Viewpoints

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Meadowpoint Dahlias: A Story of History, Family, and Blossoming Beauty





By Joanne Hill

It is only fitting that a colorful bouquet of dahlias from Meadowpoint Dahlias adorned May-Sunday morning service. Dahlias, symbolic of el-



church and the farm is deeply intertwined.

berry Presbyterian Church recently for their rock churches built by Bob Childress, the in- er of the farm, Debra Spangler Shelor, and her spiration for the book "The Man Who Moved a husband, Rob, are continuing the family legacy. egance, creativity, positivity, and growth, flour- Mountain." The dahlia farm is located in the Debra is the granddaughter of the elder Spanish in a delightful farm situated just a few miles yard of the former Charles Langhorne "Tump" gler.



from Mayberry Church. The history of both the Spangler, the first representative from Patrick County to the Virginia House of Delegates, Mayberry Presbyterian Church is one of the where he served for five years. The current own-(See Meadowpoint Dahlias p. 2)



The Virginia Department of Transportation determined that a stoplight is not warranted at the intersection of U.S. 58 and Virginia 680 (Spring Road - right/South Mayo Drive-

VDOT: Stoplight 'Not Warranted' for Patrick Springs Intersection

By Taylor Boyd

A recent analysis by the Virginia Department of Transportation 85th percentile speeds on U.S. 58 (VDOT) concluded that a traffic were 53 mph westbound and 52 signal is not warranted at the inter- mph eastbound. section of U.S. 58 and Virginia 680 uation of traffic volumes, movements, and crash data.

Lisa Price-Hughes, VDOT's resident engineer, explained the criteria used to determine the need for a traffic signal.

"There are certain requirements for hourly volumes of traffic on the main line, which would be (U.S.) 58, traffic volume on the intersection, which would be Spring Road" and South Mayo Drive — "all four legs," Price-Hughes said.

The study reviewed traffic patterns during peak hours, which are between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. The highest volume of traffic was recorded from 4-5 p.m., with 640 vehicles traveling east and west on U.S. 58. Meanwhile, Virginia 680 experienced a peak of 117 vehicles from 10-11 a.m. The lowest volumes were 408 vehicles on U.S. 58 and 78 vehicles on Virginia 680, both recorded between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

The intersection is classified as a rural arterial for U.S. 58 and a rural major collector for Virginia 680. In 2022, U.S. 58's average annual daily traffic (AADT) was 8,621 vehicles west of the intersection and 5,196 east of it. South Mayo Drive's AADT was 461, while Spring Road saw 3,513 vehicles per day.

A radar speed sample found the

Crash data spanning 10 years, (Spring Road/South Mayo Drive) in from August 2014 to April 2024, Patrick Springs. The decision, out- showed 15 crashes related to the inlined in an April traffic engineering tersection. Most involved a left-turn work order, was based on an eval- or crossing movements from Virginia 680. Eight of the crashes resulted in injuries. The average age of atfault drivers was 60.3 years, with 66.7 percent exceeding that age.

Three crashes occurred between October December 2023, and prompting renewed discussion about intersection safety. Before these incidents, the most recent crash occurred in December 2021.

The report also stated the age of at fault drivers is a commonality, and Traffic Engineering recommended improvements in both the long-term and short-term "to address the issue of older drivers, and their ability to judge speed, distance, and gaps in traffic.'

The report outlined short-term long-term safety improvements. Short-term measures include:

- Installing transverse rumble strips in both directions on U.S. 58.
- Relocating and refreshing existing signage.
- Adding ground-mounted "In tersection Warning" with supplemental plaques.
- Replacing existing signs with updated versions.

(See VDOT p.3)

Patrick County Supervisors to elect new officers at January 6 meeting

The Patrick County Board of Su-year. pervisors is set to hold its reorganizational meeting on January 6 at 6 p.m. in the third-floor meeting room mittees. The county attorney is also of the Patrick County Administration Building. During this session, the board will elect a new chairman and vice-chairman. Additionally, in closed session, however, prothe board will consider adopting its Rules of Procedure and a proposed meeting schedule for the upcoming

In other business, the board will appoint members to various comscheduled to discuss Conflict of In-

terest forms. The board will consider meeting posed items of discussion were not included on the draft agenda.

Fourth Grader Raises Over \$2,400 for Patrick County Animal Shelter

By Taylor Boyd

Noah Beasley, a local fourthgrade student at Woolwine Elementary School, raised over \$2,400 for the Patrick County Animal Shelter in November.

Kirsten Beasley, Noah's mother, said the GoFundMe fundraiser began as part of a new family tradition. "So, we were using the month of November as our give back month. He was given three options as give back projects, and the first option I gave him was you know we could raise money for the animals at the animal shelter. Immediately he knew he wanted to do that," she

Beasley said Noah is a huge animal lover who adores all creatures, even the ones she finds less appealing, such as "creepy crawlies, the earthworms, and the bugs."

friends and family, people from the county, people from other parts of the state. Actually, a couple of days Kirsten and Noah ordered several ago people were still reaching out



Noah Beasley gives his thanks to those who donated during his November give back month for the Patrick County Animal

The GoFundMe campaign raised trying to donate, so I said, 'just send \$2,410 from 60 donors. "We had your money directly to the animal shelter," she said.

After the fundraiser concluded

(See Fourth Grader p.3)

Ararat man charged after pursuit

An Ararat man has been charged in connection with a December 26 pursuit, according to Sheriff Dan Smith.

Deputies had been investigating an incident that had occurred on Christmas Day, in which a man was suspected of assaulting his girlfriend, and allegedly made threats to shoot members of her family, Smith said, and added the man was a fugitive and had been wanted for several months on a felony probation violation capias issued by Patrick County Circuit Court.

Patrick Sheriff's Lt. Dustin Foley spotted the suspect vehicle on River Road shortly after 2 a.m. and attempted a traffic stop, at which time the vehicle failed to stop and a pursuit ensued. The chase covered many of the roads in Ararat and Willis Gap, with the driver of the suspect vehicle allegedly ramming Foley's vehicle on Lovell Pond Road.

The sheriff advised that Foley attempted unsuccessfully multiple Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuvers on the suspect vehicle.

"At one point, Lieutenant Foley had gotten the suspect vehicle spun around from a PIT maneuver and had actually pushed it into a bank, but the suspect was able to spin out and the pursuit continued," Smith

Master Deputy Eric Sain became involved in the pursuit shortly af-

terwards and deployed spike strips

at the intersection of Johnson Creek

Road and Willis Gap Road. The sus-

pect vehicle avoided the strips, and



James Aaron Briggs

the pursuit entered Surry County, N.C., at which time the Surry County Sheriff's Office became involved and took over the pursuit.

The pursuit ended when the suspect vehicle ran out of gas in a driveway in Mount Airy, N.C.

James Aaron Briggs, 41, was taken into custody by N.C. authorities and charged with multiple offenses.

"Two handguns and a large quantity of methamphetamine were found in the suspect's vehicle, Smith alleged.

Foley charged Briggs with felony eluding a law enforcement officer, felony assault of a law enforcement officer, and assault and batter. Briggs is being held in jail in Surry County, N.C. without bond.

"We are fortunate that Lieutenant Foley was not injured, and damage to his patrol vehicle was minimal due to his push bumper absorbing the damage," Smith added.

Meadowpoint Dahlias:

(cont. from page 1)



After retiring from thirty-one in shoeboxes, must be replanted and years of service with Tri-Area Community Health Clinic, Debra found more time to indulge in her passion for planting and growing dahlias. Her son, Aaron Shelor, soon discovered his own joy in flower gardening, planting a few dahlias at his house. Aaron, a Virginia Tech graduate and the manager of Meadowpoint Cattle Company, became so involved in growing dahlias that he explored online sales.

and they now grow and sell over 400 varieties of dahlia tubers, shipping them to all fifty states. However, running this small business requires significant effort. In spring, beds must be prepared, and the every curve, and this fascinating tubers, which were dug up in the fall, washed, meticulously sorted, labeled, and stored in the basement Creek, which happily hops over

tended throughout the summer.

Dahlias begin blooming in June and continue until the first frost. During this period, they need to be fertilized, watered, weeded, staked, netted, protected from varmints. and deadheaded. While the Shelors generally do not sell cut blooms, they do provide flowers for special events on occasion. Selling tubers involves cataloging, packaging, mailing, and accounting. Market-The business quickly expanded, ing the tubers online with photos of each beautiful variety is crucial, with Aaron handling much of the computer work and Debra managing much of the outdoor labor.

> Discoveries can be found around dahlia farm is no exception. Located on Route 58 beside Quakerfield



Aaron Shelor with the reflection of the garden in his glasses



Bouquet by Beth Ford.

nearby rocks, the farm's charm is undeniable. While sales are currently closed for the season, Meadowpoint Dahlias continues to captivate visitors and customers alike.



For more information, visit their website at Meadowpoint-dahlias. square.site or their Facebook page, Meadowpoint Dahlias.

