

THE ENTERPRISE

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Classified

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

Board tables motion for second time

By Taylor Boyd

Supervisors tabled potentially increasing the Transient Occupancy Monday, September 9 meeting. The suggestion to increase the TOT from five percent to six perafter it was discovered the county needed an additional \$83,868 for required line items and an estimated \$68,719 for maintenance repairs.

\$152,587 in unexpected items, the board approved using some of its unrestricted reserves.

Doug Perry, chairman, and of the Smith River District, said the county's unrestricted reserves was enough to cover all the costs.

"We still have enough to be comfortable in our unrestricted rehave to act on anything right now. We did have some concerns" that ty were brought to us by residents,

want to increase what a tourist or The Patrick County Board of someone coming into the county would have to pay because we'd like them to come back, and bring Tax (TOT) by one percent at its friends, and give us a good thumbs up and encourage other people to come here," he said.

On the other hand, Perry said cent originally came up in July the average bed and breakfast in the area is about \$150 a night. He estimates one percent on the \$150 is an extra \$1.50 a night to the bill.

"We've got a lot of things coming up, a lot of things that have To pay for the estimated been pushed aside for a very long time to include the courthouse, to include investment in our rescue, especially talking about we have to get Station 8 into a home, having those ambulances sitting outside and running of the whole shift, that's not the best for ambulance or fuel," he said.

Perry also believes the board serve funds, so technically we don't needs to work to bring more business and industry to Patrick Coun-

"I think we might have butted "and other concerns were we didn't a few heads as to which business



Michael McGuinness will serve as the Scottie Hylton is the new Patrick County county's new Facilities Director.

"So, knowing that there's things in

Transfer Station Manager. ty, but there's certain things that to invest in, where does the money make a county attractive for busi- come from? Do we keep leaning on ness and industry to come in and property owners, or how does that

that takes money as well," he said. work? This is just a suggestion on (See Board of Supervisors p.3)



or industry to bring in the coun- the future that we're going to have

Members of the Stuart Town Council and Patrick County Board of Supervisors show off a check presented by U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner.

Town receives \$1.1 million for infrastructure upgrades

By Taylor Boyd

ed on September 14, to present the have that access to water," he said. Town of Stuart with a \$1.1 million

"You've got the only municipal system here in the county and Stuart," U.S. Sen. Mark Warner said at the check presentation ceremony held Saturday, at the Stuart Volunteer Fire Department. "My understanding, at least, is if you have a power outage, not only does that system shut down for Stuart, but it also shuts down across the whole county."

Warner added that he also thinks no one really focuses on the intricacies of water systems unless they are directly involved with it, or they turn on the faucet and water

sure that Stuart, and by extension all of Patrick County, has that re-

silience and backup so people in the A congressional delegation visit- event of shutdowns are still going to

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan check from the Congressionally Di- Griffith explained that funds from rected Spending Program for local Congressionally Directed Spendwater resilience and reliability up- ing are earmarked funds that federal representatives decide how to spend. "It's just directing that money out of what is already going to be spent. The money that we're an nouncing is something that we all worked on together, it's something that will affect this community in a positive way," he said.

Stuart Town Manager Bryce Simmons said the funds are allocated by congress to specific projects that are important to the security and well-being of local communities.

"This spending should be seen as an investment in the long-term function of the services and the infrastructure that our local governsupport for the citizens of the Town

(See Town Infrastructure p. 2)

doesn't come out. ment is tasked with providing. The What we are doing with this \$1.1 efforts to secure these funds deserve million of federal funds is making to be celebrated as clear, bipartisan

A pictorial look at the 70th annual Patrick County Agricultural Fair.

Above and below



Courtesy of Hubbard 1 Productions.

(See Above and Below p.2)

Wood named vice-chairman

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors selected Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, as vice chairman at its meeting Monday. The decision was made after a majority of the board approved a motion to not approve the August 12 and August 19 meeting minutes because the board's chairman and vice-chairman were listed in the meeting minutes.

Beginning in July, Doug Perry was listed as chairman and Steve Marshall was listed as vice chairman, according to Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District. But "I don't remember voting or picking the chairman and vice-chairman."

Perry, who was vice-chairman, began serving as the board's interim chairman when then-chairman Brandon Simmons' resigned in April, said he thought the board discussed the issue. But its order of he added.

succession is confusing. The way Perry said he remembered it, "it would be Peters Creek (District) that would be next in line in our order of succession for chair, but after Mr. Simmons stepped down, I would move into the chair and Mr. Marshall would take vicechair.

ment, and come January," when Perry said. the officers change, the board could

vote then to return to its traditional order of succession, Perry said.

"Whoever is next in line to be chairman serves as the vice-chairman," Kendrick said, adding that while the order is confusing, the vice-chairman post should have been filled by the Peters Creek representative – in this case, Wood.

"I guess everything got thrown out of kilter" when Simmons left, possibly before, Kendrick said.

"It's our discretion who we vote in," Perry said, noting that the board doesn't necessarily have to follow its standard order of succession. "I was remembering my first year that was Blue Ridge (as chairman), my second year was Mayo (River), then the third year was Dan River, and then it kicked over into me - which is Smith River. So that would naturally leave Peters Creek as next in line of succession,"

Perry noted that only three meetings are scheduled for the remainder of the year. He added that the board could leave the officers listed in place through the end of the year, and return to the regular order of succession in January.

"Then in January, the chairs change. Then we can get back in "I thought that was our agree- that line of succession if we care to,"

(See Vice-Chairman p. 5)

Marketplace breakfasts offered daily



Breakfast will be served from 8:30-9:30 a.m. every school day at the Marketplace, prepared by students in Culinary Arts classes.

By Taylor Boyd

Daily breakfast at the Marketplace in the Career & Technical Education (CTE) classroom behind the Patrick County School Board Office began on Monday,

September 9. Patrick County High School (PCHS) Assistant Principal/CTE Director Trey Cox said breakfasts are offered every school day

from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and will in-

clude coffee and pastries. A soft

opening of the program's lunch-

es was also held on Wednesday,

September 4, with school board office staff receiving pre-ordered salads and cupcakes.

"So, pretty much she has the class divided up into groups, a salad group, a chicken group, a group making the croutons. It was a pretty impressive showing, I'll give her credit for that," Cox said of the CTE teacher. Employees in the Patrick County Administration Building will most likely be the next group the culinary arts classes cater to, he

(See Marketplace p.2)

Town Infrastructure =

(cont. from page 1)



Members of congress talked with residents in Stuart about issues facing the community.

of Stuart and our larger service area of Patrick County," he said.

Noting that when Stuart has a water leak, he's often said, "it doesn't matter if you vote red, blue, green, or purple, the expectation is that the problem will be fixed and paid Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, for," and as a result, Simmons said it was only fitting to acknowledge that both Warner, D-Alexandria, and Griffith, R-Salem, supported the water resilience and reliability initiative for passage in the appropriations bill.

"This initiative looks to provide increased water and waste-water security for the residents of the community by developing backed up power systems for our existing water and waste-water infrastructure, and to complete the engineering needed to serve additional customers in town and along the highway 58 corridor," he said.

Simmons emphasized that it cannot be understated that the funds will help to keep the most critical infrastructure in the combined localities of Patrick County and the Town of Stuart operational during any real or perceived emergency situations.

"The Town of Stuart owns and maintains the only municipal water and waste-water treatment systems within the county, which serves the resents more than half of Stuart's high school (Patrick County High yearly budget, and without it, the



R-Salem, (left) and Sen. Mark Warner, D-Alexandira, (right), discuss chat during a ceremony Saturday.

community healthcare facilities, the designated emergency shelter, three separate industrial areas, and the area's largest volunteer fire department," he said.

Knowing that these facilities will be well-served even beyond his tenure as Town Manager is a blessing that's hard to describe, Simmons

Mayor Ray Weiland said the town is pleased to accept the \$1.1 million check that will help cover its ongoing infrastructure improvements.

"We know that this \$1.1 million investment of federal funding will continue to support water and waste-water infrastructure in Patrick County, and especially here in the Town of Stuart. Our town could not accomplish the many projects that we have completed over the years without this kind of funding help," he said.

The check, Weiland said, rep-School), two elementary schools, all town would not be able to afford the



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner addressed those gathered at a ceremony Saturday.

needed upgrades to its systems.

"Using state and federal funding opportunities for improvements, we have accomplished over the years giving our town a drinking water plant that continues to provide our community with an ample supply of clean and reliable drinking water, a waste-water plant that is now operating beautifully with modern equipment that guarantees our discharge in the Mayo River is cleaner than the actual river water," he said, adding the funding has also made possible the Stuart Fire Department building, Patrick & Henry Community College's (P&HCC) Gerald L. Baliles and Richard S. Reynolds, Sr. Learning Center, and other projects.

Weiland said many projects over the years have helped Stuart become better than it ever was.

"Senator Warner and Congressman Griffith - thank you both for working together to help rural communities across Virginia. This is how the government is supposed to work for the benefit of all the people,



Former Attorney General Mary Sue Terry with U.S. Sen. Mark Warner.

and not just the more densely populated parts of the county. We need your continued support in developing creative policies and funding for the public health and safety needs of rural Virginia," the mayor said.

James Houchins, the county's director of Economic Development and Tourism, said "It is wonderful to work with the town of Stuart, and we also know that all of the successes that you see happening in Stuart actually reflects on the County of Patrick.'

Houchins said one of his goals is for increased collaboration between the county and town, and he believes the project and check are steps in the right direction.

"We're very fortunate for it. There's a lot of other things that we're trying to get worked out. But again, having Washington (D.C.) on our side when it comes to infrastructure, when it comes to water and sewer, is very important because we know the infrastructure is what's important again for us to be able to grow," he said.

$oldsymbol{Above}$ and $oldsymbol{Below}$:

(cont. from page 1)









Midway barkers, food trucks, rides and other activities were part and parcel of the annual fair.

Affordable Health Screenings Coming to Stuart, Virginia

Stuart, Virginia - Residents living in and conditions with affordable screenings by Life around the Stuart, Virginia can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious

Line Screening. John D Hooker Memorial Building will host this community event on 10/1/2024. The site is located at 420 Woodland Drive in Stuart.

Screenings can check for:

The level of plaque buildup in your arter- on your age and risk ies, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, factors. Call 1-877stroke and overall vascular health.

HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels Diabetes risk

Kidney and thyroid function, and more Screenings are affordable and convenient. required. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based 237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration

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Pets of the Week





Hwy in Patrick Springs and is available for adoption. This black cat will be hard to see. He is neutered

and has an unregistered microchip. He was found on Goblintown Road. Someone must be missing him. Adoption fees are only \$10 and include spay/neu-

ter and a rabies vaccination. Visit the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) in person or view available pets on Facebook. Call the shelter at (276) 694-6259 for additional information.

Board of Supervisors =

(cont. from page 1)

moving forward into the future."

Before the board tabled the matter, Kurt Bozenmayer spoke about the potential increase, as he did at the August 12 meeting. Then, Bozenmayer said the board was asked to approve a one percent increase in the TOT to fund "recent exigencies."

The board tabled the proposal at the meeting following negative input from citizens, Bozen-

"On August 19, we were treated to a joint meeting between the board of supervisors and the Economic Development Authority (EDA). Among the presentations made by the county's consultants were proposals to develop the Patrick County incentive philosophy and to design and solicit a Hotel Market Study," he said.

Bozenmayer said he fails to see how increasing the TOT to fund recent needs could put an attractive spin on hotel market studies and incentive philosophies.

"To me, this proposal says, 'come to Patrick County, we want to pick your pocket to fund our inability to budget properly.' Please show your support for our tourism industry, and the local entrepreneurs who operate lodging, campgrounds, bed-and-breakfasts, etc. by leaving the Transient Occupancy Tax alone," he said.

