at 11 a.m., Heredia said, and explained the walk will be along DeHart Park. She estimated it may be about 20 minutes long. "We just picked something very simple that most people can maneuver."

Community resources, from employment opportunities to connection and counseling agencies, will be on site along with some faith-based organizations will be on-site, as well as other vendors. "Some of them will be selling some items. We do allow some vendors to sell items if they like," she said.

She noted some people and organizations will sponsor things like inflatable bouncy houses or activities.

"We're going to try and do like a tie-dye activity this year that went over really well last year," she said.

"That's when people can start perusing the vendors. There'll be music playing and some people sharing their stories," she said.

Nearly two dozen vendors were on site at last year's event, Heredia said, and she's aiming for about 20 this year.

Boxed lunches from Subway will be served, "we'll also have snow cone, popcorn machines, and I believe, cotton candy as well. All of that is free, along with inflatables and bouncy houses for the kids," she said.

Red flags can help identify scams

By Pat Delaney
 According to the Patrick County Sheriff's investigators, there are ways to avoid falling prey to scams.

No matter the training or technology scammers bring to their work, there are red flags that can warn potential victims of who they are dealing with. But before it even gets to the red flags, the best way to avoid scams is to avoid the scammers.

"If you answer an unsolicited phone call and say hello, do not say 'yes,'" Sheriff's Investigator Jason Kruse said. There are voice prompts that are intended to coerce you into saying yes. "On electronic calls, they want to hear you say yes. So, if you say yes, that is your voice agreeing to something, and they're recording these calls. So, say hello. If it's someone you don't recognize, you can simply say you have the wrong number. If it's someone you don't recognize, hang up the phone. You can be rude. It's completely alright to be rude if it's someone you don't know."

Better still, "if you do not recog-

nize the number, do not answer the phone," Patrick County Sheriff's Capt. Eric O'Connell said. "If it's important enough" the caller "will text message and/or leave a voicemail. If at that point, after checking the text and/or voicemail, you recognize the person and you just didn't recognize the number, program that number into your phone. From that point on, you'll recognize that number."

Not answering unrecognizable numbers "is THE best line of defense initially when it comes to phone scams. You can't go wrong with that," O'Connell said and suggests having a healthy level of skepticism with unknown callers, because "99.9 percent, it's a scam, and there's .1 percent that it's not."

Unless you know the person and the number, for your own protection, assume it's a scam.

"Consider everything a scam until you're convinced that it is not," O'Connell said.

The number one red flag to be aware of is the scammer wanting

(See Red Flags p.3)

Annual agricultural fair set Sept. 12-14

By Taylor Boyd
 The 70th Patrick County Agricultural Fair is set to be held from Tuesday, September 10 through Saturday, September 14 at Rotary Field in Stuart.

Sonny Swails, a member of the Rotary Club of Stuart and an organizer, said the event will be fun, with games for everyone. "I think it's 16 rides that are going to be there. That's what we normally get."

In addition to animals, booths, and exhibits, music will be performed in the Hooker Building each night, from 6 - 9 p.m., and possibly 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The annual Demolition Derby will be held Saturday, September 7, a week before the fair, Swails said, and explained "the demolition derby has historically been on Saturday night, and Saturday night's traffic jams are horrendous. We've had traffic backed up on 58 all the way to the stoplight at Walmart."

As a result, organizers opted to hold the derby a week early.

"We're just hoping that we'll have our normal turnout for the derby, but at the same time we hope it's going to relieve some of the traffic on the Saturday night of the fair, so it won't be such a bottleneck with people trying to get into the fairgrounds. We'll see how it goes; it may work, and it may not. If it doesn't work, we'll go back to having it Saturday night at the fair, but I hope that it's going to make a difference," he said.

Swails said a Saturday afternoon matinee is planned for small children. Wristbands are reduced in price from 3-6 p.m., when they return to the regular price. He ad-

vised parents of small children to look at the Cole rides website to determine height restrictions.

"If you come in there with a kid that happens to be 10 years old, but he's five feet tall, then he's going to be limited on the rides he can get on. The insurance company sets the guidelines as for who size wise can get on these various rides," Swails said, adding parents "need to make sure before they purchase that wristband that there are adequate rides for them to justify" the wristband cost.

Ruritan Paula Drady said the American Red Cross will also be set up in the Hooker Building on Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to accept blood donations - marking a first at the fair. Those wishing to make an advance appointment may visit www.redcrossblood.org/give.

"Give blood, save a life, and receive a free ticket to be used on your choice of nights. It's a win-win, so don't miss Blood Donor Day at the fair," Drady said.

Sponsors for the event include Patrick County, Rotary Club of Stuart, Clark Gas & Oil Co., ValleyStar Credit Union, and AutosByNelson.com.

General admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and free for those under six.

Student night is Tuesday, September 10, and senior citizens, veterans, and current military members can enter for free on September 12, Swails said.

Wristbands can be purchased in advance at www.colerides.com.

For more information, visit www.patrickcountyfair.com, or Facebook.com/PatrickCountyFair-Staunton-VARotaryClub.

College presidents ink articulation agreement

Students with associate degrees from Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) can now transition smoothly into business management or social work majors at Ferrum College and earn bachelor's degrees within two years. Eligible students will also qualify for tuition benefits from the Panther Promise program.

These agreements focus on Ferrum's Bachelor of Science in business administration: sports management and the Bachelor of Social Work degree. Ferrum already accepts associate of arts and associate of science graduates from all Virginia community colleges with access to the Ferrum Promise for most majors at Ferrum. Since 2019, the Ferrum Promise has ensured automatic completion of general education requirements, allowing the students to focus on coursework in their major area of interest and finish bachelor's degrees in two years or Ferrum College covers the remaining cost.

Those who meet the established criteria will also be eligible for the Panther Promise, which offers free tuition to qualifying Virginia residential students. Ferrum lies within the service area of P&HCC, and its graduates are among Ferrum College's most successful students and graduates, according to Dr. Jason Powell, Ferrum's associate vice president for academic



P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges and Ferrum College President Dr. Mirta Martin sign articulation agreements for two programs.

affairs. Initiatives like the Panther Promise and Ferrum Promise position transfer students for success while also fueling the economic growth of the region.

"We are honored to partner with our colleagues at Ferrum – one of our students' top transfer institutions—to ensure that the pathways for students who are working toward careers in social work and sports management are available in our area," said P&HCC President Greg Hodges. "The opportunity to complete a four-year degree this close to home and at potentially no cost to the student will certainly equip them for a future of success in their area of in-



P&HCC Vice President of Academic & Student Success Services Dr. Chris Wikstrom and Ferrum Provost Dr. Delia Heck look on as P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges and Ferrum College President Dr. Mirta Martin shake hands at the recent signing event.

terest."

"The partnership between Ferrum College and Patrick & Henry Community College marks a transformative step in expanding educational access and deepening the bonds within our communities," said Ferrum College President Mirta Martin. "By uniting our strengths, we are creating pathways that empower students to achieve their dreams, while forging connections that will uplift our entire region. Together, we are not only shaping the future of education but also building a brighter, stronger community for

generations to come."

Hodges and Martin signed the agreements on the P&HCC campus on August 29, with other college officials and students present. The memoranda of understanding they signed affirm "the shared goal of fostering educational collaboration and enhancing academic opportunities for students."

Learn more about the Ferrum Promise at <https://www.ferrum.edu/admissions-aid/transfer-students/>. Learn more about the Panther Promise at <https://www.ferrum.edu/admissions-aid/cost-and-aid/tuition-and-fees>.

Reynolds Homestead takes the next step in community kitchen expansion

Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead in Critz, Virginia, is seeking input from potential business operators and the broader community as it undertakes an expansion project to build a 1,500-square-foot community kitchen.

Reynolds Homestead is gathering information on the types of programming, services, and equipment that would best meet the community's needs. The survey can be accessed online: <https://bit.ly/rhkitchensurvey>.

"The community kitchen has a three-pronged mission. It will serve as a teaching kitchen, a certified kitchen utilized by entrepreneurs interested in developing a food-based business, and as a catering kitchen for events held at the Reynolds Homestead," said Julie Walters Steele, director of the Reynolds Homestead. "Food truck owners and caterers may also be interested in using the kitchen."

The Richard S. Reynolds and Virginia S. Reynolds foundations have donated \$800,000 to help fund the project. The Reynolds Homestead is seeking local donations to provide additional funds needed for the construction costs.

Dewberry architects and engineers have completed a design that includes a food preparation area with commercial kitchen equipment, a demonstration cooking station and eight teaching stations. Each station features a range, refrigerated cabinet, handwash and rinsing

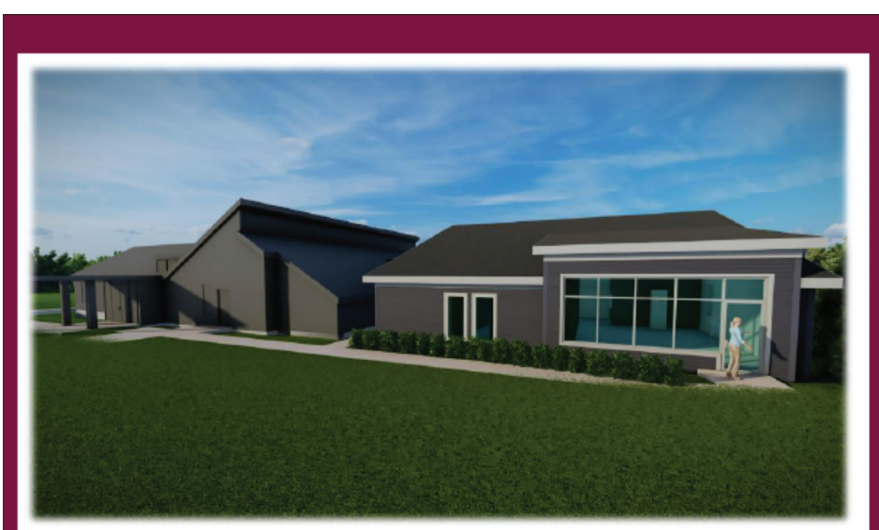
sinks and kitchen wares.

Patrick & Henry Community College plans to offer culinary classes in the kitchen, and the Reynolds Homestead, which hosts more than 40 food events annually, will use the space for catering on-site and off-site programs. With the expansion of the Community Engagement Center, the homestead hopes to host larger events, offering in-house catering as well as place settings, linens and other items for those renting the facility.

The demonstration station will allow students to gather around an instructor for presentations of different cooking and preserving methods. The Patrick County Virginia Cooperative Extension staff will use this area for conducting classes to teach patrons how to prepare and preserve food from their gardens and local farmers markets.

The Reynolds Homestead will also use the demonstration table to raise revenue to support the culinary program. In an intimate 12-seat arrangement, patrons will have an opportunity to observe a local chef preparing and serving them a delectable meal.

Entrepreneurs interested in starting a food-based business will have access to the commercial equipment as well as storage space for their supplies as they work to prototype a product and test its marketability. This provides an opportunity for individuals to establish their



REYNOLDS HOMESTEAD COMMUNITY KITCHEN

MAY 29, 2024

CONTACT
Dewberry Engineers Inc.
551 Pinney Forest Road
Danville, VA 24540
434.797.4497
www.dewberry.com

An architectural rendering of the Reynolds Homestead Community Kitchen. (Courtesy of Dewberry)

product in the market before investing in a production kitchen of their own. The kitchen will also be available for catering and food truck operations.

The expanded kitchen will house industrial equipment and storage space for food, tables, place settings and other items used in food preparation. The kitchen expansion will benefit those planning weddings and other celebration events and civic groups preparing food for fundraising events or community meals.

Donations may be made online on the Reynolds Homestead website (www.reynoldshomestead.vt.edu) or by mail to Reynolds Homestead, 864 Homestead Lane, Critz, VA 24082. For additional information on how to contribute to this exciting project, please call 276-694-7181.

The Reynolds Homestead serves as a Virginia Tech engagement center in the division of Outreach and International Affairs.

Pets of the Week



This female Border Collie mix is so traumatized she really needs a home.

This little gal has patches on both eyes. She seems to have some personality as she poses for her picture.