Secret Santa Winners announced



Ivan Byers at J&P Contractors



Karen Rorrer at Piedmont Community Services

used funding from a generous donor (could be al Christmas Bonus Holiday Drawing received Company and Karen Rorrer at Piedmont Comthe man in the red suit) to operate the Secret \$1,000. The winners are Ivan Byers with J&P



Rebecca Spence at Nancy's Candy

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Santa contest. The three winners of the annu- Contractors, Rebecca Spence at Nancy's Candy munity Services. (Contributed photos)

Activities, offerings flourish for area seniors

Five Stuart High School graduates of the mas musical.

Pets of the Week





This tri-color Beagle mix is a neutered male. He is ready for his new home now.

This cute male Husky mix has waited too long for a home, and at a year old, has been waiting patiently for a new family. Please come and meet him.

Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259, or visit in person or its Facebook page to view other 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.

The Seniors Group which meets each month Reynolds Homestead. class of 1963 found that they were among the on the second Thursday at Rotary Field is for-56 seniors who recently enjoyed a day trip with tunate to take an occasional out-of-town bus their seats early and continued to get excited the Patrick County Senior Citizens group to trip under the leadership of Judy Lacks who for the happy day to come when they would ride Wolhfarht Haus to attend their annual Christ- is the chairman of the planning committee of up the mountain on a chartered bus to attend the Seniors group. BR George Tours previously planned the trips, but Lacks has taken on the job as coordinator and tour guide in recent

overnight trip to Elkins, WVA in the fall. Although the Seniors Group falls under the um-Department, Lacks and the planning commititem for lunch and local groups provide enter-

A donation box is available for those who wish provide one meal during the year along with terprise.

Participants enjoying the recent trip reserved the "Christmas in the Park" performance at the Wytheville dinner theatre.

A delicious three course meal was served by the entertainers and then the fun began. There The group had the opportunity to go on an were tap dancers, line dancers, dancing Santas and sparkly costumes with 12 performers who were energetic, talented and provided us with brella of the Patrick Co. Parks and Recreation a program that renewed our Christmas spirit. The second half of the show was dedicated to tee take care of all the details for the monthly portraying the real reason for Christmas with a meetings and road trips. At the monthly meet- nativity performance and all the sacred Christings, guests are usually invited to bring a food mas carols to go along with the portrayals. Christmas scenery, lighting and sound added to the presentation of Christmas delightfulness.

All Patrick Co. seniors and those from surto contribute financially, and Blue Ridge Ther- rounding areas are invited to attend the monthapy Connection and the Landmark are there ly meetings and sign up for special outings. each month to take blood pressure. They also Notices are posted on WHEO and in The En-



VDOT=

(cont. from page 1)

For long-term safety, VDOT suggested exploring alternative intersection designs, such as roundabouts or restricted movement options. The agency emphasized the importance of community support for such projects.

"It should be noted community support is vital to the success of an alternative intersection design," the report stated.

VDOT encouraged the county to consider applying for funding through programs like SmartScale or the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Price-Hughes noted the county's past success with SmartScale projects, including improvements at Archie's Creek on Virginia 103 and Ashby Drive on Virginia 8.

"We've been through six rounds of SmartScale already. The 2026 round will be round seven. and that's what a project like (U.S.) 58 and 680 would be eligible for should the county choose to apply," she said.

VDOT assists localities with SmartScale applications by providing sketches and cost estimates, but the application process remains the locality's responsibility, "but we heavily assist in developing the application," she said.



Overhead flashing beacons were added to the intersection of U.S. 58/Virginia 680 in 2017. The beacons were designed to enhance visibility.

VDOT has studied this intersection multiple lights, Price-Hughes said. times. In 2003 and 2004, traffic engineering rewere added in 2017 to enhance visibility.

tive intersection designs over traditional stop- right now."

"We are moving away from stoplights and ports concluded that a signal was not warrant- more towards innovative intersections like ed, though recommendations included installing roundabouts, offset intersections, and restricted flashing beacons. Overhead flashing beacons movement," she said. "We have to investigate any kind of alternatives before we even consid-VDOT's current approach prioritizes innovaer a signal. That's where we are in the process

Fourth Grader

(cont. from page 1)

items for the shelter from Amazon. three choices for their give back month "He picked a few things out, and then next year, with the shelter being one I ended up writing a check for the of them. "It was honestly just a really shelter for the rest. We didn't want fun thing to do, and for a fourth gradto spend all the money; we wanted to er to learn how to give back to his comgive them the money so they could address any future needs," Beasley said. The items purchased included dog food, cat food, toys, treats, blankets, and cat litter.

Beasley believes that taking Noah to the shelter and immersing him in the experience had a profound impact on him. "I mean, you can talk about it with a fourth grader, but they don't really understand until they're actually there doing it. He was really excited, and after that he was telling everyone about it. He was like, 'I'm raising money for the dogs and the cats," she said with a laugh.

Kirsten plans to continue this new family tradition by offering Noah

munity and make an impact, it was just really good for the whole family to see that," she said.

The shelter staff were appreciative of Noah's efforts. "They were so thankful for all that he's already done," Kirsten said.

Beasley also expressed her gratitude to everyone who donated. "It really just made a huge difference in a small county where we don't always get the most resources or funding, so it was just really incredible," she said.

Those wishing to donate to the shelter can make checks payable to the Patrick County Animal Shelter and mail them to P.O. Box 466, Stuart, VA





Noah Beasley raised over \$2,400 for the Patrick County Animal Shelter.

Blattner named Physician of the Year

dedication to providing excep- not go unnoticed. tional care is truly commendcolleagues.

ing medical students from Ed- invasive gynecological surgeries. ward Via College of Osteopathic passion for teaching and his love diabetes, and other conditions.

is a name that resonates deeply his commitment to shaping fuwithin our community, and his ture medical professionals does

Board-certified in Obstetrics able. His commitment extends and Gynecology since 1986, Dr. beyond just medical expertise, he Blattner's dedication to his field is a constant, reliable presence is unwavering, as evidenced by Dr. Blattner is also dedicated hormone replacement therapy, to sharing his knowledge with and sexual health. His expertise the next generation of healthcare also extends to managing sexual professionals. He enjoys mentor- pain disorders and performing

Dr. Blattner is particular-Medicine (VCOM) during their ly skilled in guiding women clinical rotations, as well as Phy-through both low-risk and comsician Assistant students from plicated pregnancies, including Emory & Henry University. His those affected by preeclampsia,

As an OBGYN, Dr. Blattner for his work is truly evident, and Alongside his dedicated team, he offers prenatal care, ultrasounds, diagnostic testing, labor and delivery services at Twin County Regional Hospital, and postpartum care.

In addition to serving the Twin County area, Dr. Blattner works for those who need it most. His his voluntary recertification. at high-acuity hospitals in Florgenerosity of spirit and wealth of He has provided a wide range of ida and Northern Virginia and knowledge make him a vital re- healthcare services, with a spe- holds licenses in North Carolina, source for both his patients and cial focus on preventive care such Florida, and Virginia. His pasas pap smears, contraception, sion for women's health is evident in everything he does, striving to achieve the highest quality care for his community.

We are beyond fortunate to have Dr. Blattner as part of our Twin County family. His impact on the lives of those he serves is immeasurable, and we are deeply grateful for his continued ded-



Local events among those to gain funding boost

matching grant funds awarded to 81 special new marketing and event production activity events and festivals as part of the Virginia focused on increasing overnight visitation to Tourism Corporation (VTC)'s Special Events & Festivals Sponsorship Program (SEF), Gov. Glenn Youngkin said in a release.

Local events include:

- tions were awarded \$5,000 for a total match of our musicians, artisans, hotels, and restau-\$26,382 for the Beach Music Festival, slated to be held June 12-14.
- One Family Productions received \$5,000 for a total match of \$39,050 for the Front Porch Fest, set for August 28-31.
- Rooster Walk Inc. was awarded \$10,000 for a total match of \$41,880 for Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival, set for May 22-25.

This funding program is designed to leverage local marketing and event production dollars with matching state funds to increase overnight visitation, improve the visitor experience, and increase traveler spending at Virginia special events and festivals. This funding cycle, local

Virginia in 2025. The funding will be awarded to 81 special events and festivals, ultimately impacting 324 combined partners.

'Special events and festivals are vital to Vir-Stuart Rotary Club (SRC) Produc- ginia's thriving visitor economy, supporting rants. This year's grant recipients have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to growing their event footprint, increasing visitation, and enhancing the visitor experience in 2025," said Youngkin. "By leveraging these funds, we aim to attract even more visitors, showcase the unique charm of our communities, and reinforce Virginia's reputation as a premier destination for memorable events and festivals."

The VTC Special Events & Festivals Sponsorship Program is designed to increase visitor spending by leveraging limited marketing and event production dollars to stimulate overnight visitation through new tourism marketpartners will commit more than \$4.8 million in ing and event expansion partnerships. The more information.

Events in Patrick County and Martinsville private-public sector funds to match the VTC program also extends the Virginia is for Lovers to receive a portion of more than \$812,139 in funding, providing more than \$5.62 million in brand to drive special events and festival visitation. Each Go Virginia region is limited to 20 percent of available funds creating a matrix of sponsored special events and festivals state-

> Using the hub and spoke tourism model to create multi-day itineraries, four Virginia entities partner financially to apply for funding. Partners may consist of Virginia cities, towns, counties, destination marketing organizations, restaurants, museums, attractions, and other tourism-related businesses. With the special event or festival as the main lure, the program is designed to encourage visitors to extend their stay to experience Virginia Main Streets, boutique shopping, unique restaurants, and historic sites creating significant economic impact driven by the special event or

> The VTC will have additional grant and sponsorship rounds opening throughout 2025. Organizations and businesses that are interested in applying may visit vatc.org/grants for

VIEWPOINTS

3 Reasons Why New Year's Resolutions Don't Work - Part 1

It's 2023 and I want you to meet with our goals.