In other matters, the board:

*Met the new Facilities Director Michael Mc-Guinness, who said "I'm here because I want to be in Patrick County, and I want to make a difference. Honestly, there's no place in the world I'd rather be and no position I'd rather have than here."

Originally from Pittsburg, McGuinness said he joined the U.S. Marine Corps the day he turned 17. He is married to his high school sweetheart and the couple have two children

"I'm driven to be the best, and I don't mean this to be rude, I'm not real concerned with

dard," he said.

for residents, the county as an entity, and to help save the county money, so taxpayers aren't stressed. In the two weeks he's been on the job, McGuinness said changes have been made that have benefited the county.

County Administrator Beth Simms "gave me a priority list that we're making progress ..., simple things like uniforms on employees. You know, they need to take pride in being part of Patrick County. That identifies them and gives them a purpose, and that behavior will build a culture that drives them to success as a team, meaning the county as a team," he said.

McGuinness said he told the team not to allow complacency to sneak in because one of their missions as public servants is to continuously seek self-improvement in ways to better serve residents.

"Changes are imminent, they always are. There will be no changes made just to make a change. A change will be made when it benefits our citizens and our great county with services or financially. I totally expect my department heads to complain and go behind closed doors to tell me it's not going to work, but at the end of the day I'll make that decision, and they'll execute," he said.

The purpose of upper-level management, McGuinness said, is to provide service to employees below him so they can provide the best service possible for the county. One of his goals for the next month is to talk with every board member to gain knowledge of the county, tour the county's facilities, note changes that are being made, and ask for their input on what he needs to be doing.

what other counties want to do, I want to set team. I closed my department head meeting members.

the standard in Patrick County, and I want with two ideas: I told them, you take your dithem to look at us and say, 'look at what they're rections, and you execute it. That's what I do doing down there.' We could be that gold stan- for Ms. Beth, she's my boss, I'm loyal to her. She tells me what to do and I do it, and she gets McGuinness' philosophy is to do what he can that direction from you," he said to the board.

*Was introduced to the new Patrick County Transfer Station Manager Scottie Hylton. A Patrick County native, Hylton said for the past 17 years he's worked for Stuart Flooring and Ten Oaks, with the last three as a team lead.

"My first two goals for the Transfer Station are improved communication between us and the citizens. For them to know when our closures, what household items are, what items are that need to be weighed, and general communication with a smile. Because there's times they will have to wait, and maybe an explanation why they're waiting," he said.

Hylton also wants to work on direction, particularly the signage and verbiage, to improve communication and continue in the safest way to get residents in and out. "Because I know going to that Transfer Station is not the highlight of anyone's day," he said.

*Heard an update from Chris Hughes, of Springs of Life Camp and Retreat, regarding the camp.

*Approved the non-discrimination policy for grant applications with noted changes.

*Discussed the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget calendar.

*Approved the bills, claims, and appropria-

*Heard the administrator's report.

*Heard the supervisors' reports.

*Appointed Robbie Overby to the EDA for the Peters Creek District. *Reappointed Scott Eustler to the Public

Service Authority (PSA) for the Peters Creek *Appointed Kendrick and Larry Cowley to

"That way I can better serve Beth and our $\,$ the Stormwater Board of Appeals as At-Large

Marketplace:

(cont. from page 1)



Wooden items made at Patrick County High School (PCHS) like bird houses, cell phone

holders, and tables are available for purchase at the marketplace.

is to have lunches sold twice a week. A start date has yet to be announced, but the idea is for the early week meal to be held on Tuesdays -- something on the lighter side like salads and quesadillas. The end of the week meal on Thursday will be something heavier, like pasta or a meat dish.

"Start the week light and give them more time to make a bigger meal" at the end of the week, he said of the class members.

Cox noted the culinary arts classes also plan to distribute a survey to get feedback from customers on the food and suggestions for future meals. Students will then use the suggestions to decide what meals to create for the following week.

"We don't want any overages. We run on a tight budget, and we just want to make sure we're not losing any money. I don't want them to make 74 dinners and only sell 16, so we have to send out the requests and get them to fill it back in in order for us to start making it for next week," Cox said.

Surveys will be sent out on Fridays and the necessary items will be purchased on Mondays. Cox added he has no doubt the it's being prepared by kids who culinary arts classes will be able are well-versed on every safety to mass produce the food needed to operate.

The Marketplace is entirely student-run, and Cox noted his only role is to collect the money who will then reconcile it.

and take it back to the students,

They had an ingredients per cost You can't teach interactions with

sheet up, and go by it to figure While the class is still work- out how much money they were ing out the kinks in the market- making on each salad, how much place, Cox said the current plan money they were making using the chicken, how much money they were making with the cupcakes and ingredients in this batch and that batch. They're doing it all," Cox said, adding students taking the lead was the purpose of the project.

> "They did the marketing. They've come up with flyers, they're doing that part as well. That's all part of the standards that go along with culinary," Cox said, and getting the Marketplace up and running has been a long process.

> "We wanted to make sure it was done right. Because they're not going to order it just because we're the school if it's not good," he said with a chuckle. "I wouldn't, I mean that's your money."

> He believes the prices are also reasonable, with lunches mostly between \$10-\$15.

"You pay that for a bad meal" from fast food restaurants, "which is not very good for you either," Cox said, adding that students in Culinary Arts II will be running the breakfasts. Those students are also already SERV Safe Manager certified.

"They can go and get a job anywhere as SERV Safe Manager, so rule," Cox said, adding the students have a lot of plans for the Marketplace, and he hopes it goes well.

"I hope we keep doing it because it is so great for the kids. They're getting on the job expe-"They'll do all the parts of it. rience, and we can't teach that.



Trey Cox brought Schools Superintendent Jason Wood the ordered salad lunches and cupcakes to distribute to staff in the School Board Office.



Patrick County High School (PCHS) Assistant Principal/CTE Director Trey Cox said the American flags made by PCHS students cost \$50 and are available in the Marketplace at the Patrick County School Board Office.

the public. You can't teach the things that they're having to do with the market and stuff, and dealing with the money," he said.

Students are also gaining experience just by being enrolled in the classes and being in the kitchen, Cox said, especially if they plan to enter the culinary field after high school.

"That's our job - to get them ready to leave and for them to find something to do when they leave. Mrs. Perry (PCHS Principal) says three things all the time, and I truly believe it with all my heart, you're either enrolled, enlisted, or employed when you leave here, and that's what we want," he said.

Wooden items like crates, tables. bird houses, American flags, cellphone holders and

made in CTE classes also will be

going to get some shelving in to



Administrative Assistant Superintendent Sara Leigh Collins enjoys the salad and cupcake prepared by PCHS culinary students.

house our plants and stuff from the greenhouse" so people "don't have to go to the school all the time, they can actually get them here," he said.

Cox said the wood for the tables were donated and the school "didn't spend a dime" for them. "They cut them out. The small ones are like \$40, and the bigger ones are \$80. They're heavy duty too. They're not light," he said.

Bird houses cost \$15, big phone holders are \$10, small phone holders are \$5, crates are \$15, and the American flags are \$50. Cox said the flags are a popular item, and it's challenging to keep them in stock.

We had a back order of like 16 last time I looked. People love them. It takes them (students) a little time to do them, but they're available for purchase. "We're just so nice and they're gonna last," he said.

VIEWPOINTS

The SAVE Act

Early voting starts on September 20th in Virginia, and because there is some discussion in the press about the SAVE Act, I want to detail my involvement with the bill.

The SAVE Act prohibits non-citfrom izens voting

by requiring states to obtain Act. proof-of-citizenship when registering individuals to vote in federal elections.

Earlier this year I was one of six Members of the House who quired to use their authority to voted to send the SAVE Act to the full House for consideration.

During the summer, I supported the SAVE Act when it came to the House floor. The legislation passed with bipartisan support, though most Democrats voted against it.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Senate has yet to consider the legisla-

Non-citizen voting is complicated by federal government efforts to have federal agencies register voters and become political getout-the-vote organizations, done on the order of someone who, at the time, was a candidate for president.

The Biden-Harris Administration directed executive agencies via Executive Order 14019 to work with local partners to register voters and turn out votes.

While the administration will tell you they are just protecting the vote, the involvement of numerous federal agencies is unprecedented.

Further, if their efforts are innocent, why haven't they responded to House Republicans' requests for the details of their strategic get-out-the-vote plans?

West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner testified before a House Administration Committee hearing to discuss his efforts to protect West Virginia elections. His state has removed 400,000 names from their voter rolls and implemented voter ID requirements.

Because of the federal Motor Voter law, every person applying hicles (DMV) receives a voter region ic candidates and causes. istration application. The various ship status before giving out the skirting campaign donation laws. voter registration application.

vote and apparently some of them fication value, or CVV. register to vote.

The same thing is likely to happen with federal agencies registering people with whom they come in contact.

I believe that is why the federal government has never done this before.

As far as I know, the agencies are not checking to see if a person they are dealing with is a citizen who is eligible to vote in federal elections before giving them voter registration forms.

From the non-citizen's view, the government encouraged them in order to ensure fair outcomes to register. Therefore, it must be and restore confidence in U.S. legal to vote!

That is why we need the SAVE



Morgan Griffith

Representative

The SAVE Act makes clear that non-citizens have no business voting in American elections.

Shouldn't U.S. states be reobtain proof-of-citizenship when registering people to vote in federal elections?

When non-citizens have the opportunity to register to vote, some will vote, diluting the voting power of actual American citizens.

Last year, in order to address non-citizen voting, I introduced the NO VOTE for Non-Citizens Act. If a locality wants non-citizens to vote in their local election, the bill would require separate voter rolls for local and federal elections.

This push to address non-citizen voting comes as a result of looking at weaknesses in American election administration and recent state actions cleaning voter rolls.

In August, Governor Youngkin made a critical step by issuing Executive Order 35. The order codified security procedures put into place during the Youngkin Administration, which included stringent ballot security, complete and thorough counting machine testing, and best-in-the-nation voter list maintenance.

Following the Executive Order, Youngkin Administration removed over 6,300 non-citizens from Virginia's voter rolls.

The integrity of our elections is also threatened by potential cheating via political entities.

House The Administration Committee, on which I serve, is investigating ActBlue, a website that raises campaign funds for Democratic candidates.

ActBlue collects campaign confor a driver's license with their tributions from donors and then state's Department of Motor Ve-sends funds to various Democrat-

According to whistleblower alstates' DMVs don't check citizen- legations, ActBlue is potentially

ActBlue allows donations Because they receive a regist through Paypal, Venmo, Google tration form from a government Pay, prepaid credit cards and gift agency, many non-citizens don't cards. These contribution methknow they are not supposed to ods do not check or use card veri-

> This failure makes manipulation and fraud by malicious actors easier.

> In August, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares sent a letter to ActBlue requesting more information on the platform's verification processes and procedures when assessing the legitimacy and accuracy of donor and contribution information.

> As of the date of this writing, the AG's investigation into Act-Blue is ongoing.

> Our elections must be secure elections. That is why I continue to support the SAVE Act.

Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy

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

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

Letters to the Editor

Fast forward to June 2025

The new President had delivered her inaugural speech and in subsequent months what had been unthinkable for many Americans happened. We should not have been surprised. The Democratic leadership had announced their goals years ago. In 2008 Obama promised to "fundamentally change" America. No reporters had asked what he meant exactly. On July 14, 2023, in Maryland and Ohio, Kamala had called for the US to "reduce population" in order to fight climate change.

In March of 2025, a central bank digital currency was introduced. Digital New Dollars replaced the dollar as legal tender, paying down some of the national debt by substituting New Dollars at 60% exchange rate for politically-favored races and 45% for disfavored races. Congressional approval (and thus the will of the people) for a Reparations Program was bypassed. Race riots ensued.

