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

Board to discuss solar ordinance at Monday meeting

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will consider a draft solar ordinance proposed by the Planning Commission at its Monday, Feb. 9 meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building.

The ordinance was sent to the board more than four months ago, on Sept. 16. Kurt Bozenmayer, then chairman of the commission, asked the board to take action on the proposed solar ordinance at the Nov. 17 meeting.

Andrew Overby, chairman of the board and of the Dan River District, said the supervisors haven't felt the need to have an actual solar ordinance up until this point since it's not considered to be an approved land use in the county, according to the county's Comprehensive Plan.

"We're looking to maybe solidify something, I don't know yet. We're going to talk about it and see," he said.

While two draft solar ordinances were created - one by the Berkley Group and the other by commission member Ed Pool - Overby said the board will only look at Pool's proposed ordinance "because that was what was approved by the Planning Commission.

Overby also plans to have commission members speak about and explain the ordinance to the board at the February meeting.

"Then, us just talk about it, and then if we decide we want to move forward, then we'll set up a public hearing," he said, adding he believes the board will schedule a public hearing for a future board meeting.

The ordinance under review by the board was unanimously approved by the commission. In addition to increasing initial permitting and other fees for a project, it includes a risk assessment that front-loads, or allocates, costs at the beginning of the project by requiring a letter of credit to limit the county's exposure to liability.

(See Board p. 2)



Photo submitted by Corrie Ann Delgado.

Lights, snow, and winter wonder

A snow structure surrounded by lights adds a creative touch to winter fun after snow blanketed the county. Residents embraced the snow with sledding at DeHart Park, Rotary Field, and in their own yards, along with creative projects

like this one. More seasonal temperatures are forecast during the day for the week, dipping into the teens at night, and midweek precipitation is possible.

Williams outlines priorities, opposition in General Assembly session

By Taylor Boyd

Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, said he remains optimistic about passing legislation during his first General Assembly session under a Democratic trifecta, a political environment he described as "absolutely a 100 percent inverse than anything I've ever seen."

"My bills do have the opportunity for success, I've already had one pass. It should be just fine, I mean there's going to be bills that die all the time. The ones Virginia really could use generally pass through," Williams said.

He said he prepared for the session by working closely with individuals and industries to refine proposed legislation and evaluate what would be feasible.

"Sometimes they just don't work. They're just not feasible and so I have what we call 'struck' a few bills," he said. "Some because I put the bill in, worked with the indus-

try, then comes resolutions, the bill is no longer needed, and then some because there's just so many different little wrinkles in the government."

Among the bills Williams is sponsoring are several related to construction, health care, public safety and immigration enforcement.

Two of his proposals focus on construction, including HB147, which addresses funding for U.S. Route 58.

"On HB147, that is about (U.S.) Route 58 funds that we use to pay for the construction," Williams said. "This bill would allow for the bond ceiling to increase so that they could borrow more to finish the project using those funds."

Williams has also placed a budget item aimed at allowing projects to advance through engineering design and environmental studies before full funding is secured.

"Before this, you would have to

collect all of the funds you needed for that project and then you could start working on that project," he said. "That obviously caused issues because we're only allocating \$40 million a year to finish 58."

Williams said the total cost to complete US 58 would be \$750 million in today's dollars, rising to an estimated \$850 million a decade from now.

(See Williams p. 3)

Redistricting amendment struck down by judge

By Taylor Boyd

A proposed amendment that would have allowed the Virginia Constitution to grant the General Assembly authority to redraw the state's congressional districts was struck down last week by a Tazewell County Circuit Court judge.

Judge Jack Hurley Jr. ruled the proposed constitutional amendment did not follow the proper procedure required for such a change. As a result, House Joint Resolution 6007, which proposed the redistrict-

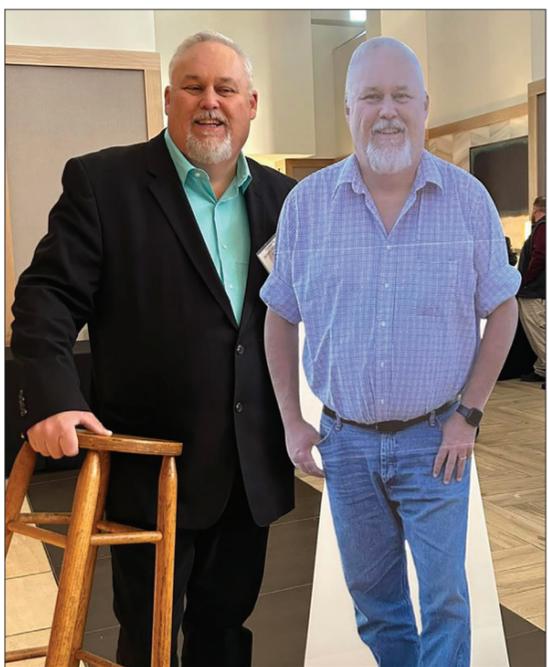
ing amendment, was invalidated.

Supporters of the proposed amendment have said the change was needed to respond to redistricting efforts in other states and would temporarily allow lawmakers to redraw congressional district lines ahead of future elections.

Before the ruling, local legislators had urged constituents to vote against a referendum tied to the proposal, which would have temporarily amended Virginia's Con-

(See Amendment p. 3)

Local Ruritan steps into national leadership role



By Taylor Boyd

Kevin Smith, a member of the Ararat and Stuart Ruritan clubs, was elected as a Ruritan National Director in late January, a role he will hold for the next three years.

Smith currently serves as treasurer of both the Ararat Ruritan Club and the Stuart Ruritan Club. As a national director, he will help guide the organization and serve as a voting member on policies and issues brought before Ruritan National.

"There's seven national directors that are elected each year. In Ruritan National, (See Ruritan p. 3)



The JEB Stuart Preservation Trust, Inc. will hold a birthday celebration for Confederate Major General J.E.B. Stuart's 192 birthday on Saturday, February 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ararat Ruritan Club.

Group to hold birthday celebration for Stuart on Saturday

By Taylor Boyd

The JEB Stuart Preservation Trust, Inc. will hold a celebration on Saturday, February 7 in honor of Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's 192 birthday.

The event will be at the Ararat Ruritan Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission to the celebration is free, and guests can register to win a door prize.

(See Birthday p. 7)

Kevin Smith, treasurer of the Ararat and Stuart Ruritan clubs, was elected as a Ruritan National Director in late January.

Keep Food Safety in Play this Super Bowl

Super Bowl parties often feature takeout, delivery and foods that are served over several hours. To help prevent foodborne illness, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is reminding fans to keep food safety in play on game day.

"When food is served throughout the Super Bowl, it can be easy to lose track of how long it's been sitting out," said USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Mindy Brashears. "As Americans gather to enjoy the game, keeping food hot or cold and serving it promptly helps protect family, friends, and guests from foodborne illness."

Many Super Bowl favorites including pizza, chicken wings, hamburger sliders, and chili should not be left out at room temperature for more than two hours, what USDA calls the Danger Zone (temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees F). If perishable food is left out without hot or cold sources for too long, bacteria will multiply to unsafe levels that can cause foodborne illness.

FSIS encourages hosts to follow these food safety tips:

#1 Handle Takeout and Delivery Safely

- Transport takeout in insulated bags if travel time exceeds one hour.
- Serve food promptly or divide into smaller portions and refrigerate until ready to reheat and serve.
- Keep food hot at 140 degrees F or above using a preheated oven, warming tray, chafing dish or slow cooker.
- Reheat food containing meat or poultry to an internal temperature of 165 degrees F as measured by a food thermometer.
- If reheating in the microwave, spread food evenly, stir thorough-

ly, and check for cold spots to ensure a safe internal temperature is reached throughout.

- Reheat liquid foods like soups and sauces to a boil.

#2 Keep Food out of the Danger Zone

• Serve food in smaller batches. Bring out one round of food during the first half of the game and another during the second to ensure your food doesn't stay out for more than two hours.

- Discard perishable foods left out for longer than two hours. To prevent food waste and enjoy leftovers after the game, refrigerate or freeze perishable items within two hours.
- If food will be out for more than two hours:

- Keep cold foods at a temperature of 40 degrees F or below by nesting in ice.
- Keep hot foods at a temperature of 140 degrees F or above by placing food in a preheated oven, warming trays, chafing dishes or slow cookers.

#3 Use a Food Thermometer

• Ensure your food reaches a safe minimum internal temperature when cooking at home:

- Meat (whole beef, pork and lamb) 145 degrees F with a 3-minute rest
- Ground meats 160 degrees F
- Poultry (ground and whole) 165 degrees F
- Eggs 160 degrees F
- Fish and shellfish 145 degrees F
- Leftovers and casseroles 165 degrees F
- If serving chicken wings, use a food thermometer on several wings to gauge the doneness of the entire batch. If one is under 165 degrees F, continue cooking all wings until they reach the safe internal temperature.

#4 Follow the Four Steps to Food Safety

- Clean: Wash hands for 20 seconds before and after handling your takeout or delivered food, as well as any raw meat or poultry you prepare at home. Clean hands, surfaces and utensils with soap and water before and after meal prep. Sanitize any surfaces that may have come in contact with food using a commercial or homemade solution (1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of drinking water).
- Separate: Use separate cutting boards, plates and utensils to avoid

cross-contamination between your takeout or delivery foods and any raw meat or poultry you are preparing at home.

- Cook: Confirm foods are cooked or reheated to a safe internal temperature by using a food thermometer.
- Chill: Chill foods promptly if not consuming immediately after cooking.

For food safety questions, contact the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) or email MPHHotline@usda.gov from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Summer meals partners sought

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs is seeking partnering organizations to participate in the Commonwealth's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) to help ensure children have access to nutritious meals during months when school is not in session.

The SFSP Program — funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the Virginia Department of Education's Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SCNP) — provides the opportunity for organizations to combine a meal program with an enrichment activity in communities where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Approved organizations are reimbursed for meals served and associated administrative costs. In addition, all participating organizations receive training and technical assistance from the VDOE-

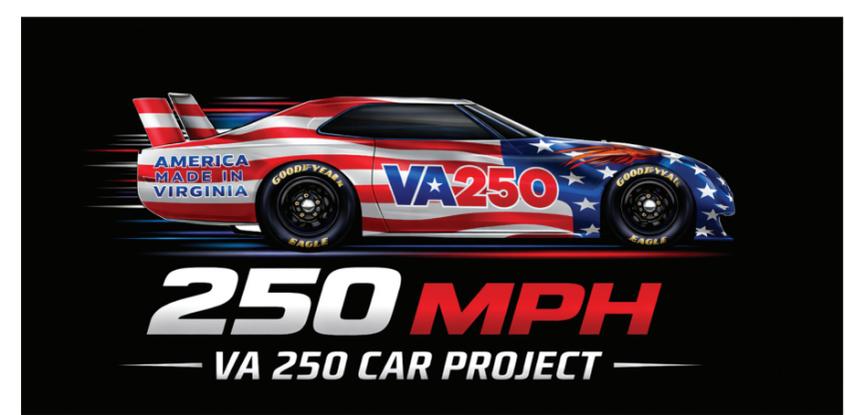
SCNP.

The Program can operate at schools, public housing centers, community centers, playgrounds, camps, parks, and religious centers. Organizations that qualify to participate in the program include public and private schools, local governments, public and nonprofit private residential summer camps, and faith-based and community-based non-profit organizations.

Organizations in areas designated as rural by the U.S. Department of Agriculture may be eligible to serve multiple days' worth of take-home meals at once.

Approximately 130 summer meals partner organizations served over 4.4 million meals and snacks to Virginia's children between May-August last year.

Information for organizations interested in applying to participate in the Program — including details on application deadlines — is available on the VDOE website.



VA250 Car Project readies 250-mph record attempt

A Virginia-built motorsports project is taking shape in Martinsville as engineers and fabricators prepare a vehicle designed to challenge the 250-mile-per-hour land-speed barrier.

