



Complaints about the intensity of the lights on a sign at New Life Community Fellowship Church in Stuart prompted the Stuart Town Council to discuss the issue at its meeting on Wednesday, October 16.

Town Council discusses compliance issue with church sign

By Taylor Boyd

The Stuart Town Council took up the issue of a sign that was constructed at New Life Community Church, adjacent to Woodland Drive, at its Wednesday, October 16 meeting.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said the sign was constructed without the town’s approval or a sign permit. “The issue is that the sign is not in compliance with our ordinance, and we have received complaints

from multiple citizens regarding the sign,” he said.

Simmons said he plans to schedule a Planning Commission meeting to review the situation.

“The major issue is that it is an electric sign that flashes and is in a residential area. We’ve notified the pastor, they have provided the permit application, which of course, I will have to take to the Planning Commission and go through the

(See Town Council p.3)

Spooktacular set for Halloween night on Main Street

By Taylor Boyd

The 9th annual Stuart Spooktacular is set to be held Thursday, October 31 on Main Street in Stuart from 5:30-8 p.m. Presented by One Family Productions, the event is in partnership with the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, Patrick County Tourism, Adcock Veterinary Orthopedic Solutions, Clark Gas & Oil, and the Town of Stuart.

Sarah Wray, chairman of the planning committee, said the event began as an opportunity to create a free and family-friendly Halloween celebration. Families are invited to visit Main Street dressed in their costumes and trick or treat at the various booths set up.

“We have been really fortunate over the years. We’re seeing the same trend this year of great community support from businesses and organizations who sign up to give out free candy and non-candy-based items to really create an inclusive environment for folks on Halloween,” she said.

“We also have a range of inflatables and games, live performing artists that are either roaming the street and/or setting up specific performances, one of which is our fire performance by Imagine Circus that seems to be a crowd favorite every year,” she said.

A table decorating contest is scheduled for businesses and organizations,

Wray said, adding the chamber will award a prize to the winner.

The group also is working with the Stuart Volunteer Fire Department on potentially hosting a jack-o’-lantern carving event prior to Spooktacular, “so, families can have a chance to carve their own pumpkin and then display it for folks to enjoy,” she said.

Several food vendors will be on site including Pickle & Ask, Buckin’ Good Eats & Lemonade, LLC, and Bootleg BBQ from Floyd, Wray said, adding that she expects over 1,500-2,000 will visit the event.

“They’re not there all at one time obviously,” but visitors tend to “kind of trickle in, spend some time there, and then kind of move onto other activities as well. We typically see Main Street full of people, and obviously the weather plays a big part of that, so we’re hoping for nice, cool weather with dry skies,” she said.

Wray said typically 40-50 businesses and organizations will set up along Main Street for Spooktacular. Currently, two-thirds of that are registered for the event, and applications are accepted until October 28.

“If we get them later in the week, we’ll do our best to build them into our lineup, but just to help us plan, October 28 is our tentative goal,” she said.

Those interested can visit the chamber’s website or call (276) 694-6012.

The Hutchens to perform at 20th anniversary show

By Taylor Boyd

The Hutchens will headline the Patrick County Music Association’s (PCMA’s) show on Saturday, Oct. 26, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of The Crooked Road, Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail.

The event will be held at the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Auditorium. Doors open at 5 p.m., with performances starting at 6 p.m.

In addition to The Hutchens, The Country Boys and Olivia Jo will also perform. The show will kick off with Charlie’s Corner, featuring Charlie Chaney and his music students.

PCMA President Denny Alley said The Hutchens, a group composed of three brothers—Barry, Bryan, and Bill Hutchens—have been a fixture in the local music scene. The trio was signed to Atlantic Records and released their debut album, “Knock, Knock,” in 1995. The title track peaked at No. 56 on the



The Hutchens will take the stage on Saturday, October 26, at the Patrick County Music Association’s show held in the auditorium at Patrick County High School.

Billboard Hot Country Singles & Tracks chart.

“Barry Hutchens, he’s one of the best singers in the county. They play a little bit of everything,” Alley said.

Alley expects a good turnout, noting that admission is free. “We’ve got 650 seats, and we’ve got room for it. It’s a free show, no money for admission,” he added.

Looking ahead, Alley said the PCMA’s December show will also be free, while the November Veteran Appreciation Show, sponsored by the Patrick County Food Bank Board, will require \$5 admission and two canned goods.

The September Songwriter’s Circle Series II Guys & Gals show filled the 145 seats at the Star Theatre, indicating strong community interest in local music events.

Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds supporting children’s firearm safety education.

For more information or see more, visit Facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation.

Depot Station opens in Downtown Stuart



The Depot Station opened its doors in September.

By Taylor Boyd

The Depot Station, a new retail shop in downtown Stuart, is now officially open, occupying the former Plantiques building. The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially welcome the new business to the Stuart business community.

Karen Cummings and her husband, Todd, purchased the building two years ago while operating their moving company, Todd’s Easy Moves, in Winston-Salem, N.C.

(See Depot Station p. 3)



Karen Cummings with her grandson, Sawyer Cummings, in The Depot Station, located in downtown Stuart.

More than 1,500 ballots cast in advance of Nov. 5 election

Commonwealth of Virginia

Sample Ballot

County of Patrick

Pct. 101 - Ararat

General and Special Elections

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Instructions to voters

To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:

To vote on an issue, fill in the oval next to Yes or No.

To write in a qualified candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line.

If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.

If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

President and Vice President

Vote for only one

Democratic Party

Electors for

Kamala D. Harris, President and

Tim Walz, Vice President

Republican Party

Electors for

Donald J. Trump, President and

JD Vance, Vice President

Green Party

Electors for

Jill E. Stein, President and

Rudolph T. Ware III, Vice President

Libertarian Party

Electors for

Chase R. Oliver, President and

Mike Ter Maat, Vice President

Independent

Electors for

Claudia De la Cruz, President and

Karina Garcia, Vice President

Independent

Electors for

Cornel R. West, President and

Melina Abdullah, Vice President

Write-in

Member

United States Senate

Vote for only one

Timothy M. Kaine - D

Hung Cao - R

Write-in

Member

House of Representatives

9th District

Vote for only one

Karen G. H. Baker - D

H. Morgan Griffith - R

Write-in

Member

Board of Supervisors

Dan River District

Special Election

For unexpired term to end December 31, 2025

Vote for only one

Steven A. Ferring

Andrew T. Overby

Write-in

Turn Ballot Over To Continue Voting

Ballot Style # 001

Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01

101 - Ararat

Authorized by the Electoral Board of the County of Patrick, Patrick County Office Bldg, 106 Rucker St., Room 216C, Stuart, VA 24171

The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purpose. Any reproduction of this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate. For state requirements, see §24-2-622 and §24-2-656 of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

Commonwealth of Virginia

Sample Ballot

County of Patrick

Pct. 201 - Dry Pond

General and Special Elections

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Instructions to voters

To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:

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President and Vice President

Vote for only one

Democratic Party

Electors for

Kamala D. Harris, President and

Tim Walz, Vice President

Republican Party

Electors for

Donald J. Trump, President and

JD Vance, Vice President

Green Party

Electors for

Jill E. Stein, President and

Rudolph T. Ware III, Vice President

Libertarian Party

Electors for

Chase R. Oliver, President and

Mike Ter Maat, Vice President

Independent

Electors for

Claudia De la Cruz, President and

Karina Garcia, Vice President

Independent

Electors for

Cornel R. West, President and

Melina Abdullah, Vice President

Write-in

Member

United States Senate

Vote for only one

Timothy M. Kaine - D

Hung Cao - R

Write-in

Member

House of Representatives

9th District

Vote for only one

Karen G. H. Baker - D

H. Morgan Griffith - R

Write-in

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended so that the tax exemption that is currently available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action is also available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty?

Yes

No

END OF BALLOT

Ballot Style # 004

Typ:01 Seq:0004 Spl:01

201 - Dry Pond

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Commonwealth of Virginia

Sample Ballot

County of Patrick

Pct. 402 - Stuart Fairgrounds

General and Special Elections

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Instructions to voters

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If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.

If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

President and Vice President

Vote for only one

Democratic Party

Electors for

Kamala D. Harris, President and

Tim Walz, Vice President

Republican Party

Electors for

Donald J. Trump, President and

JD Vance, Vice President

Green Party

Electors for

Jill E. Stein, President and

Rudolph T. Ware III, Vice President

Libertarian Party

Electors for

Chase R. Oliver, President and

Mike Ter Maat, Vice President

Independent

Electors for

Claudia De la Cruz, President and

Karina Garcia, Vice President

Independent

Electors for

Cornel R. West, President and

Melina Abdullah, Vice President

Write-in

Member

United States Senate

Vote for only one

Timothy M. Kaine - D

Hung Cao - R

Write-in

Member

House of Representatives

9th District

Vote for only one

Karen G. H. Baker - D

H. Morgan Griffith - R

Write-in

Mayor

Town of Stuart

Vote for only one

Terry W. Dalton

Jeffery D. Houchins

Rebecca J. Adcock

Write-in

Turn Ballot Over To Continue Voting

Ballot Style # 010

Typ:01 Seq:0010 Spl:01

402 - Stuart Fairgrounds

Authorized by the Electoral Board of the County of Patrick, Patrick County Office Bldg, 106 Rucker St., Room 216C, Stuart, VA 24171

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Sample Ballot - ARARAT NOV 2024

By Taylor Boyd

More than 1,500 ballots have been cast in local and national contests on the ballot, days before the November 5 election. Registrar Susan Taylor said 1,534 early voters visited her office to cast their ballots as of the morning of Monday, October

Sample Ballot - DRY POND NOV 2024

21.

