



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stephanie Howard (left) poses with her husband and children at the Play Date entrance at the Highlands Shopping Center in Abingdon. Howard's business won second place among start-up businesses, and she was honored for having the best financial pitch of all participants in the Washington County Business Challenge. Her \$3,000 in prize money will go toward expanding services offered at the play area.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Max and Owen enjoy the Ball Dumper in the foam ball arena inside Play Date.

Over the next few weeks, the Washington County News will feature a series of stories on the winners of the 2019 Washington County Business Challenge. The fourth in the series is on Play Date, which won second place in the Start Up Business Awards.

All work. All play.

Play Date imagines fun and educational expansion with awards from Washington County Business Challenge

BY CAROLYN R. WILSON
FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

ABINGDON, Va. — With as many as 100 five-star, handwritten reviews and nearly 3,000 followers on Facebook, Abingdon's newest indoor play and party venue is becoming more than child's play.

Stephanie Howard said her business, Play Date, located in the Highlands Shopping Center, is creating a positive impact in the community for both kids and adults.

After being in business for nearly a year, Howard has won second place as a start-up business in the 2019 Washington County Business Challenge. She also received the highest score from judges for "pitching" a business idea during the competition.

The Business Challenge is an annual business plan competition designed to attract entrepreneurs to start and expand business in the county.

Both awards will offer her a total of \$3,000 to use toward expansion projects.

"I'm finding my business is answering a need I actually didn't foresee when I opened in 2018," Howard said.

"There's a need for parents, grandparents and other caregivers to relax and just have someone to talk to while their children play in a safe and fun environment. We are delighted to be offering that feature."

In addition to providing an indoor, clean space for kids ages 10 or younger to play, socialize and party, Play Date allows free admission to caregivers and noncrawling babies.

"It's really such a compliment to be the place [that] caregivers trust enough to bring their children to play and to feel comfortable enough to enjoy some coffee and good conversation while they're here," said the business owner.

"The word is getting out. People really love Play Date and what we have to offer. It's very heart-warming, and it makes me feel really good about our hard work."

"Our sales have increased by 50% since October 2018. I've also been able to hire two part-time employees."

Booked months in advance, private parties have taken off, providing Howard the stable revenue needed to make her small business successful.

"I love being open during the week for kids to come and play, but my prices are so affordable, I can't survive on that. Parties are what keep us afloat."

"We usually host five parties each weekend. Most private party spots are booked solid for the next two months. We offer private party packages where we do everything — we decorate and provide the pizzas, chips and drinks. All you have to do is bring the cake," she said.

"A lot of caregivers are grandparents and even great-grandparents. We want to take the stress off of them. All they have to do is show up with the birthday child and a smile, and we've got the rest covered."

Before opening her business, the mother often traveled with her children to Asheville, North Carolina, and Gray, Tennessee, to indoor playgrounds for one of their birthday parties or to play for the day.

"Being a mother of three children younger than 10, I know and understand the need for a clean, safe, affordable and fun space for our younger kids to exercise and socialize," Howard said.

Howard said her rapid success as a businesswoman has prompted her to think about growing her small business. Currently, the facility offers opportunities for physical play, improving sensory

skills and growth in socialization. Howard entered the Business Challenge with hopes of expanding her business with more learning opportunities for children.

First, she envisions adding an outdoor patio where parents and caregivers can soak up the sun while their children play at water and sand tables.

Her second idea is to convert a 150-square-foot unused space in Play Date into a Play Market.

"With our Play Market concept, we will teach children about money management, counting, customer service and, most of all, confidence for their young entrepreneurial minds," she said.

Howard said the Business Challenge has given her greater confidence to pursue her business goals.

"I can't say enough about the positive impact of the Business Challenge. I'm a college graduate, and I've taken business courses. I thought I knew how to write a business plan when I opened my business. Now, I have a true business plan."

"The Business Challenge makes you look at things realistically — where I am, what I can do differently. It gave me a solid foundation I thought I already had."