By the end of March, the BRICS nations fulfilled their promise. They dumped the Digital New Dollar as the world reserve currency. They, along with China, dumped US Treasury bonds, notes, and bills. The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged to 3000, virtually wiping out 401K and pension plans.

The price controls that Kamala had touted during her election campaign had instant effects by the end of April. The cartels that had crossed the southern border illegally now controlled thousands of black markets. They created false supply chain shortages sporadically, supplementing the naturally-occurring supply

chain shortages that always follow price controls. The political elite never lacked for anything, however.

The Administration's continued policy of identity politics spiked the crime rate again. The Administration's "solution" to the spike they had created was a mandatory firearms buy-back program. Ammunition sales were limited to the "re-imagined" new police and the new military, led by DEI-based promotions. The black markets increased their prices for firearms. Crimes involving knives and "blunt objects" soared.

By June, supply chain shortages, the Administration's refusal to rehire medical personnel who had lost their jobs by refusing to take COVID shots, the retirements of Baby Boomer-aged doctors, and the increasing demands for the "human right" of health care by illegal aliens, resulted in people dying for lack of medical care. Kamala's solution to fight climate change was

Enough of dystopia! Fast back to

By June 2025, there will be no time for a do over. If the unthinkable happens, will you regret that you did not register to vote? Will you regret your having fallen for the obvious attempt at re-imaging the Democratic candidate from her documented Marxist past? Will you regret that you did not vote for the Republican candidate, whose past term in office proved that his policies represented order, prosperity, and freedom, not a dystopian future? Act now. Vote and volunteer.

Joe Cadrin,

Stuart

Kamala Harris

(Fox, Daily Signal, The Federalist, MRCTV, American Action Forum, George Mason University, Tax Cuts and Job Act, Daily Signal, Washington Post, Bill O'Reilly)

In a recent Gallup poll, Americans are concerned about four issues: inflation, crime, immigration, and the economy. Biden/Harris has unequivocally failed on all four. If elected, nothing will change except Harris will be Biden on steroids.

During her 24 years as a Prosecutor in California she is on record for supporting the following:

Open borders.

Defunding police.

Removed ICE as an enforcement tool.

No cash bail.

Affirmative Action.

She had numerous ethical and constitutional violations that caused the dismissal of over 1,000 criminal drug cases.

Refused to file a death penalty case against a gang member who gunned down police officer.

Refused to help Catholic clergy with sexual abuse cases.

Raised money to bail violent rioters out of jail during 2020 riots.

Sent thousands of state prisoners back to communities.

As Vice President she is on the record supporting the following:

Fracking ban.

Gun restrictions.

Defunding police.

Medicare for all -- socialized medicine.

National ban on food prices – social-

Green New Deal.

Transgenders.

9/20

Men to access female locker rooms and bathrooms.

Men competing in women's sports. Against deporting illegal aliens. Increase the national minimum

wage to \$15. Decriminalizing marijuana at the

national level. Health coverage for illegal aliens.

No cash bail system.

Electric vehicle mandate.

Opposed the Border wall. As running for President, she is on the record for the following:

Increase small business taxes to 39.6%.

Increase corporate taxes to 28%. Increase capital gains taxes to

Increase the death tax to 25%.

An unrealized gains tax of 25%. Expanding subsidies for the Afford-

able Care Act. Increase Social Security benefits by

across the board tax. A tax on stock trades of 2% and bond trades of 1%.

\$25,000 downpayment for first time homebuvers.

Tax credit for builders of starter

homes. Tax credits for rental and housing

solutions.

Support of reparations by tax credit.

Government guaranteed jobs. A \$6,000 tax credit for first year of baby's life.

Increase Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Tax credit of \$3,000 for single filers and \$6,000 for joint filers. No tax on tips but tips would still be

subject to payroll taxes. A tax credit for those who earn less

than \$100,000 a year and spend more than 30% on rent and utilities.

Increase tax on stock buybacks from 1% to 4%.

Kamala's flip flops: That's where a dishonest paid politician wants power and is highly ambitious will say and do anything to get elected.

She no longer supports.

gun restrictions

Medicare for all

Electric vehicle mandate ban on fracking.

defunding police bail fund for rioters.

Opposition to Border wall

Her flip flops keep changing. She is

trying to buy votes. "Kamala has not abandoned her progressive ideals. She is being prag-

matic and doing what she thinks is right in order to win the election" -Bernie Sanders. Who will pay for the Harris tax and

free stuff plans? You will -increased

Pray for our country. William Salser,

Stuart

PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of Sept. 20-26:

1pm Golf vs Blacksburg H.S. and Floyd County

7pm Football at Chatham

9/26

7pm Volleyball vs Carroll County 7pm Volleyball at James River

Patrick Pioneers

Minnie Hooker Brown

By Beverly Belcher Woody

For the past two weeks, we have been visiting the Goblintown community. This week, we will venture a couple of miles over into the little mining town known as Fayerdale. Jack Williamson has done a wonderful job writing about the history of the Goblintown Grist Mill and the Fayerdale Iron Works and his information is easily accessible on the Internet. I recently came across a much lesser-known source of information on the town of Fayerdale in the form of a man named Horace Brown.

Horace Garland Brown was born in Pulaski, Tennessee on the 27th of July 1879. Horace was one of eleven children born to Salem, Virginia natives, dry goods merchant Joshua Callaway Brown and his wife, Mary Jane Williams Brown. In the 1900 census, Horace Brown is listed as a bookkeeper for a coal company in Roanoke. I will let Brown pick up the story from here, "I first went to Fayerdale in 1906. I was sent there by the Virginia Ore and Lumber Company as the company's storekeeper and payroll clerk. I had some experience in the coal mines of Welch, West Virginia and they picked me out for the job because the company was mining ore in Fayerdale."

In a Martinsville Bulletin interview with Brown in October 1948, Brown stated that Fayerdale was named by Mrs. Frank A. Hill, the wife of geological expert, president of the Red Jacket Coal Company, and the Virginia Ore and Lumber Company. Mrs. Hill had taken the "F" of her husband's first name, combined it with his middle name "Ayer" and added "Dale" in honor of Hill's business partner, Dale Lafferty.

Brown wrote that when he was first sent to Fayerdale, the mining company was set up with a \$300,000 investment of capital stock and the land known as the Sam Hairston tract was purchased for \$54,000. The adjoining acreage was known as the Watt Hairston tract and was managed by Ben Townes, who also managed Watt Hairston's 25,000 acres of cotton land in Mississippi.

When Brown first came to Fayerdale, the company told him that, on account of the low wages paid to the ore mine employees, they expected profit. Brown stated that, "On one oc- foreman. casion, I was invited to a home that did not even have a wood cookstove. The skillets were put directly into the fireplace. I did not wonder long at this lack of modernity as the people were hospitable and friendly and though education was limited, they possessed a native wit."

Brown wrote that in 1907, Mr. and

Fayerdale Residents-Horace and Mrs. C. V. Ferguson took over the operation of the Fayerdale Hotel, which was" well-run and well patronized." Charles Hagood was the hotel waiter and stable boss, and his wife Maggie was the hotel cook. I looked in the 1910 census, and Charles Hagood and Maggie Turner were listed as working and living at the Fayerdale Hotel along with Charles and Daisy Ferguson and their two sons, George and Robert Ferguson. A marriage record from December 29th, 1912, is recorded in the Henry County Circuit Court Clerk's office for Maggie Turner, daughter of Henry and Nancy Turner and Charles Hagood (Hagwood), the son of Ben and Eliza Hagood.

On the fifth of June 1907, Horace G. Brown married a local Elamsville girl, Miss Minnie Maude Hooker, the daughter of William Crawford Hooker and Mary Alice Ross Hooker. The couple would go on to have two children born in Fayerdale, William Calloway Brown, born in 1908 and Catherine Langhorne Brown, born in 1910.

Fayerdale was a booming little community, Brown recalls, "the first project of the mining company was to build a 12 mile stretch of standard gauge railroad from Philpott to Fayerdale." The cost of the grading alone was \$120,000, not to mention the two iron bridges and numerous wooden bridges, the rails, the passenger and freight cars, the locomotive purchased from Norfolk & Western, and the turntable to make the trip back to Philpott.

Brown recalls, "the company cut lumber to make cross-ties for the railroad. Later, the sale of tan bark and pulpwood became a profitable business." Brown and his family lived next door to Dr. Albert Lancaster, the mining company doctor. Within a short time of Brown coming to Fayerdale, there were over 400 men on the company payroll and "the lumber division and railroad construction had been let out to private contract and their joint payrolls ran to around 1,200 men."

The Fayerdale Schoolhouse was made of rock and the teacher was Miss Della Wood, later known as Mrs. Della Wood Harger, the daughter of Daniel Hillsman Wood and Malinda Ruth Corn Wood. Sunday School and church services were conducted at the school every week by Reverend Alexander Bryant. Reverend Bryant's son, H.O. Bryant was the station agent at him to sell to them at only a small Fayerdale and P. T. Setliff was mine

> When the mining operation in 1910-1911, Brown went to work managing his father in law's store in Elamsville; Brown was also working out of the store as the local postmaster. Brown recalled, "at Elamsville, we did a thriving business, so did I. M. Akers at Buffalo Ridge and W. G. Atkins at Woolwine. We handled



Horace and Minnie Brown's Fayerdale Home



Horace Brown and Fayerdale Hotel staff

poultry, butter, eggs, chestnuts, dried fruits, and walnut kernels. At times, the inventories were so heavy, it was necessary for all three of our stores to put props under the second story floor to keep the floor from caving in."

Brown recalled what happened next, "the roads at times were so bad that we couldn't get out of our areas to trade off the merchandise that we had accumulated from our suppliers. This often caused us to suffer losses, particularly in perishable goods. The merchants met to work for better county roads to get our produce out for shipment to Roanoke and Martinsville. Model-T Fords were just coming into favor, and it took seven gallons of gasoline just to travel up and over Bull Mountain."

We soon learned the county did not have money to build such a road, so the local merchants lent the county money (without interest) to build a road from Elamsville at Marsh Stone's place to the Henry County line. Credit for obtaining the right of way is due to W. C. Hooker; Jeff Ross; Elkanah Lackey; Daniel Hillsman; John T. Wood; Ben Mays; and Tump Spangler. If someone didn't have money, they lent their teams; later J. Minnie Hooker Brown, passed away D. Bassett and E. J. Davis, a Martins- in 1970 at the age of 86; they are ville tobacconist helped as they were anxious to trade with us."

According to Brown, the building of the new road did not benefit the Patrick County merchants as planned, "the intentions of us poor Patrick Countians were good. We had figured that the road would enable us to truck our freight to and from Martinsville,



Horace and Minnie Hooker Brown and William and Catherine. (Photos from Katherine H. Boaz)

but we had overlooked one thing. The people from whom we had been buying and to whom we had been selling took advantage of the road and delivered their produce in person to the larger trading centers. They said they could get higher prices in Bassett and Martinsville and had a wider assortment of things to choose from to bring home. This reduced our big businesses to slim pickings."

Brown eventually moved his young family to Martinsville and would work in a variety of service professions. After he left his father in law's country store in Elamsville, he worked as a caterer on Pullman and private cars on the Norfolk & Western Railway, then served as the store manager of Martinsville's Montgomery Ward Catalog Store for twelve years. When WWII broke out, he served the War Department as the PX Manager at Fort Pickett in Blackstone, Virginia. After the war, he returned to Martinsville and worked as the concessions manager at Forest Park Country Club.

