THE ENTERPRISE

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P&HCC opens Heavy Equipment Operator Lab in Patrick County





A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of Patrick & Henry Community College's (P&HCC) Patrick County Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Lab. First row: Carlene Cassidy (Ratcliffe Foundation), Rebecca Corbin (NACCE), Quentyn Penn (P&HCC student), Dr. Greg Hodges (P&HCC president). Second row: P&HCC dual enrollment students and instructor Keith Newcomb.

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Patrick County Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Lab officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, March 4.

Located at the Gerald L. Baliles and Richard S. Reynolds Sr. Learning Center, the lab features three CAT simulators equipped with the same controls as real excavators and bulldozers, allowing students to gain hands-on experience before operating actual machinery.

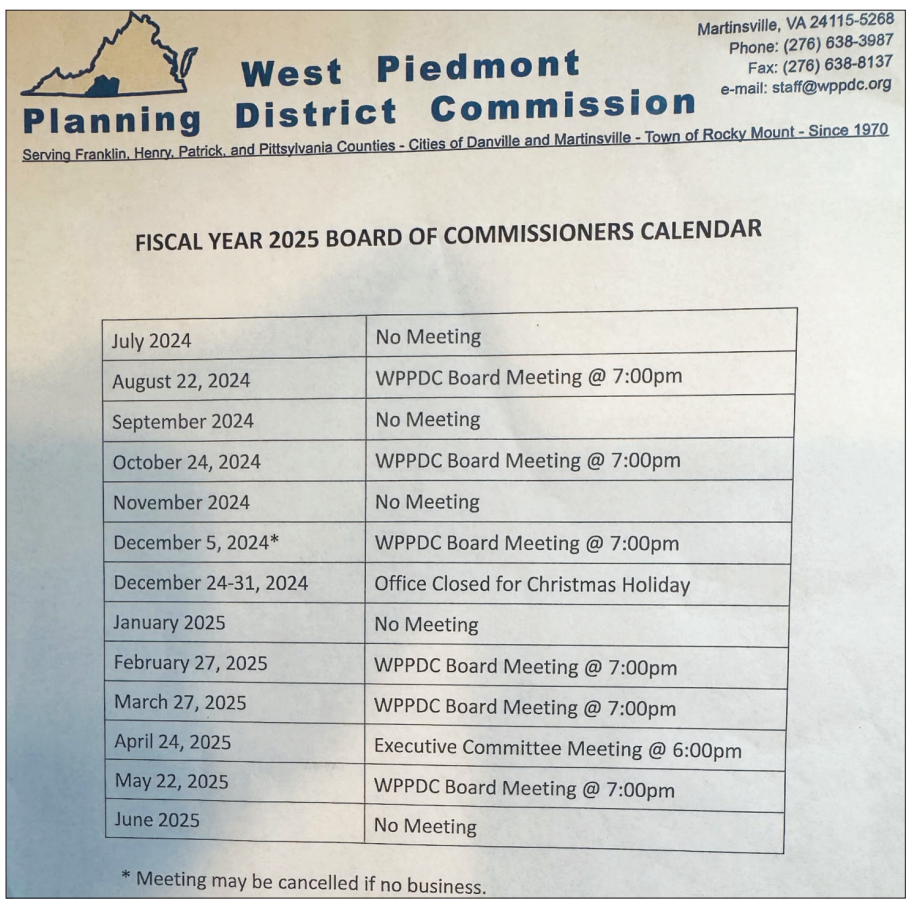
P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges said the college is committed to investing in the community to ensure all residents have a pathway to economic mobility.

"At Patrick & Henry, we have one goal, and that is the economic success of our students and the communities that we serve," Hodges said. "Frankly, we have one way of moving that needle of economic success, and that is by educating and training our students for good-paying jobs with family-sustaining wages."

While P&HCC offers various credentials, degrees, and certificates, Hodges emphasized that the most valuable credential is what he calls the "job degree."

(See P&HCC p. 2)

A quorum of supervisors at EDA, WPPDC meetings raises transparency concerns



West Piedmont Planning District Commission

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FISCAL YEAR 2025 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CALENDAR

July 2024	No Meeting
August 22, 2024	WPPDC Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
September 2024	No Meeting
October 24, 2024	WPPDC Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
November 2024	No Meeting
December 5, 2024*	WPPDC Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
December 24-31, 2024	Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
January 2025	No Meeting
February 27, 2025	WPPDC Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
March 27, 2025	WPPDC Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
April 24, 2025	Executive Committee Meeting @ 6:00pm
May 22, 2025	WPPDC Board Meeting @ 7:00pm
June 2025	No Meeting

* Meeting may be cancelled if no business.

Jim Adams, chairman of the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and the Henry County Board of Supervisors, stressed that commission meetings are planned well in advance.

By Staff Reports

A quorum of Patrick County Board of Supervisors members attended the February Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting on Feb. 26 and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) meeting on Feb. 27, raising concerns about potential Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) violations.

Supervisors' Attendance at WPPDC Meeting

Jonathan Wood, chairman and representative of the Peters Creek District, and Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, serve as

(See WPPDC p.3)



The Patrick County High School (PCHS) Building Trades II course cuts the ribbon on the new Hospice Memorial Garden Gazebo.

Building Trades class builds new gazebo for community

By Taylor Boyd

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Monday, March 10, to celebrate the completion of the new Hospice Memorial Garden gazebo at DeHart Park.

The original gazebo was destroyed by fire in April 2024. This is part of an ongoing arson investigation.

The new structure was built by students in the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Building Trades II course.

Philip Steagall, teacher, said members of the Stuart Park Board approached him about rebuilding the gazebo last year.

"Actually, after it happened—because we built the other one that was here," Steagall said. "It was a little late in the school year to start when they asked me, so I said, if you can wait until we start next year, we'd be glad to."

Work on the gazebo began in November and was completed by mid-January.

"We had to wait for the weather to freeze up or thaw out enough to be able to bring it down here because we didn't want to get the truck stuck," Steagall said. "So, it sat for two or three weeks before we brought it out."

Patrick Building Supply donated the lumber for the project.

Steagall said another potential project for DeHart Park is repairing the bridge near a picnic shelter, which is currently closed due to damage.

Business Development Center Project nixed by EDA

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) voted not to proceed with its Business Development Center project during its meeting on Wednesday, March 5.

The site, formerly the Stuart True Value Hardware Store, is located at the intersection of Slusher Street and Rye Cove Road in Uptown Stuart.

EDA Chairman Ron Haley said that while the center was a viable and economically feasible project in 2021-2022, it is no longer practical in today's financial environment.

"We did not want to put the EDA or the county itself at financial risk by going forward with something that was projected to be a cost of $1.5 million, and that's north of $2 million now. That's a risk we didn't want to put the county in," he said.

While discussions are ongoing about the future of the building, Haley said no concrete plans have been made.

However, the EDA will proceed with asbestos removal at the site after Patrick County received a $92,620 Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund (VBAF) grant earlier this year.

"It's going to have to be done anyway, and the grant is for that specific purpose," Haley said.

The EDA originally purchased the property for $122,000.



Local historians (left to right) John Reynolds, Beverly Woody and B.J. Nolan answered questions and discussed Patrick County's long history.

America's 250th birthday celebration kicks off locally with Historian's Roundtable

By Pat Delaney

Local celebrations for America's upcoming 250th birthday in 2026 kicked off with a Historian's Roundtable at the historic Star Theatre in Stuart on March 8.

Attendees heard from Patrick County Historical Society President John Reynolds, historian and writer Beverly Woody, and Patrick County VA250 Chairman B.J. Nolan. The discussion was moderated by Patrick County Tourism and Economic Development Director James Houchins, who is also a local VA250 committee member.

The historians answered questions about Patrick County's Revolutionary War-era history, covering topics such as the role of local militias and the county's eventual split from Henry County. They also discussed the county's divided loy-

(See America's p. 3)

P&HCC

(cont. from page 1)



Phillip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation CEO Carlene Cassidy tests the CAT simulator as HEO students observe.



HEO Instructor Michael Scales demonstrates excavator operation on a CAT simulator for Patrick County Director of Economic Development and Tourism James Houchins.



P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges discusses how the HEO Lab will equip students with skills for high-paying, in-demand jobs.



Carlene Cassidy, CEO of the Phillip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation, addresses the crowd at the HEO Lab ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"That 'job degree' is what we're awarding today, and they're the ones that indeed lead to critically important jobs in this community," he said, citing the ongoing U.S. 58 construction project as an example of local opportunities for graduates.

Hodges said the idea for the HEO Lab was first introduced during a regional superintendent meeting last year when Patrick County Schools Superintendent Jason Wood asked if P&HCC had considered expanding the HEO program to Patrick County.

"I turned to Rhonda Hodges, who was serving as our vice president of workforce development, and I said, 'Have we?' She said, 'We can,' and that started a journey that's led to today," Greg Hodges said.

Hodges recognized Dr. Rebecca Corbin, president and CEO of the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), as a key supporter of P&HCC's efforts to create skilled employees and future business owners.

He also acknowledged Phillip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation CEO Carlene Cassidy, whose organization helped fund the purchase of the CAT simulators.

Cassidy said P&HCC's grant application stood out because of the program's potential impact on students, employers, and the community.

"This is a win-win-win," Cassidy said. "It's a win for students by providing pathways and opportunities to great-paying jobs. It's a win for employers because they're able to hire highly talented, skilled individuals to fill jobs that are in demand right now, and it's a win for the region because what we're doing has a positive impact on people's pathways, wherever they're going."

Cassidy added that infrastructure projects, such as road construction, improve transportation access and attract more visitors to the area.

"It's just an honor for us to support this program," she said.

HEO Instructor Michael Scales said the CAT simulators mirror the controls of actual job site equipment, allowing students to practice real-world applications in a controlled environment.

"They're not experienced when they get out, but they can come and get hired," Scales said. "Most of my guys get hired very quickly, and they know the basics. They can take these skills and go anywhere—anywhere across the country for any job."

While learning to operate the equipment is essential, Scales said the course also teaches students how to navigate different construction scenarios.

"Learning the machine is the easy part," he said. "Understanding what you're supposed to do in grading, how to grade, and how to build things is the other part. So actually, the simulators are the easy part."

Before enrolling in the HEO course, students must first complete the preliminary CORE course, which covers basic safety, construction math, communication skills, and material handling.

"CORE is required for any student who wants to take HEO, HVAC, plumbing, or other courses," Scales said.

The CORE course lasts eight weeks, followed by a 14-week HEO program.

Due to the two-student-per-simulator ratio, Scales can only accept six students per course to ensure adequate hands-on experience.

"Six is the maximum we can have because you get your experience by sitting on the simulator, as they'll actually be moving—just like the real equipment would on a job site," he said.

Despite the limited class size, the demand for the program is high. All three of Scales' current classes are fully booked until next year.

For more information about P&HCC's workforce development programs, visit patrickhenry.edu.

Chamber Chat



By Rebecca Adcock

"February, the shortest month and the longest month."

The chamber was happy to have our indoor pop-up market, Buy Your Love Local indoor farmers' market on Friday, February 7. This event was a partnership of the chamber, Stuart Farmers' Market and Bull Mountain Arts. Look for our Shamrockin' with Local on March 14.

We were excited for a new business to come to Main Street in Stuart and hosted a ribbon cutting for Harvest House Emporium on February 14.

The chamber of commerce, along with partners One Family Productions, Stuart Rotary Club, and STEP, Inc., were able to present nearly $5,000 combined for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. These funds help to secure our local chapter of supplying books every month to enrolled children aged 0-5 years old.

The office continues to be busy with finalizing the magazine ads and membership. To those who have already joined, "Thank You." Without your membership, we would not be able to assist the business and organizational community. If you have not joined or renewed, I ask that you please take time to learn more about what we do and the events that we have planned. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out.

We were also busy with local and regional meetings as we work to set the calendar for educational programming for the coming year. We are adding workshops, roundtables and lunch and learn programs to our calendar so please check those out and sign up for those that are of interest to you. Currently, we have our Cottage Industry Roundtable discussion that will be held on March 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is for businesses that are home-based and looking to grow. We also have Business After Hours scheduled at the high school CTE department on March 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. This networking opportunity will help showcase the great work that our CTE program provides workforce training for the next generation. I am excited to see all the new programs the high school is offering, and I hope that you will join us. Please RSVP online at the chamber website or through our links on Facebook or emails.

Lastly, the chamber is hosting SOVA RISE to discuss business Succession Planning. Small and family-operated businesses are the backbone of our county, and we want to help them start planning for the next steps in succession. This presentation will be held at P&HCC - Stuart location on Wednesday, April 2, at 12 p.m. This event is free, but RSVP is requested. Check out our website for all the events and links to RSVP at www.patrickchamber.com. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the office, (276) 694-6012.