Known as the VA250 Car Project, the initiative is led by veteran engine builder Joey Arrington and is being constructed in Martinsville, highlighting Southside Virginia's role in advanced manufacturing and performance engineering. Organizers plan to attempt the record March 24-26, 2026, at Space Florida, a historic aerospace facility.

The project is supported by the Virginia 250 Commission as part of the Commonwealth's observance of America's 250th anniversary, tying the record attempt to a broader celebration of Virginia's industrial and educational legacy.

In addition to the build and record

attempt, the VA250 Car Project includes an educational partnership with the University of Virginia's Motorsports Club, an undergraduate-led Formula SAE. The club is made up of dedicated and passionate students who design, build, and race a formula-style racecar each year. Students will gain hands-on exposure to vehicle systems, data analysis and real-world performance engineering through direct involvement with the project.

"This effort shows what Virginia can produce when experience, education and innovation come together," Arrington said.

After the record attempt, the vehicle is expected to tour Virginia as part of the VA250 celebration, serving as a rolling demonstration of Virginia-based engineering and workforce development.

Additional information is available at <https://va250carproject.com>.

Pets of the Week



Need your heart melted this icy cold week? These beautiful pups came in with two other adorable pups; please visit the shelter and meet them all. Your forever valentine is closer than you think!

PLEASE SAVE A LIFE! ADOPT! These are wonderful pets! All dogs and cats deserve a permanent, loving home. 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 vaccinations.

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League provides pet food and spay/neuter assistance. Contact blueridgeawl@gmail.com for details. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League website at www.blueridgeawl.org.

Board

(cont. from page 1)

The solar industry "puts all of the liabilities on the back end of the project" with bonds intended to cover decommissioning costs, hazardous materials issues, and similar expenses, Pool explained.

Under the proposed ordinance, the company would be required to "go to a bank and put up the cash to secure a letter of credit," Pool said.

For example, if a project costs \$50 million, the company would be required to secure a letter of credit for that amount, Pool said. The county would hold the letter, and the funds could be used to pay for decommissioning the project and related costs.

A letter of credit would protect the county even if the company files for bankruptcy, with all funds secured by the letter available to be drawn down within 72 hours, he said.

While he's neither anti nor pro-solar, Overby said he is considering whether a plan would be beneficial to the county in terms of minimizing risks.

"That may be something we want to consider. But I don't want us do-

ing anything that's going to be detrimental to the county," he said.

While he believes solar is a good option in some places, Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, said he doesn't think the county is the place to expand solar on a utility scale.

"I believe that there are better, suitable places on land that cannot be used for other things, whether it's agriculture, whether it's for recreation, whether it's for tourism, such as mine reclamation sites.

"Land that would be brownfields, rooftops, parking structures, those are much better options for solar in my opinion," he said.

Vice Chairman Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, said he is opposed to solar farms locating to the county.

"If somebody wants a dish on their roof or out in the yard or something, that's fine, but I don't want to see large-scale solar. I think it'd be detrimental to the county," he said.

Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, and Rick Swink, of the Smith River District, did not respond to requests for comments.

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 Visit our website for pricing: www.norrismemorialservices.com

Williams

(cont. from page 1)

“So, we want to try to make progress as quickly as we can while these dollars are smaller than they will be later,” he said.

Another bill, HB146, would create a “health-care learning lab” aimed at giving small communities more flexibility with health care regulations. Williams cited Galax’s Twin County Regional Healthcare as an example.

“One of the examples would be some type of artificial organ that might not be signed off by the FDA (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) or whatever is needed to clear that through to the every day person,” Williams said. “This would allow us to be more innovative while still safeguarding the majority of the public.”

If successful, Williams said the pilot programs could expand to other regions.

Williams is also sponsoring a bill backed by the American Kratom Association that would prohibit 7-OH, a concentrated ingredient derived from the kratom plant.

“It’s what you’re seeing on shelves in gas stations and vape shops, and it’s acting as a pretty strong opioid,” he said.

Williams compared 7-OH to Delta-8, which is synthesized from hemp CBD and was outlawed in Virginia several years ago.

“So, this bill allows for the natural kratom plant, but it does not allow for that concentrated 7-OH ingredient to be synthesized and then sold sort of unregulated, which is currently what the situation is,” he said.

If passed, Williams said the bill would address growing concerns about the substance.

“We’re finding that people are finding 7-OH easier to obtain than heroin or opioid pill form,” he added.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff’s Office reported the following:

*Dylan Shane Vernon, 33, of Collinsville, was charged Jan. 23 with fail to appear. Sgt. C.L. Elgin made the arrest for Henry County.

*Megan Hollie Smith, 39, of Fieldale, was charged Jan. 23 with fail to appear. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Damien Leon Charles, 22, of Stuart, was charged Jan. 23 with stalking. Inv. Tennille E. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Ivy Rayne Hollinger, 32, of Stuart, was charged Jan. 26 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Crystal Kathleen Muckado, 36, no address available, was charged Jan. 26 with two counts probation violation and one count fail to appear. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Adam Lee Daniels, 41, of Stuart, was charged Jan. 27 with probation violation. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Travis Lee Shumate, 40, of Claudville, was charged Jan. 28 with four counts violation of protective order and three counts attempt to bribe witness. Inv. Tennille E. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Michael Cody Soloman, 29, of Martinsville, was charged Jan. 28 with one count each attempted robbery, firearm used in commission of felony, and malicious shooting. Deputy H.D. Whitney was the arresting officer.

*Genaro Wayne Frias, 40, of Henry County Adult Detention Center, was charged Jan. 29 with probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Jennifer Tate, 53, of New Bern, NC, was charged Jan. 29 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy M. Nester was the arresting officer.

*Mitchell Steve Slate, 50, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Jan. 29 with two counts probation violation and one count fail to appear. Senior Deputy M. Nester was the arresting officer.

Ruritan

(cont. from page 1)

there’s a total of 21 national directors and you serve for a three year term. So, every year, seven get elected and seven come off,” Smith said.

As part of his responsibilities, Smith will work with two Virginia districts: the Appomattox District, which includes 30 clubs and 764 members, and the Peaks of Otter District, which has 20 clubs and 369 members.

“They don’t want to send you 10 hours away. They try to keep you within somewhere you can drive, attend the meetings and functions, and come back home that night,” he said.

Smith said the role also involves communication between the national organization and local districts.

“If anything happens at the national level, I will also take it back to my districts and inform and work with them,” he said. “Also, any

Another of his proposals focuses on Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the transfer of detainees.

“It says if federal immigration calls our local jails or our local prisons, and says, ‘hey, we’re looking for somebody, you got them, can you hold onto them for us,’” Williams said. “That’s a detainment. Well, my bill would say it is much safer to have ICE come pick up those individuals that they put detainers on at our secured facilities rather than out in our communities.”

Williams also outlined legislation he plans to oppose, including any bills related to redistricting.

“It’s going to be the biggest disenfranchising

Amendment

(cont. from page 1)

stitution to give the legislature the power to redraw congressional districts during an April 21 special election.

Virginia currently has 11 congressional districts, six represented by Democrats and five by Republicans.

Under the proposed redistricting, Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, said the map would shift to 10 Democratic districts and one Republican district.

“That’s not representative of Virginia, Virginia’s purple. So right now, I would say Virginia slightly leans blue, but it’s maybe 51-49. The 9th District, the 5th District, the 6th District — all these districts currently, those regions of Virginia are conservative,” Phillips said.

Phillips said the proposal would draw district lines stretching from Northern Virginia to the North Carolina border to collect enough Democratic voters to justify creating Democratic-leaning congressional districts.

“Which is insane. What’s going on in Arlington has nothing to do with what’s going on in Anderson Mill in Pittsylvania County. They don’t have the same needs, they don’t need the same representation because they’re so different,” he said.

Phillips also said the proposal would set a troubling precedent, noting Virginia has never temporarily amended its Constitution.

He said he is concerned the change would not remain temporary.

“That once it’s voted on, just like many things they’ll find a crisis, a new reason to subjugate rural parts of Virginia to Northern Virginia’s influence, and we don’t want that, we don’t need that. Whether you’re Republican or Democrat you shouldn’t want that because we have such different interests and lifestyles and needs in our area versus Northern Virginia,” Phillips said.

Phillips added he believes the proposal is unconstitutional and “a slap in the face to the voters of Virginia.”

Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, said stopping the redistricting effort is vital to maintaining election integrity and representative democracy.

“The Democrats literally want to take the current maps, which were drawn by an independent commission and certified by the Virginia Supreme Court, and gerrymander them for the next three congressional terms; then they’ll return the maps to the people’s independent redistricting commission,” Williams said.

Williams said the proposal bypassed the Privileges and Elections Committee, which typically handles such matters, and instead moved through the Appropriations Committee.

“Nobody knew that it was coming. The Democrats have continued to speedball this thing through, lawfully or unlawfully,” he said.

amendment in voter history when it comes to Virginia,” he said. “Because you’re going to eliminate the voices of probably 10 out of all congressional districts in Virginia.”

Williams said he also plans to vote against tax proposals he believes would increase costs for Virginians.

“It’s not just people who are making over \$1 million getting hit with a 10 percent state tax,” he said. “It’s people who are going to the gym... watching Netflix... receiving Amazon deliveries.

“So, there’s a lot of tax,” Williams said. “I don’t know how the governor can run on the idea of making Virginia more affordable and then raise taxes across the spectrum.”

To oppose the referendum, Williams encouraged voters to stay informed and share information.

“Everyone needs to show up at the polls and vote ‘no’ and say, ‘we already decided that... politicians out of our maps is what we want for the Commonwealth,’” Williams said.

Williams said he is sponsoring legislation that would require clearer ballot language if the proposal were to move forward.

“I suggested a ballot question that was fair and designed to be approachable and readable and understanding of everyone,” he said.

Background

Williams said the issue dates back to 2019 and 2020, when Virginia voters pushed for an independent redistricting commission.

Nearly 66% of voters approved the commission during the Nov. 3, 2020, election.

“They were able to redraw the maps of all of the state and congressional and legislative districts after the 2020 census based on population and also based on the number of parameters or desires, expectations, provisions, whatever you would like to call that,” Williams said.

The maps aimed to maintain contiguous localities, keep communities of shared interests together and eliminate political gerrymandering.

After the commission reached a stalemate, Williams said the Virginia Supreme Court finalized the maps, which have been in use since.

Williams said the current controversy followed statements by President Donald Trump encouraging Republican-led states to redraw congressional maps to gain seats.

“What happened recently is (President) Donald Trump stated openly where he called on Republicans and GOP leading majority states to redistrict their maps so as to increase the number of congressional seats that could favor Republicans in their state,” Williams said. “Then the Democrats here in Virginia said, ‘well, if they’re going to redistrict in their state and rig the game, rig the system in their state, then we need to redistrict in our state so that we could prevent or stand up to Donald Trump and his bullying of other states.’ That’s their logic, which is absurd.”

Williams said changing Virginia’s Constitution would allow the party in power to override the independent commission’s work and influence future elections.

“This would require the people handing that power back over to the Party in the majority and letting them restore fairness is the big, ambiguous, virtue signaling language that the Democrats decided would be the most helpful explanation of why they would want to be doing something like this,” he said.

If approved, Williams said the proposal would also cost the state \$5 million.

issues that the districts may have I will work with that district to solve any of those issues.”

Smith said he decided to run for the position after attending the Ruritan National Convention last year in Greenville, South Carolina.

“There were some events that took place that I wasn’t overly happy with. Some members did not get their way so they kind of caused a little bit of embarrassment for our organization, and it didn’t sit well with me. So, I decided, ‘well, I’ll run,’” he said.

Citing Ruritan’s motto, “Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service,” Smith said he felt the organization needed to refocus on its core values.

To add some fun to his campaign and reflect his interest in NASCAR, Smith adopted the slogan “Rev with Kev.”

“Rev being excited about all the big things

that Ruritan does and with and working with one another, and I was the Kev part,” he said with a chuckle.