Sally wants to lose weight this year and, like most of us who want to lose weight, she wants to keep it off forever.

So...Sally joins a gym.

Sally goes on a diet.

Sally promises to eat only rice cakes for snacks.

Sally vows to never binge watch TV again.

She sincerely believes that this year will be a different year—the

Fast forward to March 2023.

Sally is on her computer, watching Game of Thrones and eating peanut butter (yes, plain peanut actually gained 10 pounds and feels terrible about herself. She's failed, just like last year.

What happened to Sally? The same thing might have happened to you, year after year. For some reason, New Year's resolutions are hard to keep; the weight keeps packing on and our health keeps de-

Why does this keep happening? It's as if we're reliving January of last year all over again, but it's even worse this year because the scale has a higher number on it. Why do we keep doing this to ourselves? What are the deep inner workings that prevent us from doing the incredible things that we set out to do several months ago?

At our deepest level, I believe that there are three major things that Stuart, VA) prevent us from following through

1. We do things out of fear.

"F.E.A.R. stands for False Evidence Appearing Real." – Les Brown

Between the late 1700s and early 1800s, the Industrial Revolution happened, along with the formation of large companies. Factories and railroad companies ruled the land and monopolies were formed. Oftentimes, the workers of these companies were supervised by severe bosses who "struck the fear of God" in their workers. It was, and still is at times, believed by many that fear is the greatest motivator. However, recent studies have shown other-

According to BioMed Central, butter). She hasn't lost weight but healthcare expenditures at highly stressful companies are almost 50% more than those of other companies. Not only that, stressful or otherwise fear-motivated employees tend to disengage with their jobs in the long term. According to the 2014 Globe Benefits Attitudes survey, over half of employees experiencing high levels of stress are disengaged from their work. The result? More cases of negligence, which in turn causes more mistakes and, eventually, failure. Current studies show that fear does not motivate; rather, it debilitates.

> So what happens when we let fear be our motivation for success? F-E-A-R will quite possibly spell F-A-I-L in the end, for us and for Sally.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Writ-There are countless reasons and ten by Rolando Fulgencio, ND. Used excuses that we can come up with, by permission from www.lifeandbut let's not spend time on those. health.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring Resources for Hope and Healing

Letters to the Editor

I'm not from around here, but ...

The Patrick Pioneers story of John Henry Yeatts and his career as a rural mail carrier on "the 34mile Mayberry route" struck an especial poignant chord with me. (The story, recounted by Beverly Belcher Woody and Gerry Yeatts Scardo, appeared in the December 19 edition of The Enterprise.)

Although I was raised in the rural Midwest, the importance of rural mail carriers was just as essential to the sense of community there as here, then as now. Indeed carriers' importance persists even in urban and suburban areas, providing a link to each other and the world. But it is rapidly disappearing.

On ordinary days, Grandpa Yeatts delivered the mail on horseback. It was during the days of the Depression but the Sears Christmas catalog was an important symbol of hope. So Grandpa Yeatts hitched up his horse and buggy to accommodate the heavier load. Nowadays, our carriers here in Claudville use personal cars rather than the family horse, and often stack the extra holiday packages in rooftop carri-

Grandpa Yeatts was often first to see, and divert, potential disasters: saving two boys from a burning house, witnessing, but unable to save, field workers from deadly lightening strikes. In the Midwest in that same era, our mail carrier alerted the neighbors to a barn fire, to tornado damage - and promised silence when some kids' attempt at a Swedish sauna caused him to mow down a mailbox.

When we moved here 20 years ago from the New Jersey suburbs, our rural mail carrier came to the door (which is some distance from the mailbox) with explicit instructions about what to do when we were traveling. Go to the Claudville Post Office to stop delivery and avert break-ins, and "for goodness sake, lock that gate."

Letters remained the preferred method of communication back in Grandpa Yeatts' day. Phones were too expensive for any but the most important long-distance call. But even they conveyed a sense of personal involvement and community interest. I recall the clicks on our 1945 party line when news came that our uncles were headed home from Europe and the Pacific.

Our carriers these days are on a stop-watch schedule. No time for anything but scanning the bend in the road for oncoming motorists swinging into a wide turn. No time to take note that a package is being delivered battered and empty. No time to notice imminent disaster in the neighborhood.

Today, we communicate via various technologies and are impatient that they aren't instantaneous, not caring that they are also vastly impersonal. Not caring that postal carriers seemed slated for extinction. Not caring that a division is developing among all the diverse members of a community. Not fearing that there soon may be nothing to link us together.

Judy Ferring, Claudville

Tren de Aragua (TDA), brought to you by the Biden Administration

(Fox, New York Post, Newsweek, In Sight Crime, The Federalist, Tampa Free Press, El Paso Times, CBP—US Customs and Border Pro-

Tren de Aragua, started as a prison gang in the Venezuelan state of Aragua in 2013, taking over the Torocon prison and making it their base of operations, growing to over 5,000 members in 2013. TdA is led by Hector Rusthenford Guerrero Flores who was incarcerated in Tocoron prison. Though Tocoron prison was taken by Venezuelan security forces in 2023, leadership escaped, and the gang's activities continue to

The group and since expanded throughout Latin America and the United States. According to Homeland Security, TdA has set up shop in the following U.S. states; Montana, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Wisconsin, Illinois and North Dakota, Arizona, Utah, and a presence in Washington DC. which equates to an area that includes half of America's population.

Some of the crimes committed by TdA members in the United States include, murder, protection racketeering, drug-trafficking, human-trafficking, forced prostitution, human smuggling, kidnappings-for-ransom, retail theft, robbery, bribery, and money laundering.

TdA doesn't have a defined set of tattoos that would make it easy for law enforcement to identify members. In order for the Border Patrol to get criminal records from Venezuela they have to use Interpol data, as the U.S. doesn't have a memorandum of agreement with Venezuela to

exchange criminal records. The lack of information sharing between US and Venezuelan authorities means law enforcement officials cannot easily discover if an individual is a former prisoner or suspected Tren de Aragua member. "As a federal agent, we have no way of vetting these people other than the honor system," US Border Patrol Council Vice President Chris Cabrera told reporters at a recent press conference. "If they tell us their name, we can't check against Venezuela's database."

TdA members embedded themselves in the waves of millions of migrants who crossed the US-Mexico border during the Biden-Harris administration. With no information-sharing between the US and Venezuela to detect the gang members, they were easily released into the US, according to the US Border Patrol. Further complicating the disastrous situation is a fraught relationship between the Biden-Harris administration and Venezuela's Maduro regime, which refuses to accept deportation flights carrying Venezuelans from the US back to the South American country.

Once Biden came into office and offered catch and release policies, and temporary protected status, the Venezuelans started fleeing to the U.S. from all other countries. The result was that when a group of Venezuelans came across the border, they had multiple identification cards from multiple countries which made it impossible to ascertain who they were. From fiscal year 2021 to 2023, CBP saw a 421% increase in Venezuelans coming across the bor-

Pray for our country. William Salser,

Winning displays at Festival of Lights announced

The DeHart Park Festival of Lights 2024 was a huge success, according to organizers, who added the event would not be possible without all of the community sup-

The park hosted more than 50 displays this year, and visitors had the option to vote by QR code and Attendees selected the Top 4 be- Christmas Display. low, and all received more than 100 votes each.

The Favorite Displays of 2024 Express Display.

1st place - R&J Auto 2nd place - Wood Brothers Racing 3rd place - Resolute Therapy

4th place-Stuart Concrete

Honorable Mentions, also selected by those visiting the fest, are The Fulcher Family — Nativity Scene; Brett Corns and Larry Freeman Santa's Sleigh & Workshop; Averie in-person for their favorite display. Stowe-Holt — A Charlie Brown

> Stuart Elementary the free Pool Party with their Polar

federal funding boost

U.S. Rep. Morgan

R-Salem, People, fers different programs and services to local communities in Franklin and Patrick Counties, including Head Start programs. "This HHS grant for

nearly \$1.3 million helps STEP administer Head Start services to families and children in Franklin and Patrick counties," Griffith added.

STEP's Head Start network consists of teaching and educational professionals, as well as health advocates and transportation specialists.

STEP's Head Start programs are supported by schools in Franklin and Patrick



Head Start programs get

The U.S. Depart- Inc., based in Rocky Griffith, ment of Health and Mount, Virginia, to said "Solutions that Services support the group's Empower (HHS) has awarded Head Start programs. known as STEP, of-\$1,296,061 to STEP,

THE ENTERPRISE

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Cline joins P&HCC College Board

The Patrick & Henry Community College Board welcomes its newest member, Carl Cline, Jr.