Voters can head to the polls on Tuesday, November 5. All polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A sample ballot is printed in this newspaper showing the names of the candidates.

A registered voter needing to vote early may

Sample Ballot - STUART FAIRGROUNDS NOV 2024

do so in person at the Registrar’s Office, located at the Patrick County Veterans’ Memorial Building, 106 Rucker St, Rm 216C, Stuart. The office is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“This Saturday” October 26 “and next Saturday, (See 1,500 Ballots p.3)

Medicare Open Enrollment Scams

It's open enrollment season, which also means it's Medicare fraud season. Eligible beneficiaries have from October 15–December 7 to shop around and make changes to their Medicare health and Part D prescription drug plans. Unfortunately, some of the deals offered won't be deals at all. Just like in other years, Medicare scams spike during open enrollment season with criminals posing as insurance providers calling and emailing about free gifts or limited time offers. These scams are all designed to steal your money, Medicare information, or your identity.

Be suspicious and don't share sensitive personal information with anyone who calls, emails, or visits you out of the blue promoting a Medicare plan. Legitimate Medicare plans can only contact you if you've requested information or if you have an existing relationship with them. Beneficiaries can safely compare legitimate plans and change enrollment by going to medicare.gov or by calling 800-633-4227. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork for more information.

Tourism Talks

Hello Patrick, This is one of my favorite times of the year. It is simply fantastic with the colors of the leaves, the cool, crisp mornings, and the autumn smells that fill the air. The roads were busy this week as travelers and tourists visited their favorite fall views. Seeing the many different license plates streaming through the county is encouraging. This is the busiest time of the year for our tourist economy, and one of the biggest draws to our county is the Blue Ridge Parkway. I am grateful to see that they have opened up the Virginia portion. The short time it was closed financially impacted some of our local businesses, and I hope that visitation will rebound in the upcoming days. Our support and prayers are continually given to those affected by Hurricane Helene. Patrick, there are many ways that you can help, and you have been doing so. Another way to help is to donate to the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation (<https://www.brpfoundation.org/donate>). The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is the fundraising partner, 501(c)(3), for the Blue Ridge Parkway, providing support for initiatives along the 469-mile route, 90,000 acres, including historical and cultural preservation, environmental protection, visitor amenities, and



education and outreach. I can personally speak to the work that they are doing, and you can earmark your donation to help the way you want it to. So, if your passion is the Mabry Mill, Craggy Gardens, the Hurricane Recovery Funds, or other projects, the monies will go to that project only. This is just one way to show your support. So, Patrick, let's work together, play together, and make our communities of Ararat, Blue Ridge, Critz, Dry Pond, Meadows of Dan, Patrick Spring, Stuart, Woolwine, and all the best we can be. Remember, "Come get lost and find yourself here." Praying and supporting all of us! James Houchins, Director of Economic Development and Tourism jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us

Virginia pumpkin growers welcoming customers after challenging growing season

October is Virginia Pumpkin Month, and now is the time to visit a local pumpkin patch to pick your perfect pumpkin. With nearly 400 growers cultivating pumpkins across 4,600 acres, pumpkins are a booming business in the commonwealth. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, pumpkins rank 19th among the commonwealth's top commodities, accounting for \$15.5 million in cash receipts in 2023. Nationally, Virginia ranks ninth in pumpkin production. But while farmers are opening their pumpkin patches and welcoming customers for fall festivities, this year's growing season was "one of the hardest so far," said Sarah Weaver Sharpe, a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent in Greene County. Sharpe is the owner of Sarah's Pumpkin Patch in Madison County and said the summer's severe drought and high temperatures caused significant growth delays. Pumpkins don't fruit when nights are above 70 degrees. "There were some spots where the pumpkin varieties didn't even set fruit at all or are just now setting fruit," she explained. "Across the state the pumpkins were about three weeks behind where they would normally be." She added that because of the prolonged drought, she and many other growers are "experiencing about a 50% to 70% yield compared to normal years."

Despite the weather-driven setbacks, Sharpe is excited for families to visit her U-pick pumpkin patch this fall. The late-season rains helped her orange carving pumpkins "grow the biggest they've ever been." In Southampton County, Goose Hill Farm owner Amp Cobb also is greeting customers for pick-your-own and pre-picked pumpkins. While he's fortunate his crop fared well overall, he had to increase his crop protectants to keep disease and pests at bay this year. "I think I sprayed them about every week," said Cobb. "But we're good on the number of pumpkins we have right now." He noted the season was off to a slow start, but he's optimistic business will pick up as Halloween approaches. Customers visiting the farm will find a variety of pumpkins, including one that's all white and the classic jack-o'-lantern. "We grow anywhere from small gourds that look like pumpkins to pumpkins that weigh 100 pounds or better," he said. "We've got to have a variety because everybody's got different tastes." To find the ideal carving pumpkin, look for one that is a deep orange with a long green stem, Sharpe advised. "It's important to carry your pumpkin with one hand around the stem and another on the bottom of the pumpkin so the stem doesn't fall off!" she said.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following: *Felton Lewis Mayfield Jr., 45, of Bassett, was charged Oct. 12 with fail to appear. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County. *Mary Branch, 25, of Danville, was charged Oct. 12 with assault. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer. *Savannah Nicole Rakes, 31, of Bassett, was charged Oct. 12 with four counts of probation violation. Sgt. L.K. Carroll Jr. was the arresting officer. *Taylor Renee Rorrer-Haynes, 24, of Stuart, was charged Oct. 14 with fail to comply with terms of bond. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer. *Kenneth Russell Griffith, 34, of Ararat, was charged Oct. 14 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Senior Deputy

A. Kinney was the arresting officer. *James Robert Parker Jr., 58, of Stuart, was charged Oct. 14 with one count each drive on revoked license, and make/use imitation inspection sticker, 2+ offense. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer. *Anthony Paul Wrede, 35, of Bolivia, NC, was charged Oct. 14 with probation violation. Sgt. W.L. Higgs was the arresting officer. *Christopher John May, 37, of Roanoke, was charged Oct. 17 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer. *Kayla Danielle McGee, 31, of Fieldale, was charged Oct. 17 with one count each grand larceny and destruction of property. Deputy D. Celozzi was the arresting officer.

Explanation for Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Be Voted On at the November 5, 2024, Election

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ARTICLE X. Taxation and Finance.

Section 6-A. Property tax exemption ~~for~~ certain veterans and their surviving spouses ~~and~~ surviving spouses of soldiers ~~killed in action~~ who died in the line of duty.

BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended so that the tax exemption that is currently available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action is also available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS

Present Law

Generally, the Virginia Constitution requires that all property be taxed. It also sets out specific types of property that may be exempted from taxation. Currently, the Virginia Constitution allows the General Assembly to exempt from taxation the principal place of residence of the surviving spouse of any soldier who is determined by the U.S. Department of Defense to have been killed in action.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment would expand this current tax exemption so that it is available to all surviving spouses of soldiers who are determined by the U.S. Department of Defense to have died in the line of duty, including those who have been killed in action.

A "yes" vote would allow the surviving spouse of a soldier who died in the line of duty to claim the same real property tax exemption on their principal place of residence that is currently only available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who are killed in action.

A "no" vote will not allow such additional surviving spouses to claim the real property tax exemption.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE X

TAXATION AND FINANCE

Section 6-A. Property tax exemption ~~for~~ certain veterans and their surviving spouses ~~and~~ surviving spouses of soldiers ~~killed in action~~ who died in the line of duty.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6, the General Assembly by general law, and within the restrictions and conditions prescribed therein, shall exempt from taxation the real property, including the joint real property of husband and wife, of any veteran who has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency pursuant to federal law to have a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability, and who occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence. The General Assembly shall also provide this exemption from taxation for real property owned by the surviving spouse of a veteran who was eligible for the exemption provided in this subdivision, so long as the surviving spouse does not remarry. This exemption applies to the surviving spouse's principal place of residence without any restriction on the spouse's moving to a different principal place of residence.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6, the General Assembly by general law, and within the restrictions and conditions prescribed therein, may exempt from taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any member of the armed forces of the United States who ~~was killed in action as determined by~~ died in the line of duty with a Line of Duty determination from the United States Department of Defense, who occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence. The exemption under this subdivision shall cease if the surviving spouse remarries and shall not be claimed thereafter. This exemption applies regardless of whether the spouse was ~~killed in action~~ determined to have died in the line of duty prior to the effective date of this subdivision, but the exemption shall not be applicable for any period of time prior to the effective date. This exemption applies to the surviving spouse's principal place of residence without any restriction on the spouse's moving to a different principal place of residence and without any requirement that the spouse reside in the Commonwealth at the time of death of the member of the armed forces.

Pets of the Week



These two dogs were picked up on the 7000 block of Fairy Stone Hwy. The male is in the dog bed and the female has on a red collar that isn't visible in the photo. The Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) is overflowing, and we need to find their owners. We are in need of adoptions not owner surrenders. If you recognize these two, please call the shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit in person or on Facebook to see available pets. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination. The Patrick Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) provides financial assistance for Patrick residents to have their dogs spayed and neutered. Contact the groups at paws@swva.net or (276) 694-2378 for more information.

DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

email us

Norris

Memorial Services

Visit our website for pricing:

www.norrismemorialservices.com



1500 Kings Mtn Rd.

Martinsville, VA,

276-638-2778

Town Council

(cont. from page 1)

process of trying to get into compliance either through removal and/or special use permit,” he said.

Traditionally in cases like this, Mayor Ray Weiland said the council would go to the Planning Commission but also contact the surrounding property owners.

“Well, they contacted me, so they’re aware,” Simmons said to the laughter of the council.

Weiland said he thinks the town may have to have a public hearing on this issue.

“We will certainly have to have a public hearing,” Simmons replied.

In the meantime, Simmons said he contacted the pastor of the church and shared the resident complaints.

“They have turned down the brightness of the sign, but they’re also cutting it off at 8” p.m., he said. “It wasn’t brought to our attention until literally the sign was shining. There was literally a sunshine that came up on it.”

In other matters, the council:



The sign at New Life Community Fellowship Church was constructed without the town’s approval or a sign permit.

- *Discussed the Fiscal Year 2023 audit report. Simmons said he plans to request the auditor to be available at the November 20 council meeting to review the audit and discuss any issues within it.
- *Discussed the need to repaint handicapped parking spaces within the town.



New Life Community Fellowship Church

- *Discussed the need for council member profiles to complete the town’s new website.
- *Heard public works updates.
- *Discussed the Downtown Revitalization project.
- *Approved the meeting minutes as written.
- *Paid the bills.

Depot Station

(cont. from page 1)



The Depot Station offers a wide variety of furniture, records and knick-knacks.

Over time, the couple amassed a collection of furniture through their moving business and decided to transition into selling it.

“We started fixing up the building and opened the store to sell the furniture because we’re retiring from the moving business,” Karen Cummings said. “This is our way of slowing things down and taking a more retail-focused approach.”

The couple sources some of their inventory from charity auctions in Amish country, while other items were left behind by clients who no longer needed them. Depot Station offers a variety of new and older furniture pieces, as well as records, which Cummings said have been a surprising hit.

“We have a lot of records, and I hate to say it, but they’re the best-selling thing,” she said.

Though furniture is the main focus, many customers have gravitated toward the shop’s selection of books, records, and knick-knacks. The Depot Station sells bookcases, chairs, living room furniture, dining sets, bedroom sets, lamps, doors, windows, China sets, and decorative items.

“We’ve got more stuff in storage, and as we sell what’s on display, we’ll bring out more,” Cummings said.

Since its September opening, the store has attracted a steady stream of visitors, including customers building cabins who are interested in the furniture for future use. Cummings said she’s thrilled with the community’s warm reception and enthusiasm for the shop.

“I’ve had a bunch of people come in just to look

around, and they’re really excited about it,” she said. “Everybody up here is super nice.”

The Depot Station underwent significant refurbishment before its opening. The couple received a façade grant from the Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA), which helped cover improvements to the building’s exterior, including painting, landscaping, and parking lot renovations.

“We spent over \$20,000, and the EDA is paying \$5,000 of it,” Cummings said. A check presentation from the EDA is planned for later this year.

Cummings said she is excited about the transition to retail and plans to launch a Facebook page for the store soon.

For more information, call the Depot Station at (276) 692-8069.

1,500 Ballots

(cont. from page 1)

November 2, “we’ll be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,” Taylor said.

The final day for early voting is Saturday, November 2, at 5 p.m. For additional information contact the Registrar’s Office at 276-694-7206.

To vote early, Taylor said a form of identification like a driver’s license, passport, military ID, voter card, bank statement, or utility bill, is needed. “It’s the same documents as those required on Election Day,” she added.

Patrick County polling places and their locations are:

Dan River District

Ararat - Ararat Ruritan Bldg. 4711 Ararat Hwy.

Claudville - Claudville Community Bldg. 1828 Red Bank School Road.

Willis Gap - Willis Gap Community Center 144 The Hollow Road.

Peters Creek District

Dry Pond - Peters Creek Community Bldg. 2130 Dry Pond Hwy.

Patrick Springs - Patrick Springs Fire Station 181 Spring Road.

Russell Creek - Russell Creek Community Bldg. 1808 Ayers Orchard Road.

Mayo River District

Critz/Stella - Hardin Reynolds Elementary School 3597 Dogwood Road.

Liberty - Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department 3125 County Line Road.

Blue Ridge District

Meadows of Dan - Meadows of Dan Community Bldg. 2858 Jeb Stuart Hwy.

Stuart Fairgrounds - Hooker Building, Rotary Field, 420 Woodland Dr.

Stuart Community - Stuart Community Center (Patrick Henry Community College, Patrick Site) 212 Wood Broth-

ers Dr.

Smith River District

Elamsville - Fairystone Fire Station 6687 Fairystone Park Hwy.

Woolwine - Smith River Rescue Squad Bldg. 9962 Woolwine Hwy.

Initial claims for unemployment increase

Virginia Works announced that 3,202 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending October 12, 2024, which is 5.9 percent higher than last week’s 3,025 claims and 93.5 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (1,655).

Nearly 79 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (65 percent) were Manufacturing (595); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (347); Health Care and Social Assistance (257); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (228); and Retail Trade (219).

Continued weeks claims (15,480) were 2.3 percent higher than last week (15,137) and were 25.3 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,355). Nearly 93 percent

of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,504); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (1,994); Manufacturing (1,651); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,446); and Retail Trade (1,144).

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.



We Welcome SNAP/EBT

FALL STIHL SPECIALS

\$50 Off

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Patrick County’s Home Grown Beef

Steaks, Roast and Other Cuts available NOW!

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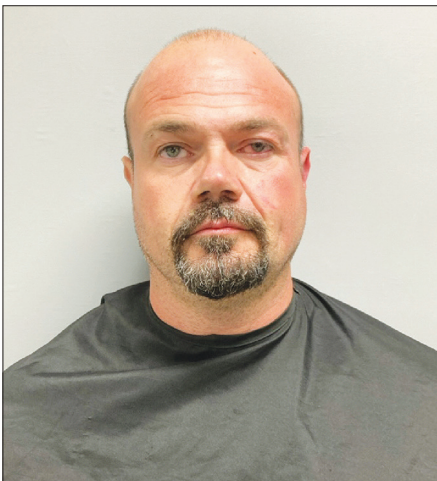
For me, Country music is about the struggles of the average American and the redemption of God.

Candidate Harris and Slavery

As Vice President, Harris was assigned by President Biden to manage the border crisis. As the Border Czar, Harris has had a direct effect on present day slavery. Today there are more slaves than at any time in human history, including when slavery was legal. By failing to stop the flow of millions of unvetted people a year into the United States,

Joe Cadrin,
Stuart

Both Henry and Patrick county deputies made multiple attempts to remove the suspect vehicle from the highway, but Smith said the weight of the suspect vehicle made such a task difficult. The pursuit continued east on U.S.



No injuries were reported in connection with the incident.

This recall is being carried out with the knowledge of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Crossing the Lines

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

Federal, state and local authorities join family in pursuit of justice

As family members continue to try and cope with the needless loss of their loved one, Iviyan “Ivy” Dandridge, their pleas for justice have not gone unheeded, according to Martinsville Police Chief Robert “Rob” Fincher.

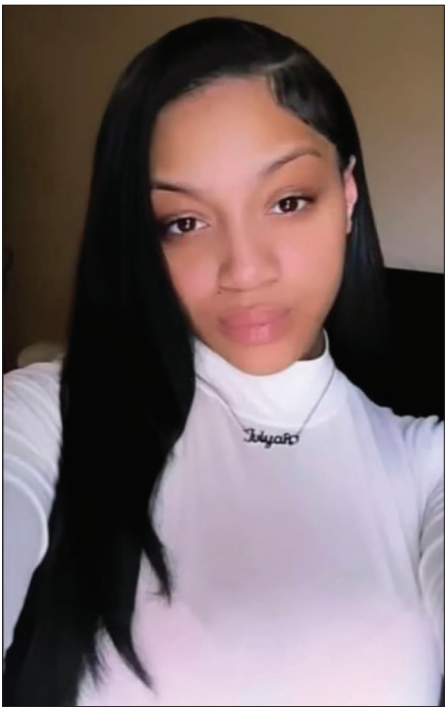
Dandridge passed away on Sunday, July 7 after suffering a gunshot wound while attending a gathering at a home in the community. The 19-year-old was among the estimated 100 to 200 people attending the event. Many were not originally invited but arrived after seeing social media posts, Fincher said.

“There were some vehicles in a nearby church parking lot, and others came from different parts of the city and county after seeing posts online,” Fincher explained. “I don’t think many of them were even expected.”

He said Dandridge, an innocent bystander, had no involvement in the events that led to the shooting incident. “This young lady had no fault in what happened. She was standing in an unlucky spot,” Fincher said. “We don’t fully understand why this happened, but I’m very confident that charges will come.”

That is because not only are local authorities involved but federal and state authorities also are investigating the shooting incident courtesy of Ceasefire Virginia, an initiative led by Attorney General Jason Miyares that is aimed at reducing gun violence.

Fincher said Martinsville is one of 13 cities selected to participate in the initiative, alongside cities like Danville, Petersburg, Norfolk, and Richmond. Because of the collaborative effort between local law



Iviyan “Ivy” Dandridge

enforcement, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and the Virginia Attorney General’s Office, localities in the program receive invaluable support, particularly in testing of evidence, providing additional manpower, and the police department has access to resources that would have otherwise been unavailable, the chief said.