During the campaign, Smith traveled extensively to meet members.

“I hit the core area of Ruritan during my campaign by going to West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and about six districts in Virginia,” he said. “We learned more about Ruritan going out and campaigning then I ever thought we would, and we had fun. That was the main thing- having fun doing something.”

Although he has just begun his term, Smith said he does not expect to seek reelection after it ends.

“I will probably look to get more involved with the Ruritan Foundation, the scholarship arm of Ruritan,” he said.

Thank you for reading The Enterprise

EPA Reform, Permitting and Coal



Morgan Griffith

Representative

A cornerstone of American power and success is predicated on our manufacturing might.

As factories transition in the 21st century, new technological innovations boost American industry and support more efficient and productive manufacturing activity.

For example, new technologies could help coal plants burn coal cleaner with reduced emissions.

Accordingly, many domestic manufacturers are interested in seizing the moment by adopting 21st century innovations.

However, many manufacturers from furniture makers to steel manufacturers seek to make efficiency modifications or improvements to their facilities and plants. And yet, they often refrain from doing so.

This is because of something called New Source Review (NSR).

NSR regulations fall under the Clean Air Act.

Once triggered, the NSR process can jeopardize the air permit for the entire manufacturing facility.

Accordingly, a plant could be put out of business, even though the efficiency upgrades would result in a net reduction in plant emissions!

One example that I frequently cite is the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture manufacturing plant in Galax.

When I have toured the plant, I have viewed the plant's production process and the work of its craftsmen.

This facility possesses what I call the "long conveyor belt to no-

where."

It was clear that this "conveyor belt to nowhere" did not serve a meaningful purpose. At the very least, it made the production process less efficient.

To most people, it would make sense to rearrange this feature and save production time on every piece of furniture manufactured there.

However, lawyers for Vaughan-Bassett advised the factory that removing any part of the conveyor belt system could possibly trigger an NSR analysis, thus threatening the entire facility's air permit and thus the legal ability of the plant to operate.

Accordingly, they do not touch the "conveyor belt to nowhere."

You may ask, "why should I care?"

And the answer is this.

Vaughan-Bassett is an American manufacturer. It competes with Asian furniture manufacturers.

Every second, every minute that is added to the process reduces the efficiency of the manufacturer and adds costs to the production.

We will never beat the Asian countries on wages. Nor should we.

But we can be more efficient. NSR in many cases prevents us from being more efficient and more competitive in the marketplace.

These NSR issues pose challenges to manufacturers in Virginia's Ninth District and across the country.

Accordingly, for multiple Congresses, I introduced legislation to correct this misguided practice to deliver clarity for American manu-

facturers and promote plant efficiency improvements.

This year, my New Source Review Permitting Improvement Act was considered by the House Committee on Energy Commerce, on which I serve.

During remarks on my NSR reform bill, I highlighted that numerous industry groups and labor unions support my bill. That includes the United Mine Workers of America, the National Mining Association and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

As debate occurred on my NSR reform bill, Committee Democrats introduced several amendments.

One such introduced amendment happened to unintentionally target Appalachian communities!

The Democratic amendment proposed that my reform bill could not apply to any facility or plant that uses any electricity generated from coal.

Therefore, under the Democrats' amendment, any coal plant that generates electricity or any facility that uses coal-generated electricity would likely not be able to make efficiency upgrades!

There wasn't even a limit. It was a blanket application to all facilities with coal-generated electricity, regardless if the facility needs 90% of its electricity generated from coal or 1%.

Therefore, our manufacturing plants would be barred from using the reforms to improve their facilities!

I raised my objections to the proposed amendment during the hearing.

I specifically outlined the threat that such an idea would pose to Virginia's Ninth District and central Appalachian communities at large.

Facilities in our region rely on coal for electricity purposes and industrial processes. By handicapping our manufacturers in the Ninth District, our factories would lose business and we would lose jobs.

The consequences could be devastating for our communities.

Luckily, we defeated the Democrats' amendment and my bill was reported favorably by the Committee.

However, this episode illustrates just how out of touch DC Democrats are on energy policy and exposes their radical zeal to eradicate coal from our energy mix.

If DC-style Democrats get their way, we will see even higher costs on our electric bills and less reliability.

I will continue fighting against anti-coal policies and promoting commonsense energy policy to ensure we have the backs of American manufacturing workers.

Letters to the Editor

Blood Drive set for Feb. 10

This month's blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, at the John D. Hooker Building. The blood drive donation hours are 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

* Donors are reminded that RapidPass allows you to start the blood donation process from the comfort of your home or office. The donor can answer health history questions before arriving at the blood drive location. This can save as much as 15-20 minutes in the donation process! RapidPass must be completed the day of the drive and can be found at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass>. The donor can bring a hard copy or copy it to your cell phone.

* The Red Cross encourages all donors to get a good night's sleep, to eat a good breakfast or lunch, drink plenty of water, and bring a picture ID with them to the drive.

* Donors can make an appointment up to the time of donation through the blood donor app, by calling 1-800-REDCROSS (733-2767) or online by going to www.redcrossblood.org and searching 24171.

* This month's sponsor is Healing Waters Day Spa located in Patrick Springs. Welcome Healing Waters as a first-time sponsor of the blood drive.

* This month's goal is 21 whole blood units and 2 double red units.

* The volunteers look forward to serving you and making your donation a pleasant experience.

* Happy Valentine's Day!

We hope to see you at the oldest blood drive in Patrick County on Tuesday, February 10.

Gene Stirewalt,
Stuart

Imagine No Social Security

By Russell Gloor

In 1971, the iconic song writer John Lennon penned the lyrics to his famous song "Imagine," asking us to picture a world in total peace and harmony. Although it was a call to imagine what life would be like in a utopian world, it was also, perhaps, overly optimistic given the realities of that time – realities which are largely similar today, over 5 decades later.

Nevertheless, it is always good to imagine life as it might be. And that goes both ways – we can and should always picture life in a better world, but we might also take pause, at times, to picture how life might be worse. How often have we lamented that "things could be much worse?" when confronting adversity in our daily lives? So, today I'd like to suggest that you picture what life would be like without Social Security.

First Some Statistics

First, some statistics: Social Security provides benefits to about 70 million Americans, senior citizens as well as those not yet old enough to be so designated. That's about 20% of the entire U.S. population. The benefits offered are financial, providing usually crucial money to those fortunate enough to be eligible. That includes those who have earned benefits by working and are old enough to claim, and others – such as minor or disabled adult children – who have not personally earned a benefit but are dependent on a parent who has. Benefits are also available for dependent spouses, ex-spouses and, sometimes, dependent parents. And let's not forget that even working Americans who become disabled often find financial relief at a younger age with the Social Security disability insurance program. Fact is, Social Security provides a "major" source of income for a majority of senior Americans and, in most cases, those collecting say it is critical to their ability to make their financial ends meet. In a nutshell, a large majority of Social Security recipients say Social Security is critically important to their financial well-being. But what if Social Security were to go away?

What If Social Security Went Away?

Well, that's not something we like to think about because it would negatively impact so many millions of people. Senior citizens would suffer harshly because the poverty rate for those aged 65 and over would jump from around 10% to nearly 40%. That means another 22 million people would be added to the total 36 million who already live below the U.S. poverty line. And statistically, the ones most affected would be older women, people of color, and children (about 4 million of whom receive Social Security benefits). Another 9 million or so Americans who collect Social Security Disability Insurance benefits would also be seriously affected.

What would American life be like without Social Security? As a student of U.S. history, I can imagine what it was like in the 1930s – the

decade of the so-called "Great Depression." The years immediately preceding the advent of FDR's Social Security program were a time of abject poverty in the United States. Many Americans had very little money and scant resources, with men wandering from town to town to find work to provide food for their kitchen table. Many wore tattered clothing, often the only clothes they had, and minor children had to work (if they could) to help the family survive. That was the environment which gave birth to the U.S. Social Security program. And the program, funded by taxes on workers and their employers, worked well. Starting when monthly SS benefits began flowing in 1940, Social Security has continued to sustain America's seniors and their dependents for about 90 years. In other words, Social Security is an extremely effective anti-poverty program which would devastate millions if the program went away. But what are the chances that Social Security will actually go away?

Will Social Security Ever Go Away?

You might have heard that Social Security is now having some financial difficulties – and that is true. But is it in danger of every going away completely? The answer to that is a resounding "No." Despite its current financial dilemma, Social Security will never go away completely. As long as Americans are working and contributing to the program, it will always be here to provide some benefits. But the more important question is, will Social Security be able to pay for all of its benefit obligations in the future? And the answer to that is "No, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program." You see, right now Social Security revenue (mainly income from working Americans) is less than needed to pay all benefit obligations. Social Security revenue in 2024 was about \$1.418 trillion, but SS expenses were about \$1.485 trillion – a deficit of about \$67 billion. And that shortfall has been taken from Social Security's Trust Fund reserves in order for full benefits to be paid to everyone.

The Social Security Trust Funds have supplemented the money needed to pay full benefits since 2021, which means the reserves in the Trust Funds have gone from about \$2.9 trillion in 2020 to about \$2.7 trillion today – a trend that will result in the reserves being completely depleted in about the year 2033 (this according to the Trustees of the Social Security program). If the Trust Fund reserves are fully depleted, Social Security can only pay out in benefits what it receives in revenue, which would mean about a 23% cut in benefits for every Social Security recipient.

Since so many Americans rely on Social Security as a major contributor to their financial well-being, the result of a 23% cut to everyone's Social Security income would be devastating. It likely wouldn't make things as bad as they were in the 1930s preceding Social Security's (See Imagine p. 7)

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Patrick Pioneers

William Penn "Billy" Fulton

By Beverly Belcher Woody

I recently came across a letter published in The Enterprise, dated January 23, 1919, written by Nettle Ridge resident William Penn "Billy" Fulton. It offers a poignant snapshot of life for some of the young soldiers serving during World War I.

Billy Fulton was born on November 27, 1899, to John William Fulton and Barbara Anne Hylton of Nettle Ridge. John William Fulton was the son of John Kelly Fulton of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, and his wife, Maria Louise Harrison of Caswell County, North Carolina. Barbara Anne Hylton was the daughter of George W. Hylton and Sarah Catherine Penn of Patrick County.

Billy was the youngest child born to the couple. His siblings were:

George Hylton Fulton (1886–1955)

John Kelly Fulton (1887–1922)

Catherine Penn Fulton (1889–1908)

Hylton Harrison Fulton (1891–1910)

Louise Barbara Fulton (1895–1972)

Annie S. Fulton Clark (1895–1977)

Billy Fulton married Miss Virginia Oneil Clark on December 22, 1940. At the time of their marriage, Billy was 41 and Virginia was 37. It was the first marriage for both. Virginia was the daughter of Edward Lybrook Clark and Anna Massey.

Interestingly, Virginia's brother, Joseph Myron Clark, married Billy's sister, Annie S. Fulton.

Billy Fulton worked as a dairy farmer and manager until his passing on August 21, 1968.

Somewhere in France

November 24, 1918

Dear Papa,

This is the date named by the E. F. for all soldiers to write "Dad's Xmas Letter," and I believe the fathers who have sons over here are supposed to write to them. You see, I'm keeping my part of the contract and hope you will do the same. Perhaps you are writing to me now. It is one o'clock here and about nine o'clock at home.

I received Mama's letter written on October 15th and also a letter from Louise written on the same date, and of course was delighted to hear from both of them. They were the first letters I'd received in about six weeks. I hope my mail goes more promptly to you than yours comes to me.