(Adcock is the director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce)

Highly pathogenic avian influenza driving egg prices higher

To state the obvious: Eggs are expensive.

Consumers are feeling the pinch from the increasing cost of everyday expenses. But while inflation is causing goods and services to rise in general, the spike in egg prices has another culprit—highly pathogenic avian influenza.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, HPAI has affected more than 166 million birds across the U.S. since 2022. In January and February alone, the U.S. lost about 43 million birds to the disease.

These numbers include turkeys and poultry raised for meat, but egg layers have been the most impacted. Infected birds are depopulated to contain the virus, and the resulting production declines have tightened supply and sharply pushed up egg prices.

The USDA reports that prices in January were 53% higher compared to the same time last year.

"Egg supplies are tight right now due to avian influenza, but the U.S. is still producing enough total eggs to meet normal demand," said Tony Banks senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "The market also experiences distribution challenges during the disease outbreak. Challenges like hauling eggs longer distances and other logistical issues, replacement hen availability, state mandates for cage-free egg production and panic buying all help drive higher egg prices."

The USDA recently announced a $1 billion dollar comprehensive strategy to curb avian influenza, protect the U.S. poultry sector and lower egg prices. Poultry and egg producers also are receiving assistance for flock losses.

In Virginia, there have been three cases of HPAI in commercial flocks since the recent outbreak began in 2022, out of more than 767 cases in commercial farms across the U.S. Two involved turkey farms in January 2023 and one in January this year at an Accomack County broiler chicken operation.

Hobey Bauhan, president of the Virginia Poultry Federation, said that although the broiler operation was a large farm with 441,000 infected birds, "that single case has not spread to other surrounding farms."

Additionally, while Virginia isn't a major table egg producing state—ranking 26th in the nation—so far the commonwealth "has had no HPAI cases in commercial table egg layer flocks," Bauhan said.

Like all poultry and egg producers, Bauhan said Virginia officials and farmers are taking proactive biosecurity measures to mitigate avian influenza. Initiatives like the Virginia Poultry Disease Task Force developed stringent prevention and rapid response plans including strict biosecurity to prevent transmission, surveillance protocols and resources for responding to outbreaks.

"We have worked hard to prevent exposure of commercial flocks to avian influenza and be ready for effective response should cases occur," he said.

While avian influenza's risk to people remains low, farmers, backyard chicken hobbyists and wildfowl hunters are urged to help limit its spread. To learn more about poultry biosecurity, visit USDA's Defend the Flock website at bit.ly/4hbVaKy.

Pets of the Week





This beautiful Golden Retriever/Great Pyrenees mixed female, and friendly black mixed male, are available for adoption. They are so deserving of a loving home. Free spay/neuter and rabies vaccinations.

Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter or their Facebook page, to find information about these and other available pets in need of a forever home. Adoption fees are $10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination.

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League provides pet food assistance and information about low-cost spay/neuter services; contact blueridgeawl@gmail.com. The league will meet at 10 a.m. on March 15 in the Blue Ridge Library in Stuart. All are welcome.

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WPPDC

(cont. from page 1)

Patrick County's representatives on the WPPDC board.

Steve Marshall, who represents the Blue Ridge District, is not a WPPDC board member and attended the public meeting on his own.

Jim Adams, WPPDC chairman and Henry County Board of Supervisors chairman, said the meeting proceeded as usual.

"No one at West Piedmont or no appointed member at West Piedmont did anything wrong. Our meetings are open to the public, so absolutely anyone—public and press—can come to the meeting," Adams said.

Adams, who typically acknowledges attendees, introduced Wood as a new board member. "As part of our agenda, we have an open comment period. I had also met someone else attending the meeting that night, and that was Mr. Marshall, from the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, who is not a commissioner," Adams said.

Adams said no one knew or was told what Marshall's purpose was in attending the meeting. In the past, he noted that generally in those cases, people either state the reason or their interest in attending.

"From my perspective, I didn't know his purpose for being there," Adams said. "That could be better answered by him than by me assuming. I've got more on my plate than to just take off and go to a meeting" that he has no reason to attend, he added.

While he wasn't privy to any potential conversations between Marshall and others before or after the meeting, Adams said there were no exchanges during the meeting involving Marshall.

"Nothing was said to us about the reason for his presence. It seemed awkward, even to the appointed commissioners, that a third member from an elected body was there," Adams said. "I think the Code of Virginia states that if (a quorum of) elected officials gather, the press needs to be notified that they're going to gather."

While multiple elected officials can coincidentally attend the same public event— such as at public venues and small events—Adams said he could not recall a time in his 24 years on the WPPDC when three members from the same locality showed up at a meeting.

He wanted to assure residents that the situation was "no violation of West Piedmont whatsoever. We were just there to conduct business. This was not a backdoor meeting."

Kathy Lawson, vice-mayor of Martinsville and a WPPDC member, said that Marshall did not sit at the table with the commissioners or participate in the public meeting. "It's different if they sit at the table and participate," Lawson said, adding that a third elected official's attendance "is odd, but it's not the first time this has ever occurred."

After the meeting, Lawson was introduced to Marshall, who she said told her he was "there to learn" or something to that effect.

WPPDC Executive Director Kristina Eberly, who has been with the organization for four years, said she had never seen a situation like this before.

"Very rarely do we have anyone else other than our board members at the board meeting," she said.

Adams advised localities and elected officials to follow self-imposed decorum and ensure compliance with Virginia's FOIA regulations.

"In Henry County, any instance that could include a gathering of more than two board members is always advertised," he said.

"Before I left, Jimmy Adams wanted to see me back in the office for a minute, and he told me basically the same thing. He said, 'now I recognize him as a member of the board of supervisors attending the meeting as a citizen, but that still doesn't make it right,'" Kendrick said.

After leaving the WPPDC meeting, Kendrick said he told Wood that Marshall's presence meant that a quorum of supervisors attended the meeting.

The Feb. 27 meeting minutes will be reviewed at the next WPPDC meeting on March 27.

Concerns Over EDA Meeting Attendance

Before the Feb. 26 EDA meeting, Kendrick said Overby, who is vice-chairman of the board, had expressed interest in attending because of an agenda item.

"So, I had invited him to the meeting. Then Marshall showed up, so you've got three members there too," Kendrick said. Despite forming a quorum, neither Kendrick, Overby, nor Marshall left the meeting.

"I actually confronted Steve that night," Kendrick said. "I told him, 'Andrew asked me earlier today about coming, and I told him it'd be okay. Now, here we are, and your presence makes it illegal. You need to leave.'"

Kendrick said Marshall "said it was legal" and refused to leave the meeting. Kendrick said he was told "that it was legal to be there, three board members at the same place, as long as they didn't discuss business. How do you attend an EDA meeting or a WPPDC meeting and not discuss business?"

At EDA meetings, Kendrick said Marshall sits through executive (closed) sessions, something he has never seen another supervisor do. Years ago, former Supervisor Denise Stirewalt attended EDA meetings out of interest in a particular item. However, Kendrick noted that she left when executive session began.

"Marshall stays," Kendrick said. That "isn't right," especially with EDA or WPPDC, where some items discussed are sensitive, "that you want to kind of have a little bit of control over, and who spreads it and who hears it."

Overby said he has not seen any guidance that prohibits supervisors from attending public or closed session meetings, providing they do not interject or participate.

"My understanding is as long as we keep our mouth shut," all five members of the board can attend closed session meetings of any committee appointed by the board if they desire, Overby said.

"Unless we're interjecting and participating, I haven't seen any guidance that says we can't" attend, Overby said. "It was brought up that we were not allowed to speak about county business during the meeting or any time before or after," and he said that did not occur. "It's no different than attending" a public event, such as the Strawberry Festival.

"I would agree that actively participating" would be a concern, "but if we're just observing" committees appointed by the board "it's not an issue," Overby said. "We have every right to sit through closed session. I don't see anything wrong with it."

"I think it's fair and it's right if you got something of interest in the meeting that you want to attend, at least have the courtesy of asking whoever's liaison to it," Kendrick said.

"Three of us at the last meeting asked that same question" about potential FOIA violations, EDA chairman Ron Haley said, and added that he was told it wasn't a violation for three or more supervisors to attend the same meeting, as long as they don't discuss business.

"Somebody had already done the research on it beforehand, and that's what they were told. You can have all five supervisors there as long as they do not talk county business they can be there just to observe," Haley said.

"All the EDA board members were there when the question was asked for the third time. I asked the first time, somebody else asked the second time … I forgot who that was," Haley said, and added that Kendrick, who is the liaison, was the only one participating in the discussions. The others "don't discuss, they listen," he said.

"It was pretty unique how it happened," James Houchins, director of Economic Development and Tourism, said, adding that he cautioned the board members to not sit in proximity to each other and not to talk.

"The biggest thing is the optics," Houchins said. "Who's to say they wouldn't have had a discussion? I just know in this instance, there was no discussion, and they didn't say anything.

"That was the first and pretty sure it will be the last" time it occurs, Houchins said. Going forward, "what I think will probably need to happen is as a group, they need to fully govern themselves."

FOIA Implications

According to Virginia's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a meeting is defined as an assembly of a quorum or majority of a board where public business is discussed—whether or not minutes are taken or votes are cast.

Virginia FOIA Advisory Council Executive Director Alan Gernhardt, Esq. said the presence of three supervisors meets the criteria for a meeting.

"Therefore, whether a meeting occurred in either scenario depends on whether the members present discussed board business with each other," Gernhardt said.

"If they did discuss board business with each other as a group of three, it would have been a board meeting, but if they did not, it would not be a board meeting. For example, if the members who showed up to see what's going on just sat in the audience and listened without discussing any board business with the other members, it would not be a meeting," he said.

However, Gernhardt said having three supervisors go into the EDA's closed session is an issue.

"I'd want to know why and what they discussed in the closed session. It doesn't look good from a public and outside perspective," he said.

The EDA can invite anyone into closed sessions, provided that person is going to be helpful or necessary to the discussion. Gernhardt noted it makes sense for the county's liaison to the EDA to be in closed session.

"If it's another one who is somehow related to the topic, has expertise on the issue that he's reporting to them - possible. But if they're there as board members at the EDA meeting and especially if the closed meeting happens to something" that "overlaps between the board and the EDA, then yeah, I'd want to see that probably noticed as a joint meeting," Gernhardt said.

Wood did not return a call for comment after learning about the subject matter.

Marshall did not return multiple calls for comment.

America's

(cont. from page 1)



Those attending learned about Patrick County's revolutionary period history.

alties during the war, noting that while some areas supported the British Crown (Tories), public sentiment gradually shifted in favor of the patriot cause.

All three historians agreed that Patrick County's history remains an ongoing discovery, with much still to be learned. They encouraged residents to share any newly found family histories, documents, or records, such as those preserved in old family Bibles, to help expand the historical narrative.

To close the event, Houchins spoke about the work being done by the local VA250 committee to plan events leading up to America's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. He invited community members to get involved in planning the celebrations and encouraged those interested to visit the committee's Facebook page at facebook.com/PatrickCountyVA250.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Affordable Health Screenings Coming to Springfield, Virginia

Springfield, Virginia – Residents living in and around the Springfield, Virginia can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will host this community event on 3/27/2025. The site is located at 8304 Old Keene Mill Rd in Springfield.

Screenings can check for:

• The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health.

• HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels

• Diabetes risk

• Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts at $159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Screenings in Kansas are performed by Life Line Screening of America, LLS on behalf of Life Line Screening Physicians, P.A. In Texas: Physician authorization is required. A Life Line Screening affiliated physician will provide authorization for you if you qualify. Screenings in California are provided by Life Line Mobile Screening.

Marriage Licenses

Marriage licenses issued in February

The following marriage licenses were issued in February, according to records in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office:

Daniel Hernandez- Katelynn Wilson

Benito Servin- Paula Garcia

A Golden Speech and Examples of Rudeness



Morgan Griffith

Representative

On March 4, I witnessed President Trump deliver his Joint Address to Congress.

This was his first speech at the U.S. Capitol since his inauguration.

In that inaugural speech, Trump proclaimed the Golden Age of America begins right now.

During his Joint Address, he struck a similar tune.

The Golden Age of America consists of numerous Administration policies and goals, some of which are already seeing success.

Trump touted the border security measures his Administration has implemented. In just six weeks, the number of encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border has dramatically plummeted.

According to CBS News, U.S. Customs and Border Protection recorded 8,450 apprehensions in February.

In February of 2024 under Biden, Border Patrol recorded more than 140,000 apprehensions!

Even U.S. Senator Mark Warner went on Fox Business to say that Trump made great progress to secure the border (though he would backtrack on MSNBC).

Trump rightly proved that all we needed to secure the border was a new president.

A new president is also needed to reverse the inflationary policies of the Biden Administration.