“There’s a partnership between us, and they have the expertise to handle certain aspects of the case” and can provide more resources to successfully resolve the case, Fincher said, adding that two full-time detectives from the Martinsville Police Department, including one who also works with the ATF, have been assigned to work full-time on the case.

New YMCA Receives Naming Gift

George W. Lester II, a Martinsville business leader, has committed \$2.5 million to build the new YMCA near Uptown.

Lester, 85, is chairman of The Lester Group, one of the largest companies based in Martinsville. Lester diversified his father’s sawmill business into wholesale and retail building materials stores, forest land, commercial, industrial and residential real estate in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, and manufacturing doors. Lester retired as CEO in 2018.

As a result of Lester’s commitment, the Martinsville-Henry County YMCA’s proposed new building will be named The Lester Family YMCA.

The Lester family currently includes approximately 35 members with their ancestors settling in the Figsboro community in 1804. “The Lester family has been a contributing member of the Martinsville-Henry County community, and it’s my privilege to make this gift honoring the legacy of our family’s community service,” said Lester.

“The YMCA leadership is grateful to Mr. Lester for his commitment to the proposed YMCA,” said Brad Kinkema, CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA. “We’re hopeful Mr. Lester’s com-



George W. Lester, II, committed \$2.5 million to build the new Martinsville-Henry County YMCA. The proposed new facility will be named The Lester Family YMCA.

mitment will encourage additional donations during the leadership phase of the fundraising campaign for the Y.” The projected cost of the building is \$28 million. The Harvest Foundation has committed \$12 million to the campaign.

The new Y will be situated on a 7-acre site near the intersection of Memorial Boulevard and Fayette Street. The building will include a large fitness center, three full-court gymnasiums, an indoor aquatic center, indoor elevated walking track and group exercise spaces. The Early Learning Center, community rooms and outdoor amenities also will be included.

Martinsville Schools Discuss Anti-Bullying Initiatives

At its October 15 meeting, the Martinsville School Board discussed ongoing efforts to combat bullying within city schools, an issue of increasing concern nationwide. The board also elected several individuals to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

School officials from across the district shared details of their anti-bullying strategies. Ama Waller, principal of Martinsville Middle School, emphasized the importance of educating students on what constitutes bullying. “We will review what bullying is,” she said. The middle school has implemented several reporting tools, including a locked “little red mailbox” where students can submit anonymous reports, as well as an online form that can be accessed from home.

Martinsville schools have a zero-tolerance policy for bullying, and staff regularly educate students on how to report incidents. Martha Hairston, a senior counselor at Martinsville High School, confirmed that students had recently received instruction on the consequences of bullying. The high school also partners with Piedmont Community Services and Dandelion Counseling to provide mental health support for students. “We will promote kindness and awareness,” said Waller, noting that students will sign pledges against bullying and drug use.

Waller also highlighted the need to address the underlying causes of bullying. “We want to get to the root of



Tony Jones (left) was reappointed to the board by the city council, and Anne Agee (center) joined the board as its new student representative. They are pictured with Schools Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley.

their hurt,” she said, acknowledging that many bullies may be struggling with their own emotional issues. Schools across the district are participating in Red Ribbon Week, an initiative focused on preventing drug use.

Efforts to teach kindness and problem-solving begin with the youngest students at Clearview Early Learning Center, where children commit to using kind words and learning positive ways to handle conflicts. “They commit each day to using kind words,” said Sheilah Williams, director of Clearview. The goal is to foster a caring environment and ensure students feel safe seeking help when needed.

More than 20 percent of youth in the United States are estimated to be involved in bullying each year, “either as a bully or a victim,” said board chairman Yvonne Givens, stressing the importance of the district’s anti-bullying efforts.

Bonez & Booz Halloween and Fall Festival to possess VMNH

Event to feature fire and LED performances, stilt walkers, magic shows, costume contests, carnival games, food trucks, a beer garden and more.

Bonez & Booz, one of the region’s premier Halloween and fall festivals, is set to return to the Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH) in Martinsville on Saturday, October 26, from 4 to 10 p.m. The event offers attendees a full lineup of live entertainment and interactive activities, including fire and LED performances, magic shows, stilt walkers, carnival games, costume contests, food trucks, a beer garden, and more.

“Thousands of visitors attended last year’s installment of Bonez & Booz and we’re excited to offer attendees another festive, exciting, and safe Halloween experience this year,” said VMNH Visitor Services and Events Manager Robbie Hendrix-Wirt. “Whether you want to try your hand at our lineup of carnival games, take in a fire performance, or just immerse yourself in an incredibly fun Halloween atmosphere, Bonez & Booz has something for everyone, regardless of age.”

Parking for this event will be available off-site and free of charge. The



A fire performer on stage during last year’s Bonez & Booz event. (Contributed photo)

Grace period for school zone speeding violations nears end

In a two week period, more than 1,500 school zone speeding violations have been issued in the City of Martinsville. Police Chief Robert “Rob” Fincher said these violations occurred when vehicles exceeded the speed limit by 11 miles per hour or more while school zone lights were flashing.

“When the reduced speed limit is in effect, during the morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times, the lights flash to indicate the limit is 25 mph—or 15 mph at some schools,” Fincher said. “That’s about 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon.”

The enforcement cameras, which only operate when the lights are flashing, are designed to catch violators

automatically. “We’ll continue to use regular speed enforcement methods, but the photo enforcement is consistent—if you speed while the lights are flashing, you’ll get caught,” Fincher said.

The system uses photo-enforcement cameras to identify speeding vehicles, though Fincher noted that an officer an officer obtains the data and reviews each case, “just as if he was sitting on the side of the road,” before any warning or ticket is issued.

“Our traffic officer had 115 cases to review in just one day,” he said, stressing the importance of spreading awareness about the program and preventing a tragedy from occurring.

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Logano steals Vegas win; clinches Championship 4 berth

By Holly Cain
NASCAR Wire Service

Two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion Joey Logano made his Team Penske's fuel strategy call work to perfection Sunday afternoon to claim victory in the South Point 400 Playoff race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway and earn the first of four NASCAR Cup Series Championship 4 berths.

Logano led only the final six laps on the Vegas 1.5-miler but was able to hold off the afternoon's most dominant car, Christopher Bell's No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota by a slight .662-second in the final few laps.

Bell, on the other hand, led a race-best 155 of the race's 267 laps and won Stage 2, but he pit 35 laps later than Logano and was not able to make up the nearly 30-second advantage Logano's No. 22 Team Penske Ford held on track after Bell's stop.

Trackhouse Racing's Daniel Suarez, who also used the same strategy as Logano, finished third after leading 57 laps, followed by Playoff driver, Hendrick Motorsports' William Byron and Hendrick's Alex Bowman.

It's been quite the turn of fortune for Logano, who a week ago following a race at the Charlotte ROVAL thought he was eliminated from the Playoffs only to receive news from NASCAR hours after the checkered flag that he was reinstated. Bowman had initially held that Playoff position, but his car was ruled illegal in post-race inspection and he was disqualified after the ROVAL race.

That meant Logano, not Bowman would advance to this Round of 8 which includes two more races – next week at Homestead-Miami Speedway and then Nov. 3 at Martinsville, Va. - to set the four-driver Championship field. Of note, Logano's last Las Vegas Playoff race win in 2022 propelled him to the series championship.

"Man, we did some fuel mileage stuff, didn't we? Holy crap," said a smiling Logano, whose four career wins now at Las Vegas ties NASCAR Hall of Famer Jimmie Johnson for most all-time at the track.

"What an incredible turn of events here the last week. Very fast Pennzoil Mustang. We're going to the Championship 4 again. It's real. Great fuel mileage, great calls by [crew chief] Paul [Wolfe], Nick Hensley, our gas man, making sure she's full, giving me the info to keep the lead that we needed to. We're going racing again. What an incredible situation, man. I'm so blessed.

"Just incredible day. Like I said, it takes the whole team to do the fuel mileage stuff. Not just the engineers, spotter. It takes all of us to do it. Total team win. We may not have been the fastest car today, but we were a solid top-five car and be able to maximize it at the end."

Bell was as disappointed as Logano was elated.

"I don't know [how to come to terms with the race ending] and I don't think I have come to terms yet" said Bell, who is now 0-for-13 in wins after starting a race from pole position.

"Just a bummer. I think everyone on this team did everything perfect today. This thing was obviously on rails, pit crew did an amazing job and [pit crew] Adam [Stevens] called a great race. Did everything we needed to, but unfortunately it wasn't meant to be today."

"The points look pretty good, but you're never safe in this deal," Bell added. "We needed to win today and unfortunately,



Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Pennzoil Ford, speaks to the media after winning the NASCAR Cup Series South Point 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on October 20, 2024 in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Photo by Meg Oliphant/Getty Images)

we didn't. We'll go on to the next one."

The race certainly provided major implications for the eight Playoff drivers – three of them were eliminated from winning contention by Stage 2, two more struggled with pit stops thereafter, leaving Logano, Bell, Byron and eighth place finisher Denny Hamlin to lead the championship presence among the top-10. Bell's afternoon was good enough to propel him into the championship points lead with a 42-point advantage on the cutoff line.

Hamlin's eighth-place effort was impressive after a difficult day for his No. 11 Toyota team, which endured a challenging day on pit road before also using a similar fuel-save plan to Logano.

His teammate JGR's Martin Truex Jr. was sixth, followed by Trackhouse Racing's Ross Chastain, Hamlin, Legacy Motor Club's John Hunter Nemechek and Roush-Fenway-Keselowski's Chris Buescher.