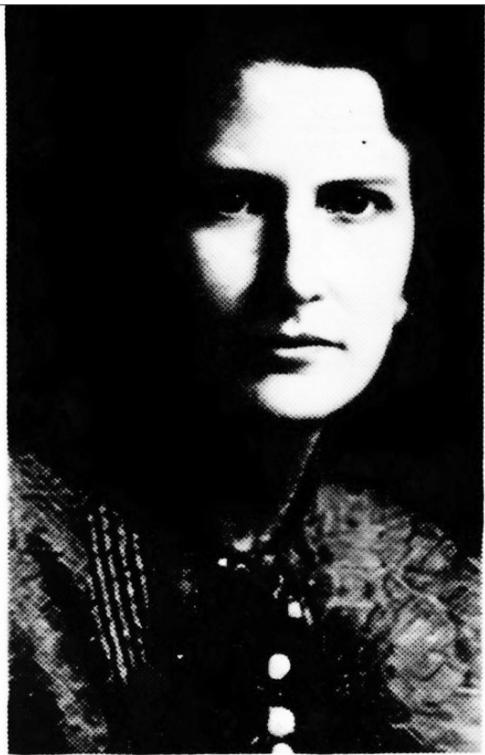
Mama seems anxious to know where I have been and how long it took me to come over. I've tried several times to tell her, but either my letters were sent back or were cut out by the censor. But since hostilities have ceased, censorship has been changed. Now we can tell where we are and where we have been, so I'll try to give you a summary of my travels since I left New York, as perhaps this will be of more interest than any other thing I could write. Here goes!

On July 31st, we loaded on the British transport *Mandingo* (the old "Appon") at Brooklyn. We pulled out of the harbor early the next morning. Our transport carried only fifteen hundred men and officers, most of them of Air Service Squadron, though there were about two hundred Red Cross nurses and medical officers on board also. We thought at first that we were going directly to France, but soon found out from the sailors that we were going to England instead.

I think it was the third of August that we arrived in the Halifax harbor. We stayed there about twenty-four hours, picking up our convoy while there. The following days until we reached England were rather tiresome, as we saw no sign of a sub.

I thought I would be sick all the way across, but much to my surprise I wasn't. The first day out I had an awful headache, but I was not bothered after that—only I was almost starved when I arrived.

On August 15th we arrived at Liverpool and from there were sent to a rest camp just outside the city. The next day we loaded on a train and went to Winchester. On our way we went through several of England's largest cities. We stayed in Winchester about ten days, and then our squadron was split into four "flights" or divisions, each sent to a different camp



Mrs. William Penn Fulton

Richmond Times Dispatch, 1940

in England. The medical officers and we four "medicos" went with the headquarters flight to Margate, a big summer resort.

I was nearer the firing line there than I've ever been since. I could hear the big guns from there. Three air raids were made on the town while I was there, but no damage was done.

While there, I met lots of English girls who were down from London on their vacation. From then on, I didn't have such a dull time. It is an exception to meet a girl in England or France who will compare with the average American girl.

We stayed in Margate almost a month and from there went to Narborough near King's Lynn. There is a very large airdrome there, and 'twas no trouble to get a ride. My first trip made me a little sick, but after that I could stand the "loop," "spin," or any other stunt the pilot might try—and believe me, they try them all.

I drove the ambulance on the flying field, and I've seen some awful crashes—men getting burned and horribly mangled when a plane falls, and they fell on an average of two per day. But of all the rides we took, not a plane with a Yank crashed except two, and one of our fellows got a leg broken and another got intense wounds. It was my job to drive as fast as I could to a plane as soon as it was seen to fall, and believe me, I've had to "step on her" sometimes.

I stayed there until the latter part of last month and was transferred out of 33F and sent to Codford as a casual, much to the surprise of especially myself. I took a couple of days in London (though I'd been there twice before) to see a girlfriend of mine whom I met in Margate. I met her mother and was treated as nicely as if I'd been their son. One thing I can say about the English—they certainly treat the Yanks nicely after they know them well.

On my arrival at Codford, I was attached to the 159th Aero Squadron, and we went to Southampton a few days later and crossed the Channel the night of November 1st, arriving in Havre early the next morning.

We had to leave our barrack bags in Codford, and ever since we have been carrying our possessions on our backs—including three blankets, underclothes, tent, helmet, gas mask, trench shoes, and toilet articles. You see, we haven't a very light pack.

We stayed at a rest camp near Havre for three days, then went to Le Mans, and after being there a few days we started on a tour of France in boxcars and living on canned beef. After riding around the country for three days, we landed here near Chaumont. How long we will stay here and where we will

WILLIAM P. FULTON

Funeral services were held Friday, at 11 a.m., at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart, for William Penn Fulton, 68, who died Wednesday, at Patrick Memorial Hospital.

Services were conducted by the Revs. John Davis Jr. and Robert Mann and Dr. George Boyd. Burial was in the Fulton Family Cemetery.

Pallbearers were John D. Hooker, James Leach, Jimmy Hall, M. E. Thompson, Lawrence Burton, James C. Akers, D. G. Hanby, Samuel P. Massey, Nelson Witt and Frank Fulton.

Honorary pallbearers were friends.

Martinsville Bulletin, 1968

go from here, I have no idea.

Now that the war is over, I'd like to be going home, but I suppose I'll be lucky if I get home by spring.

I'm sorry that I did not get over here sooner, as I would have liked to have driven an ambulance up near the front—but such has been my luck. I suppose I did not join in time. I haven't met anyone over here that I've ever known before. The nearest I've come is to meet a guy from Roanoke who knew some girls there that I know.

I don't suppose any fellows from Patrick have been killed in action. I haven't seen any names on the casualty lists that I know. It seems that Virginia has lost very few of her sons.

If I can get a pass while I'm in France, I'm going to Paris and Monte Carlo for a few days.

Well, I've written more than I've ever written in my life, I believe, and I won't attempt to write much more. I hope you'll get this by Christmas, and I hope I'll receive one from you at the same time.

Tell Mama that I don't need anything, and if I did it would be impossible for her to send it. I can get along on what Uncle Sam gives me until I get home.

Remember me to all my old friends. I'm wishing them a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year. I wish I could send each one of you something this year, but can't have the pleasure, as it has been over two months since I have been paid. But I'm sending all of you my best wishes and hoping that this Christmas will be a very, very happy one—and I'm sure it will be.

Your devoted son,

BILLY

Pvt. Wm. P. Fulton

159th Aero Squadron

A.E.F., France

Today, more than a century later, Billy Fulton's letter stands as a lasting testament to a generation who answered the call to serve while never forgetting where they came from. His story, preserved in print and memory, reminds us that the history of World War I is not only written in global events but also in the lives of Patrick County families whose sons carried their hometowns with them—wherever duty took them.

For questions, comments, or story ideas, please contact Woody 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 – Am I Entitled to More Social Security as a Veteran?

Dear Rusty: I served in the U.S. Army from July 1964 to July 1967. Am I eligible for a higher Social Security payment? Thank you. *Signed: Vietnam Era Army Vet*

Dear Army Vet: Please accept my sincere thanks for your military service. I believe you are referring to the "Special Extra Credit for Military Service" which has been the subject of many published articles. That refers to a special Social Security accommodation available only to those who served in the military during specific periods of time - but it does not add to your monthly Social Security payment. Rather, it adds to your military earnings record for the years you served, which may (or may not) result in a higher Social Security benefit when you later claim Social Security.

Here's how it works in your case:

Serving between 1964 and 1967, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for Social Security benefits (or gave them a copy of your DD-214), they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your military pay record (FYI, those who served after 1966 were automati-

cally given earnings credit for their military service years). However, whether those special extra credits would affect your monthly Social Security benefit depends on your lifetime earnings record when you later claimed Social Security.

When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" (or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your Social Security full retirement age). If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than your earnings while serving in the military, Social Security would have used your later higher earning years to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings would not have had an effect on your Social Security benefit. However, if any of your military earnings (including the "special extra credits") were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your Social Security benefit.

So, whether you would benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your earnings history after you were discharged from active duty. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA

with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service (FYI, Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied). If you didn't tell SS about your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800.772.1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" for your 1960s military service years when you applied for Social Security. But if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get any additional Social Security benefit because of the "special extra credits" for your military service years.

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-dvisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Safety grants available for projects that save lives

Do you see speeding on your rural roads? Worry about children crossing busy streets? Want to protect neighbors from impaired driving? The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is inviting passionate Virginians to turn those concerns into life-saving action through its annual Highway Safety Grant Program.

Beginning February 1, organizations across the Commonwealth can apply for funding through DMV's new online eGrants portal to launch local projects that make roads safer for everyone. From small towns to urban neighborhoods, these grants empower community leaders to create real solutions where they're needed most.

This year's funding cycle places special emphasis on:

- * Improving safety on rural roads
- * Protecting pedestrians and bicyclists
- * Reducing serious injuries and fatalities statewide

With grants starting at \$5,000, even small ideas can grow into powerful programs. Past projects have included youth-led safe-driving campaigns, creative pedestrian safety messaging, and targeted law-enforcement initiatives that have removed dangerous drivers from the road.

"Some of the most impactful safety solutions start with people who care deeply about their community," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey, Virginia's Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "This program gives local leaders the tools and resources to turn that passion into measurable change, helping more Virginians get home safely every day."

Making It Easy to Get Started

Applying for a highway safety grant is easier than ever thanks to DMV's new eGrants system. The online platform allows applicants to:

- Submit and manage applications in one place
- Upload documents securely
- Track progress in real time
- Streamline reporting

Whether you've applied for grants before or are exploring the process for the first time, eGrants makes participation simple and transparent.

Who Should Apply?

DMV encourages applications from Virginia-based organizations with innovative ideas to improve safety, including:

- Law enforcement agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- State and local government agencies
- Colleges and universities

Applicants should propose projects with clear goals and measurable outcomes and complete a brief grant training course prior to submission.

Your Idea Could Save Lives

Every safer intersection, every informed driver, every protected pedestrian starts with someone willing to step forward.

If you have an idea that could prevent crashes, protect vulnerable road users, or strengthen safety in your community, DMV wants to hear from you.

Funding decisions are based on potential impact, innovation, and alignment with statewide safety priorities. Programs and projects promoting the safety of Virginians of all backgrounds are encouraged.

Important Dates

- Application Period: February 1-28, 2026
- Project Funding Period: October 1, 2026-September 30, 2027 (Funding is provided on a cost-reimbursement basis.)

Learn More

For application materials, training information, guidelines, and evaluation requirements, visit DMV's website or contact your regional DMV program manager.

Together, Virginians can build safer roads — one community, one project, and one life at a time.



PCHS senior Lawless signs with P&HCC softball

By Ashlee Mullis

Patrick County High School senior Hayden Lawless has signed a letter of intent to play softball at Patrick & Henry Community College.

"Signing to play at the college level is more than an achievement—it's the reward for years of hard work, faith, and sacrifice, and the beginning of a new chapter where I get to chase my dreams at the next level," Lawless said.

Those attending the signing included, front row from left, sister Taylor Lawless, father Bradley Lawless, Hayden Lawless and mother Amber Lawless. In the back row, from left, were Patrick County High School coach Brent Belcher, head coach Ryan Pendleton, coach Brian Hubbard and athletic director Heidi Moore.

Editor's note: This item is reprinted to correct an identification error. We regret the error.

Setting Limits for Kids

Stress is taking its toll on the very youngest Americans. The number of preschool children on antidepressants jumped more than 200 percent between 1991 and 1995. Ritalin use for 2 to 4-year-olds during that same time shot up 300 percent in Midwestern states. [1]

Let's face it: A stressed lifestyle can become a behavioral addiction that we pass on to our children. Overloaded schedules, junk food, a frantic pace, mind-numbing and nerve-racking entertainment, and constant media bombardment are harming our livelihood. They all contribute to the neglect of family, good nutrition, regular exercise, relaxation, time for reflection, and sane sleep schedules.

Psychiatrist Richard Winter states it this way: "When stimulation comes at us from every side, we reach a point where we cannot respond with much depth to anything. Bombarded with so much that is exciting and demands our attention, we tend to become unable to discriminate and choose from among the many options. The result is that we shut down our attention to everything." [2] Coupled with a diet that is stimulating but not strengthening, mental and nervous system health are sure to suffer. Not to mention the other more noticeable health indicators such as cholesterol, weight, and blood pressure—even in children.