Horace G. Brown passed away in 1957 at the age of 77 and his wife, buried at Roselawn in Martinsville. Next week, we will look at Minnie's parents, William Crawford Hooker and Mary Ellen Ross and their families. Thank you so much to Katherine Hooker Boaz for sharing these wonderful photographs. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail. com or (276) 692-9626.

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty - About Widow's Benefits vs. Benefits from my Exspouse

Dear Rusty: In November I will be 60 and eligible for widow's benefits. My late husband's Social Security was approximately \$2,300 when he passed around 7 years ago. FYI, my ex-husband is still working and will probably receive the highest SS when he retires in about 5 years (we were married for more than 10 years). Either of these is more than my own Social Security will be, so how does this work? Will this turn into my Social Security? Can I start on one and switch to the other later? Signed: Wondering Widow

Dear Wondering Widow: Provided you have not remarried before age 60, you have a choice which benefit to receive - either your deceased hus-

band's benefit as his surviving spouse, or your ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband while he is still living. Taking your survivor benefit from your deceased husband will likely be best because it is based on 100% of his SS amount when he died, whereas your ex-spouse benefit from your living ex-husband is based on 50% of his FRA entitlement. To get an exspouse benefit from your ex-husband (which you can't get until you are 62), your own SS retirement benefit would need to be less than 50% of your ex's FRA entitlement.

As you know, you will be eligible for survivor (widow's) benefits from your deceased husband when you are 60 but be aware that by taking your survivor benefit at 60, it will be reduced for early claiming. Rather than 100% of your husband's SS benefit, at age 60 you will get about 71.5%. Your surviving spouse benefit reaches maximum at your full retirement age (FRA) of 67 and will grow to that point but will

be reduced if taken prior to that.

Also, if you are working, Social Security's "earnings test" will apply until you reach your full retirement age, so your plans for working may influence your decision on when to claim your widow's benefit. If you exceed the earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024; it changes annually), Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" by withholding future benefits until the penalty is satisfied, which means you would go some number of months without benefits. And, if you substantially exceed the earnings

limit you may even be temporarily ineligible for any SS benefits (until you earn less or reach your FRA - the earnings test goes away at your FRA). If you claim your surviving spouse benefits from your deceased husband first, and your ex-husband later dies,

you do have the option to switch to

the higher survivor benefit from your

ex-husband. In effect, if both hus-

bands are deceased, you have a choice which benefit to take (and, obviously, you'd chose the higher of the two).

None of this, however, happens automatically. To claim your surviving spouse benefit you will need to contact Social Security directly at 1.800.772.1213 (or call your local SS office) to make an appointment to apply for widow's benefits.

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.

Vice-Chairman (cont. from page 1)

Kendrick maintained the board only discussed and did not vote on the officers. As a result, he said he would not vote to approve the minutes for the rest of the year.

Perry then called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Marshall made the motion, but it died for lack

of a second. Perry then called for a motion to not approve

the meeting minutes, which was made by Wood and seconded by Kendrick, and approved in a 3-1-1 vote, with Jane Fulk, of the Dan River District, also voting in favor of the motion.

Perry voted no, and Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, abstained.

Since the meeting minutes were not approved, County Administrator Beth Simms said they

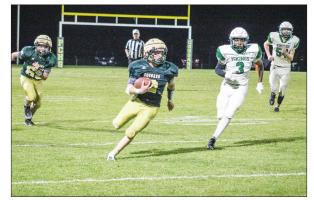
would be considered draft minutes.

"If that's the pleasure of the board for the remaining meetings, then they'll just live as draft minutes unless some action wants to be taken to remedy the situation," she said.

Following its closed session meeting, the board decided to follow the succession order, with Wood to serve as vice-chairman for the rest of 2024, and become chairman in 2025.

SPORTS

Cougars rush past North Stokes



Calvin Lancaster on his way to the end zone for a 52-yard touchdown run.

Behind a rushing attack that gained 347 yards

and solid defensive play, the Patrick County

High Cougars defeated the visiting North Stokes

The Cougar defense forced a punt on the Vi-

kings first possession and took advantage of a bad snap, recovering the ball on the North

Stokes 26. An 18-yard Easton Harris rushing

touchdown gave the Cougars the early 6-0 lead.

out of the end zone for the rest of the first half,

despite playing well on both sides of the ball. A

late Viking touchdown gave them the halftime

After taking the second half kickoff, the Cou-

gars drove down the field behind an offensive

line that controlled the line of scrimmage. The

Cougar runners took advantage of the holes the offensive line created, rushing for the go-ahead

touchdown. A two-point conversion gave the

Following an Easton Harris interception, the

Cougars got back to work on offense and contin-

ued to gain yards on the ground. Quarterback

Avonne Kidd scored on a two-yard run, then con-

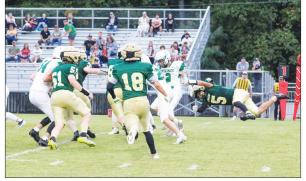
verted a two-point conversion to extend the lead

A couple of turnovers helped keep the Cougars

By Pat Delaney

Cougars a 14-7 lead.

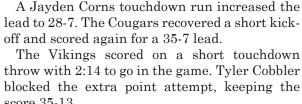
Vikings 42-13 on September 13.

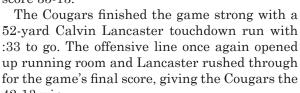


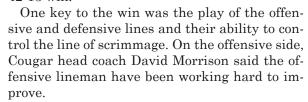
Jackson Callahan (#5) goes airborne while forcing a Viking



Josiah Spangler and the Cougar defense kept the pressure on the Viking quarterback.







"They've come a long way in the last little bit," said Morrison. "They had a little chip on their shoulders. They've been hearing from a lot of people outside the program that they're not good enough to get the job done. We've been trying to tell them that's just not the case." They "just gotta keep putting in the effort and it's going to click. And when it does, it's going to look good, and it's starting to click for these guys."



The Cougars celebrate a short touchdown run.

Behind the stellar play of the offensive line, the Cougars rushed for 347 yards in the game. Jayden Corns led the way with 144 yards and two touchdowns. Calvin Lancaster finished with 81 yards and a touchdown.

Avonne Kidd had 47 yards on the ground with a touchdown and a couple of two-point conver-

Defensively, Jackson Callahan's nine tackles and forced fumble led the Cougars. Paul Pascale had eight tackles and Conner Goad added five

The Cougars will go on the road for their next game, September 20 at Chatham.

Glenvar edges out Lady Cougars



Lilly Hazelwood hits one past the Glenvar blocker.



The Lady Cougars and their fans react to their third set win.



Chloe Hubbard with a big kill past the Glenvar blocking.

By Pat Delaney

ty High Lady Cougars in a match that never up, that shows you the heart they've got." seemed to lack excitement and featured out. The third set was a nailbiter throughout standing play on both sides of the net. The Lady Cougars dropped their first match of the season, three sets to one, 24-26, 23-25, 28-26, 15-25 in the September 10 matchup.

The Lady Cougars took an early lead in the first set, forcing a Glenvar timeout with the score at 9-5. Glenvar chipped away at the lead, tying the set at 24-24 before taking the next two points for the set win.

It was Glenvar who jumped out to the lead in the second set. The Lady Cougars took a timeout trailing 2-9, eventually falling behind 10-19. Fighting back, the Lady Cougars went on a 11-2 run catching Glenvar at 21-21. The teams traded points, staying tied at 23-23. Glenvar once again took the final two points and the set, 23-25.

"That was awesome," said Lady Cougar head



coach Heidi Moore. "The fact that they didn't Visiting Glenvar edged out the Patrick Coungive up, that we were down 19-10 and we tied it

set started with the teams trading points, and Glenvar eventually pulling out to a 10-15 lead. Once again, the Lady Cougars fought back with a 7-2 run, tying the set at 17 apiece. Patrick County took the lead at 20-19, with Glenvar coming back to take their own lead at 21-24. Facing match point, the Lady Cougars took the next four points, taking a 25-24 lead. After being tied again at 26, they finished out the set with a 28-26 win.

The Lady Cougars took a lead in the fourth set at 11-8. Glenvar went on a 12-2 run, pulling out to a 13-20 lead. While there was no guit in the Lady Cougars, this time Glenvar was able to hold on for the 15-25 set win, taking the match in four sets.

"It was a good match on both sides," said Coach



The Lady Cougars react to coming back from nine back to tie the set.

Moore, noting how close the match was throughout. "We hit a little bit better, we win tonight."

Camille Gonzalez had 30 assists and 10 digs on the night. Journey Moore finished with 23 digs. Lily Hazelwood had 11 kills, 4 blocks and 5 aces with Jayden Callahan adding 9 kills and 15 digs.

own North Stokes



Jayden Callahan goes up for the spike.

By Pat Delaney

The Lady Cougars continued their unbeaten streak to open the season with a 3-set win over North Stokes on September 9. The 25-16, 25-19, 25-17 win improves their record to 5-0, without losing a set. The Lady Cougars got off to a quick start in

the first set with solid hitting and defense. North Stokes closed the gap to a single point, but the Lady Cougars never trailed and pulled away for

the 9 point set win. North Stokes took a 7-1 lead in the second set, forcing Lady Cougar coach Heidi Moore to take a timeout. Following the timeout, Patrick County went on a 13-3 run to take the lead at 14-10.



Camille Gonzalez sets for a teammate.

North Stokes went on a run of their own, getting to within one at 19-18, but the Lady Cougars finished the set with a 6-1 run for the 25-19 win.

In the third set, the Lady Cougars trailed 9-10, only to battle back, taking a 13-12 lead which they would not give up. They finished the set with a 12-5 run, taking the set 25-17 for the 3-0 match win.

"We hit a lot better tonight. We hit a lot more down," said Lady Cougar coach Heidi Moore. "We had to work on getting around their block. They have a really good blocker, so we had to do a little more strategic things than we have."

In the win, Camile Gonzalez had 30 assists.



Sydney Tatum puts the ball away for a Cougar point.



The Lady Cougars celebrate the win.

kills and 2 blocks, and Journey Moore had 17 Eliza Clifton had 13 kills, Sydney Tatum had 5 digs, 5 aces and 3 assists.

Crossing the Lines

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

City officials urged to work towards unity

Residents addressing the Martinsville City Council on Tuesday pleaded for members to return to unity, and keep campaign prom-

"I hate to see the city officials bickering with each other," said Leory Hairston Jr. He added that he was sick when he read about the turmoil between council members and a perceived rift among some members.

Before reading and hearing about the issues, Hairston said he thought "the city was going in the right direction. Now, all of a sudden, I feel like it's turned backward. We need to do some serious talk about who's going to come in" after the election, "and we really need to pray for them."

He urged voters to think about with us? I think He's not.'



Stephanie Mills also encouraged members of council to work together.

the future of the city when making choices in the November election. "We have to give serious thought to who will come in and who we will get (vote) out," he said, adding that issues between council members are confusing.

"God is not the author of confusion. He is a just God," Hairston said. "Every last one of us in this room, we live in Martinsville Hariston said he is concerned (and) one God is the maker of all. about the impact it has on the If we sit here and play like we all city. "Maybe y'all don't really this and that, that ain't nice. I'm care," he said. "I care about the very upset. I just cannot take this. city. I think as a citizen, all this God is not in no confusion. Look bickering back and forth, needs to at ourselves more closely again in the mirror, and ask is God pleased



Groundbreaking ceremonies on two field houses were held last week. Proceeds from the one percent sales tax are instrumental in funding the projects.

Dual groundbreakings mark start of field house projects

A pair of groundbreaking cere- bid of \$1.94 million. Andy Grant, monies were held on September 4 at Magna Vista and Bassett high RRMM Architects, outlined the faschools to mark the start of new athletic field house projects.