A Registered Nurse, Cline serves as Vice President/Administrator for Carilion Clinic/Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Virginia Organization of Nurse Executives, the American Nurses Association, and

the Virginia Nurses Association. Cline currently serves on the SW Chapter Board of the American RedCross (Roanoke, VA) as the board chair, Franklin County Free Clinic Board of Directors, Ferrum College Board of Directors, Roanoke Valley Speech and Hearing Board of Directors, and was selected by the Governor of Virginia to serve on the Virginia Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board. He is also a member of the Rocky Mount Rotary Club.

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - 5

Patrick Pioneers

Memories of Edna Roena Reynolds Yeatts (Part One)

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Recently, we visited Kettle Hollow again and learned about John Henry Yeatts, his wife, Edna Roena Reynolds Yeatts, and the legacies left by their nine children. This week, we will learn more about Edna's parents, Ruth Eliza Barnard and Elam Owen Revnolds and their children. We are fortunate that Edna recorded her childhood memories for all posterity, and they provide a snapshot of what life was like for mountain children in the 1890's.

Ruth Eliza Barnard was born on the 26th of April 1846 in Mayberry, Patrick County, Virginia to Tirea Barnard and Lucinda Eliza Scott Barnard. Ruth Eliza had several siblings, Mary "Polly" Ann, b.1830; Isham, b.1831; Thomas Amos, b.1833; Richard Joseph, b.1835; Charles, b.1838; John Jehu, b.1840; James William, b.1844; John Madison, b.1848; and Lucy Emoline, b.1851.

Twenty-year old Ruth Eliza Barnard married twenty-six-year-old German Wood on the 13th of December 1866. German was the son of Edward "Ned" Wood and Mary "Polly" Moran Wood of the Lone Ivv section of Patrick County. German was a Confederate veteran, having served in the 51st Virginia Infantry, Company D.

Ruth Eliza and German had two children, Flora S., born in October 1867 and John Everett, born the 6th of August 1871. Tragedy struck two short months later when German Wood died at the age of thirty-one on the 19th of October 1871.

Ruth Eliza married again on the 3rd of February 1876 to Elam Owen Reynolds, the son of Captain James Bartholomew Reynolds and Roxanne Shelor Reynolds of the Round Meadow community of Meadows of Dan. Capt. Reynolds held the distinction of being the first postmaster of Meadows of Dan. Elam Owens was the sixth child of fourteen children born to Capt. Revnolds and his wife, Roxanne, their children were as follows: Powell Benton, b.1841; Tillman Dexter, b.1842; Cardwell McCauley, b.1844; Hortense Ellen, b.1846: Rowena Columbia, b.1848: Walter Mandeville, b.1852: Octavious Lofton, b.1854; twins Mintwins Elvira and Jay Forney Reynolds. b.1865.

When Ruth Eliza Barnard Wood and Elam Owen Reynolds married in February 1876, Ruth Eliza brought her two children from German Wood to the marriage, Flora. age nine and John Everett, age five. Ruth Eliza and Elam's first child, Isham DeLeon Reynolds was born on the 25th of November 1876. Volnev Prentiss was born to the couple in May 1878, followed by Edna Roena in April 1880, James Benton in 1882, and Elizabeth Liberta Reynolds in 1883.

Sadly, Ruth Eliza Barnard Wood Reynolds passed away on the 29th of September 1890 at the age of forty-three. According to the death register at the Patrick County courthouse, her death was due to consumption (tuberculosis). In ad-

dition to her husband, Elam, she was survived by her children Flora, age 23; Thomas, age 19; Isham, age 14; Volney, age 12; Edna Roena, age 10; James, age 8; and Elizabeth, age 7.

From here, we will begin with Edna Roena Reynolds Yeatts' memories of her childhood that she recorded for her descendants. Some of her memories are deeply private and naturally won't be shared, but many of her experiences describe what life was like for young children who are left motherless. My Grandma was six when she lost her mother and so many of the trials Mrs. Yeatts' endured are like Grandma's experiences.

Edna Roena Reynolds Yeatts recalled the pain of losing her mother, "Sad is the memory of the year 1890, when after two years of illness, my mother was finally called to her heavenly reward. I remember the night after she was buried, I lay and wept and prayed to go wherever she was. But for some reason, God didn't seem to hear, and I was left to bear my grief as best as I could with my two sisters and three brothers."

Mrs. Yeatts recalled first experiences as the cook of the house, "There were five of us children left at home. My oldest brother and sister, children from my mother's former marriage, were living elsewhere. So that left at home two boys older than I-I was ten-and one brother and sister younger than I. Soon after Mother's death, we began to learn to cook and prepare our own meals. There were many varied and amusing incidents that accompanied the hard work of cooking for six people. I often wonder how young folks today would manage under similar circumstances. (I will interject here that Mrs. Yeatts wrote these memories down in 1950). As I recall, we had three vessels with which to cook: a pot to boil water and coffee; an oven to fry meat; and an old Dutch oven to bake bread. We had to hunt for bark and twigs to make the fire to cook the food, and woe to us if we forgot that. I recall one day when I had put the bread on to bake, (or thought I had), and wandered off to play. One of the boys came to the door and yelled to me, 'Hey, Edna, run up here quick! nie Louella and Linville Walker, Your bread is burning up!' I called b.1858; Metta Victoria, b.1862; back, 'Set it off, silly, set it off!' Calneah "Callie" Mae, b.1863; and They really had their laugh when I got there and discovered that I had failed to even start a fire under the oven. I was so mad that I almost fought all of them."

Mrs. Yeatts recalled her childhood home. "Our home was built of hand-hewn logs, and chinked with clay. It contained two stories, the upstairs being the bedrooms. There was one spare bedroom where the logs were strapped over inside and chinked with mud and clay. Our beds were only the most meager materials. They had straw ticks, and the slats were always loose, and would often fall. This would either leave our heads or heels the highest, and it was just too cold to fix the bed, so we would suffer the discomfort until morning."

Mrs. Yeatts recalled when measles struck, "Strange to say, we were healthy most of the time. I remem-



Yeatts and Reynolds family shared by Gerry Yeatts Scardo.



Ruth Eliza Barnard Wood Reynolds.

ber one year when we all had measles. I can still feel the snow that blew under the rafters to cover the blankets beneath which I sweated. There were none of today's comforts and conveniences, and none of today's nursing and care. We helped one another and managed to survive somehow. The oldest boy almost died. He lay for weeks delirious. He would try to get out of bed and leave home. I was acting as a nurse and had to see that he stayed in the bed and stayed alive. I was trying to get him back into bed one day when he struck me. The lick almost floored me, but I finally got him back down. All of us kids had the fever. One by one, we were struck down, but somehow, we all managed to survive. When it finally struck me, I was bedded down behind the door to be near the water. There were many days that passed that I don't remember. I believe now that it was sheer toughness and determination that pulled us through. Some of our neighbors visited us and brought us food. Of course, the fever was catch-

ing, so they didn't tarry long." Mrs. Yeatts wrote about two of her neighbors whom she referred baby that Mrs. Yeatts so loved. to as Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Harrell. In looking at the 1900 census, Elam Owen Reynolds and his family lived near Malcolm Leonard Webb and his wife, Mary Jane Weeks Webb and David Kent Harrell and his wife, Martha Adeline Hopkins Harrell. I am only speculating, but I believe these are Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Harrell, to whom Mrs. Yeatts is referring. In 1899, Mrs. Yeatts oldest brother, John Everett Wood married David and Martha Hopkins Harrell's daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, so that would be additional confirmation of a connection.

Mrs. Yeatts shared the following about her neighbors, "We surely had some kind neighbors. I remember longing for the meal and flour to give out so I could go to the neighbors' houses to borrow. That would also mean a trip back to repay them when we had restocked. I real-



Edna Reynolds Yeatts and grandson Jimmy.

ize now that I was lonely and the longing for a mother's love made me enjoy the visits so much. I can never forget Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Harrell that lived in the community. They treated us kids so kindly and were always considerate of me. Mrs. Webb would get me to rock her baby or fill some quills so that she could go on with her weaving. She made lots of linsey wool and blankets. Sometimes I can still hear the 'bang, bang' of the loom and shuttle as they flew back and forth. I loved her baby a lot, but the little fellow passed on before he was a year old. Babies went fast in those harsh days." I researched the Patrick County death records and Malcolm L., and Mary Jane Weeks Webb had a little boy, Maynard L. Webb who was born on the 24th of June 1895 and passed away Christmas Eve of that same year, making him exactly six months old at the time of his passing. I imagine this is the little

Next week, we will continue learn from Mrs. Yeatts' memories what life was like in the late 1800's in Patrick County. In the group picture above, shared by Gerry Yeatts Scardo, here are the following identifications, Front row, from left: unknown; Eunice holding Jeannie; unknown; Mary Lee; unknown; Edna Roena Reynolds Yeatts; John Henry Yeatts; probably Bertie Reynolds Cox; and on far right is Essie Yeatts Hopkins expecting son, Buddy. Essie's son John is in front of her. Second row, from left: Wilma Yeatts Cockram, remaining unidentified. Third row, from left: Bernice Spangler Shelor, remaining unidentified. Thank you so much to Gerry for sharing memories of her grandparents. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

Social Security Matters

Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Cit-

Ask Rusty - Can my Wife Claim Her SS Now and Get Half my SS Benefit Later?