As grocery prices, fuel costs and the cost of living skyrocketed, it was clear that Biden policies, including the "green new deal", contributed to the economic pain in our homes and communities.

Such policies included halting the approval of new liquified natural gas licenses and even killing the Keystone XL Pipeline.

On Day One, Trump declared a national energy emergency to undo the damage done by Biden's green new deal policies.

The impacts of these Trump energy policies will not be felt right away. In fact, it may take over a year for us to see the results. But Trump's energy policy is aimed at restoring our economy and putting more money into your pocketbook.

Another major Trump talking point was rooting out waste, fraud and abuse in federal programs.

Look no further than the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The federal agency has been caught red-handed in funneling millions of dollars all over the world for leftist pet projects.

Some projects include:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) scholarships in Burma

(Even though the U.S. State Department continues to officially recognize the country as Burma, the country calls itself Myanmar, and according to the State Department's website, the USAID mission in

- Burma closed in 1989. It's a totalitarian regime that has little regard for its minority population. Having traveled there, I doubt any Christian Karen minority or Rohingya Muslim minority members ever saw a penny of this money.)
- Journalism efforts promoting non-binary language in Sri Lanka
- Male circumcision in Mozambique
- Election initiatives in India, Moldova and Liberia
- And the list goes on and on

While most American taxpayers do not mind helping starving children and communities, they did not consent their funds to be used for such outrageous programs.

Trump rightly discussed some of those programs in his Joint Address to Congress.

As I sat in the House chamber during Trump's Address, I was surprised by the reaction of my Democratic colleagues.

To start the night, Texas Representative Al Green disrupted the beginning of Trump's remarks by standing up and yelling at Trump.

Speaker Johnson repeatedly asked Representative Green to respect the decorum of the House. When it was clear Green wouldn't relent, the Speaker instructed the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove Green from the floor.

I voted days later to censure Green for his intentional staged misconduct. Some of his Democratic colleagues joined Republicans in the censure vote.

Democratic disrespect did not end there.

When First Lady Melania Trump was recognized, I saw nobody from the Democratic side stand up and applaud.

It is a fairly standard practice for both parties to express respect to the first lady, regardless of political affiliation.

Other individuals who received a cold shoulder from Democrats were an American hostage returned home from Russia and a child survivor of brain cancer.

Additionally, the widow of a New York police officer killed by an illegal alien, the family of Laken Riley, and the mother of a 12-year-old girl killed by two illegal aliens did not receive much of a welcome reception either from Democrats.

The deaths of these individuals are all heartbreaking, and for Democrats to dismiss their tragic experiences is disappointing to see.

While I may vehemently disagree with Democratic tactics and policies, I will continue to celebrate policies that bring good to the American people and contribute to America's Golden Age.

Call the Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, the Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or email by visiting www.morgangriffith.house.gov with questions or comments.

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Virginia War Memorial seeks applicants for 2025 Marocchi Scholarship

The Virginia War Memorial (VWM) in Richmond is seeking applicants for its RADM Marocchi Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to Virginia high school seniors and college or university students who plan to enroll or are enrolled in ROTC at their prospective schools.

It provides two awards of $2,500 each, one given to a graduating senior from a Virginia high school, and one given to a Virginia resident attending a college or university in Virginia. This scholarship is intended to reward Virginia students who plan to serve in the military and participate in ROTC at a Virginia college or university.

Each winner will receive a scholarship award and a certificate from the nonprofit Virginia War Memorial Foundation. They will also be invited to Richmond to be recognized for their work and commitment to serving the nation during the Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 26.

Application packages and all documents sent separately must be received by the VWM via email or USPS, on or before Monday, April 28, (11:59 pm E.T.) Applicants do not need to be JROTC participants in their high schools. All graduating seniors who meet the qualifications are welcome to apply. Detailed information regarding rules, guidelines and how to enter are available online at https://vawarmemorial.org/learn/contests-scholarships/marocchi/.

The scholarship is named for Rear Admiral John Marocchi, who served in the United States Navy for decades, with a career that spanned service in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Admiral Marocchi was one of very few Navy officers to complete Army Airborne training and was a recipient of the Purple Heart and Legion of Merit. He also served for over fifteen years as a member of the Board of Trustees at the Virginia War Memorial. He was a person who used every opportunity to teach those around him, and all were able to benefit from his experience and perceptive view of the world. In his memory, a scholarship was created to encourage and enable motivated students who plan to enroll or who are already enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at a Virginia school of higher education.

For additional information or questions, please contact Elizabeth Oglesby, VWM's Education Outreach & Programs Manager, at Elizabeth.Oglesby@dvs.virginia.gov or by calling (804) 786-9700.

For more information about the Virginia War Memorial, the Commonwealth's tribute to Virginia's men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice from World War II to the present, visit www.dvs.virginia.gov.

Get native trees for less with Throwing Shade Va

Are you looking to plant more native shrubs and trees this spring? Discounts are now available at participating retail nursery locations across Virginia. This year, the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) is expanding the Throwing Shade VA program to partner with even more nurseries.

From now through May 1, retail customers can receive a $25 discount on eligible native trees and shrubs valued at $50 or more from 15 participating nurseries (see list of locations below). Discounts are available through May 1 (while supplies last).

Throwing Shade VA incentivizes Virginians to plant native species of trees and shrubs, which provide water quality benefits, as well as a source of food and habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Not only can native species meet any landscaping objective, but they also often require less maintenance as they are already adapted to Virginia's environment and climate.

To learn more about Throwing Shade VA and the importance of native species, visit DOF's website at https://dof.virginia.gov/urban-community-forestry/urban-forestry-community-assistance/throwing-shade-va-program/.

"Since we launched in 2023, Throwing Shade VA has been a resounding success, with more than 5,500 discounted plants purchased last year alone," said Urban and Community Forestry Partnership Coordinator Molly O'Liddy. "We are pleased to be expanding the program from 10 to 15 nurseries this year and are excited to continue working alongside our wonderful nursery partners across the state, who are happy to help you find the perfect native tree for your property or project."

Support for this program comes from state water quality improvement funds, which DOF uses to reimburse nurseries for the discounts. All trees planted through this program are reported as part of the state's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. Customer surveys help DOF track progress towards the Commonwealth's water quality improvement goals. This also helps inform DOF funding decisions for additional planting projects. Collected information is confidential and will not be displayed or given to outside parties.

Jones appointed to NCI board

In additional board appointments announced last week, Gov. Glenn Youngkin appointed Eric D. Jones to the New College Institute's (NCI's) Board Of Directors. Jones, of Annapolis, Maryland, is a principal in Booz Allen Hamilton in McLean, Va.

Thank You for reading
The Enterprise

Patrick Pioneers

Moore Family of Ararat, VA, Part II

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, we looked at Ararat settlers Rodeham and Elizabeth Moore, their son William Jesse Moore, his wife, Jane Hanby Moore, and their nine children. William and Jane's oldest child, Hardin Henry Moore was the only one of the children who remained in Patrick County.

Hardin and his wife, Anne Eliza Scales, raised eight children on the family farm in Ararat and as we learned last week, most of them remained in Patrick County. This week, we are highlighting their oldest daughter, Carolina Matilda Moore, born in 1824. Caroline married Henry Jefferson "Jeff" Moore on the 15th of August 1844 in Patrick County. Jeff Moore may be the son of Robert Anderson Moore and Nancy Chandler of Henry County, but thus far, I have been unable to prove it.

In the 1850 census, Caroline, her husband Jeff, and their two children, Jane, age four, and Joseph Henry, age one, are listed as living in the southern part of the county. In the 1860 census, Caroline and Jeff's address was listed as Ararat post office. The couple had added six more children but unfortunately lost one. Jane is not mentioned in the 1860 census. Cora Ann was born in 1852, John Rucker Moore in 1854, William Hardin in 1855, Millard Filmore in 1857, Alexander Hamilton in 1858 and Sidney Webster in 1859.

By the 1870 census, Caroline and Jeff had added Edward Everett, born in 1860, Laura Virginia in 1862, Nathaniel Jefferson and James Robert in 1864, and Jesse in 1866. All the children were living at the home in Ararat along the Dan River, except for the oldest son, Joseph Henry, who had left home to become a doctor. According to these census records, Caroline Moore had thirteen children, including a set of twins, in twenty years!

We pick back up on oldest son Joseph Henry Moore in the 1880 census, living with his new bride, Ella Mounts and practicing medicine in Loudoun County, Virginia. In the Directory of American Physicians 1804-1929, Dr. Moore attended medical school at Missouri Medical College in St. Louis.

In the 1900 census, Dr. Joseph H. Moore, his wife, and two children, Gladys and Lionel were living on G Street in Washington, D.C. Dr. Moore died on Valentine's Day, 1915 at the age of sixty-four; he was buried in Rock Creek cemetery in D.C.

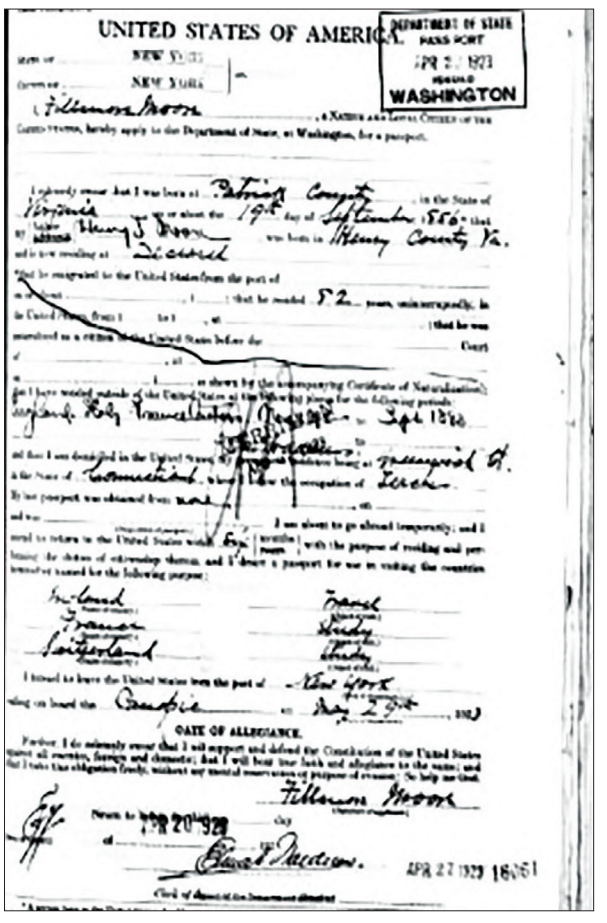
Caroline and Jeff's third child and second daughter, Cora Ann, married William P. Gilmer of Guilford County, North Carolina on the 15th of December 1870. Cora and William made their home in Mount Airy, NC where Cora passed away in 1937. We are going to cover John Rucker Moore, the fourth child of Caroline and Henry, next week when we can devote more time to him and his family.

Caroline and Jeff Moore's fifth child, William Hardin Moore moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas where he married and was quite successful in the lumber industry. William and his wife owned an additional home in Manatee, Florida where they spent their winters. William Hardin Moore, like his sister Cora Ann, passed away in 1937.

DR. E. E. MOORE.

Mount Airy.—Dr. Edward Everett Moore, 89, died in a Morganton hospital this morning, where he had been a patient about two years. Dr. Moore was born in Patrick County, Va. A son of Henry Jefferson Moore and Caroline Moore, he practiced his profession in New York and New Jersey for a number of years. For the past several years, Dr. Moore had been spending his winters in Florida and summers in North Carolina. The body was brought to Moody Funeral Home in Mount Airy today, where it will remain until Thursday at 3:30 p. m. when it will be taken to Oakdale cemetery where a graveside service will be held, conducted by the Rev. C. E. Otey, pastor of Haymore Memorial Baptist Church. His wife died several years ago. Surviving are a number of nieces and nephews.

The News and Observer, 1948



Millard Fillmore Moore's passport application

Millard Fillmore Moore, the sixth child of Caroline and Jeff Moore, led quite a remarkable life too. Millard attended the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (Virginia Tech) in 1873, which was the first year the college opened. Millard moved to Greenwich, Connecticut where he taught at the Edgewood School. I have much admiration for Mr. Moore because he was a lifelong learner. I discovered his passport application from 1923 where he planned to go to England, France, and Switzerland to further his studies; he was sixty-six years old. Like his sister Cora Ann and his brother, William Hardin, Millard Fillmore Moore died in 1937.

Alexander Hamilton Moore, the seventh child of Caroline and Jeff Moore, moved to San Angelo, in Tom Green County, Texas where he married and was a rancher and farmer. Alexander Moore passed away in 1934. Sidney Webster Moore, child number eight, also made his way to Texas, where he married and became a cattle rancher in El Paso. Sidney passed away in 1930.