Henry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis announced that the projects are slated for completion by the end of the 2024-2025 school year. "These field houses are funded by a one percent sales tax approved by Henry County voters in 2020," she said. "This tax is designated for new construction and major renovations within our school division."

Blake-Lewis expressed excitement about the projects, which have long been a goal for many on the Henry County School Board, as well as for community members, coaches, students, and staff. "We are thrilled to see these projects come to fruition and appreciate everyone who has supported this initiative," she added.

The new field houses will serve as venues for athletic events and provide shelter for players during severe weather conditions. "We're eager to get started,"

School Board Chairman Teddy Martin III, of the Reed Creek District, said at the Bassett High School groundbreaking.

was awarded the contract for the ing that it meets the needs of the Bassett field house with the lowest school," she said.

Senior Associate and Architect at cility's features. "The field house will cover 4,633 square feet and include a home and visitor locker room accommodating 70-80 people each. The home side will feature 70 oversized lockers, direct access to toilet rooms and football storage, a coach's office, track storage, a training room, a referee changing room, and a laundry facility," Grant explained. The building will also be handicap accessible, with a standing seam metal roof and brick walls.

At the Magna Vista High School groundbreaking, School Member Ben Gravely, of the Iriswood District, reflected on the long-term vision behind the project. "Field houses have been part of our capital improvement plans for nearly a decade," he said. Gravely credited past and current board members for their commitment to modernizing school facilities.

Concrete Foundations Inc., of Gretna, was awarded the Magna Vista field house contract with the lowest bid of \$2.79 million. Tammy Kost of Concrete Foundations expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work on the project. 'We are committed to delivering Quality Construction of Danville a high-quality facility and ensur-

Campaign launched to increase emergency responders

Henry County, in conjunction with its volunteer Fire & EMS agencies, is launching a three-month campaign to bring awareness to the importance of emergency response volunteers and to boost recruitment and retention efforts.

For many years, volunteer agencies have served as the backbone to the county's emergency response network, but the number of volunteers has steadily declined over the last several years.

A reduction in the county's volunteer force has strained resources for the agen-Safety (HCDPS).

In 2015, the Henry County Department of Public Safety

Area Chart: EMS Response Over Time

responded to approximately 1,500 EMS calls year to date in June, which was 43 percent of all calls for the county (see Figure 1). By 2024, the department had responded to approximately 3,300 calls year to date, which was 74 percent of all calls in the county.

Department of Public the same few individuals running all of these county."

"We have tremen- calls for these stations. dous volunteers in our They simply get burnt community but lately out. Our department we have been asking was originally created them to do too much to assist the agencies cies and led to an up- with too little," said on these calls but due tick in the number of Matt Tatum, director to a lack of volunteers, calls that are handled of Public Safety. "It is we're quickly becoming by the Henry County unsustainable to have the primary response for certain parts of the

County schools prepare to implement order

The county school board convened on September 3 to review plans for complying with Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order 33, which bans cell phone use during instructional hours—a move that has sparked considerable debate among educators.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis outlined the order's focus on curbing cell phone use to address concerns over mental health and social media addiction among students. "The executive order aims to eliminate cell phone use during Henry instructional time and address the mental health issues arising from children's social media and cell phone addiction," Blake-Lewis explained.

Blake-Lewis presented detailed guidelines to ensure clarity for board members, teachers, parents, and students. "I have broken down the guidelines as defined by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) for elementary, middle, and high school levels," she said.

phone restrictions will vary slight-



County Schools Superintendent Amy Blake-Lewis, pictured groundbreaking ceremony last presented a draft of the new cell phone policy at a recent board meeting.

ly by school level but will remain in effect during instructional hours. "Cell phones or communication devices will not be used by elementary students within the school building or on school grounds," Blake-Lewis said. Parents are advised to keep phones off and stored during educational hours and use school-based Under the new guidelines, cell communication channels for emergencies.

Griffith toured P&HCC MET Complex, **Explores Welding and Robotics Programs**



Congressman Morgan Griffith and P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges toured welding

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith toured the MET Complex at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) on September 3, guided by college President Greg Hodges. The visit focused on the college's welding programs and industrial courses.

During the tour, Rhonda Hodges, vice president of Workforce, Community, and Economic Development, provided Griffith with historical context about the complex. "These two buildings previously housed Arrington Engines, where Dodge Hemi engines for NASCAR were produced," Rhonda Hodges explained.

Greg Hodges detailed the funding and development of the complex, noting that federal and Harvest Foundation grants, along with \$22 million in raised funds, were initially had 16 welding booths, age program completion.

which were in high demand with a 60 to 70 person waiting list," Greg Hodges said. "Now, we have 45 welding booths and have significantly expanded our capacity and dual enrollment options."

Griffith, R-Salem, inquired about local job opportunities for welders, acknowledging that welding is an underserved field. "Welding is an area with high demand, but jobs can require relocation," he

Greg Hodges clarified that while students often receive job offers before completing their programs, the challenge is ensuring they finish their degrees. "Students receive AWS American Society of Welding certifications during their training, which can lead to numerous job offers," he said. The college has addressed this by incorporatused to revitalize the facility. "We ing frontloaded courses to encour-



OBITUARIES

Ruth Jean Bolt

On September 12, 2024, Ruth Jean Bolt died at Laurel Meadows, Heritage Hall, in Laurel Fork, Virginia. She was ninety-three years old. Ruth Jean was born in Stone, Kentucky, on October 11, 1930, to the late Myrtle Shelor Bolt and Sylvester Lawrence ("Lawrence") Bolt. Ruth Jean had two sisters: the late Eileen Bolt Dalton and Alice B. ("Tinky") Shelor.

As a young woman, Ruth Jean attended Mars Hill College and later graduated from majored in elementary education and dedicated her life and career to and her paintings were



teaching. For over thirty years, she was a teacher and mentor to several generations of students in Patrick County, among whom she is beloved and will be dearly Radford University. She missed. She was wellknown in the community as a local historian, greatly admired.

She leaves behind her nephew, Booker Hughes ("B.H.") Dalton and his family, including his wife, Gail Pavlock Dalton, and his daughters, Ashley and Virginia Dalton; Tom George, the husband of her late niece, Betsy George; her great-niece, Jane George, and several cousins.

A memorial service for Ruth Jean will be held at a later date. Moody Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

He loved hunting,

fishing and gardening.

He especially enjoyed

spending time on his

farm with his horses

and riding four wheel-

ers. He will be remem-

bered for his humor and

being a loving and de-

voted husband, father,

The funeral for Mr.

Bowman will be held at

Moody Funeral Home in

Mount Airy on Friday,

September 13, 2024 at

11:00 a.m., with the

Reverend Daniel Mill-

er officiating. A private

burial will follow at the

Bowman Family Ceme-

tery on Squirrel Creek

Road in Ararat, VA.

The family will receive

friends at 10:00 a.m.

before the service at

Moody Funeral Home.

The family requests in

tions be made to Joan

& Howard Woltz Hos-

pice Home, 945 Zeph-

27017.

brother,

grandfather,

uncle and friend.

Arvil Coolidge Bowman

Arvil Coolidge Bowman, age 89, formerly of Ararat, VA, and recently of Mount Airy, passed away peacefully Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at the Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson. He was born on February 19, 1935, to the late Pet R. and Gertha Collins Bowman. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Judy Bow-Bowman Joyce, and one brother Clayton P. Bowman. Coolidge graduated from Blue Ridge High School in 1954. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He retired from the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Left to cherish his memories are his wife of 58 years, Mary Sue Groseclose Bowman; one son, Christopher Layne Bowman (Lynn) of Wake Forest, NC; two daughters, Elizabeth Bowman Martin

passed away Saturday

and Margaret Eliza-

beth Waddell. In addi-

by her husband, T. Jef-

ferson Dillard; a son,

Anthony "Tony" Dil-

lard; one sister, Glen-

da C. Tibbs; and two

Hash and Donald M.

Mrs. Dillard leaves

Paul David Nelson,

September 8, 2024.

He is survived by his

beloved wife Rebecca

P. Nelson. His two

sons, Matthew Da-

vid and Paul Chris-

topher, preceded him

in death, as did his

parents George T.

dy. He is survived by

two brothers, Wade

family farm. He ma-

Berea College. Grad-

Frances Prid-

died

half-siblings,

Waddell.

historian,

Paige

on

man Angel and Vivian of Mount Airy, NC, and Kara Bowman Langford (Paul) of East Greenwich, RI; six grandchildren, Lauren Bowman Wright (Jay), Grant Christopher Bowman, Everett Samuel Martin, Sarah Elizabeth Martin, Nathaniel Paul Langford, and Reagan Victoria Langford; one step-grandson, Ryan James Spear; two great lieu of flowers, dona-Wesgrandchildren, ley Calvin Wright and Landon James Wright; and several nieces and yr Road, Dobson, NC nephews.

Patty S. Dillard



behind her beloved daughter, Erin Dillard of Stuart; two grandsons, Julian and Grayson Dillard; and one half-sister, Edith Sole.

was a faithful follow- funeralservices.com.

er of God and devoted wife and mother to her wo children. She loved with all her heart. Heaven gained a true loving mother.

Funeral services for Mrs. Dillard will be held Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Friend-Christian Church in Martinsville with Pastor Roy Moulden officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Online condolences may Mrs. Patty S. Dillard be sent to www.moody-

Paul David Nelson



and Tommy, and one was rewarded a Ph.D. sister Peggy Dudley. degree in American Colonial and Military He was born May 15, 1941, in Patrick History. David taught Amer-County, Virginia, and

jored in history at In 1992 he was appointed Julian-Van Street, uating in 1965, he en- Dusen Professor of MD 20201. tered graduate school American History at Duke University and a year later reand five years later ceived Berea's high- a later date.

est faculty accolade, Seabury Award Excellence Teaching. From 1992 to 2003 he served as chairman of the His-Department. tory David was a Woodrow Wilson scholar in 1965, A Danforth Teaching-Intern 1968-1989. He published eight books on the American War of Independence. Memorials may be

made to the Salvation Army, 736 West Main Street, Lexington, grew up on a small ican History at Berea KY 40508; or Cath-College for 37 years. olic Relief Services, 228 West Lexington Baltimore,

Services for David will be announced at Clayton, NC and his

Susan Boyd Netherland

Susan Boyd Netherland, 76, of Stuart, VA, passed away unexpectedly on September 9, 2024. Having worked in healthcare for more than 50 years, Susan's last morning was spent volunteering as a triage nurse at Caring Hearts Free Clinic in Stuart. She was gearing up for her next volunteer stint later in the week at UNC Health Rockingham in Eden, NC, where she'd chalked up 264 hours of volunteer service.

Born December 14, 1947, in Philadelphia, PA, Susan was the daughter of Joan Mc-Grath Boyd, a nurse and an independent, strong single mother who fostered the same traits in her young daughter.

From an early age, Susan was the girl with a library card who checked out her book limit every week. She read voraciously and excelled in her studies, abilities that were equally matched by a decisive demeanor and a willingness to take charge in most any situation. Those attributes earned her an invitation to attend the Philadelphia School for Girls, where she completed high school.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Susan chose a career in nursing, completing her RN studies at Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing. She pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Medical College of Virginia, while simultaneously working as a



staff nurse in the hospital's recovery room. She completed her formal education at Temple University, earning a Master's of Business Administration with a major in Health Administration.

During her career she held multiple positions, starting as a staff nurse and quickly advancing to leadership roles. Her penchant for details, accountability, and procedures led her into the field of risk management at Lancaster General Hospital in Lancaster, PA, where she was cracking ceilings as one of only two women in directorship roles.

In the late 1970s, Susan left Lancaster, then a city of 150,000, and moved to Stuart, a town of around 1,100 at that time. The lure was the opportunity to hold the position of Director of Nursing, the number two spot at RJ Reynolds Patrick County Memorial Hospital.