Find your next pet at the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS). Visit in person or view other available pets on Facebook. Call the shelter at (276) 694-6259 for additional information.

Adoption fees are only \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination.

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Scams

(cont. from page 1)

but an accomplice in the scam.

Believing the 'friend's' validation, the person followed the instructions, purchasing gift cards totaling the desired amount. The instant the card numbers were delivered to the scammer, the money was gone, with no way to trace it.

And there are more stories like this as scams become a bigger problem locally.

"Scamming in general, aside from drug crimes, currently, is the number one issue that we have. It could be corporate, and it could be private individuals. The problem is it's the least likely to be solved," said Patrick County Sheriff Capt. Eric O'Connell. The transition in the last 10 years has been from "common B-and-E (breaking and entering) type crimes in general investigations to a lot more white collar type of crimes. Specifically, scams."

For those falling prey to scammers, the disappointment of having lost their money is compounded because bringing the guilty to justice is unlikely to happen. But that's not for a lack of trying.

"A lot of these cases do go unsolved, and I think sometimes it can be misunderstood that it's due to our lack of experience or various reasons," said O'Connell. "Truth be known, it's because they're almost untouchable," because the scammer often is located overseas.

"These things are very hard to solve and it's not because we can't or don't want to. We'd love to bring them to justice, O'Connell said.

Scammers know their location makes them nearly impossible to find, which makes what they do low risk, with potentially high payoffs.

"That's why we want to prevent this before it happens, because we know the majority of the time what the outcome is going to be," Austin said. "It's very unfortunate. Some people lose their life savings. I cannot imagine how violated they would feel," after losing their money.

Preventing scams starts with understanding how well trained many scammers are in their trade. Many used to work in legitimate call centers, helping people with tech issues. This experience gives them deep knowledge of how operating systems work, and they can use that knowledge to scam people through their computers, authorities said.

Additionally, they have received training and gained expertise in handling potential victims. "They have scripts. They know what's successful. They know how to read the scripts. They use your empathy against you," said Investigator Jason Kruse.

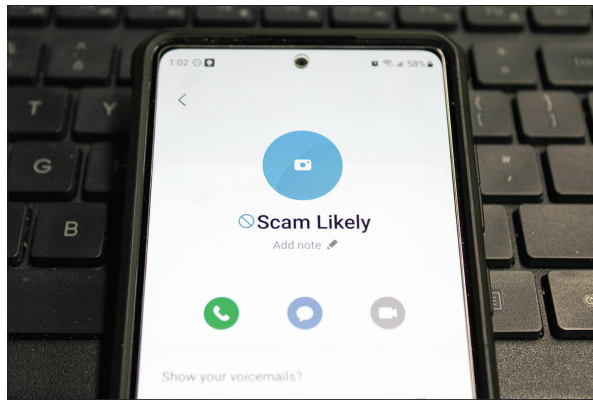
The scammers also have high-tech assets at their disposal. Many of their call centers can make "thousands of calls a minute, for hundreds of thousands of calls a day. They have got a system that they know works," said O'Connell. "These people have the experience, the technology, the knowledge, and they're so successful. Financially, they're making lots of money. I would hate to know how much money they're making. They're professionals at being a scammer."

Even if the number on caller ID is from your area, it is easy for a scammer to 'spoof' their number, which is making it appear to be coming from nearby, while the caller could be on the other side of the world.

If you answer the call and a scammer is on the other end, the scammer will go into their pitch, authorities said.

Besides spoofing their numbers, scammers can imitate entities like the IRS, Social Security, your doctor and your health insurance company.

For scammers pretending to be from a government agency, particularly the IRS, the Patrick County Sheriff's office says to treat these calls as a scam. The IRS will not contact you over the phone. Rather, they contact people through the mail, often by certified mail. The Sheriff's office



advises people to hang up and call them with the number that called, even though the caller claims to be from the IRS or other agency. They can check the number and find out if it's legitimate or not. Most times, it will not.

If the scammer is claiming to be from your doctor or insurance company, saying you owe money, be very careful. According to Kruse, if it's a scammer, "they won't ask for your banking information. They will ask you to go get something a little harder to trace. Almost untraceable, like some type of prepaid card or cash, and mail it to them. A lot of times it's the card. That card can go across the world." Again, once overseas, the money is lost.

Scammers can, and will, pretend to be any business they think can make them money. O'Connell said to be weary "if there is any discussion of money at all. Something owed now, back pay, overdraft fee, various things like that. Have no contact with that person. If you have an account with a rental place or bank, go to them in person, if you can't physically, call them on the number that you know and have conducted business with them in the past."

By directly contacting the business the scammer is claiming to be, you can verify if the debt is legitimate or a scammer hoping for a payday. Again, keep in mind that legitimate businesses will not conduct business in the way scammers will want you to. They will accept forms of payment that can be traced, for your benefit and their own. They will not want untraceable payment methods, such as gift cards.

Computer Scams

Criminals don't limit their scams to the telephone. Computer scams are equally prevalent. Phone or computer, many red flags are the same, including the use of gift cards or cryptocurrency as payment methods.

If you don't know who the email is from, don't open it. Should you open it, do not reply and absolutely, do not click any links in the email. "Any email that somebody wants you to click on a link, just treat it as a scam," said Austin.

Online scams come in some very different forms. Like phone scams, they can spoof an incoming email address, even making it look like the email is coming from your own email address.

The criminals may even use extortion to get people to send them money. Victims of this type of online crime are often men who fall prey to female scammers, or at least pretending to be female. Sometimes, the victim will send a photo, sometimes explicit. The scammer will extort them by threatening to post the photo publicly unless the victim pays up.

"It's one of the types that is not as well-known publicly, because there's so much shame involved in that. But it's very common," said O'Connell. "A lot of the time it's not an astronomical amount of money." Other scams often involve dollar amounts into the tens of thousands of dollars. "These we see \$300, or \$500."

These crimes are not exclusive to men.

Kruse said there was "an 18-year-old female who thought she found a sugar daddy and was going to scam the guy. It turns out he was scamming her. He got access to her checking account

and the bank that she banks with does not have the best online security, and he was able to see some transactions that she had. He was able to get photocopies of some checks of other people, wash (clear) them and cash them again through her bank, then send the money into his account. She was being scammed when she was trying to scam someone else."

In that case, Kruse said the man convinced the woman "that he needs to use her bank account information to send the money directly into her bank account. Well, she gives him the password and everything to her banking app, then immediately goes in and finds out that she's got some checks floating around."

There are scammers everywhere online, and like the phone scams, they are most often overseas, making any recovery of money lost nearly impossible. This is why prevention is the key.

By pretending to be some sort of tech support, scammers can use programs to gain access to your computer under the guise of fixing it. Once in your computer, they can scam you in several ways.

They can make it look as though you paid them money that they need to refund to you. In the refund process, some scammers can make it appear that rather than a \$300 refund they're trying to send, they 'accidentally' refunded \$3,000 or \$30,000. Playing on your emotions, they will create a sense of urgency by telling you they are going to lose their job over the mistake unless quickly fixed. No money was refunded, but in the process of trying to help, many will give the scammer their bank account information, which was the scammer's goal all along. Once they get into your bank account, you are in real trouble.

Never give out any of your banking or financial information to anyone online. While this may seem like an obvious statement, online scammers, like phone scammers, know what they are doing and how to convince you to give them the information they need to complete the scam.

Another scam seen locally is, "they will send you a check and ask you to cash it. Keep \$500 for yourself," said Austin. The victim cashes the check, sends the scammer the money, and unwittingly becomes a suspect in the crime.

"Not only that, but they could overdraft their checking account, and become a criminal - not necessarily by intent, but by a pattern of writing bad checks," not knowing their account is overdrawn, said O'Connell.

A central message authorities hope to convey is that they are there to help, and want to do so. While there may be little they can do after someone has been scammed, they have plenty of options to help prevent it beforehand.

"Before anybody does anything with these things (potential scams) call law enforcement. Our motto is we would rather be bothered at one a.m. than have to do the work at nine a.m. If you're suspicious, call us," said O'Connell.

By calling the instant you suspect something isn't right with an incoming call or email, investigators can go to work to find out the legitimacy of the email or call before you fall prey to a scam.

"It's a really bad thing that has gotten worse and worse. and I can only think how much more intelligent these computer specialists become. It's going to get harder and harder to detect," said O'Connell.

Understanding that scams can happen to anyone may help overcome the stigma, because authorities said, scams can happen to anyone - even a law enforcement officer.

"There was an investigator. We were in the same office," Austin said. "My phone rings, and it's his number. And we're in the office together, and it's somebody else trying to sell me something."

The caller was spoofing the other investigator's number, Austin said, adding "nobody's immune."

Red Flags

(cont. from page 1)

payment with gift cards.

"There is no business in America that conducts itself in that way," O'Connell said. "It's a guaranteed scam" and requesting gift cards for payment "is the number one red flag."

Gift cards are a preferred method of payment for scammers because it is nearly impossible to trace them. When gift cards are used, the scammer will ask the victim to send them pictures of the card numbers.

"The very second they get that picture, those numbers are used, and that card is vacated," Kruse said. "Making the situation even more impossible to trace is often, the scammer is not in the U.S.A. Once money goes overseas, there's no touching them."

If the caller suggests or demands payment in gift cards, hang up immediately, authorities said, and it doesn't need to be a 'nice' goodbye, O'Connell added.

"It's click and block and report," O'Connell said. Additionally, "I encourage people to call the sheriff's office and 'say, 'hey, this number called me, and this is what this scam was' because every week it's something different. We see something new all the time, and yes, we see repeats, but call us and let us know, even if they were unsuccessful."

Another red flag occurs when scammers ask for payment in Bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies. Once again, few legitimate businesses in this country will require payment in something like Bitcoin, authorities said.

"There's several Bitcoin ATMs in the county," said Kruse. The scammer will ask that you "put \$1,500 in this Bitcoin, get your receipt with your wallet number on it, take a picture of that wallet number and send it to me, and they'll do it from there."

Bitcoin is unregulated, and because the industry wants to remain unregulated, they are helpful when working with law enforcement investigations. But their help is not a guarantee of tracking down and returning any lost money, Kruse said.

Consider how the caller makes you feel, authorities said.

Scammers receive training to be successful and frequently manipulate the emotions of their intended victims. They can do this in several ways.

If they can keep up the sense of urgency in the person they are trying to scam, it makes it tougher for the victim to make good decisions. If they can keep their potential victim off guard, "they're not thinking about how this is a scam," said Kruse.

Scammers "will yell at them, not necessarily cuss, but try to keep that sense of urgency going to where they're not focusing on what the real problem is," he said.

They can also play on people's fears. A common scam involves 'the police' calling to inform the potential victim that there is a warrant out for their arrest. This would be a shocking call for just about anyone, and the scammer is de-

pending on the shock-factor to put their target on edge emotionally. The scammer will offer a way out for a payment over the phone, often in gift cards. They will say that failure to pay will lead to the person's arrest.

"That's not how we operate," Patrick County Sheriff's Lt. Steve Austin said. "If we've got a warrant for you, we're going to come get you. We're not going to call and tell you we've got a warrant and demand money."

In another scam, scammers call parents or grandparents to inform them that a family member has been arrested and needs bail, once again requesting gift cards as payment.

"Even if your son calls you, or your grandson calls you in the middle of the night and says, 'grandma, I'm in jail, can you send a \$500 gift card,' number one, law enforcement is not going to ask you to send a \$500 gift card to bail somebody out," said Kruse. "We have gotten four or five of those, usually in the summertime when the kids are out at the beach or something like that."

The scammer plays on the family member's emotion and desire to see their loved one released from jail to gain the payment.

Austin said it's important to remember that "there's only two people that will give you a dollar amount: Number one, is the magistrate that lets you know how much bond you need. Number two is the judge to let you know how much fine you're going to pay."

Afghanistan



Morgan Griffith

Representative

August 26th marked the anniversary of the killing of 13 American servicemembers in Afghanistan.

As you recall, the Biden-Harris Administration in April of 2021 announced a decision to withdraw our troops.