The ninth child of Caroline and Jeff, Dr. Edward Everett Moore practiced medicine in New York and New Jersey, according to his obituary. In the 1910 census, he was living in Wilmington, Delaware where he married for the second time. Like his brother William Hardin Moore, Dr. Moore purchased a home in Manatee, Florida where he and his second wife spent their winters. The couple spent their summers in the mountains of Morganton in Burke County, North Carolina. Dr. Edward Everett Moore passed away there in 1948, and his body was returned to Mount Airy, NC to be buried near his parents, brothers, and sister at Oakdale Cemetery.

Third daughter and tenth child, Laura Virginia Moore married George Patrick Martin, also of Patrick County. Laura and George raised a large family in Salisbury, Rowan County, NC. In the 1910 census, George and a son were "street and road contractors" and a couple of the daughters were schoolteachers. I suspect being a road contractor in 1910 was a good career choice as the Model A Ford came out in 1903.

Jeff and Caroline Moore's twins, James Robert and Nathaniel Jefferson stayed close to home too. James became an orchardist and grew fruit trees. Nathaniel Jefferson Moore was a farmer in Dobson, Surry County, NC. I was unable to locate a marriage license for James or Nathaniel and census records indicated they were both single. James passed away in 1939 and Nathaniel passed in 1941; both brothers were buried in Oakdale Cemetery.

Jesse Moore, the youngest child of Jeff and Caroline Moore, moved to Hartford, Connecticut where he worked in the advertising department for a newspaper. In later census records, he found a career as a broker for an investment company. Jesse married Miss Eloise Lyon of New York. Jesse passed away in 1942 in Middletown, Connecticut.

Next week, we will look at Jeff and Caroline Moore's fourth child, John Rucker Moore and his family, who lived in Stuart, Virginia. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – Did We Make a Mistake Starting My Wife's Social Security now?

Dear Rusty: I hope we haven't made a mistake! My wife just applied for her Social Security benefit. She was born in May 1962, and the estimated amount of her benefit is $1280/month. Her work income last year was $5,616; however, mine was about $65,000. I do not plan on taking my benefit until the age of 70 in July of 2027.

My worry now is about the penalty for earning too much. We figured that since her income was so low, we wouldn't have to worry about that penalty, so we signed her up, and then it hit me: what if they look at MY income, especially since our tax return is filed as Married Filing Jointly. Do we have a problem, or are they just going to look at HER income to determine if there is a penalty? I hope I haven't messed this up. Also, I think I read that any penalty you are assessed for earning too much is returned to you once you reach FRA; is that true? *Signed: Uncomfortable Senior Citizen*

Dear Uncomfortable Senior: First, let me ease your anxiety – you haven't "messed this up." While it's true that your income will be included when the IRS determines how much of your wife's Social Security benefits are taxable, changing your IRS filing status is usually not wise. However, considering your combined income and your "married/jointly" IRS filing status, up to 85% of the SS benefits your wife receives during the tax year will be included as part of your overall taxable income as a married couple. Your wife's monthly SS benefit is about $1,280, so about $13,000 (annually) will be included in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) when you file your taxes. You can have income tax withheld from your wife's SS benefit by filing IRS Form W-4V at your local SS office (you can have 7%, 10%, 12% or 22% withheld). Note your wife's tax obligation for this year will be less because she will not get SS benefits for all of 2025.

The other thing you are concerned about is whether your income will be counted when determining if your wife will be subject to Social Security's "Annual Earnings Test (AET)," and the answer to that is "no." At her current earnings level (about $5,600), your wife is well below the annual earnings limit ($23,400 for 2025) for those collecting early Social Security benefits. So, the AET will not apply and will not reduce your wife's monthly Social Security benefit. FYI, if her earnings did exceed the annual earnings limit, it is true that some of the resulting penalty would be recovered after she reaches her full retirement age (FRA) of 67.

Note the distinction between "taxation of SS benefits", and the "annual earnings test" for those collecting early benefits. Taxation of benefits is always based on your joint income when filing married/jointly, but the Annual Earnings Test (AET) looks only at your wife's personal work earnings until she reaches her FRA.

As I expect you already know, by claiming now (at age 62+), your wife's monthly SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced (by about 26%). Until you later claim your SS benefit, your wife will receive her reduced personal SS retirement amount. But, when you claim, her benefit amount will be reassessed to see if she is also entitled to an incremental amount as your wife. If her SS entitlement at her FRA (even though she claimed at 62+) is less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, then her benefit will increase. However, she will not get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit before her FRA (more likely, she will get about 34% of your FRA entitlement).

In the end, you really did not make a mistake by filing for your wife's Social Security to start now. By the time you personally apply at age 70, your wife will have collected about $46,000 in Social Security benefits which, I'm sure, will be helpful. And only a relatively modest amount of income tax will be paid on her Social Security benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Finding Hope in Despair – Part 2

Prevalence

Anxiety disorders are the most common mental health diagnosis, affecting somewhere around 20% of the population in the US. In fact, some studies show a lifetime prevalence rate of nearly 34%.1 The global statistics are similar, around 30%.2 This means that almost 1/3 of human beings will have an anxiety disorder at time point.

Depression is also very common. Major depressive disorder is the most commonly diagnosed depression-related disorder at a lifetime prevalence rate of just over 20% in the U.S.3 The global statistics are similar. One in five men and one in three women will have an episode of major depression before the age of 65.4 In 2017 the World Health Organization named depression as the leading cause of disability in the world.5

This tells us that about half of people globally have one or both of these two disorders. Do you feel less alone? Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill had depression; Emily Dickenson and Vincent van Gough had anxiety. Do you feel more hopeful that you can still make an impact?

Treatments

The treatment of anxiety and depression are very similar. Think about it: Anxiety looks apprehensively toward the future; depression looks regretfully at the past. Yet we cannot predict the future nor change the past. Learning to live in the present moment, changing what we can rather than dwelling upon what we cannot change, is a big part of mental health. This is called an "internal locus of control," or a sense of agency. The serenity prayer says, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." What can we change? We can change the way we live, think, and love. The treatments for anxiety and depression fall into those three categories.

The Way We Live

Everything is connected—body, soul, and spirit. The brain, which houses our thoughts and feelings, is a physical organ. This means that improving our physical health will improve our brain health. Improved brain health means that we have the chemical and functional basis for regulating mood and anxiety. This is where nature habits and hacks come in—lifestyle patterns we can change to improve global health, including brain health.

The Way We Think

Thoughts lead and feelings follow. So often in anxiety and depression, this process is reversed. We feel sad or anxious, and we begin to believe those emotions. Then, because we believe them, we feel them even more deeply. Clinicians call this emotional reasoning because it places emotions where our reasoning faculties should be. Much of reversing this downward spiral involves identifying our thoughts and feelings, and learning to mold them into more healthy, balanced forms.

The Way We Love

Many of our negative thoughts and feelings began with relationship problems. God created us to love and be loved, and when that purpose breaks down, so do we. Childhood trauma can give birth to negative patterns we find difficult to change. Yet with the right skill set, we can all learn better approaches to relationships. And we can come to know a God whose love "never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:8).

Note: For references noted in this article, refer to the original article.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Jennifer Jill Schwirzer LPC. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

Bell triumphs in Phoenix with dramatic win over teammate Hamlin

By Holly Cain
NASCAR Wire Service

Christopher Bell prevailed in a dramatic side-by-side finish with his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Denny Hamlin — the second-closest finish in Phoenix Raceway history — to earn Bell his third consecutive NASCAR Cup Series victory this season, a record in the sport's Next Gen Car era.

Bell's No. 20 JGR Toyota went high alongside Hamlin's No. 11 Toyota as the two cars dueled it out in the final two corners of a two-lap shootout on the one-mile speedway. The 30-year-old Oklahoman claimed the historic win by a mere .049 seconds, marking his second straight victory in this spring race at Phoenix.

"How about that one, race fans? Oh my gosh!" a jubilant Bell shouted to the Phoenix crowd after collecting the winner's checkered flag at the start-finish line.

"Whenever you're sitting there dreaming it up, that's about as ugly as it gets. You put the red [option] tires on, and you're like, all right, what I don't want to happen is go 20, 30 laps, get a yellow. That happened. Then we went 10 more laps, had another yellow.

"It was all about who could get clear on the restart. Neither of us could. We were racing really hard coming to the line. JGR ran 1-2 — how about that?"

Hamlin's runner-up finish was disappointing in the moment but still his best of the early season in the No. 11 JGR Toyota, earning the team its first 1-2 finish of 2025. He led the white-flag lap but couldn't fend off Bell, who drove the fastest car of the day, leading a race-high 103 of the 312 laps.

"Great job by the Sport Clips team, it got better as it went," Hamlin said. "Pit crew did a phenomenal job keeping us in the game. We had a bad stop in the middle but made up for it in the end.

"[The end] was the first time we were able to get some clean air all day, and our car was really fast. I really wanted it to stay green because I thought that's where we'd excel, especially on these tires. We got a good restart – the five [Kyle Larson] really gave me a good push on the frontstretch and down the backstretch. I had position on the 20, but I knew he was going to send it in there if he could. We just ran out of racetrack. But great finish."

Team owner Joe Gibbs joked afterward that having his two drivers battle for the win and finish 1-2 was a huge positive, but it had him on pins and needles during the closing laps Sunday.

"It can be a tense Monday meeting if it doesn't work out," he said with a laugh.

Hendrick Motorsports' Kyle Larson claimed third place, with Wood Brothers Racing's Josh Berry and Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing's Chris Buescher rounding out the top five. It was the best finish of the year for Berry and came on a busy afternoon where teams had to strategize using two kinds of tires — option (red) or primary (yellow) — for only the second time in Next Gen points-racing competition.

Goodyear allotted each team two sets of the option tires and six of the primary, with the idea that the red option tires were quicker but presented a challenge due to their quicker wear. The initial response to the extra element in the race was positive.

"Everything went according to plan at Phoenix, and the option tire worked very well," Goodyear's NASCAR project manager Mark Keto said after the race. "It gave teams a chance to vary their strategies and maximize their effectiveness to gain track position over teams that were on the primary tires.

"Teams were also able to manage their options once they got track position and make them last longer into a run. Overall, we were very happy with the balance and strategy of the prime/option tire setup and how it added to the racing all day."

The tire option played into the race, with RFK Racing's Ryan Preece, for example, switching early to the red tires and ultimately advancing more than 25 positions on track to lead 34 laps. Winning crew chief Adam Stevens said after the race that a lot was learned about the tires and hoped the series would be open to using them again. NASCAR will hold a closed tire test Monday at Phoenix.



Ryan Blaney, driver of the #12 Wurth Ford, greets fans as he walks onstage during driver intros prior to the NASCAR Cup Series Shriners Children's 500 at Phoenix Raceway on March 09, 2025 in Avondale, Arizona. (Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images)

Hendrick teammates William Byron and Alex Bowman finished sixth and seventh, followed by Richard Childress Racing's Kyle Busch, Front Row Motorsports' Zane Smith, and Hendrick's Chase Elliott, rounding out the top 10. It was the third consecutive top 10 for two-time series champion Busch and a season-best finish for Smith.

"It was just crazy there at the end," Byron said of the race strategy. "We restarted 21st and got into the top 10 pretty quickly. I feel like we probably used up a lot of tire on the reds to get those last few spots, so it was hard to get much more.

"I'm happy with it. The No. 24 Chevrolet team put together a good weekend. We learned a lot and got a solid finish, so that's something to be proud of."

Katherine Legge, a sports car race winner and former Indianapolis 500 starter, finished 30th on the 37-car grid in her NASCAR Cup Series debut, driving the No. 78 Live Fast Motorsports Chevrolet. The British driver became only the eighth woman in NASCAR's modern era (1972-present) to compete in the sport's highest level, and the first since Danica Patrick raced in the 2018 DAYTONA 500.

One-mile tracks like Phoenix are not typically known for big multi-car accidents, but the "big one" in the desert occurred early in Sunday's race. Spire Motorsports' teammates Justin Haley and Carson Hocevar, along with Joe Gibbs Racing's Chase Briscoe, made heavy contact racing four-wide out of Turn 2, ultimately collecting and eliminating five other cars from the race.

Despite the early end to his chances, Haley was impressed with the softer option tires.

"I wish I would have been on the option tires the whole time and everyone else on the primaries," Haley said. "They just make you feel like Superman. I like the tire. I honestly feel like we should go to them everywhere. They make the cars drive a lot better. I don't know if that's what you want, but it will be interesting to see how it plays out."

Bell now heads to the 1.5-mile Las Vegas high banks next week, hoping to match a milestone set by NASCAR Hall of Famer Bill Elliott, who is the only driver to win four of a season's first five races, doing so in 1992.

Byron leads the championship standings by 13 points over Bell as the NASCAR Cup Series returns to competition Sunday in the Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube (3:30 p.m. ET on FS1, PRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio) at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Larson is the defending race winner.