Dear Rusty: My wife will reach her full Social Security benefit at 66.5 years of age which is just under 2 years away for her now. If she were to begin to get her monthly check now (i.e. early), would that prevent her from being eligible for the spousal benefit to receive half of what I am currently drawing? Signed: Curious Husband

Dear Curious: If your wife claims her own SS retirement benefit now (e.g., at 64.5 years), and you are already collecting your own SS benefit, then she will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit immediately when she claims her own benefit (she does not have the option to defer claiming her spousal benefit until later). This is a change made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which requires

all those first claiming SS to file for ALL bene-

fits they are eligible for when they claim. What

By Russell Gloor, National Social Security that would mean is that your wife's benefit now, including her spousal boost from you, would be actuarially reduced by the number of months early she claimed. Her own SS retirement benefit would be permanently reduced by about 15%, and her "spousal boost" (the additional amount she would get as your spouse) would be reduced by about 19%, yielding a combined benefit which is roughly 42% of your full retirement age (FRA) SS benefit.

The only way your wife can get half (50%) of your FRA benefit entitlement is by waiting until her own full retirement age (66 years and 10

months) to claim. Note too that your wife's spousal benefit will be based on your FRA entitlement, so if you claimed earlier or later than your own full retirement age, her spousal benefit will still be based on your FRA entitlement. Also, your wife should be aware that anyone

who claims early is subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much can be

earned while collecting early benefits. Thus, if

how much she can earn before Social Security

takes away some of her benefits. FYI, the earnings limit changes annually, but for 2025 it is \$23,420 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit. And, FYI, the earnings limit goes up a lot during the year FRA is attained, and the earnings test no longer applies once full retirement age is

reached. I hope this answers your question, but if you have need additional information, please feel free to contact us directly at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org, or call us at 1.888.750.2622.

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 your wife is working, she will be restricted on

us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

SPORTS

Hospice agency receives \$25,000 grant

Mountain Valley, a local hospice CEO of Mountain Valley. and palliative care organization, received a \$25,000 grant awarded by the Hospice Fund of the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia. The funds will directly support hospice care for residents of Patrick and Henry counties and the City of Martinsville.

This latest grant brings the Foundation's lifetime support for Mountain Valley to more than \$110,000 during their six-year partnership with the foundation, reflecting a shared commitment to compassionate end-of-life care.

"The Foundation's ongoing generosity enables us to serve our Virginia communities with dignity and excellence, ensuring families receive vital care when they need it most," said Tracey Dobson, president and

"Mountain Valley never turns anyone away due to their inability to pay. Grants like this one help us sustain our mission," said Leigh Anne Groves, senior VP of philanthropy. "This contribution will fund charity hospice care and services for patients in need, which, on average, amounts to over \$400,000 a year."

Mountain Valley's services include specialized hospice care, serious illness (palliative) care, grief support, pediatric hospice care and grief support for kids and teens, Alzheimer's and dementia care, and Veteran-centered programs. The organization focuses on support for the entire family, with a mission to create the best experience possible for every patient, every family, ev-

Concerns over CPS overreporting spark calls for change



Trimmel Gomes

Virginia News Connection

Virginia's child welfare system grapples with a surge of unfounded reports that critics say stem from overly broad mandatory reporting laws, disrupting families and straining resources.

More than 1,000 of more than 90,000 annual reports to Child Protective Services are found to be valid, said Valerie L'Herrou, deputy director of the Virginia Poverty Law Center's Center for Family Advocacy. She explained that some parents glect accusations even though their actions stem from economic necessity, not intentional disregard for their children's well-being.

"And that's when the nosy neighbor picks up the phone and calls CPS," she said, "and so these are the kinds of things: a family's water gets turned off because they can't afford to pay their water bill and so kids show up to school unbathed, and the teacher calls CPS."

L'Herrou said agencies such as the Virginia Department of Social Services are now classifying some situations as "Poverty Adjacent need. She advocated for solutions beyond mandatory reporting.

that address these root causes, including raising the minimum wage, strengthening programs such as SNAP and TANF, and expanding access to affordable child care.

Mandatory reporting laws have also created a dilemma for teachers, doctors and other professionals. Anna Daniszewski, a staff attorney for family defense at the VPLC, emphasized that people often fail to recognize the enduring and traumatic consequences of a false report to Child Protective Services.

"There's still harm in a call that are forced into impossible choices leads to an assessment or inquiry because of poverty, and can face ne- or investigation that turns out to be unfounded," she said. "Depending on if the report is about a bruise on an arm, a child might be stripsearched, and that's obviously traumatic, or even just the experience of having CPS knock on your door."

Advocates have said one solution would be using family resource centers to allow parents to ask for help without the fear of involving CPS. They also want better training for mandatory reporters.

Teachers are the top reporters of neglect and abuse, and groups such as the American Federation of Teachers now support an approach Neglect," acknowledging that fam- known as "mandated support," givilies often lack the resources they ing them a broader range of options

Man charged after allegedly entering wrong home

A Patrick Springs man was charged with breaking and entering in connection with a Friday incident, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

Around 5:50 a.m., the 911 Communications Center received a call from an elderly woman on Martin Farm Road who advised that someone had made entry into her home. Sheriff's Lt. Dustin Foley arrived at the residence a few minutes later and allegedly found a man, later identified as Richard Lee Byrd, lying on the living room Foley took Byrd into custody

immediately, Smith said, and alleged the man entered the home owner's bedroom prior to being found in the living room.

Byrd is also charged with destruction of property.

"Due to the suspect's behavior, and as the result of investigative



"was under the influence of methamphetamine and that he thought he was entering his own home. Mr. Byrd is lucky to be alive."

The victim was not harmed. Byrd, 44, is being held without bond in the Patrick County Jail. Master Deputy Matthew Rorrer is findings," Smith alleged the man the investigating officer.

PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports 1/9 Schedule for the week of January 6-11:

6pm Girls Basketball at Glenvar 1/7 7pm Boys Basketball vs Glenvar 1/8 6pm Wrestling Match at Radford High School

7pm Girls Basketball at Radford

7pm Boys Basketball at Radford 7pm Girls Basketball at Floyd County TBA Indoor Track Meet at Roanoke

TBA Wrestling Tournament at Virg inia High (Bristol)

TBA Wrestling Tournament at Vir ginia High (Bristol)

Input sought on upcoming projects

1/11

The West Piedmont Planning of 637 acres of land between the partnership with local organizary County Parks & Recreation, are 16 miles further downstream. launching the Foothills of the Blue Ridge Outdoor Recreation Planning Project as part of the larger Gateways to Southwest Virginia: Outdoor Economy Recreation Plan. Access the survey at https://www. surveymonkey.com/r/HTLP6DX

the master plan for the Mayo River State Park, a newly acquired Virginia State Park in southwestginia-North Carolina border. The oriverspmasterplanva.com/ commonwealth has acquired a total

District Commission (WPPDC) and North Mayo River and the South Friends of Southwest Virginia, in Mayo River, converging just south of the state line in North Carolina. tions like the Dan River Basin As- The Virginia State Park will comsociation (DRBA), Patrick County plement the North Carolina Mayo Economic Development, and Hen- River State Park, which continues

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is directing the preparation of a master plan for this new state park. The purpose of this master plan is to guide the management and devel-Input also is being sought on opment of the park by identifying natural, cultural, and physical resources, as well as to identify park needs and engage with the public. ern Henry County along the Vir- To provide input, visit https://may-

Deadline approaching for specialty crop farmers to apply for grants

Applications for the U.S. Depart- financial assistance to help specialment of Agriculture Farm Service ty crop farmers manage increased Agency's \$2 billion Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops program are due Jan. 8.

The program provides financial assistance to help specialty crop farmers expand markets and manage higher costs. The program focuses on producers of commercially marketed specialty crops including fruits (fresh and dried); vegetables (including dry edible beans and peas, mushrooms and vegetable seed); tree nuts; nursery crops, Christmas trees and floriculture; culinary and medicinal herbs and tea, turfgrass and grass seed.

"Specialty crop farmers don't tools typically available for row crop producers," noted Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculfor Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "MASC is intended to provide fice.

marketing costs and expand existing markets or establish new ones."

He added that MASC payments can help farmers pay for specialized handling and transport equipment with temperature and humidity control; damage-preventing packaging; and high labor costs. "However, the program doesn't require funds to be directed toward marketing-specific activities, allowing specialty crop farmers flexibility to use the financial assistance as needed," Banks explained.

To be eligible for the MASC prospices; and honey, hops, maple sap, gram, producers must be in business at the time of application. They also must maintain an ownerhave access to risk management ship share of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in 2025.

FSA will issue MASC payments after the end of the application peture, development and innovation riod. For details, visit MASC Program or contact your local FSA of-

New training offers insights on soils, nutrient management plans

individuals who want to learn the plete hands-on exercises using ins and outs of soil science and farm soils, soil tests, crop yields and manutrient management plans.

This January, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Nutrient Management Program will offer a two-part agriculture nutrient management training school. Those interested in learning about developing and implementing agricultural nutrient management plans, or how to become a certified nutrient management plan writer, are invited to register.