In that announcement, the withdrawal was to conclude by September 11, a symbolic tribute to the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks carried out by the Taliban.

I had supported an orderly and responsible withdrawal of our soldiers from Afghanistan. After defeating Al Qaeda and warding off radical Islamic extremism, the U.S. accomplished its original mission.

However, Biden-Harris oversaw an ill-planned and chaotic withdrawal.

The U.S.-backed government quickly fell to the Taliban.

American troops were removed before securing our embassy personnel and other Americans in Kabul.

We not only left behind billions of dollars in military equipment for the Taliban to seize, but as our troops withdrew, they did not disable the equipment.

The idea of spiking the cannons before retreating is centuries old.

This rushed exit forced us to deploy evacuation troops to the region.

On August 26, an ISIS-K suicide bomber carried out a terrorist attack at Abbey Gate, killing 13 American soldiers and 200 others. 18 other American soldiers were wounded.

Videos of what unfolded circled the globe. Like you, I watched in horror as abandoned Afghans clung to the outside of departing airplanes, only to see them fall and plummet to their deaths.

Following the botched exit, I called for the impeachment of Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the resignations of Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley.

Their incompetence and failure to protect American citizens during this withdrawal jeopardized American lives and left thirteen soldiers dead.

And yet, nothing ever happened to these officials. The Biden-Harris Administration allowed all three to continue in their roles (Milley retired in September of 2023).

To the delight of our terrorist foes overseas, the freedom-seeking world is paying the price for Biden-Harris naivete and negligence.

Were the Biden-Harris actions in Afghanistan and their dealings with Iran partly responsible for the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7th of last year?

Maybe? But I believe it certainly didn't help!

That Hamas attack resulted in more than 1,200 deaths. More than two dozen were American citizens. Hundreds were taken hostage, including 12 Americans. 11 months later, Israeli forces are still trying to rescue them. As I'm writing, they

rescued a Bedouin hostage in Gaza. Some Americans are still held captive by Hamas.

As we watch the news, Israel faces missile and drone attacks from Hezbollah.

American forces are also facing threats from other Iranian-backed terrorist groups.

In January of this year, three American servicemembers were killed in Jordan following a drone attack. More than 40 others were wounded. The attack was carried out by Iran-backed terrorists.

At that time, a Department of Defense release noted that U.S. service members and U.S. and coalition facilities had been attacked more than 150 times from October 2023-January 2024 in Syria and Iraq alone.

On the Red Sea, it gets worse.

American naval forces are engaged with the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, who are seizing commercial ships and trading fire with Israel.

The Associated Press reports the Red Sea conflict has thrust the U.S. Navy into its "most intense running sea battle" since World War II.

Do not forget, the Biden-Harris Administration removed the Houthis from the U.S. government's designated foreign terrorist list (the Trump Administration had placed them on the list).

This year, Biden-Harris reversed course and reapplied the Trump-era policy.

Blinken, Biden, and Harris are on the record saying they do not seek wider conflict in the Middle East.

But their Administration's actions - or lack of actions - towards Iran (on top of Afghanistan) has resulted in further destabilization of the region.

This September, Speaker Johnson plans to present the families of the slain servicemen from the Abbey Gate terrorist attack the Congressional Gold Medal during a ceremony in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

According to National Review magazine, neither Biden nor Harris have personally reached out to these families.

We will remember the sacrifices of the 13 courageous American heroes who died in Afghanistan in the closing days of the Afghanistan withdrawal. We owe it to their families, and the families of all our servicemembers, current and former, to project peace through strength.

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

Things to think about before you vote

(Fox, Todd Starnes, *The Federalist*, *Daily Signal*)

*August 26, 2024, was the third anniversary of the deadly American withdrawal from Afghanistan, when a suicide bombing at Hamid Karzai International Airport killed 13 American service members. Hundreds of people injured and billions of dollars' worth of military equipment left behind, and the U.S. became, and is, the laughing stock all over the world. One of the most embarrassing moments in the history of our country.

The fact that not one senior official resigned or was fired, suggests that we have a real crisis of leadership in this country. The same major members of the foreign policy team remain in their roles despite the debacle. Why? Because according to Biden no one in his administration had made a mistake.

There was a special ceremony honoring the fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery, but only one president showed up for the wreath-laying ceremony: President Donald J. Trump. The former President commemorated the event with a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, where he was joined by family members of some of the soldiers killed at the Abbey Gate attack in Kabul.

Biden and Kamala the two people responsible for the disastrous evacuation of Kabul were nowhere to be found. They were AWOL. President Biden is suntanning at a beach in Delaware. And Vice President Harris missing in action. She had absolutely nothing scheduled on her daily agenda. Bottom of Form What does that tell you, America?

*A top Democrat party strategist,

Keith Boykin said on CNN says that burning the American flag is the greatest form of patriotism. Remember this is the party that took a knee during the "Star-Spangled Banner, allowed our borders to be breached, jeopardizing our sovereignty. This is the party that believes our Founding Fathers were racists, that our Founding Documents were corrupt. So, it's not that much of a surprise to think they would consider the burning of Old Glory to be an act of patriotism. It's true that burning the American flag is legal, but it is a hate crime to burn a gay pride flag, supported by Biden/Harris.

*Children, the biggest stain on the Biden/Harris administration. More than 400,000 children crossed the border under Biden/Harris. Biden/Harris ended all familial DNA testing at the border to determine the relationship between illegal aliens coming across the border who are posing as their family members. HHS admits they have lost track of 85,000 children. They don't know where they are and don't seem to care. The HHS Office of the Inspector General report stated that several employees who expressed concern about the children's safety where given demotions or fired. The Office of Homeland Security Investigations, the investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security reported that the Biden/Harris administration ignored the trafficking of migrant children. Because of the reckless decision of Biden/Harris the cartels are abusing, recycling, and sex trafficking minor children to lives of hell.

Pray for our country.

William Salser,
Stuart

IALR seeks recruits for AmeriCorps program



Koda Thompson, a 2023-2024 Dan River Year AmeriCorps member, helps a young student complete his homework at the afterschool program run by the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Danville Area. Thanks to a continuation grant from AmeriCorps, the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research is currently recruiting 31 AmeriCorps members for the 2024-2025 school year (the 10th year) to serve as STEM and Literacy Tutors in Danville, Pittsylvania County and Martinsville.

The Dan River Year AmeriCorps program is recruiting 31 part-time STEM and Literacy Tutors and Coaches for the 2024-2025 academic year to build and introduce curriculum and activities for students. AmeriCorps members will support upper elementary and middle school student gains in literacy, math and social-emotional learning by providing direct service in Pittsylvania County, and the cities of Martinsville and Danville at local elementary and afterschool partner sites.

In-School and Out-of-School Tutors will provide direct and indirect support to site(s) during school and after school and for family science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities. Members work with 4th- and 5th-grade students individually and/or small groups at school sites as well as upper elementary/middle school students at informal learning locations. They focus on building and introducing curriculum and activities for stu-

dents, helping prepare them for middle school by improving their literacy, math, STEM and/or social-emotional skills.

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) administers the Dan River Year AmeriCorps program. The agency received a \$231,275 continuation grant from AmeriCorps to help fund the 10th year of operation.

Service dates are September 2024-August 2025 and range from five to 30 hours weekly. Stipends range from \$4,200 (300 hours) to \$13,500 (900 hours). Segal Education Awards for successful service completers range from \$1,565 (300 hours) to \$3,697 (900 hours).

The program is ideal for recent high school graduates or college students seeking a gap year, those entering the education field, career switchers and retirees.

For more information, visit <https://www.ialr.org/dan-river-year-ameri-corps>.

THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy

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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.

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Patrick Pioneers

Miss Pearl Lillian Hall

By Beverly Belcher Woody

For the next several weeks, we will spend time in the Goblintown area. There are several theories of how Goblintown got its name, but the prevailing one seems to be that there was some type of haunted event that took place in the area. I recently came across another theory from Anthony Tittle, one of the first land grant recipients in the area; the land was named Goblintown from the enormous number of turkeys roaming the community!

This week, we will focus on Goblintown native, Miss Pearl Lillian Hall. Miss Pearl was born on the 19th of April 1896 to 72-year-old Henry Harden (H. H.) Hall, Sr. and 45-year-old Martha Elizabeth Ross Hall; she was the only surviving child of the couple. According to the Patrick County Death Register, little Grover Hall was stillborn on the 21st of October 1888 and another male infant was stillborn on the 15th of May 1890. Little Kittie Ross Hall was born to H. H. and Martha Ross Hall in February 1892 and lived for one year, five months, and five days, passing away on July 12th, 1893.

In 1909, Miss Pearl's mother, Martha Elizabeth Ross, passed away at the age of 58 years old, leaving 13-year-old Pearl and her 86-year-old father, H. H. Hall, Sr. alone. I was unable to find out for certain which primary school Miss Pearl attended, but based on where she grew up, it was likely the Brammer School or the old log Goblintown School. Miss Pearl attended Ferrum Training School (Ferrum College) shortly after it was founded in 1913 by the Methodist Church. H. H. Hall, Sr. passed away on the 21st of March 1915 at the age of 91; Pearl was now an orphan.

Miss Pearl did not let the death of her parents break her down; she honored her deceased parents and siblings by traveling all the way from Patrick County to Kansas City, Missouri to attend the Scarritt Bible and Training College. In the 1920 census, Miss Pearl was listed as a 23-year-old student who was receiving training in religious knowledge and practical training in nursing and medicine.

Miss Pearl graduated as a registered nurse from John Hopkins University in 1924 and was immediately sent to Monterrey, Mexico by the Women's Division of the Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church. In Monterrey, Miss Pearl served for nearly three years in the oldest and best-organized Methodist-related hospital in Mexico and taught in the training school there. In 1927, she was transferred to Palmere Sanitorium in Chihuahua, Mexico, the newest, smallest, and poorest of the hospitals under the Methodist Church in Mexico.

Miss Pearl worked at the Palmere sanitorium for thirty-five years and helped establish a laboratory



Pearl L. Hall

Miss Pearl Lillian Hall photo from The Enterprise.

and school for nurse technicians and nurse anesthetists. As I am writing about this grand lady, an image of Mother Teresa comes to mind; Miss Pearl was a dedicated, selfless humanitarian.

In 1962, at the age of sixty-six, Miss Pearl retired from the mission field in Mexico, but she did not stop serving others. She returned to her childhood homeplace in the Goblintown community and worked as the night supervisor at Blue Ridge Nursing Home for several years.

Miss Pearl was an active volunteer for the Cancer Society, Heart Fund, and Red Cross bloodmobile. In 1977, on her 80th birthday, she was the honored guest of the Patrick-Henry Allied Families of Virginia, Inc. Miss Pearl was a member of Ross-Harbour United Methodist Church and taught Sunday School there for many years.

Miss Pearl enjoyed traveling and spent time in Germany, the Holy Land, and returned to Mexico where I am sure she was greeted as a hero! Next week, we will take a deeper look at Miss Pearl's father, the carpenter and miller Henry Harden (H.H.) Hall, Sr. and his first Exony Turner, and their six children.

Thank you to Verna Rorrer Shepherd for her help with the story about Miss Pearl. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

Miss Pearl Hall Visits Martinsville

Martinsville was honored Tuesday afternoon in having Miss Pearl Hall here. The Methodist Woman's Missionary Society turned its regular meeting over to her. Miss Hall is thoroughly equipped for her medical work, having graduated in June from John Hopkins. She will be stationed in the large Methodist Hospital at Monterref. By coincidence Mrs. Omer, well known as a former missionar fto Montebery, was present, and told feelingly of her work in Mexico. The Young People's Society welcomed Miss Hall cordially and extended good wishes to her.

While here Miss Hall is the guest of Mrs. T. W. Lanier.

The following item appeared in the Danville News of Tuesday:

Reception and Shower

The Sunday school auditorium of Main street church was the scene of a delightful reception yesterday afternoon given by the Woman's Missionary Society of Main street church to the representatives of the various missionary societies of this district the occasion being the first visit of Miss Pearl Hall, the missionary to Mexico, who is sent out by Main street church. The visiting societies showered Miss Hall with gifts of all kinds suitable for her work. Miss Hall made a graceful little speech of thanks. Mrs. C. T. Womack, of Martinsville, who has a beautiful voice, was asked to give several selections. Yellow and white were the colors carried out in the decorations and in the ice served.