Dozens indicted in grand jury proceedings

Grand jurors handed down more than 40 indictments on March 3, according to records in the Patrick County Court Clerk's Office.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt, but a grand jury's determination that enough evidence exists to warrant a trial.

Those named in the indictments are:

*Anthony Clinton Slover, 48, of Stuart, one count each threat to bomb or burn, abduction, and use of firearm in commission of a felony, August 7.

*Rebecca Rakes West, 40, of Axton, unauthorized use of a vehicle, September 7.

*Christopher Wayne Bowman, 36, of Stuart, grand larceny of a motor vehicle, September 18.

*Justin Ryan Fain, 22, of Stuart, one count each strangulation and possess firearm while protective order in effect, August 13.

*James Daniel Biggs, 34, of Patrick Springs, one count each possess firearm by a violent felon and carry conceal weapon – second offense, August 20.

*Chrystal Gayle Hough, 38, of Meadows of Dan, unauthorized use of a vehicle, May 27.

*Kayla Danielle McGee, 31, of Brundidge, AL, grand larceny, September 14, 2023.

*Mason Wyatt Wasoski, 23, of Stuart, strangulation, June 20.

*Freddie Lee Williard, Jr., 45, of Claudville, four counts destruction of property and one count grand larceny, on or about August 30 - September 9, 2021.

*Adrian Rashad Scales, 43, of Waynesboro, child endangerment, November 7.

*Piris Ramalho Aguimar, 48, of Mt. Airy, N.C., grand larceny, October 24.

*Crystal Ann Dixon, 41, of Stuart, arson, November 21.

*Dylan McCoy Henderson, 22, of Stuart, possession of a Schedule I or II drug, September 24.

*Steven Markley Morrison, 69, of Stuart, one count each object sexual penetration and sodomy, September 14.

*Jennifer Michelle Ramsey, 29, of Bassett, possession of a Schedule I or II drug, August 21.

*Junior Welington, 37, of Mt. Airy, NC, grand larceny, October 24.

*Keyona Tyshell Redd, 22, of Axton, malicious wounding, November 7.

*William David Fain, 35, of Patrick Springs, possessing a weapon while a prisoner, August 13.

*Garland Feeny, 59, of Ararat, larceny of checks, September 1.

*Clinton Haley, 48, of Spencer, one count each possessing a weapon while a prisoner and destruction of property, August 13.

*James Marcus Howe, 53, of Stuart, two counts attempted sodomy, and one count each rape and sexual battery, February 6.

*Hope Ann Hubbard, 53, of Woolwine, possession of a Schedule I or II drug, August 17.

*Rebecca Lynn Hughes, 49, of Stuart, credit card theft, September 1, 2019.

*Brian Dean Mitchem, 41, of Olin, NC, two counts each burglary and grand larceny, on or between June 9 and July 15, 2023.

*James Mullis, 45, of Patrick Springs, two counts strangulation and one count each prevent 911 and domestic assault and batter, June 10.

*Michael Timothy Puckett, 54, of Cana, one count each manufacture or possess a firebomb, arson, and possession of explosive by felon, July 1, 2023.

*Christopher Lee Rhodes, 42, of Stuart, possession of Schedule I or II drugs, December 20, 2022.

*David Travis Walker, 23, of Patrick Springs, malicious wounding, December 10.

*Crystal Lee Watson, 42, of Stuart, child endangerment, November 25.

Getting Help After a Scam

Dealing with fraud in the aftermath can be fraught – not knowing where or if you should report (you should – it's a crime), feelings of shame (even though it's not your fault – blame the perpetrator), and an often-overwhelming emotional toll – let alone the financial impact.

One resource is the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline. Every weekday from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. EST, trained AARP volunteer fraud fighters are helping victims and their families understand what happened, report the crime, and plan next steps to put their lives back together. That number is 1-877-908-3360.

AARP also offers an online small group victim support program to help address the emotional harm fraud victimization causes. These conversations are completely confidential and are a wonderful way to receive support from others. Sign up for a session today at aarp.org/fraudsupport.

Experiencing a scam can be devastating, but it doesn't have to define you. If you or someone you know has been the victim of fraud, make sure to file a report with local police; among other things, this may be useful in the event restitution becomes possible down the line.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

Crossing the Lines

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

Fast Track 2025: Martinsville's premier trade show brings community together

Fast Track 2025 and its theme, 'Cultivating Growth, Inspiring Success,' kicked off with an exciting V.I.P. Night, where dozens of well-known local businesses and organizations set up booths at the Clocktower at Commonwealth Centre to connect with the community.

The premier trade show, hosted by the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, provided a space for businesses to showcase their services, distribute branded giveaways, and engage with visitors in a dynamic networking environment, which was a goal for organizers.

Attendees explored three rooms lined with business displays, including a sponsorship row that helped fund the annual event. Notable participants included Martinsville Speedway, Nelson Automotive, Sovah Health, The Lester Group, the city and county school systems, and the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society.



Belle and the Beast were among the Martinsville City Public Schools Performing Arts Academy students promoting their upcoming play, Beauty and the Beast Jr., at Fast Track 2025. Performances will be held at Martinsville High School - 351 Commonwealth Blvd E, Martinsville, beginning at 7 p.m. on March 14 and 15, and 3 p.m. on March 16. Tickets are $10 in advance; $15 at the door, and $20 V.I.P. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit https://onthestage.tickets/show/martinsville-city-public-schools/67535d87cd42d30f5f680a70.

Local homebrew club thrives as Scuffle Hill Brewing introduces new beverages

Since opening Scuffle Hill Brewing Co. in 2021, co-owner Jake Abell has fostered a strong sense of community among local craft beverage enthusiasts. In addition to running the brewery, Abell leads a homebrew club that brings together hobbyists to refine their skills and share brewing techniques. Now, Scuffle Hill is preparing to expand its offerings with new beverages.

The homebrew club was created in response to local interest.

"I was in one before I even became a professional brewer. That was in Danville, and that's a little far for anyone around here to drive," Abell said.

The club meets at Scuffle Hill on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., where members discuss topics such as flavoring, chemistry, beer styles, brewing experiments, and general tips.

"The homebrew club isn't just for beer makers," Abell said. "It's for wine, cider, and even mead makers who are trying to hone their skills and learn from others."



Owner Jake Abell and bartender Levi Dollarhite create a welcoming atmosphere at Scuffle Hill Brewing.

Two club members, John Thompson and Damon Stultz, have already gained recognition for their craft. Thompson won first place at the Patrick County Bushels and Brews Homebrew Competition, while Stultz took second place in the People's Choice category for his smash IPA.

Abell also values collaboration with other local breweries. "We help each other in the craft beer industry," he said.

The club welcomes both experienced brewers and newcomers interested in getting started. "Homebrewing kits to get you started will run you $200 to $300," Abell said. The group provides guidance to all skill levels, offering advice and hands-on learning opportunities.

Homebrewing is a process that requires time and precision, Abell said, and warned that you need some "patience. There is a lot of chemistry and biology that goes into the process." Understanding sanitization, yeast control, and fermentation is essential for success.

For updates on events and new offerings, follow Scuffle Hill Brewing on Facebook.

'Hear My Prayer,' Bassett High School Celebrates Black History Through the Arts



The Bassett High School Choir performs songs arranged by Moses Hogan during the Black History Month celebration. (Photo courtesy of CJ Bowman)

Bassett High School celebrated Black History Month through the arts with performances by the Bassett High School Choir, Gospel Choir, and Dance Club. The program, titled "Hear My Prayer," featured choral pieces arranged by Moses Hogan as well as readings from prominent figures in Black history.

The evening's theme was woven throughout the performances and emphasized in the keynote speech delivered by Garrett Dillard, who represents the Iriswood District on the Henry County Board of Supervisors. Dillard shared three prayers for the community and the world.

"My first prayer is that we hold ourselves and our circle of friends more accountable. I pray that we look within first before we blame anyone else," Dillard said. "I pray that we make the necessary changes so that we can live our best life. We all need to self-reflect. Look at self. Ask yourself, 'How can I be a better version of me?'"

He added that self-improvement requires action and support. Once we ask this question, we should apply these changes, find people in our circle to hold us accountable, and possibly change our circle to people who will help us be the best we can be, he said.

Dillard's second prayer focused on love and self-worth.

"My second prayer is that we learn to truly love our neighbor as we love ourselves," he said, stressing that self-love is essential. "Sometimes we can treat other folk bad because we treat ourselves bad… We must first love ourselves."

He explained that loving oneself means presenting oneself with dignity and decency. "As we learn to love ourselves, we can better love our neighbor, and we can have a more loving world."

Dillard's third prayer called for creating a better community and future for the next generation.

The Forgotten Readjusters: Henry County's Role in a Political Revolution

After the Civil War, Henry County and Martinsville became a sanctuary for a little-known but significant political movement: the Readjusters. Several Black officials were elected in Martinsville and other parts of Henry County as affiliates of the movement, which challenged the political and social status quo in postwar Virginia.

Hunter Haskins, a member of the Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society and Heritage Museum Board of Directors, has been researching the Readjusters as part of his passion for history. Inspired by his grandparents' stories about Virginia before his time, Haskins views the movement as a 19th-century fight against injustice. He believes the Readjusters' efforts to enfranchise Black Virginians and rebuild the state after the Civil War remain an important but overlooked chapter in Virginia's history.



Hunter Haskins lectures on the Readjusters at the Martinsville Historical Society.

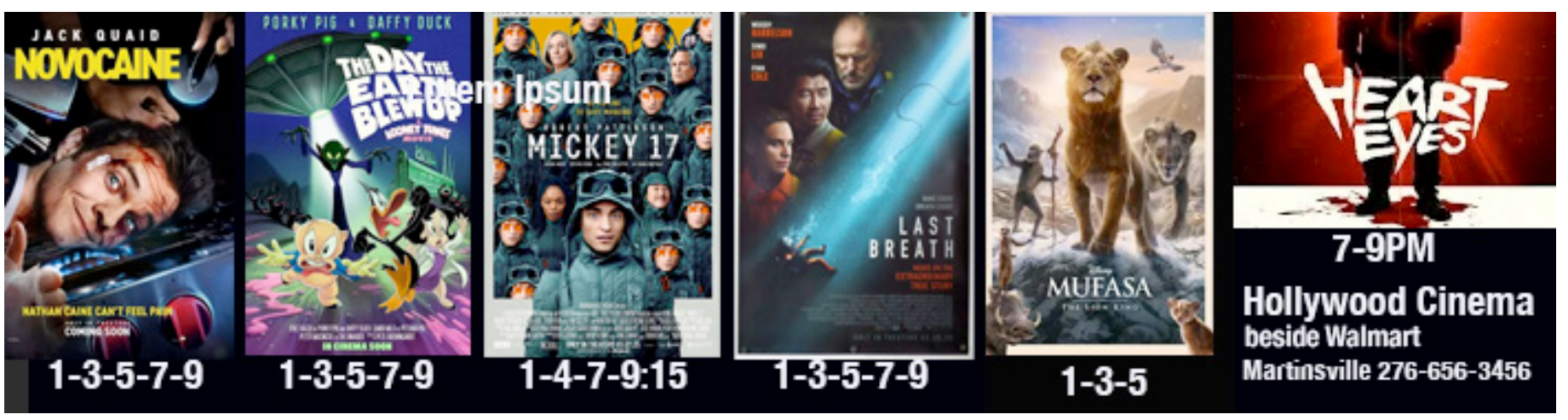
Martinsville property owners receive real estate reassessment notices

Property owners in the City of Martinsville have begun receiving notices of their updated real estate assessments, as required by state law. Reassessment notices were mailed on Feb. 27. Under state statutes, assessors in the commissioner of the revenue's office reassess all city properties every two years.

The reassessment aims to establish fair market values for all properties within the city. This does not mean that every property will have the same value, but similar properties will be assessed comparably based on real estate market trends over the past two years. The goal of this uniform process is to ensure that when the city council sets the tax rate as part of the annual budget process, the tax burden is evenly distributed among property owners.

Assessors do not determine property value; instead, the market dictates it through real estate transactions. Assessors analyze sales data, replacement costs, potential property income, depreciation, and location to establish fair market value.

Receiving a reassessment notice does not mean a property owner's taxes will increase. The notice explicitly states that only the city council has the authority to set tax rates. City administrators will use the reassessment values in preparing the annual budget.



OBITUARIES

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Christy Leigh Martin, 48, address unavailable, was charged Feb. 28 with three counts probation violation. Franklin County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*James William Turner, 35, address unavailable, was charged Feb. 28 with three counts probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Anthony Chase Walton, 40, address unavailable, was charged March 3 with probation violation. Deputy M. Nester was the arresting officer.