Setting limits on children's behavior, diet, schedules, and activities plays an important part in controlling their stress levels. When parents set limits on behavior, it helps children develop self-control. It also communicates the parents' expectations and helps build consistency and security into children's lives.

Besides limiting sweets and junk food, parents need to set limits on diet by providing children with plenty of fresh fruit, whole grains, and vegetables. These steps will help parents protect their children from undue weight-gain and lifestyle diseases that affect both physical and mental function.

By setting limits on schedules and activities,

parents protect children from unrealistic expectations and excessive drain of emotional and physical energy. It also helps them build structure into their lives.

Developing a consistent family schedule that includes regular times for meals, chores, going to bed, doing homework, and family fun helps a child develop a sense of security, responsibility, and community. This will help them contribute in a positive way as they grow up.

Despite what they may tell you, children want to know what the rules are. It is important for parents draw the line between acceptable and unacceptable behavior. According to Ellen Galinsky, a child development expert, "Limits make children feel safe." [3] When a parent cares enough to prevent a child from doing something that is seriously out of line, the child feels more secure and trustful.

Establishing regular family worship provides time for reflection, interaction, and the development of conscience. Replacing meaningless entertainment with quality family time and social interaction will benefit children by helping them develop the ability to set boundaries, build self-esteem, and create a social environment that helps prevent at-risk behavior. Perhaps most important, it helps parents keep a check on their own priorities, schedules, and commitments! After all, that's what children tend to copy.

References:

[1] Global health at the crossroads: Surgeon General's report on the 50th World Health Assembly. Satcher D. JAMA 1999 Mar;281(10):942-3.

[2] Winter R. Still Bored in a Culture of Entertainment (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002) p. 36.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Laurie Snyman, MSW, ACSW, LSCW. Used by permission from www.LifeandHealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA.)

Tax-time donations help provide outdoor recreation opportunities



A project to improve accessibility for a Roanoke River Blueway access point was supported by the Open Space Recreation and Conservation Fund.

As Virginians head into tax season, those expecting a state tax refund can participate in a program that benefits outdoor recreation and conservation.

By donating all, or a portion, of their 2025 state income tax refunds to the Open Space Recreation and Conservation Fund, taxpayers passionate about enjoying and protecting the outdoors can make a difference.

The voluntary contributions fund outdoor grants like the Trail Access Grants program. For example, as the recipient of a grant, the City of Roanoke was able to complete a project to provide its first accessible Roanoke River Blueway access point for fishing, boating and recreation. Be-

fore the project, it was not accessible to people with disabilities.

The Open Space Recreation and Conservation Fund also supports the state's efforts to buy land for conservation, including additions to the Natural Area Preserve System.

The fund is managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

To choose the Open Space Recreation and Conservation Fund, enter Code Number 68 on Schedule VAC (Virginia Contributions Schedule), Section II (Other Voluntary Contributions). This form accompanies the state individual tax return Form 760.

For more information, go to DCR's tax checkoff page at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/checkoff>.

Imagine

(cont. from page 4)

birth, but it would nevertheless present a very serious problem which would thrust many more Americans into poverty. And that is the crux of the Social Security dilemma – cutting everyone's SS benefit to only 77% of what is now received would mean a return to high levels of American poverty.

But it doesn't need to happen.

Fixing Social Security

Congress has been aware of this looming Social Security issue for several decades but has chosen to "kick the can down the road." Now, there is little time remaining to fix the problem. We are only a short 7 years away from when the SS Trust Funds will no longer have money to supplement Social Security benefit payments. Therefore, Congress must act soon to restore this crucial program to financial solvency. And the longer it waits, the more difficult the problem will be to solve. Indeed, Congress, instead, recently exacerbated Social Security's financial dilemma by passing legislation which provided additional benefits to a segment of beneficiaries (see H.R. 82 – The Social Security Fairness

Act). Regardless of the merits of that recent legislation, it added about \$200 billion to Social Security's expenses over the coming decade, at a time when Congress should be seeking ways to reduce Social Security's costs.

For its part, the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) recognized this looming Social Security issue years ago and developed a potential Social Security reform proposal. AMAC has promoted (and continues to promote) its Social Security Guarantee to Congress and, in fact, also to the new Commissioner of Social Security. AMAC's proposal provides common sense adjustments to the Social Security program – program adjustments which retain the poverty-reduction aspects of Social Security while still providing the full benefits all have earned from a lifetime of working. You can see a summary of AMAC's Social Security Guarantee proposal at https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee/?utm_agid=&utm_term=&creative=&device=c&placement=&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21154710234&g_braid=0AAAAADrprBzHp_vLSMSHHFceOzS-

Lb6QLD&gclid=CjwKCAiA95fLBhBPEiwATX-UsxK61N3laFlzbpgeRBo44EuB_T7HGtvOD-VwpCj8ntnYzefR5yTWi5cxoCnx8QAvD_BwE.

In any event, now is the time to mobilize by contacting your Congressional Representatives to demand that Congress take action to reform the Social Security program and restore it to financial solvency. The year 2033, when everyone's Social Security benefit will be cut by almost 25%, is just around the corner. Just imagine the consequences of that!

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Birthday

(cont. from page 1)

Trust President Ronnie Haynes said there will be displays about Stuart and Laurel Hill and items for sale to benefit the organization's preservation efforts at Laurel Hill.

In addition to music, food, cake, and refreshments, a guest speaker will present a program at the event.

Haynes said the group's been hav-

ing the birthday celebration for decades.

"We used to have it at an antique store there in the Town of Stuart, and we started doing that maybe 15 to 20 years ago. We sort of picked it up and moved to different locations," he said.

For the last seven years or so, it's

been held at the Ararat Ruritan Club.

"That's really turned into a really nice event for the community, and they come out, enjoy the music and dance, do a little fellowshiping, and have a good time," he said.

Haynes estimates about 100 people attended last year's event. If the weather is good, he expects the same number of people to attend this one.

While there's no set plan to potentially reschedule the celebration,

Haynes said it could possibly be scheduled for the Saturday afterwards.

"We're just going to keep our fingers crossed," he said.

If the event is rescheduled due to inclement weather, Haynes said people can find out on the group's website or Facebook page.

For more information, go to www.laurelhill@jebstuart.org or [Facebook.com/JEBStaurtPreservation,Inc](https://www.facebook.com/JEBStaurtPreservation,Inc).

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Terri S. Wood, Manager

Initial unemployment filings fall

Virginia Works announced that the 2,895 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending January 17, 2026, is 41.1 percent lower than last week's 4,915 claims and 1.3 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,858). Nearly 80 percent of claimants self-reported an employer which correlates to an associated industry. Based on this reporting, the top five industries (59 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (360); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (278); Retail Trade (245); Construction (242); and Health Care and Social Assistance (232).

Continued weeks claims (21,687) were 9.5 percent higher than last week (19,804) and were 26.4 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (17,161). Nearly 91 percent of claimants

self-reported an employer which correlates to an associated industry. Based on this reporting, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (4,077); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,412); Manufacturing (2,366); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,559); and Construction (1,461).

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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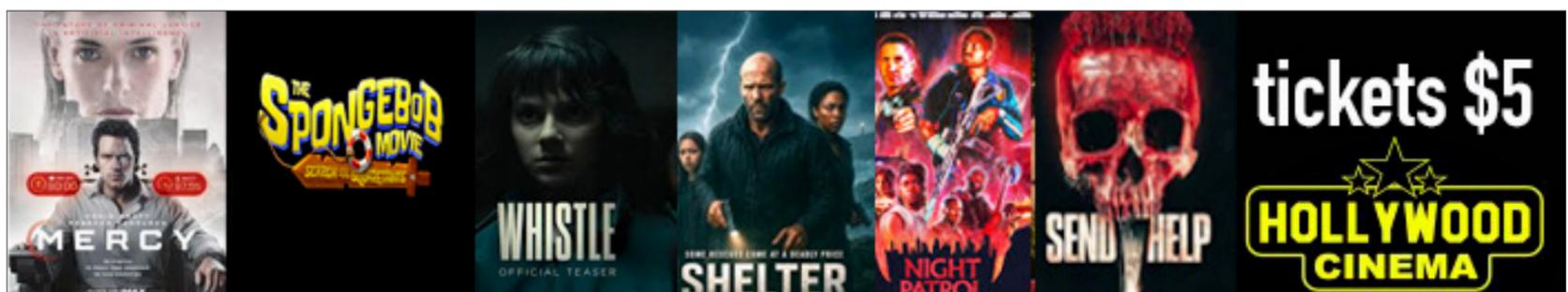
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Mabel Bowman Hiatt



Mrs. Mabel Bowman Hiatt, age 85 of Stuart, Virginia, passed away peacefully at the Blue Ridge Therapy Connection in Stuart on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. She was born in Patrick County on July 28, 1940, to the late Yance Ellis Bowman and Rosa Ann Branch Bowman. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Mack Hiatt, Jr., "Junior"; one daughter, Debra "Cricket" Robinson; four siblings, Harry Reid Bowman, Macie Bowman, Margaret Bowman, and Edgar Bowman. Ma-

bel was a member of New Beginnings Baptist Church in Patrick Springs. She enjoyed going to yard sales. She will be remembered as a loving wife, caring mother, adoring grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend.

Mrs. Hiatt is survived by four children, Joe Hiatt (Joyce), Rob Hiatt (Angela), Tracie Hiatt (Kevin Mabe), and Jonathan Hiatt (Adrienne), son-in-law, Kurt Robinson; eight grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside will be held on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in Stuart Cemetery with Pastor Mark Wright officiating. The arrangements have been entrusted to Moody Funeral Home in Stuart and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Aloma Imener Peyton "Meanie"



Mrs. Aloma Imener Peyton "Meanie" age 66 of Stuart, Virginia passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. She was born in Patrick County, Virginia on May 12, 1959, to the late James Orbra Horton and Bessie Pack Horton. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Allen Horton and Larry Horton; two sisters, Jeanette Lundy, and an infant sister. Imener was a member of High Point Baptist Church. She lived a life that exemplified compassion, dedication, and unwavering love for her community and family. Imener was drawn to supporting families affected by Alzheimer's disease, having witnessed its impact within her own family. With a vision to create a support sys-

tem for others navigating similar challenges, she became a founding member of the Patrick County Alzheimer's Association. As we remember Aloma Imener "Meanie" Peyton, we celebrate her remarkable legacy--life filled with love, service, and a genuine dedication to uplifting others. She will be profoundly missed but always remembered for her benevolent heart and the countless lives she touched.

Left to cherish the memories of Imener is her devoted

husband, Lewis H. Peyton, Jr. "Buddy"; five siblings, Carolyn Hayden (Wayne), Connie Woods (Ricky), Dale Horton (Marie), Noel Horton (Joan), and Maynard Horton (Gail); and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral service for Mrs. Peyton will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home with Pastor Wayne Moore officiating. Burial will be in Locust Grove Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, Patrick County Chapter, P.O. Box 1301, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent to moodyfuneralservices.com.

Jeanette Lundy



Jeanette Lundy, age 80, passed away peacefully January 28, 2026 at Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon, VA. Jeanette was born December 12, 1945 to the late Orbra and Bessie Horton. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband Jim Lundy; an infant sister; sister Imener Peyton; brothers, Allen Horton, Larry Horton and great grandson, Hunter Michael Lundy.

Jeanette was a graduate of Blue Ridge High School in Ararat, VA. She spent 38 years in the child care business and was lovingly known as "Nannie Net" to approximately 368 children. In 1985 she was named the first president of the Johnson County Chapter of MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers.) She was an active member within her church congregations starting at Danube Presbyterian Church in Claudville, VA, Clinton Chapel Presbyterian Church and Mountain City Presbyterian Church, both of where she served as an Elder and a member of the Lady's Circle. She was a current mem-

ber of Calvary Baptist Church.