Miss Hall will take up her work in Mexico on October 1.

Martinsville Bulletin, 1924.

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 - For Advice on When to Claim Social Security

Dear Rusty: I could use some advice on whether or not I should start collecting my Social Security benefits now. I am 67 and 3 months old, and plan to continue working for at least for the next year or two. Signed: *Seeking Answers*

Dear Seeking: Deciding when to claim Social Security is, indeed, an important decision, as it will affect you for the rest of your life. Mainly, deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefit should consider your financial needs, but your life expectancy and marital status are equally important.

At your current age (past your full retirement age of 66 years & six months) you are already earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .677% higher benefit for each month you continue to delay. That adds up to an additional 8% benefit for each full year you wait beyond your FRA to claim, and that growth will continue until you are 70 years

old. At that point, your benefit will be 28% higher than it would have been at your full retirement age (FRA). If you expect to achieve about "average" life expectancy (about 84 for a man your current age), then waiting until 70 to claim will get you both a higher monthly amount and the most you can get in cumulative lifetime benefits. Waiting, however, only makes sense if you expect at least average longevity. If your health is poor and you have reason to believe you won't live to the "average," then claiming earlier makes more sense. FYI, you may find this tool helpful to determine your potential life expectancy: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>.

You can, of course, simply delay claiming for as long as you are still working, and then file for benefits at that time. When your paychecks stop is frequently the best time to start your SS benefits (to supplement the lost work income). And, if you are married and your wife will be entitled to a survivor benefit from you, then waiting longer to claim enhances the benefit your surviving spouse receives at your death (your surviving spouse would

get your benefit amount, instead of her own smaller amount). If that is a consideration, then waiting - at least until you stop working (or age 70 if feasible) is often a prudent choice.

So, the choice is yours to make, considering your financial needs, life expectancy, and marital status. You no longer need to worry about Social Security's annual earnings test (for those collecting benefits before their FRA) but, if it is financially feasible, waiting still longer will mean a higher monthly benefit for the rest of your life.

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.

Canning and Nutrition

When people think about canning, one question that is frequently brought up is nutrition. Many people are aware that the canning process decreases the nutrients found in the food. While it is true that canning reduces the levels of some nutrients, we often overstate the loss. Canned foods can still be very healthy.

The truth is, all foods begin to lose vitamins once they are picked. In many foods, half the vitamins may be lost within a few days unless the produce is cooled or preserved. Even in the refrigerator, produce may lose half its vitamins within a week or two.[1] Even though the canning process does decrease vitamin levels, those vitamins may have been lost anyway before the foods were consumed. The real question in regards to nutrition is how fresh a food is when you buy it or if it was canned or frozen while it was still fresh.

In terms of actual vitamins lost, the heating process typically destroys one-third to one-half of vitamins A, C, and some B vitamins. The exact numbers really depend on the food being canned. However, once canned, the loss of these nutrients is minimal and estimated to be 5 to 20 percent per year.[2] Other nutrients are not strongly affected by heat and will have only slightly lower amounts than fresh produce.

The real key to healthy canning is speed. You want to can produce when it is fresh. For most fruits and vegetables, the ideal time would be within 6 to 12 hours from picking. If you are unable to can them right away, you need to store them in a cool, dark place (like a cellar or refrigerator). However, for best quality, apricots, nectarines, peaches, pears, and

plums should be ripened for one or two days before canning.[3]

Another common health question involves sugar. People are often shocked when they see the high amounts of sugar or salt some recipes require. While we definitely recommend cutting down your consumption of these products, they do have their purpose in canning. This means eliminating them is often easier said than done.

Through osmosis, sugar or salt replace some of the water present in a fruit or vegetable (thus, dehydrating the food). This process reduces oxidation and aids in the preservation of a food's natural texture, shape, and color. Sugar or salt molecules in solution also decrease the water activity (sometimes notated: aw) in the food.[4] Having less "active water" available inhibits the growth of potentially harmful microbes.

Artificial sweeteners are chemically quite different than sugar and do not act the same way as sugar does in water. So, a strait substitution of sugar in a recipe is not likely to turn out well. However, many stores now sell low-methoxyl pectins which allow you to use less sugar than you would with a regular pectin. This works because low methoxyl pectins rely on calcium, rather than sugar, to get jams to set. If you search online, you will also find various low or no sugar canning recipes. Some recipes—and some foods—will work better than others.

While sugar is commonly added to foods that are naturally sweet, salt is more typically added to savory foods. In these recipes, salt performs the same functions as sugar, but the taste is more complemen-

tary. When you are choosing a recipe, salt and sugar content is something to keep an eye on. Choosing a healthy recipe is the most straightforward way to control your intake of these products.

You can reduce your intake of sugar and salt from canned products in a few ways. For fruits, you can discard the water or syrup in the can and eat only the fruit. (Of course, this will not work with jams.) For vegetable products canned with salt, most of the salt can be removed by rinsing the vegetable with clean water. If they taste too plain after this, you can always add a dash of fresh salt. The salt you add will be quite a bit less than there was before rinsing.

We hope this cleared up any questions you may have had regarding canning and nutrition. Canned foods can be very nutritious and can certainly be part of a healthy diet. Remember, it is the freshness of a food when it is consumed, canned, or frozen that has the largest impact on that food's nutrient content.

References:

[1]"Canning Basics 1: Introduction." University of Minnesota Extension.

[2]Ibid.

[3]"Ensuring High Quality Canned Foods." University of Minnesota Extension.

[4]"How Do Salt and Sugar Prevent Microbial Spoilage?" <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-do-salt-and-sugar-pre/>.

(Contributed by Betty Dean. Written by Jon Ewald, MD. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

Wallace, Buescher face Playoff heartbreak after regular-season finale at Darlington

By Holly Cain
NASCAR Wire Service

Basketball great Michael Jordan sat on the Darlington (S.C.) Raceway pit wall Sunday night watching his 23XI Racing driver Bubba Wallace contend for a 2024 Playoff position in the late laps of the regular season finale, Cook Out Southern 500. Jordan had offered philosophical advice for the all-important evening and shown his support for the 30-year-old talent all year.

A little farther down pit road, Chris Buescher's Roush Fenway Keselowski team was equally on edge having rallied and delivered all night for its driver – despite trying circumstances – needing to beat Wallace to earn that 16th and final Playoff position to race for the NASCAR Cup Series championship.

In the end, it was a brand-new season winner, Chase Briscoe that will instead take a Playoff position, meaning that instead of three drivers, only two (Martin Truex Jr. and Ty Gibbs) advanced to Playoff contention based on points earned. A first-time winner meant instead of claiming a points position, Buescher and Wallace were just below the elimination line despite eventful and emotional nights for both.

The first person to green Buescher at his dinged-up No. 17 RFK Ford on pit lane post-race was team co-owner and fellow driver Brad Keselowski. The two shook hands and shared a short private exchange before Keselowski looked at the nearby scoring screen to see exactly how close his teammate had come to a title chance.

"It takes a whole season to put these things together and we came up a little short," Keselowski said before stepping away.



Michael Jordan, NBA Hall of Famer and co-owner of 23XI Racing looks on during the NASCAR Cup Series Cook Out Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway on September 01, 2024 in Darlington, South Carolina. (Photo by Jared C. Tilton/Getty Images)

Although Buescher finished fifth and had kept himself in that final transfer points position for most of the night, contact with Todd Gilliland's Front Row Motorsports Ford slammed Buescher's Mustang into the wall bringing out a caution with only 45 of the 367 laps remaining.

The RFK team made repairs, but Buescher returned to the track in a much tighter points situation than he had been in all night. If there had not been a new winner – or a Wallace win - Buescher only needed to finish within 12 positions of Wallace to secure the final Playoff position. And for most of the night, he was on track for that. Wallace finished 16th.

But Briscoe took the lead with 26 laps remaining – essentially negating both Buescher and Wallace efforts.

"We knew we needed to get to the end of the night and we'd get better and pretty much what we

did, started coming around and had good speed there at the end," a disappointed Buescher explained, leaning on his car. "But I got fenced there and had to come fix it and put tires on and it got us off sequence. Didn't even hit anything in the big wreck but just a roller coaster of a night.

"Can't control everything, right," he continued. "Tried to control what we could and it wasn't enough. To come back and get a really good finish out of it is great, just wasn't working out with the way the rest of the race played back. We'll go back and watch it and see how it unfolded, ultimately, just didn't get it done this year."

Wallace was similarly disheartened, standing by his car while race winner Briscoe celebrated by spinning donuts on the front stretch, his team cheering nearby.

Late in the race with Wallace still contending for the Playoff position,

Jordan smiled and shared with a live USA Network race audience that he was "absolutely terrified" sitting and watching all the drama from the pits.

"But that's what NASCAR's all about, I enjoy it," Jordan said. "I don't have basketball anymore but this could replace it very easily. It's exciting.

"Everybody wants something but something don't come for free," he said of the advice he gave Wallace before the race. "If you want more, it's going to cost more that means you have to put the effort in there. He understands that."

It certainly wasn't for a lack of effort Sunday night. Wallace won the pole position for the race and led 37 laps – second only to Kyle Larson's massive 263 laps led total. More than race winner Briscoe's 26.

But Wallace's No. 23 Toyota suffered damage in a multi-car accident with only 22 laps remaining and he could not get back ahead of Buescher, where he had been for much of the night.

"We weren't good enough, simple as that; last two-thirds of the race I said I hope the 11 (Denny Hamlin) and 5 (Kyle Larson) stay up there because the 14 (Briscoe) is fast," Wallace said, noting Hamlin and Larson had already won races and would not have bumped that third points position as Briscoe's win did.

"Who won? The goal post moved again. They were better and deserving so congrats to the 14. We come back tomorrow and gotta hit it harder than we did. That's sports. You go up and down and round and round. Gotta put this weekend behind and put the disappointment behind of not making the Playoffs and go give your all for the next 10 [races]."

Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis
Cougar Volleyball Opens Season With Two Wins

Patrick County opened its regular season on August 27, defeating Bassett in 3 sets, 25-9, 25-20, 25-22. Camille Gonzalez had 20 assists for the Cougars. Jayden Callahan had 6 kills, and Chloe Hubbard had 5 kills. Lilly Hazelwood and Sydney Tatum had 5 kills and 4 blocks each. Journey Moore had 5 aces, 3 kills, and 8 digs.

The Lady Cougars traveled to

JV Volleyball Gets Two Wins

The JV Cougar Volleyball Team defeated Bassett, Thursday, August 27, in 2 sets, 25-13 and 25-20. Arionna Catron had 3 kills and 10 aces. Kendra Penn had 3 kills. Mariah Scott had 5 assists and 5 aces, and Meredith Wood had 3 aces.

JV Golf Wins Two and Loses One

The JV Golf Team hosted Floyd County at the Gordon Trent Golf Club on August 19. The Cougars shot a 179, and Floyd shot a 203. Anderson Brim led the Cougars with a score of 38. Ben Joyce and Caleb Joyce shot a 44 each. Laine Errichetti shot 49.

On August 27, the Cougars traveled to Olde Mill Golf Club, defeating Carroll County with a score

Dan River Thursday, August 29, winning in straight sets, 25-14, 25-23, 25-9. Jayden Callahan had 13 kills. Gonzalez had 24 assists and 4 kills. Hazelwood had 5 kills, 2 assists, 8 digs, and 2 aces. Moore had 8 digs, 4 kills, and 5 assists. Madison Scott had 4 aces and 5 digs.

The Lady Cougars are now 2-0 on the season.

The Lady Cougars got a win over Dan River on the road, Thursday, August 29, winning 2-0. Catron had 6 kills. Brooklyn Barner had 4 kills. Penn had 4 kills and 3 aces. Jenna Woods had 12 digs, Scott had 12 assists, and Maddy Martin had 3 aces.

Of 194-198. Brim shot a 44, Reid Corns shot a 47, Ben Joyce shot a 49, and Erichetti shot a 54.