*Taylor Granite Hall, 26, of Claudville, was charged March 3 with drive while intoxicated. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Ashley Lynn Bogle, 40, of Stuart, was charged March 3 with shoplift. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Joshua Dewayne Bogle, 42, of Stuart, was charged March 3 with shoplift. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Melissa A. Chaffin, 50, of Dugspur, was charged March 5 with a warrant of extradition. Master Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Devin Dewayne Meadows, 28, of Pilot Mountain, N.C., was charged March 5 with a warrant of extradition. Sgt. I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

*Tyrone Cornelious Scales, 33, of Stuart, was charged March 5 with violation of protective order. Sgt. L.K. Carroll, Jr., was the arresting officer.

*Sammy Early Bowman, 54, of Claudville, was charged March 6 with forgery. Master Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Maranda Lee Castano, 43, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 14 with one count each possess Sch. I or II drugs and shoplifting. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*Christopher Lee Harris, 42, of Bassett, was charged Feb. 14 with probation violation. Sgt. L.K. Carroll, Jr., was the arresting officer.

*China Marie Welch, 31, of Riner, was charged Feb. 14 with violation of bond conditions. Deputy D. Spence was the arresting officer.

*Nathaniel Chase Gusler, 19, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 15 with reckless driving. Master Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Griffith Coy Goodyear, 34, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 17 with one count each property damage, violation of protective order, and attempted burglary. Senior Deputy H.R. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Taylor Lynn Bowman, 26, of Martinsville, was charged Feb. 18 with one count each fail to appear and fail to comply with terms of bond. Senior Deputy M.R Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Aubrey Springer Holt, 50, of Ararat, was charged Feb. 20 with assault. Master Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Ana Gabriela Lopez, 33, address unavailable, was charged Feb. 21 with two counts probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Gavin Zachary Hunter Moore, 33, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 22 with fail to appear. Sgt. W.L. Higgs was the arresting officer.

*Brittany Lynn Forcier, 36, of Patrick Springs, was charged Feb. 23 with one count each reckless driving, hit & run attended, drive motor vehicle with license revoked/suspended, and public intoxication. Senior Trooper J.N. Mabe was the arresting officer.

*Kimberly Ladawn Rowe, 32, of Martinsville, was charged Feb. 24 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges made the arrest for Martinsville.

*Terry Wayne Glenn, 50, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 26 with assault. Deputy J.L. Fain was the arresting officer.

*Christopher Dwayne Hylton, 34, of address unavailable, was charged Feb. 26 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Christopher John May, 38, of Roanoke, was charged Feb. 27 with fail to appear. Franklin County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Crystal Kathleen Luckado, 35, address unavailable, was charged Feb. 27 with fail to appear. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Dylan McCoy Henderson, 22, of Patrick Springs, was charged Feb. 27 with one count each trespass and assault. Deputy J.L. Fain was the arresting officer.

*Jonathan William Bostick, 49, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged Feb. 28 with drive while intoxicated. Trooper J.D. Cockerham was the arresting officer.

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Candace A. Korzenko



Candace A. Korzenko, 77, of Stuart, Virginia, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on February 20, 2025. Surrounded by family, Candy proudly wore her Celtic cross as she crossed over to be reunited with her late husband, Stanley Joseph Korzenko.

Born June 4, 1947, in Norwalk Connecticut to the late Cornelius O'Marra and Agnes Moriarty O'Marra, Candy grew up to be a lover of nature, art, travel and animals. She nurtured the world around her through her art, gardening, and culinary talents. Her arms and heart were open for whomever needed love, and her house never ran out of room for a stray four-legged friend. She was a nurturer by nature, and everyone loved her for it. To quote a dear friend, "Candy was a very special lady, like no other". She was always a free spirit, and during her 77-year life she stayed true to herself, even as that sense of self evolved. Candy was not only a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother but also a published writer, a Virginia Master Gardener, and an accomplished artist. She will forever be a central pillar for her children and grandchildren.

Candy is survived by her five children: Karen Sama (Jim Logan), John Taggart (Jennifer), Catherine Taggart (Elaine Grehn), Paul Taggart (Samantha), and Heather Richards (Bill Brague); her siblings: Maureen Phipps (Dave), Sue Piskura (Jim), Dayle McBreairty (John), Cornelius O'Marra, and Agnes Chamberland; 10 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Private services will be held at a later date.

Wright Funeral Service and Crematory are serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.wrightfuneralservices.net.

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Initial unemployment filings increase

The 2,881 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending March 01, 2025, were 16.5 percent higher than last week's 2,473 claims and 32.5 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,174), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 72 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (390); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (218); Retail Trade (217); Health Care and Social Assistance (176); and Manufacturing (162).

Continued weeks claims (17,671) were 2.8 percent lower than last week (18,179) and were 11.7 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (15,827). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,822); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,138); Construction (1,576); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,523); and Manufacturing (1,354).

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions.

While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.

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

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



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Patrick Pulpits

Who is Jesus?

By Luke Moore
High Point Baptist Church

Who is Jesus? To answer this question, let's go back to the Garden of Eden. The Garden was created to display the perfect character of God and as a haven for Man to live. The first man, Adam, had a privileged relationship with God: he walked with God, he knew God personally and truthfully, and he had a spiritual life unrivaled by the rest of creation.

When Adam sinned, he lost this privileged relationship. He hid himself from God, separating himself from the communion he had enjoyed (Gen. 3:8). He no longer perceived the truth of who God is. Hiding, he questioned God's omnipotence; passing the blame, he doubted God's justice; and in fear, he doubted God's mercy and love. Finally, his spiritual life was tainted with death as the promised consequence fell upon him (Gen. 2:17). Cursed by his own disobedience, he and his wife were cast out of the Garden. This is where the story of Jesus begins - a perfect relationship with the perfect God tarnished by death, lies, and separation.

In John 14:6, Jesus declares Himself to be "the way, the truth, and the life." He goes on to say, "No one comes to the Father except through Me." This declaration announces the end to the threefold curse brought about by sin in the Garden.

First, Jesus is the Way. The Way back to the Father. Jesus being the Way reverses the separation from the Father we necessarily endured. Jesus Christ has given us the Way back to the Father through His sacrifice on the cross.

Second, Jesus is the Truth. Truth is illumination. It is dark things becoming light - the unknown becoming known. Truth is absolute. It is, by definition, exclusive. There cannot be multiple truths, only multiple perspectives of a singular Truth. When on trial before Pilate before His crucifixion, Jesus tells Pilate, "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world - to bear witness to the truth" (John 18:37). Jesus being the Truth reverses the deception put into this world by the deceiver, Satan. Just as Jesus opened the eyes of the blind, so even now, He opens our blind eyes to see the truth of who the Father is and the great love He has for us.

Finally, Jesus is the Life. In John 10:10-11, He promised those who trust in Him, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." Jesus didn't give us a life of drudgery and sorrow as we await death. Eternal life starts here on earth! He has already given us abundant life. We need not wait for death to reap the benefits of Christ's sacrifice. Our life everlasting begins at the moment we trust in Him as Savior and Lord and then it continues into eternity. Jesus being the Life reverses the curse of death we brought on ourselves through our disobedience in the Garden. He is life separated from death, and He is abundant, full, everlasting life.

Rejoice that Jesus Christ came to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life; to undo the curse we gave ourselves in our sin; and to give us access and a renewed relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Warner and Kaine reintroduce legislation to designate Galax center's amphitheater after Boucher

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner, D-Alexandria, and Tim Kaine, D-Richmond, reintroduced legislation to formally designate the Blue Ridge Music Center's outdoor amphitheater the "Rick Boucher Amphitheater" after former Rep. Rick Boucher.

"We are deeply appreciative of Congressman Boucher's commitment to public service, and his continued work for Southwest Virginia," the senators said. "We can think of no better way to honor his years of public service than by dedicating this treasured music center, which he championed during his years in office, after him."

Former Rep. Boucher, an Abingdon native, represented Southwest Virginia's ninth congressional district in the House of Representatives from 1983 to 2011. Rep. Boucher was an early supporter of the development of the Blue Ridge Music Center and continued to advocate for the project throughout his tenure. He also served as the Chairman of the U.S. House Energy Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet as well as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality while in Congress.

Located in Galax, VA, the Blue Ridge Music Center is home to a visitor center, outdoor amphitheater, indoor interpretive center, and the Roots of American Music Museum, which highlights the historical significance of the region's musical culture. The museum was featured in USA TODAY's Top 10 Best Free Museums in the United States for 2025. The Blue Ridge Music Center is operated by the National Park Service with musical programming coordinated through a partnership with the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation. On August 25, 2022, Sen. Kaine toured the center and performed at Midday Mountain Music.

The legislation previously passed the Senate on December 23, 2022 but did not pass the House of Representatives before the end of the 117th Congress.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Jeroboam (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 1 Kings 20, when Ben-hadad gathered all his forces together, how many kings were with him? 0, 2, 11, 32
3. According to John 18, what priest was the first to examine the arrested Jesus? Annas, Haggai, Abiathar, Eliashib
4. From Revelation 21, how many angels will be at the gates of the New Jerusalem? 7, 9, 12, 15
5. In Jeremiah 8:7, what in the sky knows her appointed times? Raven, Stork, Dove, Eagle
6. From Acts 2, about how many thousand were baptized on the day of Pentecost? 1, 3, 5, 7

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 32, 3) Annas, 4) 12, 5) Stork, 6) 3

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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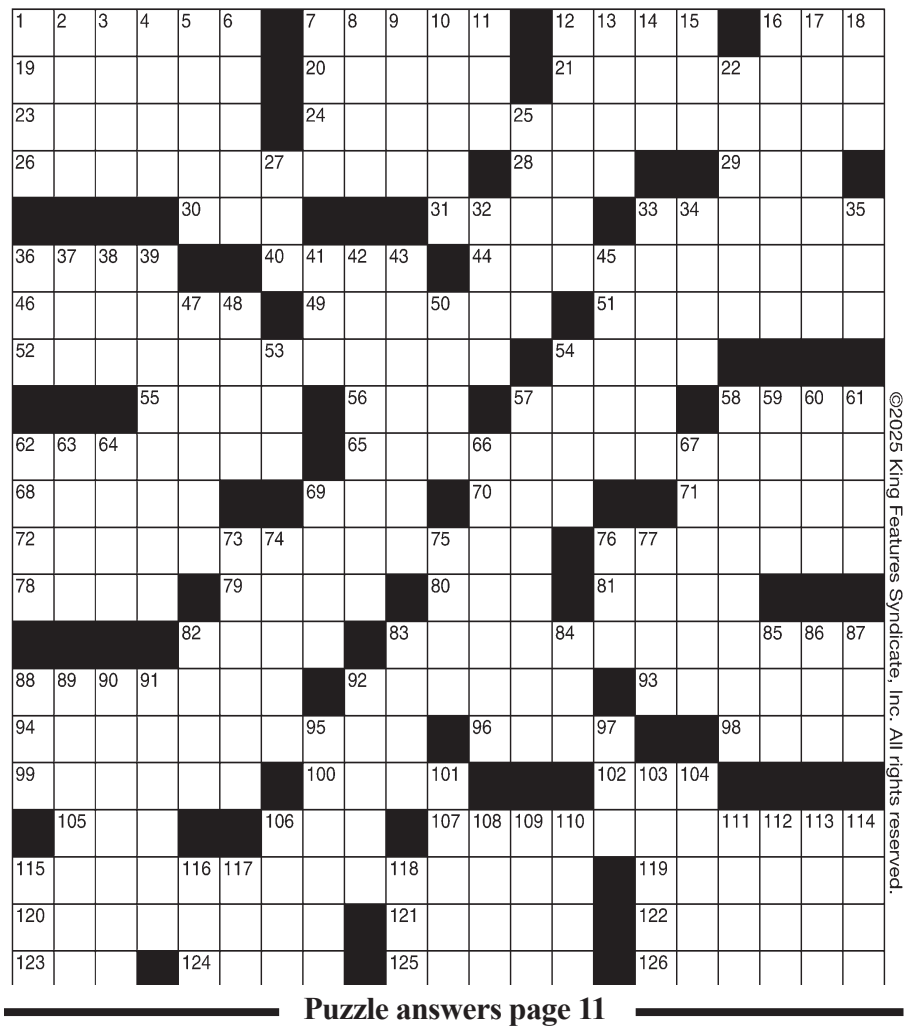
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ACROSS
1 Accord, Civic and Pilot
7 Blue toon
12 Hubbubs
16 Honorary deg. for a jurist
19 Unicellular organism
20 Subdued, with "down"
21 Receives a salary, say
23 Boston baseballers
24 Verb form in "I used to solve puzzles," e.g.
26 Position of advantage
28 Stuff in some viral genes
29 How- — (manuals)
30 Detroit-to-Philly dir.
31 Job opening
33 Literary finale
36 War deity
40 Pre- — (replace)
44 What's allotted in soccer when a player is hurt
46 Sell in stores
49 Thinned out
51 Bohemian lager
52 "Fathers and Sons" novelist
54 Notion, in Nice
55 Story
56 Lions' locale
57 L-Q linkup
58 "Little" co-star Rae
62 In the best-case scenario
65 Sibling who looks the same
68 Japanese menu item
69 Fall mo.
70 Suffix of superlatives
71 Korean, e.g.
72 Molar requiring extraction, maybe
76 Title for Gandhi
78 "Good Will Hunting" director Gus Van — ... or what this puzzle's 10 theme answers are?
79 Virtuosos
80 Screening airport org.
81 Oodles
82 Love deity
83 Dog with a reddish, wiry coat
88 Beirut's land
92 Barney Fife portrayer Don
93 Charred
94 Retreat in the clouds
96 Downs food
98 Good friends
99 River mouth features
100 From scratch
102 Horse's kin
105 San Francisco's — Valley
106 Aged
107 Invention of Rorschach
115 Painful podiatric problem
119 Geronimo's people
120 2003-16 Cowboys quarterback
121 Large spoon
122 "Peanuts" girl
123 Former United rival
124 Has- —
125 Lectern, e.g.
126 Group of PC experts