Hendrick Motorsports' Kyle Larson finished 11th – falling off the lead lap at one point after also having a bad pit stop. He is now second in the points standings, 35 points above the cutoff line and his Hendrick teammate Byron holds that important fourth place, 27 points ahead of Hamlin.

Regular season champion and the race's outside polesitter Tyler Reddick finished 35th, eliminated after a roll-over accident in tight racing on lap 90. The accident collected fellow Playoff driver, Chase Elliott along with Brad Keselowski and reigning series champion and Playoff driver Ryan Blaney.

"We can still have a good day at Homestead and be in the mix in Martinsville," a frustrated Reddick said. "Ideally, yeah, it would have been nice to win today. It would be nice to win next week, and that is what we will focus on, but thankfully we got 10 stage points in stage one, and it's not like we are absolutely out of it on points, yet. We are going to have to be perfect here on out, probably."

It was a rough weekend from even before the race's green flag for Blaney, who suffered a flat tire in Saturday's opening practice that put his primary No. 12 Team Penske Ford into the wall. He started his back-up from last in the 37-car field Sunday and was steadily moving forward before being caught up in that multi-car accident with Reddick and Elliott. He finished 32nd. Elliott was 33rd.

Hamlin is fifth in the championship standings, 27 off Byron. Reddick is 30 points below the cutoff line, followed by Blaney (-47) and Elliott (-53).

The NASCAR Cup Series moves to South Florida for Sunday's Straight Talk Wireless 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway (2:30 p.m. ET, NBC, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Bell is the defending race winner.

Dorothy Hopkins Tatum

Mrs. Dorothy Hopkins Tatum, age 101 of Stuart, Virginia passed away Sunday, October 20, 2024, at the home of her caregiver Bonnie Goad. She was born in Patrick County on January 5, 1923, to the late Joseph Ellis Hopkins and Lillian Maude Cochran Hopkins. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas C. Tatum, II; four sisters, Lora H. Griffith, Mae Pace, Marie Edwards, and Anita Cox; three brothers, Lloyd Hopkins, Hoy Hopkins, and Lloyd Soyars; and a son-in-law, Jeff Wigington.

Mrs. Tatum is survived by her two children, Sharon Tatum Wigington of Stuart, and Tommie Tatum (Carolyn) of Stuart; four grandchildren, T.C. Tatum (Stacey),



Tracy Hannold (Jerod), Misty Rogers (Greg), and Monica Gravely; eight great-grandchildren, Kaylee, Kaden, Brendan, Emery, Amber, Joseph, Samuel and Sydney; one great-great grandchild, Harper; two brothers, George Hopkins of Stuart, and Clint Hopkins (Nancy) of Roanoke; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held for Mrs. Tatum on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in Sycamore Baptist Church

Cemetery with Rev. Donna Britt officiating. The family will receive friends after the service at the church fellowship hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial donation may be made to Sycamore Baptist Church, c/o Marcia Adams, Treasurer, 171 Sycamore Church Lane, Stuart, VA 24171; Alzheimer's Association, Patrick County Chapter, P.O. Box 1301, Stuart, VA 24171; Bright Focus Foundation, 22512 Gateway Center Drive; Clarksburg, MD 20871; and Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care, 1427 Edgewood Drive, Suite 101, Mt. Airy, NC 27030. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Nora Frances Rorrer

Nora Frances Rorrer, age 81, of Patrick Springs, VA, was called to her Heavenly home, on October 20, 2024, at SOVAH Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County. She was born January 22, 1943, to the late Greeley and Nancy Rorrer. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Sammy Rorrer; and niece, Angela Rorrer.

Nora is survived by her brother, Bobby Rorrer (Donna); a nephew, Jared Rorrer (Candace); two grand nephews, Logan and Jase; and her fur baby Molly.

Nora was a 1962 graduate of Stuart



High School. She worked for R.J. Reynolds Hospital as an X-ray technician for over 40 years. She attended Patrick Springs Christian Church and was a friendly and humble child of God.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2024,

at 11:00 A.M. at Allen-Bowling-Cruise Cemetery. She will lie in state at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart, on Wednesday from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Please—no food or flowers. Instead, take an elderly loved one or friend out for a meal or make a donation to charity of your choice.

The family is especially grateful to Nora's caregivers Jeanette Fulp, Cindy Childress, Jessica Owens, Natalie Riggs, Emily Barley, Breanna Cooper, Tiffany Bowman and Jennifer Brown.

Congressional candidates outline agricultural priorities

Voters concerned with agricultural issues can make informed decisions this election season, thanks to a comprehensive questionnaire completed by many of Virginia's congressional contenders.

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation sends a questionnaire to all state congressional candidates regarding issues important to Virginia agriculture. Their responses can be viewed at bit.ly/AgPACcandidateQA.

"Congressional elections are an opportunity for every Virginian to cast their vote and voice their opinion on the direction they hope to see from the United States Congress," said VFBF President Wayne F. Pryor. "VFBF has asked every congressional candidate to provide responses on issues that are likely to impact farmers and rural communities. We receive responses, and we share those

responses unedited so that our members and any interested voter can decide for themselves what they think about the answers."

Many candidates answered questions regarding access to prescription livestock medications, veterinarian and domestic labor shortages, tax code reform and the farm bill.

Early voting is ongoing through Nov. 2. Election day is Nov. 5.

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PATRICK PULPITS

Please give your undivided attention

By Van Yandell

James 5: 16b “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Many of the conversations at our house begin with “You haven’t heard a word I’ve said.” To write an article on undivided attention will get a rolling of the eyes from wife Margie.

My dad told me “When engaged in a conversation, look at the person talking.” My mistake was telling Margie that. Whatever my dad said was okay with her.

If we stare off into space or look at our phones, our lack of attention is certainly noticed.

To interrupt during a conversation is rude and thoughtless. Apparently, some have no idea what their action is conveying. The attitude of “I don’t care what you think” or “just listen to me” is obvious.

There are people with whom even an attempt at a conversation is close to impossible. If faced with such a curse, one might consider saying very little knowing that he will not be allowed to finish a sentence.

Recently seen was a statement on coping with interrupters. The statement read, “Ignore them and keep on talking.” I’m not promoting that action, but it might work with some. Personally, I prefer to walk away or pick up my phone. But does rudeness deserve rudeness?

It is not a conversation if only one person is talking. Conversations and interactions involve at least two people. Respect is a characteristic many do not exemplify. However, this insincere action is one most are not aware of displaying.

Perhaps we have all been guilty at some point in time but being aware of such actions may keep us from doing such so often.

James 1:19 “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” One might think rudeness in Bible times may not have existed as it does today. Apparently based on this verse from James, that was not the case.

Bryant H. McGill, author, said “One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.” It is a conscious effort to listen and not be thinking of what “I’m going to say next.” Our minds race incessantly and for our thinking not to be out ahead of the words of others requires focus and intentionality.

Sitting with an NYPD police officer the week after the 9/11 terrorist attack, we talked for at least two hours. He finally said, “Well, I’ve got to get back out there.” As he was walking away, he turned and said, “You’re an excellent conversationalist.” I had not said three words. He just needed someone to listen.

Being a teacher, my mindset is to convey information, to motivate and even to inspire. It is a continual effort to keep my mouth shut! I must also concentrate to listen without thinking what to say next or simply let my mind wander.

Okay, I’ve confessed; it’s your turn.

To monopolize a conversation also shows a lack of respect for others. Others may have input into the discussion and to “take over” shows a high degree of disrespect.

It has also been noticed, when we are really listening, we will retain portions of information. The situation may be a one-on-one conversation or a lecture. To be able to repeat to the speaker a part of what he/she has said shows that person someone has absorbed and processed what was said.

In Dale Carnegie’s book, “How to Win Friends and Influence People,” his first chapter is entitled “If You Want to Gather Honey, Don’t Kick Over the Beehive.”

His final line in that chapter of such an in-depth analogy is, “Don’t criticize, condemn or complain.” Also stated later in his writings, “Even God doesn’t judge until judgement day.”

To give our undivided attention also includes what not to say. Carnegie was the master of conversation and influence. We would do well to heed his suggestions.

Does God give believers His undivided attention? We may wonder at times why God does not answer our prayers. The forthwith and simple answer is, He knows our needs better than we do.

We must consider what we are asking for. Are our prayers selfish and materialistic? The heathen asks for long life, riches, power and death to his enemies.

Solomon asked God for wisdom (1 Kings 3: 9). “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge this thy great people that I may discern between good and bad, for who is able to judge this so great a people.”

One particular verse in The Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6: 11 “Give us this day our daily bread,” commands our attention. Jesus did not teach us to ask excessively but only for basic sustenance, “daily bread.”

Some in Christendom have written their own gospel. Many on social media that tell us if we do or don’t do certain things, we are not Christian. Those statements are judgmental and usually not scripturally accurate, causing confusion about scriptural truth.

John 3: 16 states the entire salvation process in one verse and we do not have to jump through their hoops or walk through coals of fire by some self-appointed prophet to have eternal salvation. Simply follow the instructions of Jesus.

We must always teach that eternal salvation is attained by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) in Christ Jesus crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (1 John 1: 9) and resurrected (Matthew 28: 6).