Patrick County hosted Franklin County on August 28. Franklin County got the win over the Cougars 179-184. Ben Joyce shot 43 to lead the Cougars. Brim shot 46, Caleb Vaughn shot 47, and Ayden Slate shot 48.

CDC issues health advisory for viral disease

Clinicians are warned to be on the lookout for cases of Oropouche, a viral disease spread by small flies and certain mosquitoes that causes sudden fever, severe headaches and chills. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a health advisory about the virus to notify public health authorities about an increase of the virus after travel-related cases were identified in the U.S.

The virus originated from endemic areas in the Amazon basin and new areas in South America and the Caribbean. Between January 1 and August 1, more than 8,000 cases were reported, including two deaths and five cases of vertical transmission associated with fetal death or congenital abnormalities.

Countries reporting cases include Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Co-

lombia, and Cuba.

In the U.S. and Europe in 2024, travel-associated cases have been identified in travelers returning from Cuba and Brazil. As testing and surveillance for Oropouche virus disease increase in the U.S., reports of cases from additional countries are expected.

The Health Advisory advises evaluating and testing travelers who have been in impacted areas with signs and symptoms consistent with Oropouche virus infection. It also raises awareness of the possible risk of vertical transmission (e.g., from gestational parent to fetus during pregnancy) and associated adverse effects on pregnancy and highlights prevention measures to mitigate additional spread of the virus and potential importation into unaffected areas, including the United States, according to the CDC.

Continued claims increase, initial claims down

The 2,185 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending August 24, 2024, were 19.1 percent lower than last week's 2,702 claims and 21.3 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,777), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 83 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (258); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (256); Health Care and Social Assistance (189); Retail Trade (186); and Manufacturing (178).

Continued weeks claims (16,311) were 0.1 percent higher than last week (16,290) and were 23.0 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (13,258). Nearly 93 percent of claimants

self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,494); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,196); Manufacturing (1,579); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,505); and Retail Trade (1,279).

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.

Health Briefs

According to the West Piedmont Health District:

- The FDA has approved new coronavirus vaccines. The shots, made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, are tailored for the KP.2 variant, which, along with closely related strains, is causing most recent COVID cases. Everyone 6 months and older should get the shots, the CDC recommends. Health officials encourage annual vaccination as the virus evolves and our immunity to it wanes.

- The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the first at-home syphilis test as cases of the bacterial infection surge. Manufacturer NowDiagnostics expects the 15-minute test to be available in pharmacies,

major retailers and online by September. The company said it plans to work with federal, state and local health officials to make the tests available free at clinics and health departments.

- Monkeypox, or MPOX, cases are on the rise. To keep people safe, Virginia is offering vaccines that will be offered across the commonwealth, including the West Piedmont Health District. It's important for individuals who are potentially at risk to go ahead and get vaccinated, and to be sure to get both doses of the two-dose series. Appointments are required at WPHD health departments (Martinsville, Rocky Mount, and Stuart). Visit the CDC MPOX Vaccine Locator online at <https://mpoxvaccine.cdc.gov/>.

Crossing the Lines

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

SOL results are 'mixed bag' of progress



Dr. Zebedee Talley addressed Martinsville High School graduates last year. (Contributed)

Although Henry County and Martinsville City schools performed lower than the state averages on the 2023-2024 Standards of Learning (SOLs), students are gaining ground.

In Henry County, the SOL score for reading was 68 and a writing score was not received as of August 26. The state average for reading was five points higher at 73, and writing was 76.

The division scored 58 in history, and the state average was 65. In mathematics, county schools scored 66. The state average is 71. Science received a score of 59, and the state average was almost 10 points higher at 68.

However, the 2023-2024 SOL scores are an improvement from the 2022-2023 scores. In reading the division's score increased three points from 65 to 68.

In writing, the school system's score was 41 for 2022-2023. There is no score for this current year, but the 2021-2022 score was 50, or a nine percent drop.

The history score in county schools dropped three points, from 61 to 58, but it improved by one point in mathematics. The division has also maintained an SOL score of 59 for the past three school years.

County Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis said the school division's teachers, support staff and school-based leadership should be commended for their hard work and dedication to students.

"Our division staff prioritized collaboration within our schools this year, and our students have made great strides in a full return to in-person learning. We know that recovery from the pandemic is a long road, but we are continuing to focus on the foundational skills that will promote student success as we move forward," she said.

"We had some great points and it's a mixed bag," Martinsville Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley said of the city schools SOL scores. "We will have some areas where we



Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis addressed the Henry County School Board this summer.

will need some improvements."

In city schools, the reading average was 64 compared to the state average of 73, the writing average was not listed, and the mathematics scores were 61, or 10 points lower than the state average of 71.

In history, Martinsville schools scored 51 compared to the state average of 65, and 50 in science, 18 points lower than the state average.

These scores reflect a drop compared to the 2022-2023 SOL scores when history and mathematics averages were 53 and 63 respectively, and the science score was 53.

In reading, the average increased one point from 63 to 64, and the writing average was 40.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Dr. Angilee Downing said while the division's scores have not yet returned to its pre-pandemic levels of success, it is encouraged by student progress in key areas, particularly among economically disadvantaged students, English learners, and Black students.

"In Martinsville, these subgroups have matched or outperformed their peers statewide in" some areas. "Our rate of growth across the board mirrors that of the state, indicating that we are on the right track. Science in particular will continue to be an area of focus for us," she said.

Ride proceeds to benefit local center



(Photo by Dean Steele)

The 13th annual Bikers 4 Babies ride was held Saturday, with proceeds earmarked for the Pregnancy Care Center, in Martinsville. The event attracted both motorcycles and vehicles, with participants intent on raising awareness and soliciting donations for women experiencing crisis pregnancies.

The center offers free abortion clinic alternative services and support to women facing unplanned pregnancies to clients from Henry, Patrick and Franklin counties, the City of Martinsville and some areas of North Carolina. For more information, visit www.mhcbikersforbabies.com or call (the center at 276) 634-5433.

Energy plan approved in majority vote



The Henry County Board of Supervisors awarded the Community Connected Citizen Award to Miss Martinsville-Henry County Teen Meagan Durham, and Miss Martinsville-Henry County Jenna Adams.

A majority of the Henry County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt the Henry County Energy Action Plan as presented at an August 27 meeting.

Pam Cobler cast the dissenting ballot in the 5-1 tally.

"There were things in the plan that at this time I couldn't approve," Cobler, of the Reed Creek District, said.

County Administrator Dale Waggoner explained that "localities are encouraged to have a plan in place in order to apply for certain federal

grants that could help and approve the chance of getting certain federal and state grants in the future."

Public Information Officer Brandon Martin and George Mason University (GMU) worked to craft the draft plan, which was presented in May, and then posted to the county's website for public input, Waggoner said, adding residents were encouraged to comment. The county received a few comments, and in the majority of cases, was able to answer specific questions.

Council learns city's fund balance has increased

At its meeting Tuesday, Martinsville City Council members learned the city's total fund balance has grown by \$2.8 million, from \$6.2 to \$9 million, during a report about the capital plan provided by Ben Wilson, associate vice president at Davenport & Company LLC.

The city's operating revenues have exceeded operating expenditure in the past three years. Its existing tax supported debt profile is \$5,165,568 for the schools, and \$546,847 for the city. The city has fixed interest rates that should pay off in about 8 years at a ratio of 100 percent, Wilson said.

There are 34 rated cities and towns in Virginia, Wilson said, and "there are no localities in Virginia that are rated below an A.

The debt services versus expenditures ratio stood at 2.3 percent, with the existing debt-to-asset value at 0.7 percent, Wilson said. The



Ben Wilson, associate vice president at Davenport & Company LLC, presented information about the city's financial status at a meeting Tuesday.

real estate assessed value of Martinsville is \$651,746,786, with a debt-assessed limit value of 10 percent, which places Martinsville way below the legal debt limit.

Historic Collinsville Buffet Reopens at Dutch Inn

The Quality Inn Dutch Inn, once a beloved dining destination, has reopened its historic brunch buffet under the leadership of 22-year-old Austin Boyd and his partner, Josh Haley. The duo, who own several local restaurants including Chopstix and the soon-to-open restaurant at Renewal Brewing, have breathed new life into the restaurant and buffet after it closed around 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This used to be the spot back in the day," Boyd said, reflecting on the establishment's rich history. "We have pictures from the 1940s."

He saw the potential in the brunch buffet and wanted to bring it back. Initially, Boyd and Haley were focused on their brewery project, but they were drawn to revitalize the Dutch Inn buffet after the brewery's owner suggested they take on the restaurant instead.



Austin Boyd stands next to the new Dutch Inn Restaurant's entrance.

Since its reopening, the brunch buffet has seen a positive reception from the community. Boyd mentioned that while there have been a few minor complaints, the overall response has been enthusiastic. "I think people are happy to see it back," he said.

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Lloyd Thomas Burge

Lloyd Thomas Burge, born on August 10, 1931, in Stuart, Virginia, passed away on August 23, 2024, at Sovah Health Martinsville, Virginia. A lifelong resident of Martinsville, VA, Lloyd was the beloved son of the late Charlie A. Burge and Bessie Lawson Burge. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Paul D. Burge.



Lloyd served as a manager at Leggett, where his dedication and leadership left a lasting impact on those he worked with. A devout member of Aaron's Corner Primitive Baptist Church, his faith was a guiding force in his life.

A proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Lloyd served his country with honor. His love for music, especially the mandolin, which he began playing at the age of nine, was a lifelong passion. He was a true showman, delighting in performing for others and sharing the joy of bluegrass music. Lloyd cherished the time spent with family and friends, creating memories that will be treasured forever.

Lloyd is survived by his devoted wife of 73 years, Regina Burge. He also leaves behind two daughters, Sharon Kaye McCraw and her husband Mike, and Teresa Dodson and her husband Chad; a granddaughter, Crystal Mae Dodson; and

two great-granddaughters, Amillia Mae Dodson and Abigail Renee Dodson. He is also survived by his brother, John D. Burge, along with a host of other loving family members.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 12:30 PM at Bassett Funeral Service Chapel. The family received friends one hour prior to the service. Burial took place at Henry Memorial Park. Lloyd will be remembered for his love of music, his unwavering faith, and the deep love he had for his family and community. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.bassettfuneralservice.com. Bassett Funeral Service is serving the Burge family.

Our dearest Beverly May Collier passed peacefully at age 79 after a long battle fighting cancer. She was preceded in death by her parents Ira Quinby and Della May Collier, and brother Fayette Collier.

She is survived by her husband Don R. Johnson, brother Quinby Collier Jr., sister Betty Shaw (Harold), daughter Kimberly Cothran, son David Champion (Kristy), stepdaughters Jennifer Johnson-Spence, Monica Johnson-Parkhill (Michael), Anna Bowen, and Rebekah Williams (Kevin), nine grandchildren including Michael Cothran, Jr. (Michelle), Norah Cothran, Makayla Champion, Kyndall



Gray (Chase), Dalayni Champion, Madison Parkhill (Brooke), Merrick Parkhill, Ryan Williams, and Jacob Williams. Also surviving is her former husband, Ron Champion.

Beverly was born in Hampton, Virginia and graduated from the University of North Florida with both her Bachelor and Master degrees in Education. She was a lifetime educator and a principal in several schools.

Beverly had an ex-

tremely caring personality and was an advocate for social justice issues during her lifetime. She will continue to be in the hearts of those who knew and loved her and the legacy she created will continue in all those she touched.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Caliope Circus Creative Arts Center in Stuart, Virginia on October 5th, 2024 at 1pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent in her honor and memory to either the Equal Justice Initiative (eji.org), which works to end mass incarceration, excessive punishment, and racial inequality or to the Transitions Hospice Care (transitionslife-care.org).