DOWN
1 Mata —
2 Boding sign
3 Signals "OK"
4 Lucy's Arnaz
5 House
6 "Wailing" instruments
7 Rouse
8 NYC cultural center
9 Like many insensitive jokes
10 Smells awful
11 32nd prez
12 Will Smith's role in "Men in Black"
13 Ten: Prefix
14 Hitter Mel
15 Concorde, e.g., in brief
16 Ointment base
17 Thin, supple and graceful
18 34th prez
22 — fours (teacakes)
25 Fern leaf
27 Golf ball prop
32 "Salt" co-star Schreiber
33 Port city near Buffalo, NY
34 TV's Gomer
35 Neighbor of Belg.
36 Grande of pop, to fans
37 Gun, as an engine
38 Greek vowel
39 Christmas party headwear
41 Fuel efficiency stat
42 Forecasts
43 Found on a radio dial
45 "What's —?" (Bugs Bunny's greeting)
47 Like tilted type
48 Break in the action
50 State bird of Hawaii
53 Marina del —
54 Beginning ltr.
57 Volcano in Calif.
58 "We're in danger here!"
59 Loretta of "M*A*S*H"
60 Thailand, once
61 Noted visitor to 60-Down
62 Wife of Osiris
63 Part of Russia's parliament
64 Fox Sports competitor
66 Webpage
67 Pakistani city
69 Lyric poems
73 Occult cards
74 Low-budget, in adspeak
75 Other, in Oviedo
76 Wrestling pad
77 Stein drinks
82 "Watermark" singer
83 Apropos of
84 33rd prez
85 Radio host Glass
86 Japanese menu item
87 Tpks., e.g.
88 Cornea cover
89 Still, at this late date
90 Salami alternative
91 Vein's cousin
92 Japanese fencing style
95 Sam of Sam's Club
97 Actor Mineo
101 Be victorious in
103 "Same goes for me"
104 Honoree on Mar. 17
106 "I'm buying"
108 Zilch
109 Potter's oven
110 Ran, as dye
111 Sharp-tasting
112 Brutus' "Behold!"
113 Actor LaBeouf
114 Burst (with)
115 Hairy sitcom cousin
116 Celestial ball
117 Suffering
118 Golf's Ernie



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Puzzle answers page 11

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NOW HIRING

Head Start Teacher Assistant – Franklin - Solutions That Empower People, Inc. (STEP), a multifaceted community action agency, has an opening for a full time 10-month Head Start Teacher Assistant in Franklin County, VA. The Head Start Teacher Assistant will be responsible for assisting in the planning and carrying out of the educational program and the day-to-day operations of the Head Start classroom. The qualifications for this position include a high school diploma or equivalent and a CDA credential or Early Childhood Education certificate, one-year of experience working with pre-school age children, excellent written and oral communication skills, and basic computer skills. Salary range for this position will be $14.02 - $18.15 per hour. Benefits include health, dental and vision insurance, disability insurance, paid time off and 401K. Qualified applicants MUST complete an application found on our website at https://apply.stepincva.com/?positions=Franklin+County+Head+Start+Teacher+Assistant. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Head Start Teacher - Franklin - Solutions That Empower People, Inc. (STEP), a multifaceted community action agency, has an opening for a full time 10-month Head Start Teacher in Franklin County, VA. This position is responsible for planning and carrying out the educational program and the day-to-day operations of the classroom. The qualifications for this position include an Associate's Degree in Child Development or Early Childhood Education (prefer Bachelor's Degree), three years' experience working with pre-school age children, excellent written and oral communication skills, and basic computer skills. Salary range for this position is $17.60 - $21.28 per hour. Benefits include health, dental and vision insurance, disability insurance, 401k, and PTO. Qualified applicants MUST complete an application found on our website at https://apply.stepincva.com/?positions=-Head+Start+Teacher. This position will be posted until filled. STEP, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Fairy Stone State Park Now Hiring Multiple Seasonal Positions! Beach Maintenance Ranger Boathouse Ranger Contact Ranger Food Service Ranger Housekeeping Ranger Apply online: www.dcr.virginia.gov/jobs Positions open until filled. 967 Fairystone Lake Drive Stuart, VA 24171 276-930-2424

Home & office Cleaners Wanted - $630/Weekly Cleaning Position: Available Working Days: Mon-Fri Time Schedule: 11 AM - 2 PM Minimum Requirement Email: styleharry054@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

Small parcel of land for sale @ 586 Mount Calvary Church Rd, Stuart, VA 24171. If interested, please call (276) 694-2842 between 10AM and 4PM.

Weekly SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing as part of the Planning Commission's meeting to be conducted on Tuesday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Patrick & Henry Community College building located at 212 Wood Brothers Drive in Stuart, Virginia. The purpose of this hearing is to consider amendments to the Patrick County Comprehensive Plan, specifically amendments to the Plan's policies for solar facilities as initiated by the Board of Supervisors.
If you would like to review the proposed amendment, the Board of Supervisors' Resolution initiating the amendment, or the existing Comprehensive Plan, copies of these documents are available in the Tax Mapping Office located on the 2nd floor of the Patrick County Administration Building located at 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA.
If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the Tax Mapping office at 276-694-4624.

LEGAL

BWW# VA-374819-1
TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 92 LAWSON LANE, STUART, VA 24171. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 25, 2014, in the original principal amount of $107,354.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 140000546. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on April 11, 2025, at 3:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE PETERS CREEK MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: "TRACT 2," CONTAINING 1.423 ACRES, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "DOYLE JORDAN AND WIFE SARAH P. JORDAN," PREPARED BY PATRICK N. HALL, LS, DATED JUNE 12, 2013, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 130001565. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit often percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a $50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-374819-1.

Meetings

Monday, March 17
The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall in the Frith Economic Development Center.

Tuesday, March 18
The Patrick County Department of Social Services (DSS) Advisory Board meeting will be held at 4 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of the Patrick County Administration building.

Wednesday, March 19
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. in the Town Office.

Events

Thursday, March 13
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group meets at 1 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Charles Bowman and The Landmark Center will provide the meal. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite desserts to share with the group.

Saturday, March 15
Country breakfast at Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department, 6:30-10 a.m. Dine in plates are $10 for adult plates and $5 for child plates. All take out plates are $10. Call in orders can be made by calling (276) 930-2113.

Thursday, March 20
The Patrick County Republican Committee will meet at 6 p.m. in the P&HCC Motorsports Hall of Fame Auditorium.

The Carroll County Genealogy Club meets at 5 p.m. in the club's library in the old historic courthouse on Main Street in Hillsville.

Friday, March 21
The Community Food Truck will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

Saturday, March 22
Waders & Waddlers Education Station will be at the Virginia Museum of Natural History from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Highlights include Be a Science Sleuth - activity for kids, Meet a Philpott Lake Park Ranger and learn "Why we don't feed crackers to 'quackers' and more, and the first public view of waterfowl specimens from the museum vault. For more info: https://www.vmnh.net/plan-your-visit

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club will hold a Poor Man's Supper from 4-7 p.m. at the Patrick Springs Park building in Patrick Springs. The meal includes pinto beans, potatoes, corn bread, dessert, and a drink for $9.

Sunday, March 23
Debbie Bennett performs at Pleasant View Baptist Church, Patrick Springs, 4 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Ice cream social to follow.

Wednesday, April 2
The DMV Connect Mobile Unit will be at the Patrick Henry Community College Site, 212 Wood Brothers Dr., Stuart, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed for lunch 12:30 -1:30 p.m. This event is open to the public for Driver transactions, with no appointment needed.

Saturday, April 5
Creasey's Chapel will hold a BINGO! Games, Food, Prizes event, doors open at 4 p.m. and bingo starting at 5 p.m. $25 gets you 20 cards, 10 door prize tickets and 1 coverall.

Ongoing

The Coffee Break Café hosts live music on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring an instrument, or just come and listen.

Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During opening hours an inside yard sale is open to the public. Proceeds from the yard sales are used to purchase supplies. Members meet on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's office, located on Wood Brothers Drive, in the basement of Hills Tax Service. New members 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.

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.

Patrick County Senior Citizens is sponsoring two upcoming trips — three-days, two-nights to Lancaster, Pa., June 18–20, and a one-day trip on August 2 is planned to NarroWay Dinner Theatre, Fort Mill, South Carolina. For more information, call (276) 694-3917.

Salem Church on Salem Road in Critz will hold a community meal on the first Sunday of every month at 12:10 p.m. Call (276) 222-1069 with questions.

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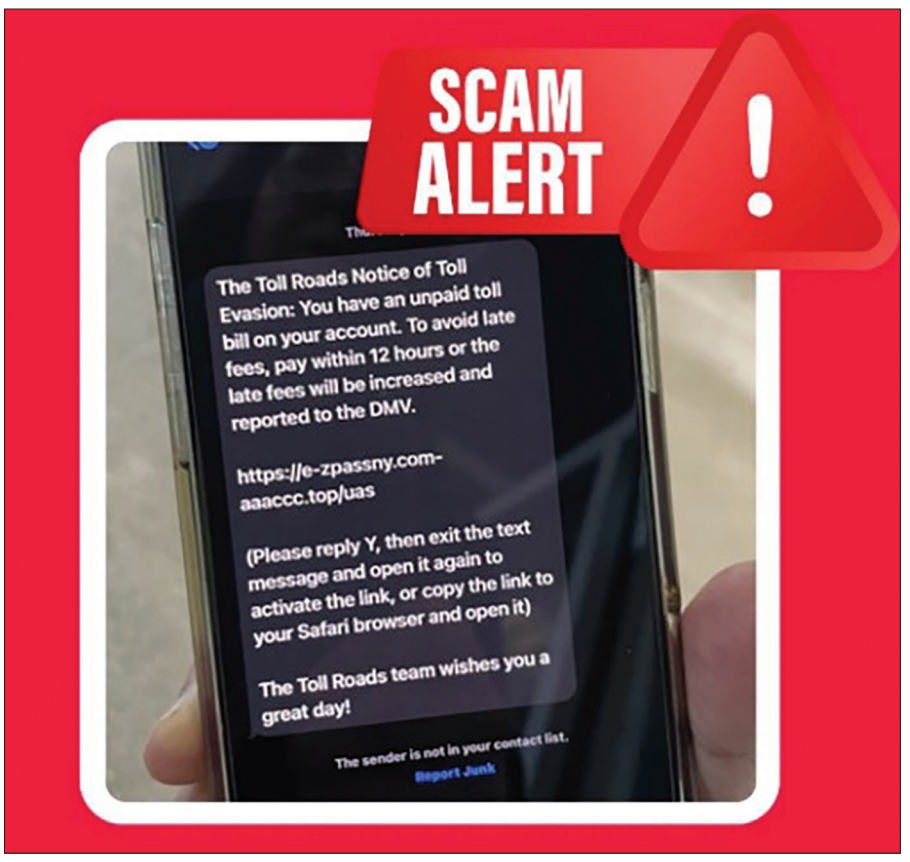
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DMV Warns Customers of Toll Charge Text Scam

Did you get a text about an overdue toll charge? It's likely a scam. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles is alerting customers about a new text scam where fraudsters pose as toll agencies and falsely claim you owe money for unpaid tolls.

In the text message, the scammers urgently tell you to pay a toll to avoid late fees and include a link in the message. Clicking that link could result in your personal information being stolen, making you a victim of this scam.

"The DMV will never send you text messages about toll bills," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey. "We urge our customers to be vigilant and avoid sending your personal information via text."