Susan When met Frank Netherland, a hospital board member, the hills and hollers of Stuart that she thought would be only a stopover in her career, became the place she would put down roots. In 1985, Susan married Frank, a talented and promi-

nent organist, gentleman farmer, engineer, civic leader and someone who appreciated an ambitious woman who valued challenges over frills. Together they reared their daughter, Susannah, not always adhering to traditional parental roles, but making certain she was exposed to music, art, travel and science, and valued education and independence.

In 1991, Susan accepted a position at Morehead Memorial Hospital, now UNC Health Rockingham, where she eventually became the Director of Quality, Accreditation, and Risk. A stickler for adherence to policy, she was a hound dog when ferreting out any noncompliance. She lived by holding herself accountable, and expected no less of others.

Susan was preceded in death by her husband, Frank. She is survived by her daughter Susannah Netherland, son-in-law, Brian Brindle, and her brother, Gary McGrath.

A memorial celebration will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 21,2024 at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart, VA. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the UNC Health Rockingham Foundation at 117 East Kings Highway, Eden, NC 27288 or to the Caring Hearts Free Clinic at 835 Woodland Drive, Suite 101, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

George Marion Cobbler

George Marion Cobbler (78), went peacefully to be with his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, September 2024 at his home surrounded by his family He was born on December 3, 1945, in Patrick County, VA to the late Mildred Coleman Cobbler and Joseph Richard Cobbler. In addition to his parents, he was preceded by one son, Christopher Newton Cobbler, three sisters, Nannie Ruth Cobbler Merritt, Rachel Mae Cobbler, Rena Carolyn Cobbler, two brothers, Joseph Elmer (JE) Cobbler, Larry Cobbler. Marion was a loving and caring husband, father, uncle, and friend to many.

Marion graduated from Hardin Reynolds High School in 1964 and went to work for DuPont. During his time at DuPont, he was called up to serve his country and entered into the Air Force for 3 ½ years during the Vietnam War. He then returned home to Patrick County and worked for DuPont until his retirement in 1998. Marion also farmed raising tobacco for many years and then cattle which he loved until his health would no longer allow. Marion was a member of Peter's Creek Baptist Church.

Marion leaves behind to cherish his memory his loving wife of 57 years Glenda Smith Cobbler, daughter, Tonya Johnson (Gary) of



faithful K9 companion, Marley. He also leaves behind brothers Henry Wayne Cobbler (Linda) of Rocky Mount, VA, Doug Cobbler of Spencer, VA, sisters in-law Alice Cobbler, Danie Dillinger. He also leaves behind brotherin-law and sister-inlaw Charles and Winnie Smith of Critz, VA, and sister in-law Judy Smith of Abingdon, VA, along with many loving nieces and nephews. The visitation will be

Friday evening, September 13, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. with the service starting at 7:00 p.m. at Norris Funeral Services Stuart Chapel. The burial will be Saturday, September 14, 2024, at Peters Creek Baptist Church, Lawsonville, NC, starting at 11:00 a.m. with military rites by Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard.

The family is so thankful for the loving care he received from his caretakers and friends Tami Jackson and Rebecca Lilly. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Patrick County Alzheimer's, PO Box 1301, Stuart, VA 24171.

Norris Funeral Service Services in Stuart is serving the Cobbler family. Online condolences can be made at www.norrisfuneral.com





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Terri S. Wood, Manager

PATRICK PULPITS

I love to see people win

By Van Yandell

Acts 16: 31a "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

One rainy Saturday afternoon, I had on videos of the last few minutes of Family Feud episodes. Margie said, "You always smile when they win."

I love to see people win and succeed. I was an industrial arts teacher. One project students loved to build and I loved to teach, was the building of lamps. They learned the principles of metalwork, wood, plastic, and electric circuit-

I had the thrill thousands of times in seeing young faces when they flipped the switch and the light came on. One great memory was of a young boy with his lamp. I'll never forget the expression on his face when he said, "I've never made anything before; I'm proud of myself."

Success was written all over him. The last I heard of that young man (twenty years later), he was a Captain in the U.S. Army.

Not being a serious sports fan, I can occasionally watch half a ball game or a few minutes of the Olympics. Of course, the winners are elated but the thought of how hard the losers have trained mentally and physically and the heartbreak of losing breaks my heart for them.

But everyone can't win in sports. In ball games, racing, even in trap shooting, there are losers. If there were not losers, winning would not be rewarding to the serious athlete.

"You never lose. Either you win or you learn." we lose there is learn-

much we do not know is future existence. That

also teaching us of our victory is in the Gospel shortcomings. We are reminded of how hard we must study and work to improve ourselves and become winners.

Life itself is a challenge. To be constantly in a state of self-improvement is a lifestyle and a habit. To be satisfied or complacent is dull and can lead to physical and mental problems. Previous generations often heard the term "couch potato."

To think of one's self or call another a "couch potato," was insulting and intended to be. Such a one was considered lazy, unmotivated and not having desire for improvement. The individual was seen as one that "if everyone was like him/her, we would still be living in caves or trees and eating grubs and tree bark."

The longing for self-improvement companies a longing for God. Romans 12: 2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Being successful is within the individual mind. The accumulation wealth and things has become the measuring stick for success in America and much of the western world. A question heard after someone's death was, "How much money did he leave?" The answer: Every bit of it!

The value of our relationship with and our connection to our Savior cannot be described or measured. To appreciate the significance of eternal life requires a faith based heart and Mirajj Thaker said, mind. Some things money cannot buy.

and thy plans shall be ing taking place. To not established." Can humake the same mis- manity ever learn that takes a second time is a eternity is forever, and worth greater than gold. this life is temporary? The belief that edu- We can all be winners in cation teaches us how this existence and our

of Christ Jesus.

One of my favorite Gospel songs is "Victory in Jesus" By E.M. Bartlett. One verse that especially captures my attention is: "He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood. He loved me 'ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him. He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood."

Don't ever think you can never be a winner. One of the most powerful words in the Bible is in John 3: 16. The word "whosoever" includes all of us; all of the eight billion on earth. You can assuredly say, "I am whosoever!'

Philippians 4: "I can do all things through Christ Jesus who gives me strength." The choice and action are yours. He gives us a power not realized from any other source.

Joshua 1: 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." If this doesn't give us a winning attitude, I cannot imagine what would.

John 14: 6 "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me." The Biblical certainty given by our Jesus should give everyone a feeling of victory for all eternity.

Could we possibly focus on helping everyone to win? In the least we could present the opportunity for all to be winners. If individuals choose to follow the truth of the Bible, that remains to be their choice.

Condemnation and accusations are tools of Proverbs 16: "Commit the devil and none of us Without a doubt, when thy works unto the lord has the right to judge anyone. Judging God's job and I have no desire to interfere with His preferences. The priority of the Christian must be to fulfill the mandate of what we refer to as The Great Commission (Matthew 24: 18-19).

1 Timothy 2:3-4 "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionfromFredonia, ary, Kentucky.

Esther Abigail Fronkier

Esther Abigail Fronkier, 52, passed away on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 22, 2024 at Liberty Live Church, picnic area. To view the full obituary, please http://www.weyvisit mouthfuneralhome.com. Arrangements by Weymouth Funeral Home.



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BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of Luke (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. What just and devout man held the baby Jesus when Mary and Joseph presented Him at the temple? Cyrenius, Ham, Simeon, Zara

3. Which of these books comes before the other three in the Old Testament? Nahum, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations. Daniel

4. What sign sealed God's promise not to destroy the earth ever again by a flood? Solar eclipse, Rainbow, Full moon, Ocean wave

5. From Proverbs 29, what does the fear of man bring? A snare, Redemption, Love of

life, Death 6. Whose daughter found the infant Moses in the river? David, Pharaoh, Solomon, Timo-

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Simeon, 3) Ecclesiastes, 4) Rainbow, 5) A snare, 6) Pharaoh

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.Trivia-Guy.com.

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Super Crossword

DISORDERLY CREATURES

79 Future atty.'s

ACROSS 46 Ready- --1 Old-time (precooked) crooner 48 Region Julius 49 Tesla's Musk 50 Lobe-finned 7 James Garfield 12 Taxing org. 15 Old news-

paper section 19 On cloud nine 20 Having fine granules

21 Refilled to the brim 23 Nocturnal burrower wearing clothes?

25 "Rocky" star 26 French "a" 27 Taking after 28 Semiaguatic reptile that's really zealous?

30 Big spotted cat released from jail early? 34 Doc treating

laryngitis 35 Orig. texts 36 Sports official 37 Interprets

39 Antifraud org 42 1990s Tovota coupe 45 "McQ" actor

Gulager

122

swimmer turning red? **54** Pioneering email co. 55 One-eighty 56 Mini-guitar 57 Elizabeth -Browning 58 Spiny anteater on a leash? 64 Put in very hot water 66 Actor Wallach 67 Seat winners 69 Florida city

74 Very small monkey from the red planet?

79 Rhine siren 82 "Sliver" writer Levin two of these 84 Slalom, e.g.

marine menace course? 90 Bard

114 Electric circuit component 115 Mimicking bird that's predatory? 119 Classic typewriter brand

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1 Starting

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16 2004-11

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Laker Lamar

11 Actress Loy

10 Take

8 Shut-eye site

9 Dust picker-

95 Kid's amuser DOWN boost 2 Actress De La Garza

3 More scarce marshal 4 Gambling Michel parlor, in brief 5 "Look here spinning too," in a rodent that's reference 6 Befuddles

college mascot? 65 Solid ground 108 Large lizard from northern South

America? 72 Quark's place 112 Dialect suffix 113 Penny prez

85 Whip-tailed

going off 91 Composer

92 Fix up, as an 125 Sailor's old house morning 93 Hard wood

94 Actress Blair 96 Eighth Greek letter 98 Mil. bigwig 99 Irish dance

100 Waterloo 101 Wheel-

a Bay State

83 "Emma" has

120 TV show blocking

17 Bluefin, e.a. 18 Unbox, e.g. 22 Schemes 24 With 121 Text alterer 122 Trait carrier 123 Enervate

31-Down, it doesn't bode well 29 Like the verb 124 Latin abbr "go": Abbr. **31** See 24-Down meaning "and the following" 32 Humdinger

33 Aussie birds 78 Novelist Tan 38 "... three men in —" 39 She starred

42 Serenity

46 - torch

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87 SeaWorld whale, once 43 "Hi," in Hilo 88 Leaves 44 Nonpolluting 89 Vent vocally power source 90 Sty animals 45 Bonnie's pal 94 Greenish

citrus drink 47 Linear, briefly 96 All wound up 97 "Regency" hotels 50 Agent's cut 98 Pie charts

51 "Say what? 99 Quartz type 53 Spruces up 100 Easily duped 102 Presnell of "Fargo" 103 Legislate

60 Hard wood 104 That girl 61 Covert org. 105 Petite pies **62** Actress Long 106 Kindle buy 107 New attempt 108 Sailor's quaff 68 Fajita meat 109 700-mile-long

70 Was keen on Congolese river 110 "The check 73 "Don't tell – the mail" 111 Ninth Greek – can't!'

letter 116 Game draw Coolidge 76 Chi-Town **117** Trio daily paper before R 77 Singer Janis 118 Free (of) 16

25 23 26 28 30 35 36 42 43 49 50 52 54 56 58 60 62 65 73 75 76 77 78 85 88 91 93 95 101 102 | 103 105 | 106 | 107 108 109 110 112 113 114 115 116 117 119 120 121

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Congressman Morgan Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available in Patrick and Henry counties on September 25. Staff will be in Henry County from 10 – 11:30

a.m. in the Henry County Administration Building, Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville. They will be in Patrick County from 12:30 -

2 p.m., in the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart. Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-

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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 addi-

tional information, including contract requirements. Questions can be directed to the Martinsville from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday. Phone: 276-629-2582

Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov EEO/AA Employer

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LEGAL

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 579 ARARAT HIGHWAY, ARARAT, VA 24053

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$93,000.00, with an annual interest rate of 4.000000% dated March 8, 2007, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Patrick as Deed Instrument Number 0700654, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Patrick, at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Patrick located on the corner of Blue Ridge and Main Streets, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia on November 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM, the property with improvements to wit: PINECREST SUB LOT 9

DB284/739 I#070000653

Tax Map No. 3908-35 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: USDA. Reference Number 24-297175.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 (703) 449-5800.