Kay Jefferson Smith

Mrs. Kay Jefferson Smith, age 90, formerly of Smyth County, passed away Thursday, August 29, 2024, at Twelve Oaks Senior Living with her loving family by her side. Mrs. Smith was born in Patrick County, Virginia on April 11, 1934, to the late Dewey S. Jefferson and Carrie Anderson Jefferson. She was a very faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ throughout her life. Mrs. Smith retired as a 1st grade schoolteacher after 30 plus years in the Smyth County School System. She is survived by her loving daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Ted Brown; grandchildren and

their spouses, Aaron Teaters, Preston and Dannelle Teaters, Matthew Counts, Tyler and Grace Counts; great grandchildren, Olivia Teaters, Eloise Teaters; sister and brother-in-law, Tre-na and Bobby Martin; several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by her loving husband of 65 years, David Larry "Buddy" Smith; daughter, Joyce Marie Collins; brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Betty Jefferson. Funeral services will be held on Monday, September 2, 2024, at Bethel Presbyterian in Claudville, Virginia, at 2 PM with Pastor Kevin Easter offici-

ating. The family will receive friends on Monday, September 2, 2024, at the church from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. She will be laid to rest beside her husband in the church cemetery. The family would like to thank everyone for all their love and prayers during Mrs. Smith's sickness. Flowers will be accepted, or memorial donations may be made to The Gideons International PO Box 140800 Nashville, TN 37214 or one may pick up a donation card at Bethel Presbyterian Church. Moody's of Mount Airy is respectfully serving the Smith family. Online condolences may be made at www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Stuart man charged after pursuit

A Henry County Sheriff's Office deputy initiated a traffic stop August 24 on a 2006 silver Volkswagen on A.L. Philpott Hwy heading towards Patrick County. The driver allegedly disregarded the deputy's emergency lights and siren and accelerated speed. The driver of the vehicle allegedly was recklessly operating the vehicle and traveling at speeds well over 100mph. As the pursuit neared Gordon Trent Golf Course on A.L. Philpott Hwy., the deputy had an opportunity to use the Precision Immobilization Technique (P.I.T maneuver) to safely end the pursuit. The suspect vehicle tires lost traction and slid into a ditch in the median of the roadway. The driver of the Volkswagen was identified as Gary Lawrence Johnson, Jr., 54, of 3824 Big A School Road, Stuart. Johnson was wanted on an outstanding fail-to-appear

warrant out of Henry County. Johnson was also charged with felony eluding police - Henry County, driving without a license, expired inspection, fail to display tag, fictitious registration, and fail to signal in connection with the Aug. 24 incident. Johnson was taken into custody at the scene and held in Henry County Adult Detention Center with no bond. The investigation is ongoing, and anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Henry County Sheriff's Office at (276) 638-8751 or Crimestoppers at 63-CRIME (632-7463). The Crimestoppers Program offers rewards up to \$2,500 for information related to a crime. The nature of the crime and the substance of the information determine the amount of reward paid.

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PATRICK PULPITS

What Forgiveness Can Do

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

Luke 5:18 tells of a paralyzed man brought on his bed to Jesus by his friends. They had to let him down from the roof because of the heavy crowd in and outside the house.

The man was overjoyed, even though it was later when Jesus healed him of his paralysis. The freedom from sin through forgiveness was of primary importance to him.

Back in the early 1980's Frank and Elizabeth Morris received a phone call two days before Christmas telling them that 18-year-old Ted, their only child, had been in a bad accident.

Next day at the police station the Morris learned that the other driver, Tommy Pigage, was only slightly injured. At the time of the accident his blood-alcohol level was three times the legal limit.

duced to second-degree manslaughter. Months later he was sentenced to only five years' probation, with the stipulation that, should he violate probation, he would have to serve a 10-year jail term.

Later, at a meeting of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Elizabeth heard Tommy tell how he couldn't stop crying when he heard that Ted had died.

In spite of conflicting emotions, Elizabeth, a Christian, began visiting Tommy in jail. One day as they talked, he begged to be forgiven.

"I forgive you," Elizabeth responded, then added, "and I'd like you to forgive me for hating you."

On a subsequent visit Tommy told Elizabeth he wanted to stop drinking but couldn't. She assured him that he could with God's help.

On January 12, 1985 Tommy was baptized. Later he was released on probation. The Morris began taking him to their home and treating him like a son.

This is what can happen when we forgive, and are forgiven.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*James Ernest Humber, 53, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Aug. 16 with fail to appear. Deputy D. Celozzi made the arrest for Danville.

*Daryn D. Speas, 52, of Ararat, was charged Aug. 19 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services.

*Brad Thomas Adams Jr., 43, of Floyd, was charged Aug. 20 with fail to appear. Pulaski County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Amber Leigh Wyatt, 35, of Collinsville, was charged Aug. 20 with two counts of fail to appear.

*DeShaun Michael Hughes, 36, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 20 with probation violation.

*Kera Lynn Rogers, 19, of Hillsville, was charged Aug. 20 with one count each shoplifting and purchase or possess by person less than age 21.

*Jesse Lee Bowman, 20, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Aug. 20 with one count each shoplifting and purchase or possess by person less than age 21.

*Nikita Li' Lester, 38, of Ararat, was charged Aug. 20 with one count each fail to appear and fail to comply with terms of pretrial services.

*Jonathan Andrew Foley, 44, of Bassett, was charged Aug. 21 with two counts reckless driving. Sheriff Daniel M. Smith was the arresting officer.

*Joshua Daniel Perdue, 31, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 21 with assault.

Stuart, was charged Aug. 21 with assault. Senior Deputy M.L. Harris was the arresting officer.

*Justin Ryan Fain, 21, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 21 with one count each stalking, and strangle.

*Jennifer Michelle Ramsey, 28, of Bassett, was charged Aug. 21 with possess Sch. I or II drugs.

*Justin Wyatt Woodall, 43, of Claudville, was charged Aug. 21 with one count each possess Sch. I or II drugs, and drive while intoxicated.

*Jimmy Lee Stanley, 54, of Patrick Springs, was charged Aug. 22 with probation violation.

*Brittany Nicole Owens, 29, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 22 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services.

*Stacey Shelburn Rodgers, 48, of Bassett, was charged Aug. 23 with probation violation.

*James Robert Parker Jr., 58, of Patrick Springs, was charged Aug. 24 with driving on revoked license.

*Kristopher Michael Adams, 35, of Sandy Ridge, N.C., was charged Aug. 24 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services.

*Anthony Clinton Slover, 47, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 26 with one count each abduction by force, destroy telephone, prevent help, pointing/brandishing firearm, and use firearm in commission of felony.

*William Robert Blackwell, 33, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 26 with assault. Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

Va. residents can apply for free beekeeping equipment

What's all the buzz? The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is accepting applications for the 2024 Beehive Distribution Program.

The program provides free equipment for assembling new beehives to Virginia residents ages 18 and up.

Businesses, nonprofit organizations and government agencies are

not eligible to receive beehive units. Multiple individuals in a household with the same mailing address may apply to the program.

Recipients of beehive units must assemble the equipment and occupy it with a colony of honeybees within one year of receiving the equipment.

To learn more and apply, visit vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-beehive-distribution-program.shtml.

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?
3. In His first recorded miracle, what did Jesus turn into wine?
4. From 1 Chronicles, what king was buried with his sons under an oak tree?

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/triviaguy.

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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?

Crossword grid with numbered squares indicating starting points for words.

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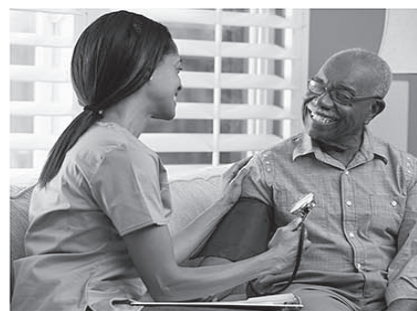
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New doctor joins Northern Orthopaedics team

Northern Regional Hospital is delighted to announce the addition of Dr. Jared Sanderford brings expertise and a deep commitment to patient-centered orthopaedic care to the Northern Orthopaedics team, according to a release from Northern Regional Hospital.

Born in Galveston, TX, and primarily raised in Greeley, CO, Dr. Sanderford's journey into healthcare was inspired by his father, a physician whose dedication to the community left a lasting impression. He earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Rocky Vista University in Parker, CO, following a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences from Colorado State University. Dr. Sanderford completed his Orthopaedic Surgical Residency at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis, OR, where he honed his surgical skills and commitment to compassionate patient care. He further specialized by completing his fellowship in sports medicine at the University of New Mexico.

"I was drawn to orthopaedic surgery because of the tangible, life-long improvements it brings to people's lives," said Dr. Sanderford. "I believe in total orthopedic care, addressing not only physical needs but also spiritual and emotional well-being, ensuring patients feel heard, respected, and confident in their treatment plans."

Dr. Sanderford is eager to join Northern Orthopaedics, citing the supportive and familial atmosphere as a key factor in his decision. "The collegial relationships and deep friendships within Northern Regional Hospital are exceptional," he



Dr. Jared Sanderford

added. "I look forward to contributing to this outstanding team and serving the community of Mount Airy."

Beyond medicine, Dr. Sanderford enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, camping, fishing, and hunting. He treasures spending time with his wife and two daughters, creating adventures and cherished memories.

Dr. Sanderford joins Dr. Williamson, Griffin Basile, PA-C, Jason Ferris, PA-C, and Alex Parker, PA-C.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Jared Sanderford to our Northern Orthopaedics team," said Dr. Williamson. "His dedication to comprehensive patient care and alignment with our hospital's values make him an invaluable addition to our healthcare family."

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Jared Sanderford, please visit Choose-Northern.org or contact Northern Orthopaedics at (336) 719-0011.

Floyd County among those recognized for excellence in local government programs

Floyd County was among the 45 recipients of the 2024 Achievement Awards, announced by the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo). The awards are designed to recognize excellence in local government programs. In total, VACo received 145 submissions.

Floyd County and its Floyd County Scattered Site Housing Rehab program captured the Best Small County Achievement Award while Montgomery County and its Sensory Museum program earned the Best Large County Achievement Award.

This year's judges were Charles Hartgrove, ICMA-CM, Managing Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; Dr. Sheryl Bailey, Visiting Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech, and former Chesterfield County Deputy County Administrator; and Canova Peterson, former Hanover County Supervisor.

Hartgrove said Floyd County's winning program reflects an important criterion for the VACo Achievement Awards – collaboration.

"Floyd County also tackled its housing challenge with an innovative program to rehab houses through broad collaboration," he said. "What started as volunteers doing urgent repairs on the weekend for neighbors has grown into 10 organizations coordinating and contributing to home

improvements around Floyd County. This is a replicable path in any rural county that is dedicated to improving housing."

Smyth County and its Smyth Grow program won this year's Best Achievement Award.

"Housing is currently a big issue in counties, and Smyth County has found a way to build 100 new homes for its workforce," Dr. Bailey said. "Beyond the revenues and social impact of 100 new homes, the program promises to stimulate economic growth by attracting new residents, bolstering local tax revenues, and supporting long-term community stability. The program also hopes to create a ripple effect of positive socioeconomic impacts, including enhanced educational opportunities, increased business retention, and improved quality of life for residents."

"Thank you to all who participated in the 22nd year of the Achievement Awards," VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. "Last year we received 135 submissions, which was then our highest total ever. This year 145 entries were submitted. The program continues to grow because our member counties continue to do innovative work and find solutions to problems. The VACo Achievement Awards is a celebration of the hard work, good decision making, and problem-solving skills of county staffs and leadership."



P&HCC Police Chief Gary Dove monitors traffic along Patriot Avenue during the first week of classes.

P&HCC Awarded State Police HEAT Grant

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) has been awarded a HEAT Program FY25 Equipment Reimbursement grant from the State Police for \$12,500. This grant will be used to enhance campus security through the installation of advanced surveillance camera equipment.

These state-of-the-art 4K cameras are equipped with license plate identification capabilities and are designed to withstand harsh outdoor conditions. The cameras will be strategically installed to monitor ingress and egress points on campus, including the main drive on Patriot Avenue and the campus's main parking lot.

The new equipment will significantly enhance the security and safety of P&HCC's campus by allowing the college to monitor traffic and identify stolen or wanted vehicles and persons.