Those left to cherish her memories include her husband, Noah Click; daughter, Mary Martin and husband Charles; son, Mark Lundy and wife Nancy; sisters, Connie Woods (Ricky), Carolyn Hayden (Wayne); brothers, Maynard Horton (Gail), Dale Horton (Marie), Noel Horton (Joan); brother-in-law, Buddy Peyton; sister-in-law, Rita Horton; grandchildren, Amber Lundy, Jamie Lundy (Alison), Chris Miller (Becca), Kyle Miller, Brianna Miller, Dylan Crowell, Evan Martin (Chloe), Charly Martin (fiancé Eric Casey); step-children, Sam Click (Tammy), Andy Click, Curtis Click, Noah Click Jr. (Vicky), Stacey Click; special nieces, Lisa Tshudy, Dr. Diana

Thomas; several great grandchildren and other nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 1:00-2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 1, 2026 at Mountain City Funeral Home. The funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. with Pastor Steven Spencer and Tyler Fenner officiating and a prayer by her grandson Jamie Lundy. The burial will immediately follow at Sunset Memorial Park. Pallbearers will be Jamie Lundy, Chris Miller, Kyle Miller, Evan Martin, Sam Click, and Andy Click.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, www.arthritis.org.

At other times, friends and family may visit the home of her daughter Mary Martin, 1268 Branch Rd., Laurel Bloomery, TN.

Condolences may be sent to the family through our website at www.mountaincityfh.com.

The family of Jeanette Lundy has entrusted her services to Mountain City Funeral Home, 224 S. Church Street, Mountain City, TN 37683.

Martin Lee "Marty" Clark



Marty, age 72, passed away on January 26, 2026, at Novant Forsyth Medical Center. He was born in Morgantown, West Virginia on July 23, 1953, to the late James Morris and Mary Margaret McCurdy Clark.

Marty was a machinist for 20 plus years at JP Stevens and later turned his talents to flooring installation, working for Jewell Interiors, then later, Styron Floor Covering. Marty was meticulous in his work and took pride in doing the best job possible.

He loved the outdoors. Camping, boating, fishing, and canoeing were among his favorite activities. He was also an avid NASCAR fan.

Marty's knowledge of how to do anything, how things worked was unfathomable, and he passed his knowledge on to family and friends. We're all so grateful that

this part of him will live on in us.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his grandparents, Clarence and Edna McCurdy; Morris and Evelyn Clark; and the mother of his children, Joy Clark.

Left to cherish his memories is his loving wife of 40 years, Melanie Flippin Clark; his daughters, Teri Clark Breaux (Chris) and Lori Clark; brother, Gary Clark (Jill); sister, Janie Clark Miller (Craig); eight grandchildren, Maiya, Adelyn, Evan and Chloe Breaux; Kalob, Kayden, Bella, and Lincoln Beasley; several nieces and nephews; a special brother-

in-law, Larry Flippin; and his beloved fur baby, Abby.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 2:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Mount Airy with Pastor Mark George officiating. Interment will follow in the Stateline Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in Collinstown, North Carolina. The family will receive friends on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at Moody Funeral Home from 12:00 PM until the time of the service.

The family wishes to thank everyone for the many prayers uplifted on Marty's behalf, the cards that were sent, and the love that was shown.

Flowers will be accepted, or you may consider a donation to your favorite charity in Marty's honor.

Online condolences may be made at: www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Opioid Abatement Authority announces grant awards to Patrick, other localities

A committee of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) approved \$545,429 in grants to five Virginia communities on January 20, for new or expanded opioid abatement and remediation efforts.

Patrick County was awarded \$18,945 to enhance services for the Piedmont Adult Recovery Court and to expand mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment within the Patrick County Jail. Funds will support a Peer Support Specialist, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, licensed therapist, Justice Support Supervisor, and the purchase of an SUV to address transportation barriers and operating needs. The Peer Support Specialist will provide dedicated services to Adult Recovery Court participants, while the Nurse Practitioner and therapist will deliver psychiatric medication management and individual and group therapy to incarcerated individuals. The Justice Support Supervisor will oversee service delivery within the jail setting.

Adult Recovery Court serves up to 25 participants at a time with an anticipated eight graduates annually, while the Nurse Practitioner and therapist will support up to 50 and 60 individuals per year, respectively. Through this coordinated approach, Patrick County aims to expand access to treatment, improve recovery outcomes, and reduce recidivism among justice-involved individuals. Patrick County has pledged an additional \$145,211 of its opioid settlement funds to support this effort. This project was identified following a needs assess-

ment that identified critical gaps in SUD services, particularly for justice-involved and incarcerated individuals.

Other award details are: Clarke County was awarded \$14,700 to fund a substance use disorder (SUD) intensive case manager who will provide intensive case management services to reduce substance abuse/use in families and children. This position will reduce SUD related child abuse/neglect and SUD among children. The program will also strengthen families and increase local and regional collaborations for services. Clarke County has pledged an additional \$31,514 of its opioid settlement funds to support this effort.

Franklin County was awarded two projects totaling \$184,580, including:

An amendment to the current Grace House PEARL Program to increase the funding by \$99,575 to purchase an additional home for a larger program expansion in lieu of a costly renovation of a portion of the current facility. Grace House is a six to 12-month recovery housing facility for pregnant and postpartum women with five living units. Through Franklin County's partnership with the Piedmont Community Services Board, the addition of a new building will allow for three additional living units and yield a 60% increase in the program's capacity. Franklin County has pledged an additional \$138,920 of its opioid settlement funds to support this effort.

A new Community Paramedicine Program designed to bridge gaps in

healthcare access, reduce avoidable emergency department utilization, and improve long-term outcomes for vulnerable populations. The program is awarded \$73,500 and focuses on opioid use disorder (OUD) services while also addressing broader Community Risk Reduction (CRR) priorities. The program will be administered by the Franklin County Public Safety Department and implemented through a phased approach, with expansion to full fiscal-year operations in subsequent phases. The program will directly benefit residents who utilize emergency services for substance-use related incidents, including approximately 150 opioid-related 911 calls received annually, while also providing prevention, treatment linkage, and education for individuals experiencing non-opioid substance use emergencies. Franklin County has pledged an additional \$23,750 of its opioid settlement funds to support this effort. Only 50% of the personnel costs are part of this OAA

project to ensure a separate pay source for time spent on non-abatement activities.

Henrico County was awarded \$275,000 to contract with an organization to provide substance use education for up to 20 faith-based leaders from a cross section of faiths. The contracted provider will work up to a year to ensure that faith leaders have a good understanding of substance use, and ways to address substance use in their communities, as well as link individuals affected to the treatment and supports they need. Faith leaders will have the opportunity to meet prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction providers in their communities. Leaders will work together to develop and implement strategies to reduce substance use and overdoses in their congregations. In-person training will be provided to assist the faith leaders with developing a project for engaging their community on the

PATRICK PULPITS

Discipline

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

Our Saviour desires to save everyone. Paul states in Hebrews 7: 25 "He is able to save them to the uttermost those that come unto God by Him (Jesus), seeing He ever lives to make intercession for them." But not everyone chooses to come to God. We tend to be too willing to go our own way. So God sometimes chooses to use various means of discipline in an attempt to change our course.

In his book, "The Shepherd Evangelist", R.A. Anderson tells of a tourist who, walking across the Scottish hills, enjoying the beauties of the lake country, saw a shepherd with his sheep resting at noon.

The sheep were browsing. As he drew near to the shepherd, he noticed one sheep lying down. It was evidently hurt, and the shepherd was speaking words of love and assurance to the young sheep.

"Do you have a sick one there?" asked the tourist. "Well, not exactly sick," said the shepherd. "He has a broken leg."

"Oh, how did it happen? An accident I suppose." But the shepherd hesitated to say. Finally he told the story.

"This fellow is a good sheep. He has all the earmarks of a leader, but he was willful and wouldn't come when I called. He would always lead the flock the wrong way. I tried to teach him, but he was

obstinate. He wouldn't trust me. I decided I'd have to do to him what I had done to others before. It was hard, but I knew it would work. I prepared splints and bandages; then holding him down, I took the young fellow's leg in my hands and broke it over my own like this," and he showed how it was done. But his voice choked and his eyes were brimming.

"Then I set the leg," he continued, "and bound it up. That was weeks ago. Since then every mouthful of food and every drop of water this fellow has had, he has taken from my own hands. Every day I carry him out to the field, and every night I take him back again. We have learned to love each other, for we have suffered together. In a few days I will remove the bandage, and he will be my leader, for he has learned in pain what I could teach him in no other way."

The discipline was hard, but necessary because the young sheep wouldn't listen to the shepherd. Jesus, our divine Shepherd, often uses trials, sorrows, and afflictions to discipline us. But even before these come He makes preparations to bind up our wounds. In sympathy and love Jesus shares in our afflictions. He then will bring us healing and comfort, and prayerfully we learn the lesson of trust that He has for us.

What a wonderful Saviour and marvelous God we have!

Opioid

(cont. from page 8)

topic of substance use and recovery. Henrico County expects that 20 faith-based leaders will participate in this effort, benefitting 5,000+ individuals. The faith-based communities may include the following: Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and Christian communities.

The City of Fairfax was awarded \$63,709 to implement a proof-of-concept initiative through the development of an AI-enabled virtual reality (VR) training platform for multidisciplinary crisis response teams. In partnership with George Mason University's College of Public Health and Immersion Technology Lab, Fairfax City will implement Phase 1 of the Community Opioid Response Enrichment (CORE) project. CORE will enhance core competencies, coordination, and role-specific expertise among crisis responders during opioid-related crisis and post-crisis events through immersive, scenario-based VR training accessible both on-site and remotely. A key component of this project consists of strengthening the integration and effective utilization of certified peer recovery specialists within local crisis response systems, improving outcomes for individuals and communities impacted by opioid use disorder.

"These awards provide support to Virginia cities and counties to implement and expand opioid abatement programs that meet the current and future needs of their communities," said Sen. Todd Pillion, Chair of the OAA Board of Directors. "Virginia continues to lead the way in awarding opioid settle-

ment funds for diverse, evidence-based projects at the community level."

"Awarding community-level projects," said Del. Brianna Sewell, Treasurer of the OAA Board of Directors, "re-ally allows those on the front lines to steer the solutions and respond to what they are seeing."

"We are beginning to see the results of the early rounds of OAA grants come to fruition," said Dr. Sarah Thomason, Vice Chair of the OAA Board of Directors, "and it is wonderful to see more cities and counties applying these funds to help save lives in their communities."

To date OAA awards are funding more than 171 active projects across the Commonwealth.

Funding for the OAA grants and awards is a result of Virginia's participation in numerous

national settlements from manufacturers, distributors, retailers and other organizations in the sphere of prescription opioids. The payments, which began in 2022, from the various settling companies are expected to exceed \$1.1 billion in total funding and are expected to conclude by 2041.

The OAA was established by the General Assembly in 2021 to oversee the distribution of 55% of Virginia's total settlement funds. Of the remainder, 30% is distributed directly to cities and counties, and the remaining 15% to the Commonwealth. The use of funds is restricted by court orders and state statute, with the restrictions requiring that funds be used for opioid abatement and remediation efforts.