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 - 11

Meetings

Wednesday, Sept. 18

The Patrick County School Board will meet at 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.

Tuesday, Sept. 24

The Patrick County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will meet at 4 p.m. at the Patrick County School Board in the Conference Room.

Events

Thursday, Sept. 19

The Carroll County Genealogy Club will hold its monthly business meeting at 5 p.m. in the club's library on the left side of the Historical Courthouse in Hillsville.

Friday, Sept. 20

The community food truck will be at Fairystone VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sep. 21

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

Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Country Breakfast from 6:30-10 a.m. Dine in prices for adult plates are \$10 and child plates are \$5. All to go plates are \$10. To place an order, call (276) 930-2113.

Sunday, Sept. 22

Woolwine Methodist Church will hold a home-coming with service starting at 11:15 a.m. with lunch to follow. David Gaylor will be the guest speaker.

Thursday, Sept. 26

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) will hold a career fair at P&HCC Stone Hall Gym from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!
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Friday, Sept. 27

The Stuart Farmers' Market will be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Patrick County Master Gardeners will be onsite to provide information.

Saturday, Sept. 28

New Hope Community Church will hold a music and fellowship by Philip Adams starting at 7 p.m. There will be refreshments to follow.

The Lord's Acre Sale will be held at Rotary Field in Stuart from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., with church booths filled with a variety of harvested and canned crops, hand-made crafts, and goodies. All proceeds go to support The Penny House and other local ministries offered through the Lord's Acre Fellowship member churches.

Saturday, Oct. 5

The Woolwine Methodist Church will be making apple butter, and there will be a yard sale in the social hall beginning at 9 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 6 – Wednesday, Oct. 9

Sycamore Baptist Church will hold a fall revival at 7 p.m. Brother Wayne Poplin will be preaching and there will be special music each night.

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 welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

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

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

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

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

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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 on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food, music and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m.

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The Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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Breast cancer screenings expanded

(TACH) service region, which covers Patrick, Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, and Grayson counties along with Galax, received breast cancer screenings — a rate substantially lower than both the state and national averages. Limited access to breast cancer screening locations complicated by the extensive travel needed to reach healthcare providers presents challenging barriers to women in the region.

As a result, TACH partnered with UVA Health to enhance breast cancer screening and follow-up services across Southwest Virginia, bringing essential resources to underserved communities.

The partnership aims to improve access to regular screening and follow-up care by exploring innovative strategies to bring mammography services closer to the community. A grant application was made for a mobile mammography unit to serve TACH's locations in Laurel Fork, Cana, Ferrum, Floyd, Troutdale, Fries, and Stuart. If funded, services will include diagnostic imaging, biopsies, patient education, navigation services, and referrals for treatment at National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers like UVA Cancer Center.

"This partnership with UVA Health is a significant step in addressing the barriers that prevent women from accessing breast cancer screenings," said James Werth, Jr., TACH Chief Executive Officer. "By bringing these services to our communities, we can overcome challenges such as travel and limited access, enabling earlier detection and timely care."

UVA Cancer Center navigators will www.triareahealth.org.

In 2021, only 38 percent of women work with TACH patient navigators in the Tri-Area Community Health to develop a navigation protocol to identify patients, remove barriers, schedule mammograms, and provide follow-up referrals. This collaboration seeks to engage regional healthcare providers, such as free clinics and private practices, to broaden the reach of the services. Existing programs such as Every Women's Life (EWL), from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and available through UVA Health, will play a crucial role in expanding the number of uninsured and low-income women who access lifesaving cancer screenings.

Community engagement and education are key components of the initiative. UVA Cancer Center outreach specialists will train TACH navigators to offer UVA cancer education programs such as Understanding Cancer at local faith-based organizations and other key community locations.

This collaborative showcases a shared commitment to improving breast cancer screening rates and outcomes. Together, TACH and UVA Health aim to provide comprehensive breast cancer screening navigation services that include community engagement, education, outreach, and clinic-based support for women in the

Tri-Area Community Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and a 501(c)3 organization with full-service locations in Cana, Ferrum, Floyd, Fries, Grayson Highlands, and Laurel Fork; Behavioral Health in Stuart; and School-Based Clinics in collaboration with Galax City Public Schools and Carroll County Public School District. For more in-To enhance the initiative's impact, formation call (866) 942-0401 or visit

Marriage Licenses

According to records in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, the following marriage licenses were issued in August:

Brian Hall - Tammy Cardwell Alexander Geohagan- Cayla

Vicky Harmon - Danny Joyce Shane Nelson- Macy Wickline Varshith Reddy- Aleta- Pratyusha Madduri

Jack Whorley- Jayme Conner

Programs about Alzheimer's, dementia set

tember 24 at noon.

Presented in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association of Central medical treatment, deciding when and Western Virginia, these discussions will feature the results of new research and new topics requested by caregivers and families. Brooke welcome to join. Chicken Brunswick Gill, region 14 research and program manager, will be presenting these programs at The Landmark Center each month. Lunch is provided by the facilities and everyone - caregivers, family members, those diagnosed with dementias - are invited to attend.

The first presentation on Tuesdifficult conversations that caregivfor those they suspect may be showing signs of the disease.

conversations with family about to Finances.

The Landmark Center and Blue changing behaviors can be chal-Ridge Therapy Connection an-lenging and uncomfortable. This nounced a new line-up of programs program provides tips for breaking on Alzheimer's and dementia are the ice with your family so you can slated to begin on Tuesday, Sep- address some of the most common issues that are difficult to discuss: going to the doctor for a diagnosis or to stop driving, and making legal and financial plans for future care.

> Anyone interested in attending is stew will be served for lunch. If you would like to register to ensure a spot, please call 276-694-3050 and let the receptionist know you are registering for the Alzheimer's program.

> Additional through programs May include:

October 29 - Responding to Deday, September 24 is Dementia mentia-Related Behaviors; Novem-Conversations, which addresses the ber 19 - Exploring Care and Support Services; January 28 - Understanders must have with those who have ing Alzheimer's and Dementia; Febreceived a dementia diagnosis, or ruary 25 - Building Foundations of Caregiving; March 25 – Supporting Independence; April 22 - Commu-When someone is showing signs nicating Effectively; May 20 - Manof dementia, it's time to talk. Often, aging Money: A Caregiver's Guide

Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis

JV Volleyball Gets Two More Wins

The JV Volleyball Team beat September 12, the Lady Cougars Scott had 5 assists and 4 aces.

Jenna Woods had 5 aces. Thursday, Garcia had 7 assists.

Varsity Golf Finishes 2nd

traveled to Westlake Golf Club, Thursday, September 12. 341, but coming in behind Franklin County's 320.

Parker Roop shot an 81 for the Cougars. Chance Corns shot an 82. Josh Freeman shot an 86, and Car-

North Stokes, Monday, September beat Radford in 2 sets, 25-17 and 9, 2-0 with scores of 25-11 and 25-9. 25-15. Kendra Penn had 5 kills and Brooke Barner had 5 kills. Mariah Barner had 5 kills. Scott had 8 assists and 6 aces. Woods had 8 digs, Maddy Martin had 7 aces, and 3 aces, and 2 kills, and Kaylene

The Varsity Cougar Golf Team ter Gregory finished with an 86.

"We shot a good score today as The a team," said Coach Philip Ste-Cougars finished with a score of gall. "We made better shot selec-334, beating Magna Vista's score of tion today on approach shots and around the green. We just need to keep working hard in the upcoming weeks as we prepare for the sub-regional tournament."

Student Briefs -

Edwards enrolls at JMU

has enrolled at James Madison Uni- wards is majoring in Dietetics - BS.

Stuart resident Heather Edwards versity for the fall 2024 semester. Ed-

Students from PCHS among those attending Camp Med

pital held two Camp Med sessions one in June and one in July – and hosted approximately 40 local high cate, and prepare local high school students for careers in health profes-

During the week, students participated in tours, interactive stations, animal dissection, hands-on labs, and obtained a certification in CPR. The

This year, Northern Regional Hos- program provided a range of unique educational experiences in the healthcare field, from meeting practitioners to seeing ultramodern technology, school students, including several touring healthcare facilities, and Patrick County High School (PCHS) learning about the services provided students. Camp Med is a program to patients, as well as presentations designed to identify, recruit, edu- by the Surry County EMS, Surry County Sheriff's Office, medical staff from Northern Regional Hospital, and others. Participants explored different medical career pathways, including surgical services, obstetrics, emergency medicine, and more and each obtained a CPR certification.

Months long road closure planned

ty between U.S. 58 and Virginia 621 (Community Church Lane/Bouldin Church Lane) will be closed to through traffic starting September

The closure is expected to remain in place for approximately three months

The section of Virginia 640 (Cen- and be removed before the end of the tral Academy Road) in Patrick Coun- year. Drivers can detour around the closure using Virginia 8.

The existing road elevation along this section of Virginia 640 will be raised approximately 10 feet as part of the ongoing road construction project to widen U.S. 58 over Lovers Leap Mountain.

Initial unemployment claims increase

The 2,129 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending September 07, 2024, are 16.6 percent higher than last week's 1,826 claims and 0.5 percent higher than the comparable week of last year -2,118, according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 77 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (235); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (191); Health Care and Social Assistance (186); Manufacturing (160); and Retail Trade (152).

Continued weeks claims of 15,006 were 3.7 percent lower than last week's 15,589, and were 15.2 percent higher than the comparable week of last year - 13,027. Nearly 93 percent of claimants

self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,367); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,101); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,430); Retail Trade (1,245); and Manufacturing (1,131).

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 benefits, and of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.





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Nine PCHS grads named P&HCC Scholars

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) Foundation welcomed nine P&HCC freshmen as Foundation Scholars at an orientation on August 15 and at their board meeting last week.

In addition to the 125 scholarships the foundation awards to students annually, P&HCC Foundation recognizes local scholars who have brought distinction to themselves through academic achievement, community involvement and leadership potential with full tuition scholarships each year. Patrick & Henry Scholars also receive free books and fees for up to two years.

"We are thrilled to support the education of these nine scholars as they pursue their academic and career goals," said Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood, adding, "their ongoing dedication to accomplishing great things is inspiring and we are proud to be part of their future successes."

This year's award recipients are graduates of Patrick County High School (PCHS).

Jackson Barbour will pursue an Associates in



Pictured, left to right - front row, are: Miranda Hall, Lauryn Williams, Avery Brintle; second row: Stephen Spencer, Moises Cisneros, Jonah Byers, Lindsey Jones, Luke Cutchins and Jackson Barbour.

Information Systems Technology.

Avery Brintle will pursue an Associates in General Studies.

Jonah Byers will pursue an Associates in Gen-

eral Studies. Moises Cisneros will pursue an Associates in General Studies.

Luke Cutchins will pursue an Associates in Sci-

Miranda Hall will pursue an Associates in General Studies.

Lindsey Jones will pursue an Associates in Sci-Stephen Spencer will pursue an Associates in

General Studies.