During the first session Jan. 9 and 10, Virginia Tech faculty will educate attendees about soil science, soil fertility and crop production. Considered a mini-agronomy course, the lecture series aims to help students understand how nutrients react and interact when applied to soil.

This virtual two-day soils and crop lesson will be held through Mi-

crosoft Teams. The second session will take place Jan. 14-16 and will cover nutrient

management plan writing using a

School will soon be in session for case study. Participants will comnure analysis to learn all the components of a nutrient management plan.

> The three-day training will be held in person at Brightpoint Community College in Chesterfield County.

Nutrient management plans are vital to famers' operations as they consider how best to apply inputs to their crops and forages. Nutrient management plans determine rates for applying manure, fertilizers, biosolids and other soil amendments to maximize yields while minimizing nutrient loss to ground and surface waters. Application rates are determined by a process using yield records or soil productivity when yield records are not available.

The training courses will run from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. each day. The sessions are \$150 each, and the deadline to register is Dec. 30. Visit dcr.virginia.gov/soil-andwater/nmtrain for more information and to register.

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - 7

Crossing the Lines

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

Oasis Wellness Escape Ushers in Spa Innovations

Oasis Wellness Escape, a new spa in Martinsville, aims to offer relaxation residents and holistic health options that were previously only available with long commutes. The facility, owned by husband-and-wife team Ginger and Randy Epling, features a deprivation sensory tank, a salt cave, and an infrared sauna, with plans to expand offerings in the future.

The couple's journey into wellness began with a personal experience. "I worked real hard in an innovative and holistic sense to come up with a plan to help him," Ginger said, referencing their son's sis Wellness Escape, ture additions, includautoimmune reaction reflects the couple's ing advanced red light at age eight.

Ginger to a career as vision, this is the start an integrative nurse of my dream, I think cape is located at 2559 practitioner, and now, it's off to a really good Greensboro Road, Marshe and Randy are start," Ginger said. bringing that passion The couple, admitting set to begin accepting to Martinsville. "We the name might be appointments in the are bringing business- "cheesy," emphasized coming weeks, with es in this area that its alignment with an easy-to-use online are needed, and it's their goal of creating booking system curbringing awareness to a tranquil and rejuvepeople to help optimize nating space for the their own health," Gin- community.



The salt cave at Oasis Wellness Escape will accommodate multiple clients.

ger said.

vision for the facility. therapy and a cold The experience led "This is the start of my plunge tank.

The Eplings are also The spa's name, Oa- looking ahead to fu-

Oasis Wellness Estinsville. The spa is rently in development.

City Council faces renewed tensions amid leadership clash





LC Jones and Aaron Rawls when the two sought a post on Martinsville City Council.

Discord resurfaced during a conten-pense of our citizens tious Martinsville City Council meeting in December, as Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls raised concerns about the council's direction, reigniting grievances tied to both recent developments and long-standing issues. Rawls' remarks provoked sharp responses from other council members, notably incoming member Rayshaun Gravely, who publicly called for Rawls to step down.

"It's time out for playing the blame game, disrespecting others, running your own agenda, and trying to have it your way all the time," Gravely wrote in a social media post. He added, "Council members ... are for the community. Stop crying because you are not getting your way. You have nothing good to say about council or the citizens because it did not work in your favor to were (sic) you would be able to control everything. So long bye bye."

Mayor LC Jones also expressed concern about the tone of council discussions and pledged to restore professionalism to the governing body. "I am dedicated to restoring professionalism to our city council meetings. Disparaging and unprofessional comments from council members will not be tolerated. If any council members wish to perpetuate negativity that detracts from the dignity of our city, they can do so privately rather than at the ex-

"The majority of this council stands firmly with the majority of Martinsville's residents, and together, we can propel our city toward a brighter future," he added.

Despite the tensions, Jones highlighted significant achievements of the past year, including many successful firsts.

"2024 has been notably eventful, characterized by a challenging election season that has garnered considerable attention," Jones said, and added that even with several challenges, the community has "experienced numerous significant achievements worth celebrating," including community events like the Black History Expo, the Cinco De Mayo Festival, and the Food Truck Rodeo, "alongside the establishment of various new businesses and restaurants.

"Furthermore, 2024 has served as a period of revelation, exposing specific individuals' true motivations and political agendas. Nonetheless, the most recent election result reflects that the citizens of Martinsville are committed to pursuing positive growth and meaningful change," Jones said.

As the council looks ahead to the new year, members are setting goals for the city's progress, despite lingering tensions that could shape its future dynamics.



Runners line up for a before-run picture in December. (Contributed)

Uptown Pub Run promotes year-round fitness

The Uptown Pub Run is a running event that occurs in Uptown of different from the people who Martinsville every Monday. The do the races, there are a few here event is sponsored by the Martins- who sign up for the races and are ville Henry County YMCA and Re- competitive." The Pub Run is a laidnewal Brewing. The ultimate goal back experience where runners can is to promote year-round fitness in come out to walk and run through the community.

The weekly event is coordinat-2025 will be helping with the Miles in Martinsville races. The run has has picked up since the team partnered up with the YMCA.

the least we've ever had is 15," said a brewery, runners don't need to have been less participants since talk. Hurd also said that you don't through the winter months.

"The crowd for the pub runs kind Uptown.

People are able to socialize during ed by Brian Hurd, who starting in and after the run at Renewal Brewing. Hurd said that a couple from Florida moved to the area, and he been going for about 24 weeks and believed that running helped the couple connect.

Hurd emphasized that just be-"The most we've ever had is 45, cause the run starts and ends at Hurd. Hurd said the run averag- drink to enjoy the event. "I come es in the 20s with runners. There down here and drink water and the weather got colder, but the run- have to come to the brewery, and ning club intends to keep meeting families with kids are welcome to run the route.

Ridgeway Bee City

The Town of Ridgeway has met the standards to become a Certified Affiliate of Bee City USA.

Mayor Craig O'Der said he was notified Ridgeway had completed all the inspections to become a Bee City in early Novem-

"We're very happy. We've been working on this for a couple of years developing some pollinator gardens, and it felt like this was the time to go ahead and apply and see if we met the standards to be a Bee City. They felt that we had done a good job on" it and "we met all the prerequisites to become a Bee City, and so we're very excited about that," he said.

O'Der anticipates Ridgeway will hold an event in the future to officially announce achievement.

"Where we can invite the public out, holidays, because right now everything is full on" with holiday events, he said.

To meet Bee City USA's standards, O'Der said four pollinator gardens were Bee City USA desig-



Katie Lamke

created Ridgeway.

"What we did was we developed them live for its residents. on the VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) right of way. It wasn't being used; it was just right-of-way use that the state had. I had reached out to VDOT and told them this is what we wanted to do, and the local Resand celebrate this ident Engineer" Lisa that has offices across Price-Hughes "blessed it," he said.

sometime after the of the pollinator gar- to celebrate the Town dens is on Ridgeway Town property, O'Der thinks two -of the others are on VDOT rights-of-way.

O'Der said Ridgeway went after the

throughout nation to continue its mission of making the town a great place to

> To further this goal, he added Ridgeway plans to go after getting a Tree City designation next.

Bee City USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a Portland based nonprofit organization the United States.

An event will be While he knows one scheduled this spring of Ridgeway's recognition as a Bee City USA affiliate.

> For more information on Bee City USA, visit www.beecityusa. org.

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



OBITUARIES

Mildred Ann Roberts Lawless

Bonnie Mae Ryan Lewis

Mrs. Bonnie Mae Ryan Lewis, age 75 of Stuart, Virginia passed away at her home on December 28, 2024. She was born in Sidney, New York on January 11, 1949, to the late Garland Leland Ryan and Gertrude Bell Reynolds Ryan. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one grandson, Jonathon Umbach; and she went, so much so three brothers, Jackie she was affectionately Ryan, Leland Ryan, called "Snow White". and Larry Ryan. Bon- Bonnie fought a long nie was an incredible hard fight; her last person; she was selfless, forgiving, and for Christmas, and she always put her family first. Although not in was their rock, foundathe military herself she soldiered through the Vietnam War as her husband served. She her beloved husband of



loved animals and they flocked to her wherever wish was to be home was. To her family, she tion, and North Star.

Left to cherish the memories of Bonnie are

58 years, John D. Lewis of the home; two children, Garland George Lewis (Karen) of Stuart and Ginger Mae Schultz (Michael) of Stuart; four grandchildren, Michayla Towers (Brock), Andrea Smith, Andrew Price, and Michael-Alan Green; one great-granddaughter, Anastasia Goldie Benfield; one sister, Cindy Palmer (Jim) of Unadilla, New York; several nieces and nephews; and her beloved service dog, Dixie.

All services for Mrs. Lewis will be private. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the services and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Mrs. Mildred Ann Roberts Lawless, age 66 of Patrick Springs, Virginia, was called home to join the Lord on December 21, 2024. Mildred was born in Patrick County on April 1, 1958, to the late Frank Roberts Jr. and Inez Gammons Roberts. In addition to her father, Mildred was preceded in death by her aunts Irene Gammons Stephens and Betty Gammons Spencer.

memories of Mrs. Lawless are her husband Michael Lawless of the home; daughter Kelly Renee Lawless na) of Georgia; grandchildren Ethan and Beginnings



ers, Garland Roberts of Stuart; Gerald Rob-Left to cherish the erts of Patrick Springs; and Jeff Roberts (Betty) of Henry County; and several nieces and nephews.