For more information email info@voaa.us.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Cornelius (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Revelation 2, what city was said by John to have "Satan's seat"? Pergamos, Miletus, Patara, Sodom
3. Whose first chapter begins, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners"? Mark, Galatians, Hebrews, Jude
4. From Acts 13, where were Paul and Barnabas deserted by Mark? Jericho, Perga, Athens, Damascus

5. What were Gihon, Pishon, Tigris and Euphrates as connected with the Garden of Eden? Cities, Kings, Rivers, Caves
6. From 1 Kings, who is given credit for writing 1,005 songs? Jacob, Solomon, Philip, David

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Pergamos, 3) Hebrews, 4) Perga, 5) Rivers, 6) Solomon



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|---|--|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 48 Chilly tourist lodge | 91 Feels ill | 3 Way to mark losses | 44 Wine valley of California | 88 Fail to |
| 1 "Thank U, Next" singer | 53 New Mexico art mecca | 92 Hip-hop band | 4 Fourth mo. | 45 Brief audio file | 90 Agile |
| 7 Yachts, e.g. | 54 Old New York theater | 94 Thaw after winter | 5 TV ratings name | 46 All the rage | 91 City in Iowa |
| 12 Keto dieter's nutrient calculation | 55 Whirled | 96 Roadhouse | 6 Chlumsky of "Veep" | 47 Midterm, e.g. | 93 Half of bi- |
| 20 Right-rear bowling target | 58 To a greater extent | 97 Writer Wilde | 7 Musical Mars | 48 "500" race | 94 Sink down |
| 21 Like Viking script | 59 Phased-out cartoon | 100 "Fancy that!" | 8 "— Gang" | 49 Mine vehicle | 95 Hired |
| 22 Call to have food delivered | 60 Greek cheese | 101 Pilot's heading | 9 Filmmaker Lee | 50 Prevaricates | 96 Japanese hostesses |
| 23 Chief justice before William Rehnquist | 61 Easels, e.g. | 108 Newton who was knighted | 10 — del Fuego | 51 Genesis twin | 97 Yoko of "Two Virgins" |
| 25 Runaway | 63 Susa's ancient land | 112 Met solo | 11 TV part | 52 Bausch & — | 98 Taco toppers |
| 26 Fruity drink | 64 Take care of bikers' association | 113 Fishing rod | 12 Center points | 55 Cheap cigars | 99 Split with an ax, say |
| 27 Reclined | 70 Tunes for two | 114 \$5 bills, slangily | 13 Previous to | 56 St. Patrick's Day event | 102 Actress Ryan |
| 28 Actress Russo | 72 Permissible | 116 H.S. lab class | 14 NFL goals | 57 "I give up!" | 103 Small brooks |
| 30 Chaplain of "Game of Thrones" | 73 Tiny bits | 117 "The Velvet Fog" | 15 OK grade | 60 Absconded | 104 Absorb the loss, in slang |
| 31 Makeovers | 74 Curvball that breaks over the plate at the very last second | 121 Its menu might include the ends of seven answers in this puzzle | 16 Bow go-with | 61 — Artois | 105 Opinion pieces |
| 33 Application to improve blood flow | 78 Wine vessel | 125 Web pop-up, e.g. | 17 Turbine part | 62 — fi flick | 106 Lou who won three Grammys |
| 39 Stew legume | 81 Wrinkly tangelo | 126 Be of help to | 18 — Vista, Mexico | 65 — it out (fighting) | 107 Japanese sash |
| 41 Glazer of "Broad City" | 82 "Joan of Arc" actress | 127 King of pop salted-away sums of money | 19 Purse piece | 67 Mary-Kate of "Beastly" | 109 Hate |
| 42 Gold, in Italy | 83 Acorn trees | 128 Salting-away | 24 Pen brand | 68 Latching, e.g. | 110 Garlic mayo |
| 43 Person not getting deserved acclaim | 85 Grassy tract | 129 Mails in, e.g. | 29 U.S. intel org. | 69 LGA info | 111 Makes do |
| | 86 Wrecked | 130 Isis' brother | 32 Musical work | 71 Fa-la linkup | 115 Danish shoe brand |
| | 89 Santa — (some winds) | DOWN | 34 Like swamps | 74 Aaron in "Hamilton" | 118 Undivided |
| | 90 Agra dress | 1 In combat | 35 Gp. in the Arab League | 75 Water, in Chihuahua | 119 Rule, informally |
| | | 2 Novelist Charles | 36 Quadrennial games org. | 76 Get in return | 120 Zine |
| | | | 37 City near Provo | 77 Mimic a lion | 122 Delhi bread |
| | | | 38 NYC area near the Village | 79 Descended | 123 Carried out |
| | | | 40 Go along with | 80 Toward dawn | 124 — Lanka |
| | | | 43 37-Down's state | 84 Actress Nicole — Parker | |
| | | | | 87 Funny Idle | |

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
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FEBRUARY						PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY						2026	
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday			
2		3		4		5		6		7			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club 9:00				Sit & Stitch 11:00		Art with Cindy 11:00* February Fantasy Flowers			
LEGO Club 4:00		Storytime 10:30 Ninjas											
9		10		11		12		13		14			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Animal Tracks with Norma		Book Bingo 10:30		Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00		Homeschool Bookworms 10:30		Living with Black Bears in Virginia 11:00			
Petals, Light & Delight: A Valentine Workshop 1:00*		Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*		Gentle Yoga 12:30*									
16		17		18		19		20		21			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Horses		Retired Teacher's Book Club 11:00		Open Art Studio 1:00		Sit & Stitch 11:00		Caffeinated and Carbed 12:00			
LEGO Club 4:00		Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*		Gentle Yoga 12:30*		Movie Trivia 6:00-7:00							
23		24		25		26		27		28			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*		Walking Club 9:00 Gentle Yoga 12:30*		Basic Technology 2: Smart Phones 1:00		Senior Social 11:00					

Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352.

*Registration required.

Walking Club meets at the Food Bank parking lot at the Rail Trail on Tuesday mornings.

(Meeting/event information must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday before the desired publication date. Email to dhall@theenterprise.net.)

Meetings

Monday, Feb. 9

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors meets at 6 p.m. in the third-floor board room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Thursday, Feb. 12

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

Events

Thursday, Feb. 5

DMV Connect will be inside Patrick & Henry Community College, 212 Wood Brothers Dr., Stuart, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 6

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

Saturday, Feb. 7

Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad will hold its monthly community breakfast, 7:30 -10 a.m. Plates are \$10. Dine in, carryout, and curb service available. Call 276-694-6171 to place an order.

Meadows of Dan Women's Club BINGO, Meadows of Dan Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. Games start at 6. Food will be available for sale. For more information, call 404-401-0064

Saturday, Feb. 7 - Sunday, Feb. 8

Providence United Methodist Church will hold the 2026 Super Sub Weekend, with 8-inch subs and salads for \$11 each or two for \$20. Pick-ups are Saturday from 4-6 p.m. and Sunday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Delivery to some local businesses is also available. To order contact any member of the church or call Doris Craghead at (276) 692-6046 or Cathy Nantoli at (276) 692-7194.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

The Patrick County Food Bank will be open from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m. at its Stuart location, from 8-10 a.m. at Fellowship Church in Ararat, and at 5:30 p.m. until out of boxes at the Meadows of Dan Community Building.

Thursday, Feb. 12

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Roger Wells. Beverages will be provided. The menu is potluck, so attendees are requested to bring their favorite meats, vegetables, and/or desserts to share.

Stuart Baptist Church will host a community dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Step/Stroll Showcase, Walker Theatre, P&HCC Campus. Free admission. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Exhibition begins at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Free program, "Living with Black Bears in Virginia," will be presented by Norma Bozenmyer at the Patrick County Library at 11 a.m. Suitable for all ages. Registration is not required.

Thursday, Feb. 19

The Patrick County Republican Committee will meet at 6 p.m. in the Motorsports Hall of Fame Auditorium, 212 Wood Brothers Dr., Stuart.

Friday, Feb. 20

The community food pantry will be at the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department from 3-4 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Adam Murphy, one of the two Democratic candidates running in a primary to unseat Morgan Griffith, will be at the Patrick County Democratic meeting, 10:30 a.m., Patrick County Library.

Ongoing

Inside yard sale to benefit Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC. 109 Buena Vista, Stuart, Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members meet on the first Monday of every month at

6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's office. New members are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

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

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

Vesta Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at the Vesta Community Center on the third Tuesday each month at noon. Both groups welcome new members and invite caregivers to attend. Literature is also available.

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

Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets on 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, on the 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 Patrick County Senior Citizens Group is sponsoring a June 2 - 5, 2026 trip to the eastern shore of Virginia. Trip flyers are available at the Patrick County Recreation Office (276) 694-3917 or by contacting Judy Lacks, trip coordinator, at (276) 694-4767.

Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for food, with music and dancing, 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for food, music, and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m.

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Super Crossword

Answers

A	R	I	A	N	A	B	O	A	T	S	N	E	T	C	A	R	B	S	
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8	7	2	5	9	1	3	4	6
3	9	4	6	2	8	7	5	1
7	3	8	4	6	5	9	1	2
4	2	9	3	1	7	6	8	5
6	5	1	9	8	2	4	7	3

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Virginia's farm community to advocate at annual Legislative Day on Feb. 9

Over 100 Virginia agriculture leaders are uniting in Richmond for the Super Bowl of grassroots advocacy known as Legislative Day.

Farmers and foresters will make their priorities known at the General Assembly on Feb. 9, which was rescheduled due to Winter Storm Fern.

"At the top of our list for budget priorities is fully funding the Agricultural Best Management Cost Share Program," said Katelyn Jordan, assistant director of VFBF governmental relations. This voluntary program helps farmers implement practices that further Chesapeake Bay water quality goals.

In his tenure, Gov. Glenn Younkin supported VFBF's priority of fully funding ag BMPs, reaching \$223 million for 2026—the highest funding ever.

But his final budget in December "came up just a bit short," Jordan said. However, several Virginia lawmakers are carrying budget amendments to reach full program funding through 2028.

An effort to establish a framework for properly labeling manufactured protein food products, like fungus or plant-based proteins, is moving to the Virginia Senate.

"This bill requires alternative protein products to have a qualifying term on the label indicating the origin and the contents of the ingredients," said VFBF legislative specialist Jake Tabor. "This will protect consumers and support transparency and truth in labeling."

Farm Bureau opposed a bill that removes minimum wage exemptions for farm laborers.

"We did lose that exemption," said VFBF working lands and state advocacy specialist Rachel Henley. "However, we did successfully safeguard the farm worker exemption for overtime. Those two bills will be moving to committee."

Farm Bureau supported legislation that passed unanimously, giving localities the authority to create service districts to help control



invasive plant species.

"This will give communities another targeted tool to help control the invasives that are causing a lot of economic damage to our farms and fields," Tabor said.

Farm Bureau also supports proposed legislation regarding:

- Maintaining the Department of Forestry's Virginia Forestry Sustainability Fund, helping localities recoup the cost of adopting forest land use assessment. The land use status provides real estate tax relief and furthers conservation by assessing forestland at its timber value rather than higher market value. Support of the fund over the next biennium would help localities offset some costs of assessment adoption.
- Continued fiscal support for the large animal veterinarian grant funds.

A shortage of rural food-animal veterinarians persists statewide, due to high education costs and limited income expectations. The policy successfully moved through the General Assembly and will continue to be funded this year, "And hopefully going forward," Jordan said.

- A budget amendment to secure \$5 million in funding for DOF grants to protect waterways on logging jobs, and urban forestry programs that advance water quality goals.
- Creation of a state work group on "agrivoltaics" and its official definition as "the intentional co-location of agricultural production and solar energy generation."

Keep track of agriculture-related legislation at plowsandpolitics.com/2026, the VFBF Plows and Politics blog.



A national survey by the data-privacy firm Syrenis found that 82% of connected-car drivers don't realize how much data their vehicles collect, and 79% aren't aware of what's shared with third parties. (Adobe Stock)

FTC orders GM, OnStar to stop sharing VA driver data

By Zamone Perez
Virginia News Connection

Insurance companies typically raise rates because of increased claims or risk – but what if they could raise them based on information recorded by your car?

That's what the Federal Trade Commission says happened to drivers of General Motors vehicles with the OnStar Smart Driver feature. Now the commission has ordered the data transfers stopped.

Lena Cohen, a staff technologist for the nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation, said some drivers had no idea they'd enrolled in this feature because car salespeople signed them up without telling them to get an enrollment bonus.

"But even drivers who did realize they'd signed up for these OnStar features didn't realize the extent of the data they were sharing and what that data was being used for," she said.