God is listening! We are to praise Him and give thanks but be careful what you ask for.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. Previous articles on muckrack.com. Email: vmy2121@outlook.com.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY


1. Is the book of 2 Timothy (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Luke 6, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do to those who cursed them? Smile, Walk away from, Laugh, Bless them
3. What instrument did David play for Saul that caused the evil spirit to depart? Drum, Harp, Tambourine, Flute
4. From John 3, who lifted up the serpent in the wilderness? Paul, Peter, John the Baptist, Moses
5. What horrible things did Ezekiel see filling a valley? Serpents, Locusts, Dry bones, Demons
6. Who was the father of James and John? Zebedee, Nahum, Haggai, Hizkiah

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Bless them, 3) Harp, 4) Moses, 5) Dry bones, 6) Zebedee

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey’s latest book, “Test Your Bible Knowledge,” available in bookstores and online.

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Rev. Tommy Gosnell
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Worship Services 11 am

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31 Sam Spade's cover-up
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35 See 109-Down
36 Pottery oven
37 Some milk dispensers
40 Stork relative
43 Blue-eyed cat
47 Rolled the dice at a casino, say
50 Loafing sorts
51 Sean of films
52 Dressed in
53 Singer Lana Del —
54 French composer Édouard
55 Purview
57 1860s White House nickname
60 Oprah of TV
62 Statement that might follow "Come on in"
66 1920s White House nickname
67 Part of SST
68 Qatari capital
69 Qatari, e.g.
71 Spanish appetizers
75 Cpl., e.g.
77 2022 Tom Cruise sequel
80 Poseidon and Neptune
84 Stew sphere
85 Architect Saarinen
86 Italian money
87 Young lady
88 T. — Price
90 Young lady

DOWN

- 2 Boo-boo
3 Act division
4 Sprinter Bolt
5 Water, in Lille
6 Wonderwork
7 It's north of Nevada
8 Basketball player Gasol
9 "Peer —" (Ibsen play)
10 Situated on both sides of
11 Borderline of bushes
12 Couturier Cassini
13 Duel sword
14 Admission
15 Dueler with Alexander Hamilton
16 Project detail
17 Search out
20 "Easy there!"
24 One looting
26 Thrash about
30 Cole Porter's "Where Is the Life That Late —?"
32 Warn like a snake or cat
92 Messes (up)
94 Procedure to evaluate heart health
98 Roughly shaped
99 K.P. veggie
100 La Forge of "Star Trek: The Next Generation"
101 Clock datum
102 Be rife (with)
105 Pro bono TV ad, for short
106 Nauseous from motion, to Brits
112 Look at yet again to make sure
116 Barley brew
117 Steve of country rock
118 "Clever plan!"
119 What is found divided at the starts and ends of nine answers in this puzzle
122 Former Fox competitor
123 Pop diva Celine
124 Copying a pig
125 Regarding
126 Lean- — (crude sheds)

- 127 Part of SSE
128 String after Q
129 la. neighbor
130 Plug tightly
33 Go left, e.g.
38 Libyan cash
39 Skiing stuff
41 Frozen drink brand
42 Vodka brand
43 Sediments
44 It's north of Nevada
45 — wrench
46 Copying a cat
47 Small British cafe
48 Actor Close
49 Capitol body
51 Politico Ross
56 Scarlet, say
58 Lover boy
59 Heartfelt
61 Suddenly worsen
63 Harmonious union
64 Look awed
65 Makes docile
70 Drinking site
72 Second-century pope
73 Lot divisions
74 Teensy bit
76 Former Laker Lamar
78 Played Fortnite, e.g.
79 Loudness
80 Cpls.' bosses
81 Frontier sheriff Wyatt
82 Attu's islands

- 83 Big drink
89 Tusked beast
91 "That so?"
93 Brunch staple
95 Proficient
96 Fail to win
97 Farm vehicle
98 Easily deceived sort
101 "That's what I'm — about!"
103 Skip over, as a syllable
104 Newspapers, TV, etc.
107 Oven shelf
108 Indian wraps
109 With 35-Across, player of Granny on "The Beverly Hillbillies"
110 Actress Bow
111 — One (vodka brand)
112 Certain bolt holder
113 Many a seized auto
114 Co. honchos
115 Reality TV's Jenner
120 Acct. accrual
121 Abbr. of primary colors

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Puzzle answers page 11

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AUCTIONS

Bankruptcy Real Estate Auction! November 14 at 11AM Live & Online. 7.4± acres of Industrial Zoned Real Estate with 11,200 SF Office/Warehouse Space will be offered in two tracts! Agents will be onsite for property previews on 10/26 & 11/9 from Noon to 3PM. 3321 Shenandoah Ave NW, Roanoke, VA 24017. See Woltz.com for more information or call Woltz & Associates, Inc., Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers. (VA #321), 800-551-3588. 5% Buyers' Premium.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION. Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre & 2 other properties. Fri., Nov. 15, 2PM. Property 1: 19,300+/- building on 2.93+/- ac. visible from the junction of I-77 & I-81 in Wytheville. Property currently being used as dinner theatre & restaurant. Great location & investment potential. Properties 2 & 3: House and adjoining lot in Wytheville. Previews: Wed., Dec. 30, Nov. 6 & Nov. 13. Sale held at Wytheville Meeting Center. Detailed information at www.woltz.com or call Jonna McGraw (VA#2434), Woltz & Associates, Inc. (VA #321), 800-551-3588.

Bankruptcy Real Estate Auction! November 13 at Noon! 10.7± acres of Commercially Zoned (C-3) Land with road frontage on two main corridors in Hampton, VA. Property has potential to serve multiple uses. Representative will be onsite for property preview on 10/25 from Noon to 4PM. 2014 W Pembroke Ave, Hampton, VA 23661 See Woltz.com for more information or call Woltz & Associates, Inc., Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers. (VA #321), 800-551-3588. 5% Buyers' Premium.

Equipment Absolute Auction! November 14 at 11AM! Trucks, Trailers, Equipment, Tools, Office Supplies and more all offered at auction! See Woltz.com for complete inventory list and more information. Auction representatives will be onsite for previews on 10/26 and 11/9 from Noon to 3PM. 3321 Shenandoah Ave



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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.

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL24000303-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
PATRICK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
101 WEST BLUE RIDGE STREET/PO BOX 148, STUART, VA 24171
CHELSIE LYNN DALTON v. BRANDEN NEIL HUBBARD
The object of this suit is to:
PROVIDE PROPER SERVICE TO DEFENDANT WITH UNKNOWN ADDRESS
It is ORDERED that BRANDEN NEIL HUBBARD appear at the above-named court and protect her interests on or before OCTOBER 28, 2024
SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mj B. B...
1 JUDGE 10 CLERK

September General Fund Revenues Exceed Forecast Expectations

Last week, Glenn Youngkin announced that total general fund revenues increased 12.4 percent for the month versus the same period last year and are 9.9 percent ahead of the first three months of the prior year. Compared to the Fiscal Year 2025 forecast in the current budget, revenues exceeded projections by \$395.8 million in the month of September and are ahead of year-to-date projections by \$601.4 million.

“Virginia’s strong financial position is reflected in September’s revenues, which are currently exceeding projections. This positive trend is fueled by our consistently strong labor market and business investment,” said Youngkin. “We remain committed to creating opportunities for all Virginians to thrive, even in the face of uncertain broader economic risks on the horizon at the national level.”

“With first quarter payments in hand from all major revenue sources, September is the first significant month of collections for the fiscal year,” said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. “We are tracking ahead of the official forecast, which assumed a mild recession in calendar year 2024. While we continue to be on track and ahead of collections, given that the majority of our excess revenue is attributable to nonwithholding collections and the overall volatility of this revenue source, we will continue our prudent revenue forecasting process as we continue develop the Governor’s proposed budget in December.”

Piedmont Regional Community Services Board awarded ARC grant

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded the Piedmont Regional Community Services Board a \$500,000 grant. The funding will support expanded access to recovery services and increase employment opportunities through its program, Community Recovery Employment Ecosystem Expansion.

“This ARC grant for \$500,000 helps Piedmont Regional Community Services Board improve greater access to substance use disorder recovery services and enhance the job prospects of recovery-based applicants in the region,” said 9th District Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem.

Piedmont Community Services serves communities in Franklin, Henry and Patrick counties, as well as the City of Martinsville.

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LEGAL

SURPLUS AUCTION
Saturday, November 9, 2024 - Gate opens at 8:00 a.m. - Bidding will start at 10:00 a.m. (rain or shine)
Patrick County Public Schools Maintenance Dept. 117 Via Avenue Stuart, VA.
Items include 3 buses, 1 car, 2 freezers, 2 lawn mowers, furniture, file cabinets, and many other items. Quality of merchandise is not guaranteed and must be removed immediately after sale. All sales are final All items sold “as is-where is” plus 10% buyer's premium applies. Terms: Cash or approved check with proper ID on day of sale. For more info, call Maintenance Dept. (276-694-6984)

LEGAL

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP # 2025-91000-1
ARARAT RIVER WATERSHED DAMS
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES
Dated: October 16, 2024**
The County of Patrick seeks professional engineering services for the correction of multiple items related to the Dams in order to meet the requirements outlined by the VA DCR Conditional Operation & Maintenance Certificates, as well as any reoccurring engineering work needed in order to keep the Dams in compliance with the Dam Safety Act. These services may include but are not limited to the following annual professional engineer inspections; conducting emergency action plan table top exercises; development of preliminary engineering reports; incremental damage assessments; development of construction design drawings and specifications; performance of environmental surveys; obtainment of environmental permits; preparation of design documents to obtain construction permits; performance of construction bids and construction administration services; and developing grant applications. To download the complete RFP package, please go to Virginia Marketplace (eVA) or the County website at <https://co.patrick.va.us/Bids.aspx>.