"We are grateful for the support from the State Police HEAT Program," said P&HCC Chief of Police Gary Dove, adding, "Not only will this enhance the security and safety of P&HCC's campus, but it will also boost the security of the service region by allowing the campus to assist law enforcement in the city of Martinsville and Henry County as they work to ensure the safety of our broader community."

Ginseng harvest season now underway

Ginseng harvest season in the Commonwealth began Sept. 1, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) advises ginseng harvesters to be aware of the laws protecting this valued plant. Wild American ginseng is listed as a threatened species in Virginia and protected by international treaty, and VDACS is responsible for regulating ginseng harvest and sales in the Commonwealth.

American ginseng is a native slow-growing, shade-loving perennial that grows wild in Virginia's forests, particularly in the western and southwestern parts of the state. The root of the American ginseng plant is valued as a medicinal herb for a wide range of ailments. Anyone planning to harvest ginseng should be aware of the harvest regulations protecting this valued plant.

Wild ginseng harvest season begins on Sept. 1 and ends on Dec. 31 of each year. Wild ginseng cannot be harvested from Jan. 1 through Aug. 31.

Wild ginseng that is younger than five

years old, has fewer than four stem scars present on its rhizome or has fewer than three prongs cannot be harvested.

Any person who harvests wild ginseng must plant the seeds of the harvested plant at the harvest site at the time of harvest.

Ginseng collection is prohibited on most public lands in Virginia, including state and national parks and forests. On public lands where ginseng harvesting is allowed, diggers must obtain a permit from the appropriate office or agency before harvesting any ginseng. Collecting any portion of the plant, including the berries, for personal or commercial use from federal land is strictly prohibited. Anyone caught removing ginseng from federal lands may face a fine of up to \$5,000, six months in jail, or both. Violation of Virginia's wild ginseng harvest regulations is punishable by imprisonment for up to 12 months, up to a \$2,500 fine, or both.

Ginseng harvest regulations do not apply to individuals harvesting wild ginseng from their own land. Individuals harvesting ginseng from private property must obtain permission from the property owner

prior to plants being removed. Permission should be in writing and kept with the individual harvester at the time of harvest. Landowners are encouraged to observe the same size and age restrictions and seed planting guidelines to help ensure the continued, long-term viability of wild ginseng when ginseng digging occurs on their property.

Individuals shipping or transporting ginseng from Virginia in amounts of eight ounces or greater per calendar year must have the ginseng certified by VDACS. Wild ginseng is often exported to Asia and Europe, with market interest also occurring within the Commonwealth. Individuals buying or accepting ginseng to sell must obtain a license from VDACS.

During the 2023 season, approximately 1,700 pounds of wild ginseng roots were harvested in Virginia, with a value of nearly \$1.2 million. It takes between 250 and 300 roots to acquire one pound of wild ginseng.

Visit www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-ginseng.shtml for more information or contact Keith Tignor at 804.786.3515 or keith.tignor@vdacs.virginia.gov.

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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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to 15.2-1800 of the Code of Virginia, the Council of the Town of Stuart will hold a public hearing at its regular Town Council meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers at the Stuart Town Office at 100 Patrick Avenue in Stuart, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing is (1) to give the public notice of the Town's intention to convey certain interests in land, and (2) to receive comment thereon by the public.

First, the Town proposes to convey, *gratis*, to the Patrick County Public Service Authority, that tract of 0.342 acre, more or less, and commonly known as the Campbell Farm Loop Pump Station, and bearing County PIN 4911-9-72.

Second, the Town proposes to convey, *gratis*, to the Patrick County Public Service Authority any interest the Town may have in that tract of 0.06 acre, more or less, and commonly known as the Rich Creek Pump Station, and being a portion of those lands bearing County PIN 4911-57.

The Mayor of Council may limit the time allotted to each speaker at the public hearing.

Christopher A. Corbett, Town Attorney
108 North Main Street
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Stuart, Virginia 24171
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ccorbett@cacorbettlaw.com

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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.

Monday, Sept. 16
The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall of the Frith Economic Development Center.

Tuesday, Sept. 17
The Patrick County Department of Social Services Advisory Board will hold a meeting at 3 p.m. in the community room of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

Wednesday, Sept. 18
Rescheduled Patrick County School Board meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the Patrick County School Board Office.

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

Events

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 will hold a movie night from 4-6 p.m. with Night at the Discovery Center. All are welcome. 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.

Tuesday, Sept. 10
Special visit from the American Red Cross Bloodmobile, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Hooker Building at Rotary Field. Those that donate blood will receive a free pass to the fair.

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

Saturday, Sept. 14
Day Camp 2024 - "The Game of Life," 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Springs of Life Camp & Retreat. Free to attend. Preregistration required at www.springsoflifecamp.org.

Sunday, Sept. 15
The Goard Family Reunion will be held at 1 p.m. at the Patrick Springs Fire Department.

Roger Wells will be in concert at 4 p.m. at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Patrick Springs. All are invited. A love offering will be taken.

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.

Tiered framework to replace school accreditation system

The Virginia Board of Education approved changing the current accreditation system to identify tiered supports that the state Department of Education (VDOE) will partner with schools to implement.

The four performance categories - Distinguished, On Track, Off Track, Needs Intensive Support - will replace the current accreditation system to have a clear accountability model through the new School Performance and Support Framework, according to a release from the VDOE.

The framework provides critical performance information by school, grade level, and federally identified student groups such as English Learners, Black Students, and students with disabilities. With the four categories, the new Framework clearly states how a school is performing and allows parents, families, and educators to have a better understanding of the successes and challenges present in their children's schools and clearly see who is growing towards mastery, who is meeting and exceeding grade level targets, and which schools are preparing students to be ready for their next phase of life.

Under the new framework, schools that are Distinguished will be spotlighted and elevated to share their evidence-based strategies, showing what's possible regardless of school size, geographic region, or student population. Schools who are struggling will be clearly identified to better receive targeted support and guidance to meaningfully improve.

Following nearly a year of public hearings, with 10 engagements last winter and 20 this spring bringing together more than 1,000 par-

ticipants to discuss the proposed Framework, as well as multiple rounds of public review of the Framework and additional public comment periods, the School Performance and Support Framework is designed to give parents, school leaders, and communities greater awareness of their schools' performance, as well as ensure VDOE works closely with school divisions and school principals on targeted tiered support designed to address individual school's specific improvement needs.

Throughout the regulatory process, Virginians were strongly in favor of the reforms being made by the board. For example:

- Nearly two-thirds of the comments supported the new proposed regulations.
- 85% of comments supported a continued focus on chronic absenteeism.
- Nearly 70% of the comments on weighting in the Framework were supportive of a higher weighting for mastery.
- 60% of the comments were supportive of including English Learners in the Framework results by reducing the number of semesters English Learners are excluded from the current five and a half years to including them after three semesters.

The federal government requires Virginia to identify the lowest 5% of performing schools in the state that need comprehensive support. These schools need intensive support and also receive additional federal monies to support their school improvement efforts. For school divisions with 10 or more schools identified for comprehensive support, or at least 40% of the schools identified for comprehensive or additional targeted support, local school boards will enter into a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the VDOE. The MOU is an agreement between the school division and VDOE to put plans and tiered supports in place to enable students to realize meaningful academic improvement while the public schools remain under the control and operation of their local school board.

Starting in the 2025/2026 school year, Accreditation status will be reserved only for operational compliance classification.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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SCC Announces 2024-2025 Faculty and Staff Awards

Surry Community College President, Dr. David Shockley, announced the 2024-2025 Faculty and Staff Awards during the Fall 2024 Faculty/Staff Meeting on August 20.

Mark Tucker, Athletic Director, received Surry Community College's Excellence in Teaching Award for 2024-2025, the highest faculty award given by SCC.

"It was a distinct pleasure to present Mark Tucker with the Excellence in Teaching Award," said Shockley. "Mark has dedicated many years of service to the students at Surry Community College as an instructor, coach, and athletic director. He works tirelessly to make sure that our students are given every opportunity to succeed. Mark has been a positive role model who has inspired and influenced thousands of students to achieve their hopes and dreams."

Cathy Wheeler, Biology Instructor, and Jessica "Jess" Lawrence, Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education, received the President's Award for Meritorious Teaching for 2024-2025.

Tony Martin, Senior Vice President of Financial Services, received Surry Community College's Distinguished Staff Award for 2024-2025, the highest staff award given by SCC.

"Tony Martin is an amazing Chief Financial Officer who is respected across the entire



The 2024-2025 Faculty Awards were presented by SCC President Dr. David Shockley during the Fall 2024 Faculty/Staff Meeting on August 20. Mark Tucker (center) was presented with the Excellence in Teaching Award. Cathy Wheeler (left) and Jessica "Jess" Lawrence (right), both received the President's Award for Meritorious Teaching.

North Carolina Community College System," Shockley said. "His hard work and dedication have been instrumental in Surry Community College's ability to navigate many financial storms while remaining financially strong. Tony is a blessing for the college and most deserving to be selected for the Distinguished Staff Award.



The 2024-2025 Staff Awards were presented by SCC President Dr. David Shockley during the Fall 2024 Faculty/Staff Meeting on August 20. Tony Martin (center) was presented with the Distinguished Staff Award. Emily Stroud (left) and Letitia "Tish" King (right) both received the President's Award for Meritorious Service.

Coordinator of Instruction, Emily Stroud, and Student Success Advisor, Letitia "Tish" King, received the President's Award for Meritorious Service for 2024-2025.

During the meeting, Dr. Yvonne Johnson, Dean of Health Sciences, was recognized for 20 years of full-time service at Surry Community College and received a commemorative pin.

Virginia man faces federal charges in connection with online threats against public officials

A federal grand jury in Charlottesville returned an indictment last week charging a Winchester, Virginia man with making online threats to kill, kidnap, or injure Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Barack Obama.

An indictment is merely an allegation and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

According to court documents, Frank Lucio Carillo, 66, is charged with 14 counts—five counts of making threats against Harris, five counts of interstate communications with a threat to kidnap or injure Harris, two counts of making threats against Obama and two counts of interstate communications with a threat to kidnap or injure Obama.

Allegations in court documents state that

Carillo used the social media platform GETTR to post thousands of messages using the name "joemadarats1." GETTR is publicly accessible, and users can post articles, statements, and links to other websites, as well as comment on and reply to other users' posts.

On July 27, FBI Phoenix received information concerning a threat made against an employee of the Maricopa County, Arizona, Recorder's Office that was made on GETTR by a user with the name "joemadarats1."

FBI searched the "joemadarats1" user account and discovered approximately 4,359 posts, comments, and replies made by the user targeting various public officials including, but not limited to Harris, and Obama

In a February 2024 post, "joemadarats1" said he had his "AR-15 LOCKED AND LOADED."

Authorities used GETTR subscriber information and other investigative methods to allege the "joemadarats1" username was used by Carillo at his residence in Winchester, Virginia.

On August 2, authorities at the FBI Richmond executed a search warrant at Carillo's home and allegedly seized a 9 mm pistol, an AR-15 rifle and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh and Stanley M. Meador, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Richmond Field Office made the announcement. The FBI in both Richmond, Virginia and Phoenix, Arizona, and the United States Secret Service are investigating the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean Welsh is prosecuting the case.

Ready-To-Eat Jerky Products Recalled

Hickory Hollow Jerky, a Eufaula, Ala., establishment, is recalling approximately 6,229 pounds of ready-to-eat jerky products that were produced without the benefit of federal inspection, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today.

The beef jerky and bacon jerky products were produced on various dates between Jan. 19, 2024-Aug. 21, 2024. The products were produced without the benefit of inspection by two different owners of the establishment. Ownership changed hands on June 11, 2024. The name of the establishment and the products have remained the same. The products subject to recall are listed here, and the prod-

uct labels can be viewed here.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number "EST. NO. 34550" inside the USDA mark of inspection. These items were shipped to retail locations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and through internet sales.

The problem was discovered during routine FSIS surveillance activities when it was determined that the establishment continued to produce these jerky products and label them with the USDA mark of inspection after requesting to voluntarily stop FSIS-inspection activities.

There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about a reaction should contact a healthcare provider.

The FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' pantries. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

The FSIS routinely conducts recall effec-

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

Consumers with questions about the recall can contact Charles O'Neill, current Co-Owner of Hickory Hollow Jerky at 262-745-5103 or HickoryHollowBeefJerky@gmail.com or Russ Robbins, previous owner of Hickory Hollow Jerky, at 334-695-5238 or hhjerky@gmail.com.

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

STEP, INC. AND VIRGINIA HOUSING OPENING WAITING LIST TO ACCEPT HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER APPLICATIONS

STEP, Inc. and Virginia Housing will open the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. The program will take applications ONLINE ONLY. The STEP waiting list area covers Bedford, Franklin, and Patrick counties.

Applicants will be able to apply beginning at 8:30 am on September 18th until 4:30 pm. The website to apply is virginiahousing.apply4housing.com.

Three hundred applicants who apply will be chosen randomly by lottery to be added to the waiting list. Not everyone who applies is added to the waiting list. Applicants will receive a confirmation number once their application is submitted indicating the application was received. Receiving a confirmation number does not guarantee you will be added to the waiting list. You apply using a laptop or desktop computer or mobile device. Anyone can apply on behalf of another applicant.

You may check to see if you were chosen in the lottery on September 23, 2024, by going to the following website: virginiahousing.apply4housing.com/status. You will not be able to check your status if you have previously applied to a Virginia Housing waiting list.

Applications will not be taken by phone, mail or in person. If the applicant is a person with a disability and they require an accommodation in order to apply, please contact the STEP staff for assistance to apply during the opening time period.

For more information about the application process, please contact STEP, Inc. at 540- 483-5142 ext. 3055 or visit www.virginiahousing.com.

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D	E	C	K	D	E	A	D	S	P	O	T	H	O	T	D	O	G	S

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Milepost Music brings live music to Mabry Mill in September

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

Erynn Marshall and Carl Jones will perform on Sunday, Sept. 1. The duo of multi-instrumentalists brings powerful fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and banjo playing to their sets. While rooted in traditional sounds, they stay true to their own muse by composing new, tradition-rooted music. Their song "Last Time on the Road" was featured on the Grammy award-winning album *Unleashed* by the Nashville Bluegrass Band.

The Slate Mountain Ramblers will perform on Sunday, Sept. 15. A family of old-time musicians from Mount Airy, N.C., the group performs at shows and dances, and competes at fiddlers' conventions. They have played internationally at the Austrian Alps Performing Arts Festival and



Slate Mountain Ramblers

in England. Band members are Richard Bowman (fiddle), Barbara Bowman (bass), Marsha Bowman Todd (clawhammer banjo), and Randy Hiatt (guitar).

Milepost Music concerts are held at Mabry Mill on the first and third Sundays of each month in



Erynn Marshall and Carl Jones

June, July, August, and September.

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

Visitors should bring a chair or blanket for seating. Food and drinks are allowed on site, but alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

The Smith River is the site of DRBA's First Saturday Paddle

You're invited to the Dan River Basin Association's (DRBA's) First Saturday Outing, September 7, on the Smith River.

Launching at the Mitchell Bridge Access, paddlers will float 7.5 miles, taking out on private property, with the owner's permission, close to Morgan Ford Bridge near Sandy Level, Virginia. This scenic section of the river is rated Class I, providing a leisurely float suitable for novice paddlers.

Meeting by 9 a.m. at the Mitchell Bridge Access on Mitchell Road, participants will unload boats and gear, sign waivers, and set the shuttle. Mark Bishop and Tom Taylor are co-coordinators for this outing.

Occasional small rapids or gravel shoals interrupt the flat-water in this quiet, remote section of the Smith. Half a mile below Whale Rock is Goodwin's Island near where Joseph Goodwin's mill stood in the 1700s. Another half mile brings the group to a gravel bar where Break Reed Ford allowed travelers to cross the river as late as

the 1920s.

Near the take-out is Morgan's Ford, used from about 1800. It was replaced by the first Morgan Ford Bridge, now marked by three stone piers about 20 feet high. In 1953 the current Morgan Ford Bridge, the last remaining steel truss bridge spanning the Smith River, was assembled from other structures—a perfect example of resource reuse.

Participants should dress in layers of quick-drying fabric, wear close-toed shoes, and be prepared to get wet. All are asked to provide boat, paddles, life jacket, lunch, water, and snacks.

To reach Mitchell Bridge Access from U.S. 58 in Virginia: At Axton, turn south onto Axton Road (County Road 610). Drive 1.6 miles. Turn right onto Barker Road (County Road 622). Drive 3.1 miles. At Irisburg, continue straight onto Mitchell Road (County Road 636). Drive 3.8 miles to the access on the right just before the bridge.

From Eden, N.C.: Take NC 14/87 (Van Buren Road) north

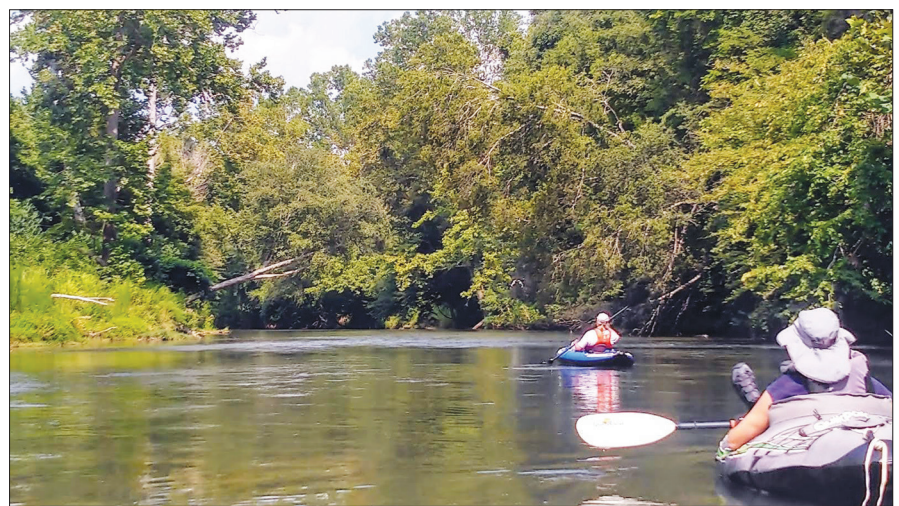


Photo courtesy of DRBA

into Virginia for 1.6 miles. Turn right onto Farmbrook Road. Drive 0.4 miles, and turn left onto Old Leaksville Road (County Road 1013). Drive 1.6 miles, and turn right onto Mitchell Road (County Road 636). Drive 4.5 miles to the access on the left just beyond the bridge.

From Ridgeway, VA: Take VA 87 south. Turn left onto Old Leaksville Road (County Road 1013). Drive 1.2 miles, and turn left onto Mitchell Road (County Road 636). Drive 4.5 miles to the

access on the left just beyond the bridge.

Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge.

For more information about the outing, contact Mark Bishop at 336-634-9744; mark@spraycotton.com or Tom Taylor at 336-402-6100, tnt2703@yahoo.com.

For information about the Dan River Basin Association, visit www.danriver.org.

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Updated guideline aims to strengthen claims on meat, poultry labels

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an updated guideline that makes recommendations to strengthen the documentation that supports animal-raising or environment-related claims on meat or poultry product labeling. Today's action builds on the significant work USDA has already undertaken to protect consumers from false and misleading labels and to implement President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American economy.

Animal-raising claims, such as "Raised Without Antibiotics," "Grass-Fed" and "Free-Range," and environment-related claims, such as "Raised using Regenerative Agriculture Practices" and "Climate-Friendly," are voluntary marketing claims that highlight certain aspects of how the source animals for meat and poultry products are raised or how the producer maintains or improves the land or otherwise implements environmentally sustainable practices. The documentation submitted by companies to support these claims is reviewed by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the claims can only be included on the labels of meat and poultry products sold to consumers after they are approved by the agency.

FSIS last updated its guideline on these claims in 2019.

In the updated guideline, FSIS strongly encourages the use of third-party certification to substantiate animal-raising or environment-related claims. Third-party certification of animal-raising or environment-related claims helps ensure that such claims are truthful and not misleading by having an independent organization verify that their standards are being met on the farm for the raising of animals and for environmental stewardship. The revised guideline also emphasizes more robust documentation for environment-related and animal-raising claims.

Additionally, the updated guideline recommends that establishments using "negative" antibiotic claims (e.g., "Raised Without Antibiotics" or "No Antibiotics Ever") implement routine sampling and testing programs to detect antibiotic use in animals prior to slaughter or obtain third-party certification that includes testing. The revisions were informed by sampling data, petitions, public comments to those petitions and feedback received from a wide range of stakeholders.

In light of concerns about negative antibiotic claims, FSIS announced last year that the agency would be conducting a study in partnership with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) to assess the veracity of these claims. FSIS collected liver and kidney samples from 196 eligible cattle at 84 slaughter establishments in 34 states, and ARS analyzed the samples using a method that targeted more than 180 veterinary drugs including various major classes of antibiotics. The study found antibiotic residues in approximately 20% of samples tested from the "Raised Without Antibiotics" market.

The FSIS and ARS will be publishing a peer-reviewed paper with complete results from the study in the near future. The study findings underscore the need for more rigorous substantiation of such claims. These sampling results may lead to additional testing by the agency. FSIS has the authority to collect samples any time it believes a product is mislabeled with any claim covered by the guidance. Moreover, FSIS may consider future additional actions, including random sampling and rulemaking, to further strengthen the substantiation of animal-raising and environment-related claims.

For more information, please view the *Federal Register* notice. The updated guideline will be open for public comment for 60 days after publishing in the *Federal Register*.

National Bee Day celebrated at Landmark



To celebrate the beauty and value of native bees Master Gardeners Jessica Hines and Norma Bozemayer led residents and some staff in a program on bees at Landmark. Mason bee behavior was discussed, and mason bee houses displayed. A bee brochure with bee facts and puzzles was also shared.

There are about 4,000 species of native bees in the United States, with about 400 species found in Virginia. All are environmentally beneficial and most

are non-aggressive (they are unlikely to sting you). Participants were treated to flowers from the pick and share garden in Stuart to make their own colorful pollinator arrangements.

SEPTEMBER		PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY						2024			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4	5	6						7
CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY	No Storytime	Walking Club 9:00			Chair Exercise 10:30	Family Movie 11:00 Honey I Shrink the Kids					
		Book Bingo 10:30									
		Yoga 1:15*									
	9	10	11	12	13						14
Yoga 10:00*	Storytime 10:30 Monster Trucks	Walking Club 9:00	Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00	Chair Exercise 10:30	Board Game Day						
Chair Exercise 1:30		Yoga 1:15*									
LEGO Club 4:00		Yoga 5:15*									
	16	17	18	19	20						21
Yoga 10:00*	No Storytime	Walking Club 9:00	Open Art Studio 1:00	Chair Exercise 10:30							
Chair Exercise 1:30		Library Board Meeting 12:00-2:00	Autumn Blends Program 2:30*								
LEGO Club 4:00		Yoga 5:15*	Sit & Stitch 11:00								
	23	24	25	26	27						28
Yoga 10:00*	Storytime 10:30 Birds*	Walking Club 9:00	Yoga 5:15*	Chair Exercise 10:30							
Chair Exercise 1:30		Yoga 1:15*									
LEGO Club 4:00	Books & Bakes 5:00										
	30										
Yoga 10:00*	Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. *Registration required. *is with Master Gardener's.										
Chair Exercise 1:30											
LEGO Club 4:00											

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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.

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.

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TERMS - Cash or approved check with proper ID. No warranties expressed or implied. All announcements made day of sale take precedence over all previous statements, written or verbal, concerning this auction. All items sold "as is-where is". 10% Buyer's Premium applies.

★ DIRECTIONS ★
FROM MARTINSVILLE, VA - Take Hwy 58W, go 7 miles, Horsepasture Fire Dept. on left at corner of 58W & Rt. 687 (Snapstone Road). WATCH FOR SIGNS
FROM STUART, VA - Take Hwy 58E into Henry County, turn right on Rt. 687 (Snapstone Road), 1st road to right just past Old Country Store & Hillcrest Baptist Church. LOOK FOR SIGNS

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