GM says it has shut down the Smart Driver program, unenrolled all users and cut ties with

data brokers LexisNexis and Verisk. Under the FTC order, GM and OnStar are barred for five years from sharing certain data with consumer reporting agencies. For the next 20 years, the company must get clear consent before collecting or sharing vehicle data, give drivers access to their information and allow them to opt out or delete it.

Cohen urged Congress to pass strong data privacy laws that apply to all car companies.

"It's too easy for companies to bury their data collection and sharing practices in long terms of service that no one actually reads," she said. "And all car makers should be forced to get people's explicit consent before engaging in invasive data-sharing practices like these."

You can find out what data your car is set up to collect at vehicleprivacyreport.com. It's also possible to request a report from Lexis Nexis and Verisk to see what information they have on you.



LEGAL

ABC NOTICE

HaynesPerry LLC trading as Longfin Grill, 329 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Patrick County, Stuart, Virginia 24171-1530.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant Beer, Wine, Consumed On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Richard L. Perry, partner
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

LEGAL

Meeting Notice

Patrick County Public Service Authority Quarterly Business Meeting

The Patrick County Public Service Authority Board of Directors will hold a Quarterly Business Meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the 3rd Floor Court Room of the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building.

Petitions and requests from the public to address the Board shall be submitted in writing to the PSA located in the Patrick County Administration Building at 106 Rucker Street, Suite 218, Stuart, VA. Petitions and requests to address the Board shall be submitted no less than five (5) business days prior to the scheduled meeting and placed on the official meeting agenda in order to be considered. Persons wanting to address the Authority's Board not having submitted a pre-request to do so may only be heard after a majority of Directors agree. The Directors encourage public attendance at all meetings.

LEGAL

RFP 2026-MNT-001

The Patrick County School Board is accepting competitive sealed proposals from licensed contractors for Excavating and Site Preparation for a future Multipurpose Building/Wrestling Building at Patrick County High School, 215 Cougar Lane, Stuart, VA 24171. RFP electronic file plans are available from the Architect's office (88knight@comcast.net) or School Maintenance Office, Chad Haynes (chad.haynes@patrick.k12.va.us). Proposals will be received on Thursday, February 12, 2026, on or before 2:00 p.m. at the Patrick County School Board Office, 132 North Main Street, Stuart, VA 24171, and results will be read aloud. A pre-bid conference will be Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Patrick County High School. All interested contractors attending the pre-bid conference must check in at the high school main office.

LEGAL

TRUSTEE SALE

119 Park Street, Stuart, VA 24171

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated February 21, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$85,858.00, recorded as Inst. 200000308, assigned at Inst. 250002249, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Patrick, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustee, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Patrick on February 26, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lot 1, as shown on plat recorded in Plat Book 1, page 68, County of Patrick. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$10,000.00 or of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", no personal checks accepted. Balance is due within 15 days from date of sale VIA BANKWIRE ONLY. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosure-sales. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

For Information Contact:

DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s)
12610 Patrick Henry Dr., ste. D, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255, Ext. 220 or Ext. 260

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

WES announces Warrior Readers

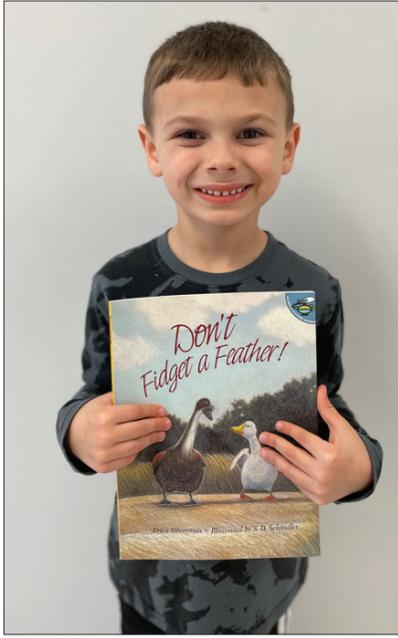
Woolwine Elementary School announced the names of its top readers who participated in the Warrior Reading program during the sec-

ond quarter. Each student who reached their grade level goal received a free snack and a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut. In addition,

students who read the most books in each grade also received a free book. Congratulations everyone! We hope that you will keep reading!



Pre-K Callahan Donnelly



Kindergarten-- Colton Edwards



First Grade-- Felicity Tyler



Second Grade--Lexi Hubbard



First Grade: Seven students tied for first place (left to right), Isabella Johnson, Lachlan King, Dallas Leviner, Georgia Cockram, Abigayle Cox, Lincoln Leath.



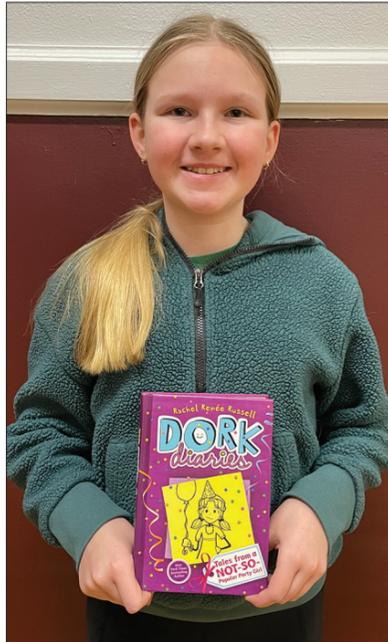
Third Grade--Daisy McBride



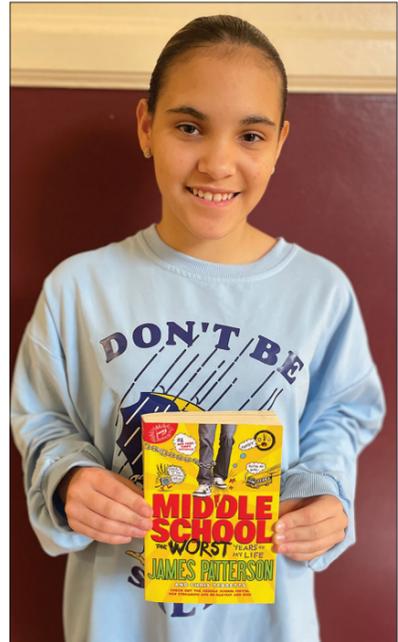
Fourth Grade-- Callie Tejada



Fifth Grade--Melissa Hughes



Sixth Grade--Emmalyn Hubbard



Seventh Grade--Alycia Wilson

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count at a Virginia State Park



Winter field sparrow at Machicomoco State Park



Blue Heron in winter at York River State Park



Birdwatching at Westmoreland State Park

Virginia State Parks are calling all nature lovers and bird enthusiasts to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC),

taking place February 13-16, 2026. This annual global event brings together millions of people to observe and record bird species,

helping scientists track bird populations and migration patterns.

The GBBC is a simple yet impactful way to contribute to conservation science, and you don't have to be a scientist to join in on the fun. Participants are asked to spend just 15 minutes on one or more days during the count observing birds in their backyard, local park or favorite outdoor space. Observations can be logged using the Merlin Bird ID app for identification or the eBird Mobile app for submitting sightings.

Virginia State Parks across the commonwealth will host programs and events to enhance your birding experience. Whether you're a seasoned birder or a curious beginner, this is a great opportunity to connect with nature and con-

tribute to a worldwide citizen science project.

Those interested in participating in this year's bird count can find an event or related program at one of several participating parks.

State parks that are having an event include:

- *Bear Creek Lake, Cumberland
- *Caledon, King George
- *Fairy Stone, Stuart
- *Hungry Mother, Marion
- *Lake Anna, Spotsylvania
- *New River Trail, Max Meadows
- *Powhatan, Powhatan
- *Staunton River Battlefield, Randolph

To learn more about Backyard Bird Count events at Virginia State Parks, visit <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/birdcount>.

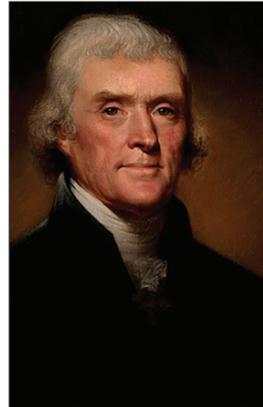
Laurel Hill's Many Histories: Jeb Stuart Visits Thomas Jefferson



The grave and painting of Uriah Phillips Levy at Monticello.



Grave of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and the original grave marker, now at the University of Missouri.



Thomas Jefferson and J. E. B. Stuart.



Tom Perry, right, with Bill Barker, who portrays Thomas Jefferson at Monticello.



The Rotunda at the University of Virginia, along with the Cavalier logo.

By Tom Perry

Last year, I wrote about James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart and his influence on the university that became Virginia Tech, but he also visited the University of Virginia in 1850. He wrote to his cousin, Alexander Stuart Brown, the son of Judge James Ewell Brown, for whom he was named

Stuart was headed to West Point, New York, after being appointed to the United States Military Academy in 1850. He spent several days in and around Charlottesville. He wrote his cousin, Alexander Stuart Brown, from the Irving House in Washington, D. C., on June 3, 1850. "I left there for Charlottesville, where I stayed one day. I went all over the University [of Virginia] and became acquainted with General Cabell and his two sons, from whom I received a letter of introduction to Cadet W. Lewis Cabell and Captain Witcher. Dick Sanders and I went over to Monticello, which is truly a romantic place. I have a small piece of the marble slab over his grave with this inscription: "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, the statute of Virginia for religious freedom, and father of the University of Virginia." I pulled also two roses from near the walk leading through his yard. There is a statue of him in front of the President's house here. It is made of bronze with the Declaration in his hand cut into bronze. The statue was presented during Tyler's Administration to the President by the owner of

Mr. Jefferson's residence, Captain Levy, United States Navy. I went from Charlottesville to the junction where I left my overcoat and then came immediately on here."

Uriah P. Levi (1792-1862) was a Commodore in the U.S. Navy and owner of Monticello when Stuart visited the plantation. Levi is buried along Mulberry Row, on the north side of the house, leading to Jefferson's grave.

Upon arriving at Camp Gaines at the United States Military Academy, at West Point, New York, on July 8, 1850, Stuart wrote to his cousin Alexander Stuart Brown about his recent visit to the University of Virginia.

"So you expect to go to the University of Virginia this fall. I must say something about that place and vicinity, as I am afraid you will be disappointed. I refer to the ladies of Charlottesville, for collectively or individually they merit the rank of the ugliest of the ugly; I could mention illustrations of the truth of this remark, but I know that you will have an opportunity of judging for yourself soon enough to your sorrow, but without a joke Charlottesville is a sweet place... it would surpass any town in the United States so far as beauty is concerned. It may be however, the striking contrast, which exists between the ugly women and the pretty gardens and yards clothed in roses, that robes the place in apparent loveliness."

Stuart's last mention of the University of Virginia came on October 21, 1850, when he wrote

Alexander Stuart Brown from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. "I was glad to hear you were so well pleased with the university and we so admirably situated for study and improvement. The university is indeed a lovely spot, and so is its vicinity. I know I shall never regret my taking that in on my way to this place. I became acquainted with several students whose names I have forgotten with the exception of young Fulton, an intimate friend of Richard Sanders. I was also introduced to the Misses Omohundro of the Monticello House."

John R. "Texas Jack" Omohundro (1846-1880) grew up south of Charlottesville near Palmyra. He scouted for Stuart in the Civil War in 1864. One of his sisters, Elizabeth, was eight when Stuart visited Charlottesville, and another, Arabella, was one and might be the Misses that Stuart refers to.

Many people confuse the University of Virginia Cavalier mascot with J. E. B. Stuart, The Last Cavalier, but the mascot is a historical figure representing the Royalist supporters of King Charles I, with two main forms: the costumed Cavman, a stern, sword-wielding figure with a feathered hat, and the iconic Mounted Cavalier, a real person on horseback. The English Civil War was a battle of Cavaliers and Roundheads, the supporters of Oliver Cromwell, who executed King Charles and ruled England as the Commonwealth from 1649 to 1660.

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