Lauryn Williams will pursue an Associates in General Studies.

For more information about the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation Scholars program, call the P&HCC Foundation at (276) 656-

Bringing in the harvest





The first two photos are of harvesting hay at JEB Stuart Birthplace (Laurel Hill Park). The hay is always moved and rolled before the annual October encampment, a local history reenactment. The hillside of the original house site, with JEB Stuart's mother's garden at the top. Also, the photo of the brick memorial pavilion showing the stature of young Stuart in the background to the left, and the Blue Ridge mountains in the background to the right. (By Mary Dellenback Hill)

Million Acres of Lawn: Can we mow it all?

By Robin Reichelt

Patrick County Master Gardener

When I was a kid, we mowed our yard every Saturday with a push mower. At first my brothers and I argued over who was going to get to do it. Over time the argument became about whose turn it was to do it! It wasn't as much fun as our Dad made it out to be. Of course it was probably more fun for Dad. He watched from the porch in the shade with an ice cold, iced tea. Well now that I'm an adult with my own lawn and no kids left at home to help with the mowing, I have rethought the whole green

grass trend. Why Replace Your Lawn

We have over 24 million acres of lawn here in the US and that number is growing with every new housing development that goes up. That means as we spread into forests and fields we are displacing wildlife and native vegetation habitats. We are losing the beauty and diversity of those habitats that appeal to wildlife.

Don't get me wrong, lawns have their own beauty. The bright green of a freshly clipped lawn is inviting to most of us. Not to mention the smell of fresh plants or seeds come back year after cut grass. However, there are negative impacts to lawns.

The harmful effect of lawns is that it reduces the native plant populations. Lawns have very few varieties of vegetation and are a sterile environment to wildlife. They lack the diversity of vegetation that provides food and shelter for wildlife.

Another issue with lawns is the maintenance process of those lush green

yards. We tend to fertilize and use pesticides to keep those lawns looking green. This pollutes the water sources. We mow using lawn mowers that burn gas. We use a vast quantity of water that is wasted by sprinklers. These all take their toll. This is both expensive, time consuming, and not good for the environment.

Considerations

Before you start ripping out your lawn and replacing it with that bag of wildflower seed you bought at one of the big box stores, there are a few things to consider. How much yard do you want to replace? Do you need some green grass for children or pets? How much sun and for how long does the area get sun? Is there water nearby to help establish seeding? Have you tested your soil? For most people, starting with a small area is the way to go. You can always add more later.

Alternatives to Lawn

Generally speaking, there are two types of lawn replacement alternatives: annual or perennial meadows or prairies. Annual plants or seeds require replanting each year. Whereas perennial

year. Most of the bags of seed you get at the big box stores are annual. In addition, they often have non-native species in them. These can potentially spread and become invasive. If you decide to use one of these seed bags, please review the seed mixture carefully to determine that they do not have aggressive species

in their mixes such as: Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicar-

Queen Anne's lace (Daucus carota) Dame's rocket (Hesperis matronalis) In addition you can look up non-na-

tive species on the DCR's invasive plant list at http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invsppdflist

Perennial meadows or prairies take hold more slowly. These alternatives to lawn usually require two or three years to establish properly. The first year the roots establish. In the second year you begin to see upward growth. Finally in the third year you are rewarded with the blooms. You can add annual wildflowers to give you some interest in the first two years, but after that there is very little to do with a perennial meadow. It will need to be mowed once a year at the beginning of spring, after the birds and wildlife have used your natives over the winter and occasionally weeded of unwanted plants. Some native plants to consider are:

Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta) Butterfly milkweed (Asclepias tu-

Purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)

In addition, the Virginia Native Plant tainable Living Community Society has a book on their website on tive plants. It is free as a PDF at http:// vnps.org.

So, whether you are tired of mowing your yard or want to help out our wildlife as their habitats are declining, there are alternatives to a grass lawn. Add a few native



plants to an existing bed and expand as you can, reducing your lawn area. Remove any invasive plants you have and substitute native plants instead. Learning about the native plants of our area is a journey and takes time, so start small and replace your grass a few

Brittingham, Margret C., Sullivan, Kristi L. (2024) Meadows and Prairies: Wildlife-Friendly Alternatives to Lawn. Penn State Extension https://extension. psu.edu>meadows-and-prairies-wildlife-friendly-alternatives-to-lawn

White, Annalisa (2021) Why You Should Grow Wildflowers Instead of A Green Lawn. Furman Greenbelt Sus-

https://blogs.furman.edu/greengardening with southwest Virginia na- belt/2021/04/28/why-you-should-growwild-flowers-instead-of-a-green-lawn/

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Preparations underway for annual encampment

Flags at Laurel Hill Park - Gen. JEB Stuart's Birthplace - are flying in autumn breezes as preparations continue for the annual encampment. The front side coming into the park shows recently installed three-rail fences, and the back side of the flags from inside the park show the recently planted miniature Crepe Myrtle bushes. The local history reenactment will be held next month. (By Mary Dellenback Hill)

Early voting begins Sept. 20

Early voting begins at all general a variety of local offices. A full list of cities and counties offer early voting satellite locations. Dates and times vary by jurisdiction.

The Virginia Department of Elections is emphasizing the importance of eligible voters registering for the Nov. 5 election and reminding those who are already registered to update any personal information that may have changed since the last election cycle.

All information on registering to vote in Virginia can be found online at vote.virginia.gov.

For the November 5 general election, the deadline to register and cast a regular ballot is October 15. After that, eligible voters can register and vote through same day registration and cast a provisional ballot.

On the ballot this year in Virginia are candidates for president and vice president, all 11 congressional seats, a Senate seat, an amendment to the Constitution of Virginia and

registrar's offices on Sept. 20. Some candidates in all 2024 races can be found online.

As of Sept. 1, there were 6,280,912 registered voters in Virginia. Other important dates for the

Nov. 5 election cycle are: Oct. 15 – Deadline to register to

vote and cast a regular ballot Oct. 16 - Same-day registration

begins. Anyone registering and voting at the same time will have to cast a provisional ballot.

Oct. 25 - Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail or online

Nov. 2 – Last day of early voting Nov. 5 – Election Day

Nov. 8 – All mailed ballots must be received by the general registrar's office by noon.

Nov. 15 – Deadline for local electoral board to certify provisional

Dec. 2 – State Board of Elections certifies results.

Dec. 17 - Electoral College meets to cast votes for president and vice

Council considers transferring pump station to PSA

By Taylor Boyd

Stuart Town Wednesday, September 18 meet- he said. ing to give the public notice of the pieces of land to Patrick County.

vey free of charge a tract of ap-

vey without charge a tract of ap- PSA," he said. proximately 0.06 acres known as tion of that tract of land has the never transferred. County PIN 4911-57.

Simmons said he got a call from but it was not done," he said. Patrick County Planning Commission Clerk Teresa McCormick just a bookkeeping issue, and that about three weeks ago, and was business will continue as usual. told it was determined that the facilities.

"So, we are just trying to trans-

fer over the pump station lots out Council of the town's name into the PSA's. will hold a public hearing at its It's an administrative function,"

Patrick County PSA Executive town's intention to convey two Director Mark Vernon said when the town did its last annexation it First, the town proposes to conhad new boundaries drawn.

"There was an annexation proximately 0.342 acres to the agreement between the town and Patrick County Public Service the county. In that agreement, Authority (PSA). The tract is the water and sewer lines that commonly known as the Camp- the town was operating at the bell Farm Loop Pump Station and time, if they fell outside of the bears the County PIN 4911-9-72. new town boundaries, they were The town also proposes to con-being transferred over to the

However, Vernon said the deeds the Rich Creek Pump Station to to the individual properties that the Patrick County PSA. A por- were sewer pump stations were

"It's something that should Stuart Town Manager Bryce have been done a long time ago,

Vernon noted the situation is

"The PSA has been operating town held a couple of pump sta- those pump stations for several tion lots that are actually PSA years," he said, adding the only thing that will change is the name on the deeds.

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How Hobbies Make You Happier and Healthier – Part 1

do?" my friend Erin asked.

"What?"

"I love to watch kids play."

I didn't totally understand, but, yeah, that's Erin's favorite pastime. Watching kids play. She loves it.

Listening to her explain (unintentionally, I had uttered the "huh?" aloud), I realized that her offbeat diversion is a really good fit for her. Erin is a highly regarded children's speech therapist. Observing play helps her relate to her small patients more naturally. It helps her know how to put them at ease and what things they yearn to express if only they could. Plus, Erin's hobby is helping prepare her for a future aspiration. She wants to write plays for kids to act out—maybe at camp, church, or in school drama clubs. As she spoke, I imagined what her adventurous, exciting children's plays would be like. Kids would love

So much goodness and potential for enrichment comes from Erin's seemingly unusual pastime. Hobbies have a way of enriching your life, work, and relationships. They give you something new to talk about, and they make life (or dare I say, you) more interesting. And they can be as unique as you are.

Is Watching TV Your Hobby?

Many of us tend to log screen time instead of indulging in some sort of engaging pastime. After a stressful day, nothing may seem more appealing than binge-watching television. But for most people, that's not exactly a cozy, family activity. Studies have found that splurging on television (watching about three episodes or more) is usually a solo activity. And it's probably not as relaxing as you'd think. Research published in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine reported poor sleep quality in binge watchers.

Additionally, too much screen time may cause us to feel jaded about life in general. Norman Doidge, psychiatrist and author of The Brain That Changes Itself: Stories of Personal Triumph from the Frontiers of Brain Science, describes how our heart rate and brain try to keep up with the frantic images, the visual stimulation, and the loud, sudden noises on-screen.

"Because typical music videos, action sequences, and commercials

"Do you know what I really like to trigger orienting responses at a rate of one per second, watching them puts us into continuous orienting response with no recovery," writes Doidge. "No wonder people report feeling drained from watching TV. Yet we acquire a taste for it and find slower changes boring." Maybe you can relate: Do you feel like life is overstimulating, yet boring?

How Hobbies Make You Happier and Healthier

There's evidence that fun diversions contribute to good health. One study showed that people who engage in hobbies enjoy better moods, feel more interested, and have less stress and lower heart rates—even hours after the recreation time. Embracing a hobby can also sharpen your ability to solve problems in other areas of life and can spin-off into unexpected skills, maybe even inspiring a new career.

Pastimes improve your social well-being too. In his book Bowling Alone, author Robert Putnam describes—alongside substantial research—how Americans retreated into isolation. He writes that while people may still do things, like bowling, for example, they tend to do them alone. Instinctively, we know we need to connect through common interests, but we are doing it less frequently.

Psychology professor and columnist Jaime Kurtz, Ph.D., writes, "Over a couple of generations, Americans have somehow misplaced their free time." Many of us may retort, "What free time?" But the lesson here is that tasks tend to absorb as much time as you're willing to give them. According to Kurtz, not many of us are legitimately super-busy; instead, we habitually waste time, creating the illusion of busyness.

Busyness can be difficult to put aside. Culturally, it seems to be a measure of status and significance. If you're one of the people stuck in the habit of wasting time, hobbies can help break the dead-end routine. Active leisure can promote that feeling of losing yourself in doing, and that "flow" is one of the things worthy of putting on the schedule.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Michele Deppe. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth. org Reposted with permission from Vibrant Life magazine. Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

Sausage company recalls wiener products

Dearborn Sausage Company, Inc., Food Safety and Inspection Service a Dearborn, Mich. establishment, (FSIS. is recalling approximately 1,944 U.S. Department of Agriculture's declared on the product labels.

The labels of the two products impounds of ready-to-eat (RTE) wiener plicated in the recall were inadverproducts due to misbranding and un-tently swapped resulting in soy, a declared allergens, according to the known allergen, and pork not being