Mildred loved to (Aaron) of Catawba; laugh and was always son Brad Lawless (Ele- jolly. She loved her church family at New Baptist Evelyn; sister Doris Church. Mildred loved Cole (Andy) of Patrick her residents at the Springs; three broth- nursing home where

she worked as a dietary aid and she would go out of her way to make others feel special and cared for.

Funeral services for Mrs. Lawless will be held on Saturday, December 28, 2024, at 2:00 P.M. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Mark officiating. Wright The burial will immediately follow at Sycamore Baptist Church in Stuart. The family will receive friends one hour prior to service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Mildred Roberts Lawless, c/o Moody Funeral Home P.O. Box 307, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www. moodyfuneralservices.

Two Years of Behavioral **Health Transformation Marked**

The two-year anniversary of Virginia's "Right Help, Right Now" plan was celebrated with an announcement of new funding aimed at bolstering crisis care across the Commonwealth. Gov. Glenn Youngkin unveiled \$35 million in proposed budget allocations to expand the use of Special Conservators of the Peace (SCOPs) to assist in managing alternative custody situations, easing the burden on law enforcement, and improving outcomes for individuals in crisis.

"Two years ago, we committed to transforming Virginia's behavioral health system with a bold vision and action plan," Youngkin said. "Today, we see the progress: more capacity, better services, and lives changed. With the addition of SCOPs in emergency departments, we are not only reducing the strain on law enforcement but also creating safer, more appropriate environments for individuals in crisis to receive care."

The governor's announcement comes as part of a three-year initiative launched in December 2022. wide-ranging improvements across Virginia's behavioral health system, supported by \$1.4 billion in new investments, over 50 pieces of legislation, and significant operational expansions.

A Holistic Approach to Behavioral Health

The Right Help, Right Now plan is organized around six key pillars: same-day care, reducing the burden on law enforcement, expanding system capacity, addressing substance use disorders, workforce development, and prevention through innovation.

Same-Day Care

The Virginia 988 Call Center has expanded to handle rising call volumes, providing immediate crisis support statewide.

Over 100 publicly funded mobile crisis teams are now operational, exceeding the original year-two goal of 70 teams. These teams provide 24/7 service with an average response time of under 50 minutes.

Relieving Law Enforcement

A pilot SCOPs program in southwest Virginia has successfully reduced the involvement of law enforcement in mental health crises. The upcoming budget proposes to expand the program statewide, allowing SCOPs to de-escalate crises and free law enforcement for community safety duties.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) has enhanced training for Community Services Board (CSB) staff to improve care coordination

for individuals in crisis. **Expanding System Capacity**

Crisis stabilization units, therapeutic homes, and crisis receiving centers have increased from 216 to 663 operational or planned units, supported by \$125 million in grants.

The Adult Psychiatric Access Line was launched to provide behaviorbehavioral health transformation al health consultation for primary care providers.

Substance Use Addressing Disorders

Virginia has distributed 142,000 naloxone kits through the REVIVE! program to prevent opioid overdos-

The First Lady of Virginia's "It Only Takes One" initiative targets at-risk communities with fentanyl education and prevention efforts.

Workforce Development

New career pathways, including Behavioral Health Technician Assistant and Master's Psychology Practitioner roles, are set to launch this year.

BeTheChange.Virginia.gov, a recruitment platform for behavioral health professionals, debuted Monday, offering career resources and job listings.

Prevention and Innovation Mandated benefits have been expanded to cover crisis services, providing broader insurance coverage

and improved access to care.

Executive Order 43 established Over the past two years, the Right the Reclaiming Childhood Task Help, Right Now plan has driven Force, focusing on positive mental health outcomes for youth.

Sustained Progress and Future Goals

"This progress highlights a key priority and promise of Governor Youngkin's to transform Virginia's behavioral health system," said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Janet Kelly. "When a person is having a mental health crisis, they need mental health treatment. The funding proposals announced today will continue to better align resources to ensure that every Virginian has access to the right help at the right time."

First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin emphasized the human impact of the initiative. "Through It Only Takes One, we are reminded that a single choice, conversation, or action can save a life," she said. "Together, with Right Help, Right Now, we are building a stronger foundation for behavioral health and substance use awareness across Virginia."

As the initiative enters its final year, leaders remain focused on sustaining the progress made so far. "This is more than funding or legislation—it is the foundation for a healthier, stronger future where every Virginian has access to the care they deserve," said Hallie Pence, Executive Director of Right Help, Right Now.

Commissioner Nelson Smith of DBHDS highlighted Virginia's ambitions to set a national benchmark. "We are building a system that will serve as a model for the nation one that is responsive, accessible, and effective," he said.

The Right Help, Right Now initiative continues to address prevention, intervention, crisis care, and recovery, cementing Virginia's commitment to comprehensive and sustainable behavioral health reform.

Lunch Buddy Christmas Party held

A fun time was had by all during cool gifts to our students. Also in the background.

Buddies who have given their time throughout the year and for their

the Lunch Buddy Christmas Party thank you to Providence United at Patrick Springs Primary School. Methodist Church, our friends; Everyone enjoyed creating a craft, Pastor Keith Vernon, Cathi Natoli exchanging gifts, and eating snacks and Doris Craighead for providing while Christmas music was played refreshments and gifts for everyone. Most of all, we appreciate your A huge thank you to our Lunch time, friendship and service to our school and community.

Outdoor Farm, Indoor Farm named AITC Book of the Year

Lindsay H. Metcalf as their food. its 2025 Book of the

Week, March 17-21.

With bright illustrations by Xin Li, Farm. Outdoor door Farm explores clude both inside and outside on farms. Readers they learn about their various farming equipment, innovations and techniques involved in enjoy.

"This year's selection spotlights the diversity of agriculture and the technology used to produce food for our communities and worldwide," said Tammy Maxey, Virginia AITC's executive director. "Agriculture Literacy Week is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to share stories of farming with children across the commonwealth. Over 70,000 youth participate in this event annually, spurring their interest in agriculture and in growing food

and fiber." Now in its 15th year, Agriculture Literacy Week is AITC's largest educational event of the year, with thousands of volunteers reading to children across the common-

wealth. The program

Agricul- helps teach has selected Outdoor of agriculture, and also will share high-Farm, Indoor Farm by about the origins of lights on its social me-

Copies of Outdoor out the week. Farm, Indoor Farm are Volunteers will read available for purchase cy Week participants the book to thousands at \$14 each from Vir- include county Farm of children during Vir- ginia AITC, and a book Bureau gınıa AlTC's annual order form ıs located Farm Bureau Women's Agriculture Literacy on the Virginia AITC Leadership and Young website, classroom.org.

In addition to the In- book, orders will infree supplehow produce is grown mentary resources to expand learning at school and at home. can join best friends Books will be accom-Emma and Efrem as panied by a volunteer tions and businesses. guide, as well as othfamilies' farms and the er teaching resources to be presented to the classroom educator.

Volunteers are engrowing the food we couraged to read Out- der books, visit virgindoor Farm to children in

youth pre-K through third ture in the Classroom about the importance grade. Virginia AITC dia platforms through-

> Agriculture Literavolunteers; virginia.ag- Farmers committees; FFA and 4-H members; partners from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and other state agencies; and members of other agricultural organiza-Colonial Farm Credit and Farm Credit of the Virginias have been supporters as well.

For details or to or-Farm, Indoor ia.agclassroom.org.





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Terri S. Wood, Manager

PATRICK PULPITS

Angels We Have Heard on High

Pastor Wayne Moore

High Point Baptist Church

title was "Angels in Our Countryside." The version we are familiar with was published in 1862. The information in this paragraph came Us Adore Him: Stories Behind the Most Cherished Christmas Hymns.

In the first verse, the shepherds goods news from angels on high.

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains: And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

In verse two, their audience asks what good news they've heard.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What [the] gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?

In the last two verses, the shep-

herds invite us to come and see, and join them and the angels in praising Come to Bethlehem, and see

Him whose birth the angels sing; Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn

See Him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,

While our hearts in love we raise. Logos Hymnal (1st edition.). (1995). Logos Research Systems,

The refrain at the end of each verse is in Latin. Gloria in excelsis Deo means glory to God in the highest. These words are a direct quote from the angels in Scripture. (See Luke 2:14, NKJV)

The night the angels visited the shepherds probably started out like almost every night. "Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night." (Luke 2:8) The shepherds would have divided the night into watches and took turns staying awake and vigilant. any shepherd has ever experienced.