Meetings

Thursday, Nov. 14
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Wednesday, Nov. 20
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

and the parade begins at 1 p.m. The grand marshals are Leonard & Delano Wood, with a ceremony to follow at Rotary Field. For parade applications or details, contact the local Ruritan organizations or email veteransday-parade2024@gmail.com.

The Reynolds Homestead Holiday Arts & Craft Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Events

Friday, Oct. 25
A chili cook-off, music, message, and fellowship event will be held at Wayside Community Church. Bring your best chili recipe or just visit. The best chili will receive a special prize. Pastor Ron Peal will provide a special message and Mountain View Singers will perform.

Saturday, Oct. 26
A Trunk or Treat event will be held at Woolwine I.C. DeHart Park from 5-7 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Patrick County Patriots.

High Point Baptist Church, 2381 Big A School Road, Stuart, will offer free vegetable beef soup and vegetable chicken soup from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Take out also is available. Music will be provided by the Wayside Singers.

Trunk or Treat will be held at Ross Harbour United Methodist Church from 4-6 p.m. in the lower parking lot.

Halloween at "Scary (Fairy) Stone" State Park, Trunk or Treat, 5 to 7 p.m. at Shelters 3 & 4. Fright Night ranger led hike beginning at the upper beach parking lot. Hikes are held at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Preregister at the park office.

Sunday, Oct. 27
Swift Creek will present a gospel music program at Pleasant View Baptist Church at 4 p.m. All are invited to attend. A love offering will be taken.

Friday, Nov. 1
The community food truck will be at the Woolwine SRRS from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 2
The annual chicken stew will be made at the Collinstown-Stateline Community Building in Westfield, NC starting at 4 p.m. Carry out meals only, donations will be accepted.

Saturday, Nov. 9
Veteran's Parade - line up starts at 12 p.m.,

Connect Health+ Wellness offers free confidential Medicaid/FAMIS application and renewal assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Medicaid renewals have resumed. Medicaid members need to keep their mailing address and contact information up to date. Connect Health + Wellness' special+ trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate can provide more information. Call or text Ann Walker, (276) 732-0509, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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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WHEO



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Land Transfers in July

The land transfers processed in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in July:

Dianne Adams and others to Richard Dumais and wife, lots, Smith River District.

Nola May Adams to John R. Shaffer and other, 3.1157 acres, Mayo River District.

Amy Winter Successor Trustee to Gary McKeel, lots, Dan River District.

John Alvin Atkinson, Jr. to John Gatton Hamby, 37.693, 15.3285, 54.972 acres, Smith River District.

John Alvin Atkinson, Jr. Trustee to Larry Keith Avery, Sr. and wife, 25.731 acres, Smith River District.

John Alvin Atkinson, Jr. Trustee to Whiskey Hollow Ranch LLC, 43.530 acres, Smith River District.

Bryan Barnett and other to Nancy Barnett and other, 10.021 acres, district not listed.

James Donald Bates to Pamela Boothe Hall and other, 2.14 acres, Smith River District.

Benjamin Beshears to Bryan J. Wareham and wife, 9.983 acres, Peters Creek District.

Benjamin Beshears to Terrell S. Baker, 8.498 and 8.895 acres, Peters Creek District.

Benjamin Beshears to Robert Christopher Abernathy, 8.910 acres, Peters Creek District.

Benjamin Beshears to Martin G. Mariotti and other, 9.654 and 7.560 acres, Peters Creek District.

Benjamin Beshears to Christoria Hooker, 9.464 acres, Peters Creek District.

Benjamin Beshears to Richard J. Wood and wife, 9.953 acres, Peters Creek District.

Benjamin Beshears to Esteban Torres, III and other, 9.922 acres, Peters Creek District.

Benjamin Beshears to Roger Valluri, 8.340 acres, Peters Creek District.

Benjamin Beshears to David S. Manookian and wife, 8.330 acres, Peters Creek District.

Dale E. Bowman and wife to Anita Largen Watts, 18.3798 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Margaret Caudill Brady to Charles Edward Crossingham, III, 33.25 and 56.11 acres, Dan River District.

David Edwin Bratton and wife to Darla D. Thompson, 2.485, 1.80 and 0.685 acres, Mayo River District.

Gary Singleton Carter and wife to James B. Maye and wife, tracts, Blue Ridge District.

Harold R. Comer and others to Worth B. Thomasson, III and wife, 8.732 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Commonwealth Trustees LLC to PLP Investment Group LLC, 0.8702 acres, Dan River District.

County of Patrick Virginia and others to East Best LLC, 1 acre, Mayo River District.

Janet Dealejandro and other to Daymond Thompson and other, 25 acres, Dan River District.

Martha Fain to Sean W. Slate, INT 6.5, 3.7 and 4.05 acres, Dan River District.

Kendy Lee Ferguson and other to Jasmine Fain, 2.313 acres, Mayo River District.

Forest Pine Properties LLC to Laura R. Cave, 2.0985 acres Mayo River District.

Forest Pine Properties LLC to Luis Anibal Orta Infante and others, 2.1717 acres, Mayo River District.

Forest Pine Properties LLC to Michelle A. Ohmart and others, 2.1062 acres, Mayo River District.

Simon John Gillam and wife to Andrew Maness Mitchell and wife, 14.385 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Paula M. Gray to Jakob R. Wilkins and wife, 2.116 and 3.884 acres, Mayo River District.

Leigh Anne Grigas; heir to Michael Lynn Brannon and wife, lot, Mayo River District.

David S. Haden and wife to Paul Zeisman and others, INT. 1.882 and 2.145 acres, Smith River District.

Jennifer A. Hillman and other to Donald Alexander Phillips and wife, 1.823 acres, Smith River District.

David Mark Holt to Corey David Hammond and wife, 1.373 acres, Peters Creek District.

Suzanne H. Hutchens to Robert P. Clark, lots, Mayo River District.

Innkeepers of Boone Inc to Harold R. Comer and others, 3.0741, 0.9595, 1.0122, 9.7853, 0.2296 and 45.3190 acres, Blue Ridge District.

John S. Jones and other to Aaron Charles Zimmer and other, 40.315 acres, Smith River District.

James C. Joyce and other to Robbie Vance and wife, 3.6069 acres, Mayo River District.

James Gaylord Joyce III to Terry W. Dalton and wife, tracts, Peters Creek District.

Bobby Odell Lawson to Dale C. Brown and wife, 2.5672 acres, Peters Creek District.

Myron A. Leath and other to Pamela Puckett Frazier, 2, 2 and 1 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Henry A. Leggett, Jr to Thomas A. Ogle and wife, tracts, Blue Ridge District.

Warren E. McLain and other to Robert Lester, 2.000 acres, Smith River District.

Gary R. Mitchell to Michael E. Shelton, 13.18 acres, Dan River District.

Blaine M. Montgomery to Brisareli Herrera Morales, 0.8755 acres, Dan River District.

Leroy Pack, Jr. and wife to Candice Whitesell, 52.01 acres, Dan River District.

Donna Gilbert Pendleton and other to Larry Wayne Cope and wife, 7 and 1.75 acres, Mayo River District.

Randall Poole and wife to Farlow Builders LLC, lots, Dan River District.

Randall Poole and wife to Patricia A. McMillian, lots, Dan River District.

Arthur Allen Powell to Farlow Builders LLC, lot, Blue Ridge District.

Professional Foreclosure Corpo to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, lots, Mayo River District.

Edward Lee Rakes and other to Bradley Cockram and wife, INT 63.33 acres, Smith River District.

Margaret Ann Rakes to Linda M. Depasquale and husband, 1.96 acres, Smith River District.

Ronald Rickert to Dustin E. Critzburg and wife, 0.684 acres, Mayo River District.

Samuel I. White PC; TR to The Huntington National Bank, 2.0008 acres, Peters Creek District.

Scott Property Holding LLC to Joseph Rosenberger, lots, Mayo River District.

Joan Marie Shelton to Robert Sloper and wife, 5.3602 acres, Mayo River District.

W D Smith to Shelia McCullough Broadnax and husband, 2.293 acres, Mayo River District.

Gail Tayko and other to Singh Brothers Investments, 1.948 acres, Peters Creek District.

Melissa Ann Tucker; ATTY and others to Julie Anne Tucker, 0.4 acres, Peters Creek River District.

Donald Shane Vernon and other to Saxon Investment Properties LLC, 1.918 acres, Peters Creek District.

James Kyle Webb to JSM Solutions LLC, 0.97 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Land Transfers in August

Land transfers recorded in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in August are:

Dale J. Adkins and wife to Dyane St. Pierre, 2.9797 acres, Mayo River District.

John Alvin Atkinson; TR to Wendall R. Martin and wife, 12.552 acres, Smith River District.

Nancy M. Barnett and other to Jeffery Lee Johnson, 10.021 acres, Dan River District.

Donna J. Barrett to Waviely H. Thompson and wife, 1.4976 acres, Peters Creek District.

Kimberly P. Belcher to Eric Carp, 1.00 acres, Smith River District.

Mary T. Belton to Joshua Sutphin and wife, 2.0083 acres, Dan River District.

John C. Berrier and other to Choice Land Investors LLC, 4.644 acres, Dan River District.

Benjamin Beshears to Diane Deknight and others, 2.884 acres, Peters Creek District.