Here are some tips from the Federal Trade Commission on how to avoid falling for a text scam like this:

- Don't click on any links in, or respond to, unexpected texts. Scammers want you to react quickly, but it's best to stop and check it out.

- Check to see if the text is legit. Reach out to the state's tolling agency using a phone number or website you know is real — not the info from the text.

- Report and delete unwanted text messages. Use your phone's "report junk" option to report unwanted texts to your messaging app or forward them to 7726 (SPAM). Once you've checked it out and reported it, delete the text.

For more information about Virginia's toll facilities, access to your E-ZPass account, or concerns regarding a text message about toll payment, visit https://www.tollroadsinvirginia.com/.

Prepare to weather the spring storm season

Although Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter, spring—and its unpredictable storm season—will be here before we know it.

Spring is known for bringing an increased risk for lightning, hail, damaging winds, tornadoes, flash floods and more. That's why during Virignia's Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 10-14, officials are encouraging residents to prepare, highlighting a different topic each day—tornadoes, thunderstorms, lightning, flooding and outdoor weather safety.

"Spring storms can escalate quickly, and having a plan in place makes all the difference," said Laurie Gannon, vice president of claims for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. "Knowing what to do, where to go and having emergency supplies on hand in the event of a severe storm are essential to protecting yourself, your family and your property."

For starters, residents should monitor weather forecasts and sign up for emergency weather alerts. Families also should establish an emergency communication plan outlining where to seek shelter if a storm hits.

Always keep an emergency kit with flashlights, extra batteries, a battery-operated weather radio, first-aid kit, medications, important papers, cash, blankets or sleeping bags, non-perishable food and a 3- to 5-day supply of bottled water.

Additionally, the National Weather Service reports that flash floods are the No.1 storm-related cause of death in the U.S., as people often underestimate water's power. Avoid flooded areas by moving to higher ground. And never attempt to drive in or cross flooded or flowing waters—find an alternate route instead.

While personal safety is paramount, homeowners also should safeguard their biggest investment ahead of the stormy season. Extreme weather events like thunderstorms are increasing in frequency and intensity, and the NWS reports that severe storms caused the highest number of billion-dollar disaster events in 2024.

Trim trees and remove dead branches around the home, and replace any missing or loose roof shingles. Secure any outdoor furniture, grills and decorations to help protect the home during high winds.

Clear gutters and drains, and inspect sump pumps in basements to reduce the risk of flooding inside the house. And using surge protectors can protect valuable electronics from lightning during thunderstorms.

Finally, homeowners should ensure they have adequate insurance coverage for storm-related damage. Flooding and wind damage are common during spring's erratic weather. Reviewing policies with an insurance agent in advance can help avoid unexpected costs after a disaster.

To learn more about Virginia Severe Weather Awareness Week, visit bit.ly/4i2AIg9.

FIND US ON

Survey input needed from farmers about large animal veterinarian services

The Virginia General Assembly recognized last year that solutions need to be developed regarding the statewide shortage of large animal veterinarians.

As a result, the legislature authorized a two-year work group organized by the Board of Veterinary Medicine that includes Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, along with other livestock and veterinary groups. Over the past year, the work group has been evaluating and providing recommendations on strategies, programs and financial incentives to help address the shortages of large animal veterinarians across the commonwealth.

Farmers can assist in this effort by submitting their input and sharing experiences through an anonymous survey.

A legislative recommendation from the work group to create a state grant program for large animal veterinarians successfully moved through the General Assembly this session. HB 2303 and SB 921 will create a grant program under the state veterinarian providing grants for up to four selected large animal veterinarians in Virginia to help incentivize them provided they commit to practicing large animal medicine in a rural part of the state. The incentives are designed to address various needs and may include funds for debt relief, but also could supplement starting salaries to make jobs more competitive.

"The work group felt it would be beneficial to further detail the perceived shortage of veterinary care by receiving feedback from livestock producers statewide on how their operations have been impacted by this," said Jake Tabor, legislative specialist with VFBF governmental relations.

The questions were created through consensus from the work group, large animal veterinarians, the Virgina Cattlemen's Association, Virginia Agribusiness Council and Farm Bureau. The survey is currently being circulated to livestock producers through various channels, in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension and various trade associations.

"Once we collect that data, we plan to present it at the next meeting of the work group this spring," Tabor continued. "We hope these survey results will help influence the recommendations and policy ideas for the work group in its second year. The data will be a platform for the group to analyze solutions."

Visit surveymonkey.com/r/3WBCJ8J to participate in the brief survey. Results will be collected through April 4.

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Couple honored for their dedication to Ruritan

Ruritan National immediate past-president Robin Davenport recently visited the Ararat Ruritan Club to make a special presentation to Kevin and Pamela Smith.

"Their exceptional dedication to Ruritan National's growth by organizing two clubs within one calendar year and their efforts embody the pioneering spirit of J. J. Gwaltney (Ruritan co-founder) and his unwavering commitment to strengthening communities through service."

Davenport said he'd not seen this award given during his 43 years of involvement with Ruritan.

Kevin and Pamela tirelessly worked on chartering the Stuart and Woolwine Community Ruritan clubs in 2023 and are active in both clubs along with their home club in Ararat.

While Kevin originally joined Ruritan in 1999, and after a nearly ten year hiatus, he rejoined along with Pamela in 2019. "This is something that we enjoy together," the couple agreed.

I've always had a sense of community involvement," said Pamela, "and am always looking for ways to improve, not necessarily change." Pamela said, "I love helping others. I've been involved in the community in some way all of my adult life."

Pamela Smith recently learned that her dad, Johnnie B. Roberson was a charter member of the Dobyns Ruritan Club in 1969. "I guess the apple didn't fall far from the tree," she said. Pamela serves as the secretary for both Ararat and Stuart clubs and is currently the zone governor. She's also been president of the Ararat club and has been selected as Club and District Ruritan of the Year



Kevin and Pamela Smith (Contributed)



Kevin Smith with the J. J. Gwaltney award, presented by Robin Davenport.

Kevin has served as treasurer for the Ararat Club and is currently Lt. Zone Governor. He, too, has been selected as club and district Ruritan of the Year. Kevin's passion for continuing education has earned him various awards from Ruritan National Foundation. "This is the one sector of Ruritan that really fascinates me." One of the programs within the foundation includes an endowment fund. Anyone contributing $1,000 to the Ruritan National Foundation fund will have a permanent and once it reaches $10,000, an annual disbursement is allowed for scholarship awards.

Patrick County Ruritan clubs include Ararat, Stuart, Woolwine Community, Meadows of Dan, Patrick Springs, and Red Bank.

The Ruritan slogan is "Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service". Why not join us at one of our events? Come on out to see what this best kept secret is!

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Winner's will be published in
The Enterprise on April 30, 2025
& The Henry County Enterprise on May 3, 2025.

Lower Pesticide Certification and License Fees Announced

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has announced reduced certification and licensing fees for pesticide applicators and businesses operating in the state. The changes, which took effect Jan. 2, follow a regulatory review by the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services to better align fees with the cost of administering the Virginia Pesticide Control Act.

The revised fee structure significantly lowers costs for commercial pesticide applicators and businesses while maintaining VDACS' ability to oversee pesticide regulations and protect public health and the environment.

Under the new structure, the initial certification fee for commercial applicators has decreased from $100 to $25, while registered technicians now pay $25 instead of $50. The annual pesticide business license fee has been reduced from $150 to $75. Additional changes include lowering the reexamination fee for commercial applicators from $100 to $25 and reducing the cost to add a commercial applicator category or subcategory from $35 to $25.

The pesticide product registration fee remains unchanged at $225, and there continues to be no charge for private pesticide applicators obtaining initial or renewal certifications.

Applicators and businesses can access an online application system where the new fees are automatically calculated. For more information on certification, licensing, or product registration, contact the VDACS Office of Pesticide Services at opsclrt.vdacs@vdacs.virginia.gov or call (804) 786-3798.

Patrick Promise receives funding boost from EDA



Dr. Greg Hodges, P&HCC President; James Houchins, Executive Director of Patrick County ED; Danny Foley, EDA Director; Tiffani Underwood, P&HCC Foundation Executive Director; Dr. Stewart Roberson, PCEF Chair; Noah Mabe, Small Business & Economic Development Coordinator

In February, Patrick County Economic Development Authority responded to Patrick County Education Foundation's (PCEF) challenge to support Patrick & Henry Community College's (P&HCC) Patrick Promise with a donation of $5,000 to future PCHS graduates.

"We are so grateful to the EDA and members of the Patrick County community for supporting the future of Patrick County by providing this opportunity for graduating seniors," said P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges, adding, "Donations like these are ensuring the financial stability and growth of these students and the community as a whole."

Patrick Promise will extend support to provide free tuition to PCHS graduates attending Patrick & Henry Community College similar to The Harvest Foundation's support for students in Martinsville and Henry County. To date, PCEF has raised the resources needed to fully fund the first two years of the Patrick Promise. Once funds have been raised for year three, the Board plans to launch the program.

About Patrick Promise:

In support of PCEF's goal, Patrick Promise will provide last dollar funds for Patrick County graduates to attend P&HCC FREE to the family for up to 2.5 years. Funds will currently support two of those 2.5 years. PCEF invites the community to participate so that all PCHS graduates can benefit from the same level of investment as their peers in Martinsville and Henry County.

Community members interested in donating to Patrick Promise are encouraged to visit https://bit.ly/phccgivenow (designate Patrick Promise when donating).

PCHS members compete, win at Virginia Senior Beta Convention



Aiden Slate with his award.



Tara Collins with her art work and award.



Thomas Eckman with his award.



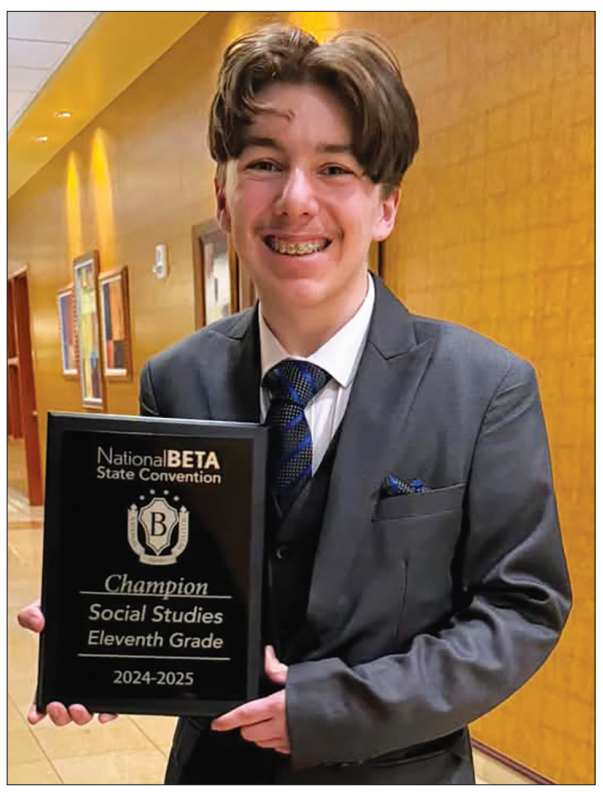
Isobel Clay (left) and Willow Hylton (right) with their awards.



Lacey Sutphin with her awards.



Michael Perez with his art work and award.



Draysin Maselli with his award.



Callie Wood Virginia Sr. Beta President with her Poetry Award.



Virginia Nations (left) and Madison Scott (right) with their talent award.



2024-25 Sr. Beta Convention Attendees.



Kylei Blevins with her artwork and award.

By Kaydence Harman,
Patrick County High School

Members of the Patrick County High School Senior Beta club traveled to Virginia Sr. Beta Convention in Hampton, VA on February 6-8, 2025. Seventy PCHS students participated in the convention with sixty-eight students attending in person and two students attending virtually.

Several PCHS students did very well at the convention. Callie Wood was elected Virginia Senior Beta President. Thomas Eckman, won first place in Agriscience for the ninth grade; Callie Wood, placed third in Poetry Division II; Kylei Blevins, placed third in Color Photography Division II; Willow Hylton, placed second in Creative Writing Division I; Tara Collins, placed third in Hand Drawn Anime Division II; Lacey Sutphin, won first in Language Arts for the tenth grade and placed third in the Mixed Media Division I; Isobel Clay, placed third in Psychology for the tenth grade; Michael Perez, won first in Recyclable Art Division II; Draysin Maselli, won first place in Social Studies for the eleventh grade; Lastly, Aiden Slate, placed third in US History for ninth grade.

Additionally, Patrick County High School won first place in the Club Trading Pins, Performing Arts Variety Act, Campaign Skit, and third place in Quiz Bowl. We thank all participants and congratulate those who have placed. We are thankful to all who helped us prepare for the convention.

PCHS members are currently preparing and fundraising to travel to the National Senior Beta Convention in Orlando, FL this June.

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