"And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." (Luke 2:9-10) The angel said what angels must always say to humans when they appear to them, "Fear not." Then he announced that he had good news. What news could be so good the it would bring great joy to the shepherds and to all peo-

"For there is born to you this day The Christmas hymn, "Angels We in the city of David a Savior, who is Have Heard on High," originated Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11) This in France during the 1700s. The was good tidings of great joy indeed! Generations of Israelites had passed away without their hopes of seeing a descendant of David save them from their enemies and from Robert J. Morgan, Come Let restore the kingdom. But now the shepherds were chosen to receive the first announcement that Christ had come in their generation. The proclaim that they have heard angel referred to the baby with three titles: Savior, Christ, and the Lord. The first two titles fit Israel's expectation of a man who would save them from their enemies and restore the kingdom of David. The last title, though, equated him with God. The angel had just referred to God as Lord in verse nine. Now, he says the baby is the Lord. The shepherds were further surprised to learn of the baby's physical cir-

"And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12) The shepherds were already amazed that the prophecy of the Christ was fulfilled in their generation, and that they, of all people, were the first to be told, but now they learn that he was born into poverty. But before they could make sense of it all, the skies exploded with angelic activity.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:13-14) The angels praised God and pronounced a blessing on mankind. Then, as suddenly as they appeared, they were gone.

"So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven. that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.' And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Most nights would pass quietly and Now when they had seen Him, they peacefully. The greatest excitement made widely known the saying would be confronting a wild animal which was told them concerning or a thief. What happened on this this Child. And all those who heard night was the most exciting thing it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (Luke 2:15-18)

> The angels and the shepherds worshiped the baby Jesus; we should too. Except He is no longer a baby. He grew to be a man. He died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins. He ascended into heaven and intercedes for us at the right hand of God the Father. One day, He is coming back to rule and reign on the earth. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to men!

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LE TRIVIA

1. For possible new year's resolutions, Proverbs 16:3 (KJV) says, "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be Resolved, Established, Directed, Bountiful

2. Likewise, Psalm 37:5 (KJV) instructs us to, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to Nurture, Pass, Action, Light

3. From which book's 29:11 does the Lord declare plans to prosper you, thoughts of peace to give you hope and a future? Leviticus, Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah

4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Gala-

tians 2:20 are among the verses to focus on what in a new year? Blessings, Moving forward, Grace,

Church attendance 5. In which month of the religious calendar did the new year begin in the Bible? 3rd, 5th, 7th,

6. From James 1:5, what may one lack, and if they ask God, it shall be given? Love, Wisdom, Truth, Goals

ANSWERS: 1) Established, 2) Pass, 3) Jeremiah, 4) Moving forward, 5) 7th, 6) Wisdom

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Super Crossword

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Puzzle answers page 11

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number 531775 for additional information and to apply. For further information contact Terri Alt, Unit Coordinator, at 276-694-3341 or email talt@vt.edu. Review date 1/3/25. EO/AA **Employer**



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ORDER OF PUBLICATION COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA Case No. CL24000628-00

VA CODE 88 1-211 1: 8 01-316 -317 20-104 Patrick Circuit Court, 101 West Blue Ridge Street/PO Box 148, Stuart, VA 24171 SAMRUAY KHOONIN HOWELL v. MICHAEL CALVIN HOWELL

The object of this suit is to: PROVIDE PROPER SERVICE TO DEFENDANT WITH UNKNOWN

It is ORDERED that MICHAEL CALVIN HOWELL appear at the

above-named court and protect his interests on or before January 1, 2025. NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Professional Services

The Town of Stuart, Virginia is in need of professional engineering and/or architecture services for design, construction administration and resident inspection of the Stuart Downtown Revitalization Project. The project is being financed with Virginia Community Development Block Grant funds, Appalachian Regional Commission funds,

Firms interested in receiving a copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP) may contact: Bryce M. Simmons, Town of Stuart, 100 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 422, Stuart, VA 24171, (276) 694-3811, information@stuartva.org. Deadline for submittal of proposals is Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Stuart Town Office (100 Patrick

Minority and/or female owned businesses or firms and Section 3 businesses or firms are encouraged to apply. The Town of Stuart, VA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF RICHLAND

LEE T. CONNELLY, PLAINTIFF,

MARK E. HANCOCK DEFENDANT.

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMONS AND NOTICE DOCKET NO .:

No. 2024-DR-40-1768

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT MARK E. HANCOCK:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the Plaintiff's Attorney at his office, 1720 Main Street, Suite 301, Columbia, SC 29201, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this

action will apply to the Court for the relief sought in said Complaint. YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the original Complaint was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Richland County, South Carolina, on June 13, 2024.

ATTORNEY: Larry C. Marchant Jr., Attorney for Plaintiff

Columbia, South Carolina

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - 🛭 🕻

than 5 p.m. Friday of the week before publication is requested. Items are included as space allows. Email to dhall@theenterprise.net.

Meetings

Monday, Jan. 6

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold its reorganizational meeting at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Thursday, Jan. 9

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

Wednesday, Jan.15

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

Events

Friday, Jan. 3

The community food truck will be at the Woolwine SRRS building from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 4

Jeb Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad will have a community breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. at its building. Plates are \$8 and dine in, carry out, and curb service options are available. Orders can be placed by calling (276) 694-6171.

Thursday, Jan. 9

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its January monthly meeting at 11 a.m. in

Meeting and event information is due no later the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by The Senior Melodies. A variety of soups, crackers, and beverages will be provided for lunch. Attendees are requested to bring sandwiches and desserts to share with the group.

Ongoing

The Patrick County Patriots Turkey Shoot will be held Saturdays in January, and Saturday, February 1 and 8 at the Smith River Wildlife Club. Practice rounds start at 12:30 p.m. Shoot starts at 1 p.m. Rules are factory chokes only, no sleeves or re-chokes, and no modified gun barrels. Food will be available for purchase.

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

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor

Guard meets the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105 at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

Free Community Meal, every 4th Wednesday, 5 p.m., Raven Rock Wesleyan Church, 1912 Raven Rock Road, Ararat. Take out or dine in. Call Scott or Nann Phillips at (276) 773-6004 or email pastor@ravenrockchurch.org.

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Honey Pot, 106 N. Main St., Stuart (across from The Coffee Break). Call (276) 694-2356 for more information.

The Carroll County Genealogy Club is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food. The music and dancing are 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food, music and dancing from 6:30-9 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' specially 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.

Hill enjoys rare event while traveling

Mary Dellenback Hill is checking out tourism in other areas while on a voyage aboard Holland America's Volendam Ship. Hill has been traveling since November 9 on a 42-day Legendary Voyage in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

On Monday, December 16, the Volendam headed back toward Fort Lauderdale, Florida, when a rare phenomenon, known as a Lunar or Moon Rain Bow, was sighted by the Navigation crew. The event occurs at night when moonlight illuminates falling water droplets in the atmosphere. The navigation crew took photos, and the captain was summoned. In his update meeting on December 17, the captain related that during his 25 years of sailing, he had not



This photo was taken off the bow during the daytime.

the navigation crew. It was sent to Photoshop at the request

seen a Moon Rainbow.



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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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League provides meals for shelter pets



Pictured from left to right are Candy Elliott, LeeAnn Seeley, Dana Jones, Debbie Sayre, Lynn Chipkin & Amber Rakes. Those who prepared meals but were unable to attend and are not pictured are Karen Cowdrey, Shawn Jones, Samantha Compton, and Stephanie Sayre.



A sample of the food collected for the event.

better way to show shelter pets they are loved than treating them to a turkey dinner for Christmas? Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League volunteers brought bowls of food to eleven dogs and six cats housed in the Stuart

Everyone deserves Patrick County Animal Hampton at the Pata special meal for the Shelter, who will be holidays, and what spending the holiday at the shelter. Volunteers hoped to brighten their day with some turkey, rice & pumpkin, and lots of love. Hundreds of pounds of pet food were also donated by the organization.

and

rick Co. Food Bank for their donation to the event, as well as Wanda Vaden and Vickie Martin Bowles for their year-round dedication to the shelter cats and dogs.

Please consider giving these wonderful Special thanks to pets a forever home. Be



Food bowls filled with holiday staples for pets in the Patrick



A shelter cat enjoys a Christmas meal.



Two beagles partake of their Christmas dinner.

VISIT US ONLINE WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Membership meeting of local Farm Bureau deemed a success

By Sandra Heath

Bureau held its annu- Farmers and donating mittee Christian Tayal membership dinner money for the Patrick lor; Directors: Ronnie and meeting in the County Livestock Show. Pilson, Danny Wood, Community Room at Guest speakers at the Thomas Slate, Benton the Patrick Henry Com- meeting were Mark Culler, John Bray. munity College site in Dawson, Field Service Stuart. Patrick County Director; Bob Burnette, session, door prizes Farm Bureau President Agent; and Board mem- were awarded with the Jonathan Wood gave bers Sandra Heath, assistance of several the report of the county president, where he Thomas Slate. Resolurecognized and thanked tions were presented county office staff for bureau member attendtheir time and dedi- ees. Mr. Burnette also cation during the past thanked Sadie Perry Achievements vear. aided by member support and the county Member Service Speboard were noted. Such cialist. achievements include purchasing, and donating books to were nominated and each school and library in Patrick County in as follows: President support of Ag Litera- Jonathan Wood; Vice cy Week and Ag in the President Barry Shelor; Classroom. Facilitating and funding a tour of

Patrick County Farm sity for Patrick County Young Farmer's Com-Christian members and and approved by farm for her role and service in the office as the new

> Patrick Farm Bureading, reau Board members unanimously approved Chairman of the Women's Committee Sandra

Virginia State Univer- Heath; Chairman of the

After the business Taylor and members of the Patrick County High School FFA Club.







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