John Carey Bledsoe and others to Lamar Mast and wife, 15.26 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Jeremy James Buchanan and other to Todd B. Cummings, 27.537 acres, Mayo River District.

Choice Land Investors LLC; by MEM to Elaine Graham, 4.644 acres, Dan River District.

Melinda Ann Collins; admin to Kaitlynn Correll and other, 2.103 and 2.145 acres, Mayo River District.

Kellie Tatum Dalton to Lance R. Knight and other, 34.4715 acres, Mayo River District.

Dolanreid PLLC to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 0.689 acres, Smith River District.

Mark A. Eagon and other to Justin Lamas Denning and wife, 0.419 acres, Smith River District.

John Eames and wife to Michael J. Westgard and wife, 2.036 acres, Mayo River District.

Arnold Lee Foley to James Cody Fortner and wife, 13.698 acres, Smith River District.

Jerry Foley to Sarah Foley Wyatt and others, INT 40.0039, 2.3616 and 1.0609 acres, Smith River District.

Raymond B. Hadley, Jr. to James Douglas Ezell, unit, Blue Ridge District.

Timothy R. Handy and other to Michelle Heath Umbrell, 17.914 acres, Mayo River District.

Martin L. Jones and others to Ian Michael Paul and other, 5.7635 and 7.850 acres, Smith River District.

K-P Hill Dairy Inc to Todd B. Cummings, 8.382 and 5.20 acres, Mayo River District.

David Kitts and other to Glen Crisp and wife, 11.466 acres, Mayo River District.

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC to Castlerock 2023 LLC, 0.9554 acres, Mayo River District.

Ken Lester to Daniel Vineyard, 0.4938 acres, Mayo River District.

James E. Litten and wife to Joseph A. Sparks and wife, 28.239 acres, Mayo River District.

Lukas Realty LLC to Scott Anthony Rigney; TR, 2.100 and 4.524 acres, Dan River District.

Charles W. Morel to Jason Othniel Truesdale and wife, 5.983 acres, Smith River District.

Joseph D. Nelson to Austin Jerone Knott and other, 6.15 acres, Mayo River District.

Dianne Orr and other to Ronald Giguere, Jr. and wife, 1.284 acres, Dan River District.

Don A. Plaster and other to Zachary James Watson and other, 4.4244 and 0.4499 acres, Mayo River District.

Katina Cox Puckett to Mosi LLC, 0.588 acres, Peters Creek District.

Walter L. Scott to Susan E. Deptula, 1.000 acres, Smith River District.

Amy Kathryn Shelor to Dayne Owen Shelor and wife, 2.962 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Ronnie L. Shough to James Stuart Shough and wife, 14.47 acres, Mayo River District.

Edward Moreland Tyler Smith and other to David C. Jones, 114.5 acres, Peters Creek District.

W D Smith to Bridgeport Land Management LLC, 2.320 acres, Mayo River District.

The Griffith Company LLC to Daniel J. Stanton, 26.8838 acres, Blue Ridge District.

Hope Knight Tilman to Julia Ann Romero and other, lots, Mayo River District.

William R. Walker, Jr. to Shepard Roberts and other, 6.946 acres, Mayo River District.

Garland W. Wright and wife to Matthew Spencer O'Bryant; TR, 8.7 acres, Peters Creek District.

Sarah Foley Wyatt; By ATTY to Jake Westley Maynard and wife, 40.0039 acres, Smith River District.



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Festival hailed as a ‘great success’

The 23rd Apple Dumpling Festival was deemed a great success by Stuart Town Manager Bryce Simmons.

“It was a really successful event. The weather played a big part of that, having nice weather,” he

said of the October 19 event.

At any given time, Simmons said about 3,000 people were walking through the festival venue, enjoying themselves, visiting vendors and listening to live music.

“We probably had anywhere from 4,000 to 5,000 as the total number of people that passed through. That’s just an estimate, but in general, I think that’s what we’ve had before,” he said.

During future festivals, Sim-

mons said the town is making a list of additions that will make it even more convenient for festival goers. For instance, having an ATM machine on site, and “then...trying to utilize the Star Theatre for music,” he said.



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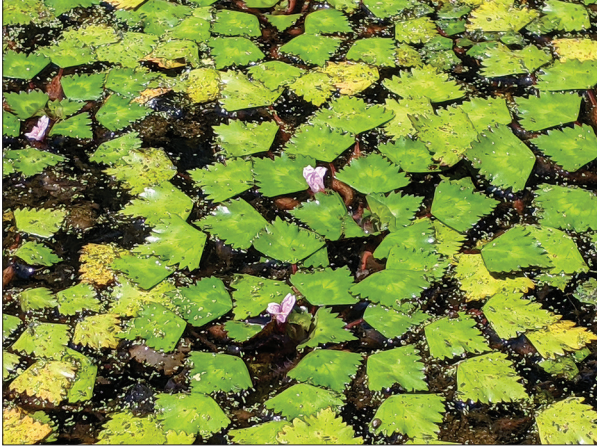
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

13 species added to Virginia Invasive Plant Species List

Fall gardeners encouraged to plant alternatives to Italian arum, nandina and others



Nandina (Nandina domestica).



Two-horned trapa, Trapa bispinosa. (Photos by Department of Conservation and Recreation.)



Incised fumewort (Corydalis incisa).

Thirteen more species that pose a threat to the state's ecosystems have been added to the Virginia Invasive Plant Species List. The additions include Italian arum (*Arum italicum*), nandina (*Nandina domestica*) and orange-eye butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*).

Invasive plants are non-native species that cause harm or have the potential to cause harm to natural resources, economic activity or humans. Some have been introduced intentionally into a region where they did not evolve; others, accidentally.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has determined that the plants on the list, which now includes 103 species, threaten Virginia's forests, marshes, wetlands and waterways. The list, which has no regulatory authority, is for educational purposes and is updated regularly. For the full list, go to: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspdpd-flist>.

"DCR's Natural Heritage Program has updated and provided this list for more than a decade, as a 'know before you grow' tool for citizens," said Virginia Natural Heritage Program Director Jason Bulluck. "New invasive plant species are continuously arriving in Virginia, so it is important for landowners and land managers to stay aware of the threats, to prevent invasive species establishment and to be swift in recognizing and managing their spread. Anyone who has ever found themselves battling an invasive species infestation knows 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.'"

Factors considered during assessment of potential additions to the list include the invasive characteristics of the species such as how read-

ily seeds are dispersed through the landscape, whether Virginia has suitable habitat and if the species threatens natural resources. There are three ranks of invasiveness: high, medium or low.

Invasive plants cause problems because they proliferate and displace native plant species, reduce wildlife habitat and alter natural processes.

For instance, a new aquatic invasive plant with sharp, spiky fruit known as two-horned trapa (*Trapa bispinosa*) has been rapidly proliferating in freshwater ponds, lakes and slow-moving waterways in northern Virginia and elsewhere. It harms the ecosystem by forming mats that choke and cover waterbodies, shading out and competing with native submerged aquatic vegetation and reducing dissolved oxygen with its decayed roots and leaves. Infested waters lose boating, fishing, recreational and aesthetic value. Management is costly.

The state's Invasive Species Working Group, created by the Virginia General Assembly in 2009, is coordinating efforts to address invasive species and is updating its management plan.

DCR Stewardship Biologist Kevin Hefferman said that a cultivar ("cultivated variety") is sometimes propagated to be sterile so that it won't spread. However, in some cases like the Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), the cultivar can cross with other cultivars or the original species, thereby reproducing and spreading to extents that are very difficult, expensive or even impossible to ever manage.

"We think of plants as being rooted where you plant them. But many species have reproductive means by which to travel far from the parent plants: seeds "hitchhiking" on people and animals, seeds catching a ride on the wind, or plant parts floating on water

to a new habitat. Thus, species like tree-of-heaven, wavyleaf grass, two-horned trapa, and even butterfly-bush, can show up where you least expect to find them, places like local forest parks or natural area preserves," he said.

"If you learn you have an invasive species in your yard or garden, whether or not you planted it there, we strongly encourage removal. There are many horticultural species that are not invasive. And, more and more, native plant species are available for a variety of settings. Often, the native species we plant in our yards benefit birds, butterflies and other pollinators, whose presence enriches our garden experience and increases ecological value."

DCR provides a free, online Virginia Native Plant Finder tool to search for native species to plant instead of invasives. Go to <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder>.

To report a sighting of an invasive plant in Virginia, use the EDDMapS website or app, iNaturalist or visit <https://www.invasivespeciesva.org/report-sightings>.

Added to Virginia Invasive Plant Species List

- Virginia Invasiveness Rank: High**
- *Chinese tallow-tree (*Triadica sebifera*)
 - *floating primrose-willow (*Ludwigia peploides* var. *glabrescens*)
 - *Italian arum (*Arum italicum*)
 - *ravenna-grass (*Tripsidium ravennae*)
 - *trifoliate orange (*Citrus trifoliata*)
 - *two-horned trapa (*Trapa bispinosa* var. *inun-*
- Virginia Invasiveness Rank: Medium**
- *curled pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)
 - *fountain grass (*Cenchrus purpurascens*)
 - *incised fumewort (*Corydalis incisa*)
 - *leatherleaf mahonia (*Mahonia bealei*)
 - *sweet autumn clematis (*Clematis terniflora*)
- Virginia Invasiveness Rank: Low**
- *nandina (*Nandina domestica*)
 - *orange-eye butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*)

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