Play Date, located on Charwood Drive, has extended hours from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday, starting May 7 as a summer trial. She hopes to continue the extended hours depending on popularity. The business opens 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Private parties are reserved for Friday and Saturday after 3 p.m. with two spots available on Sunday.

Follow Play Date on Facebook for prices and special events.

Carolyn R. Wilson is a freelance writer in Glade Spring, Virginia. Contact her at news@washconews.com.

Jane Seymour talks TV, Johnny Cash and fan questions

WANDERING AROUND WASHINGTON

Editor's note: "Wandering Around Washington" is a regular, exclusive column from Joe Tennis highlighting the untold stories in the county, direct from the people who live and work here. Watch for him to wander into shops, restaurants and parks to bring you the gab and gossip — only in the Washington County News.

Johnny Cash showed up on the set of "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman."

And for actress Jane Seymour, the star of the 1990s' "Dr. Quinn" series, that was "a life-changing experience," Seymour said during a recent telephone interview.

Seymour has starred in movies like "Live and Let Die," "Somewhere in Time," "Wedding Crashers" and "East of Eden."

On "Dr. Quinn," she worked more than once with Cash and his wife, June Carter, who was, incidentally, born just one county away from Washington County

— in Scott County, Virginia, at Maces Spring.

Johnny and June showed up on a few episodes of "Dr. Quinn," Seymour's series from 1993 to 1998.

"We became lifelong friends," Seymour said. "It was just an amazing privilege."

Seymour, 68, and her then-husband, James Keach, became such great friends with the singers that they would stay at the Cash couple's homes in Hendersonville, Tennessee, and Jamaica.

Over time, too, Seymour said, Johnny started talking about how he wanted his life story told.

"Johnny turned to us and said, 'Someone is going to make the story of my life,'" Seymour remembered. "He said, 'I don't really have anyone that I can trust.'"

Yet, for about a decade, Johnny and June would trust James and Jane, giving them exclusive interviews that could form the basis for future projects. Those interviews became the launching point for a movie script, and "Walk the Line," a biopic of Johnny's life with June, finally premiered in 2005.

But, you may not know that from looking at the credits, where Keach is listed as co-producer.

James Keach's work is noted; Jane Seymour's is not.

The Keach-Seymour couple — now divorced — had actually sold the rights to making the movie in order to find a way for it to be produced, Seymour said.

But, Seymour added, "We had a chance to read the actual finished script to John-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jane Seymour, star of "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," "Live and Let Die" and "East of Eden," will attend Barter Theatre's "An Evening with Jane Seymour" fundraiser, answering fan questions and giving autographs.

ny and June before they passed."

Both Johnny and June died in 2003.

Today, Seymour said she could write a book about her experiences with Johnny and June.

And writing a book is something that Seymour has certainly done. The actress has released about a dozen books in addition to starring in television shows and movies.

You can find out more — and up-close — when the actress arrives in Abingdon for "An Evening with Jane Seymour" on May 8 at the Barter Theatre (www.bartertheatre.com).

This is a fundraiser and includes a post-event reception at the Martha Washington Inn & Spa. Barter Theatre is offering special event tickets starting at \$150 and running up to \$600, which includes a private meet-and-greet with the actress, a photograph opportunity and an autographed DVD. You can reserve a spot by calling 276-628-2282.

Seymour says she's looking forward to coming back to Virginia, where she spent some time a few years ago when she made a 2012 movie in Roanoke called "Lake Effects."

Coming with her is Johnny Keach, her son, who was named for Johnny Cash.

At 23, Keach is a singer, and he said he wanted to come to Barter Theatre because he recalled the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains as a beautiful area, according to his mother.

Expect lots of laughter and life stories on May 8.

Seymour says she wants to stage a question-and-answer session.

"I think we're going to do a Q&A, which is my absolute favorite, because I've got so many stories and so many different parts of my life that I could talk forever," Seymour said. "And I think it's always great when whoever's the moderator gets to know what the people in that room would be interested in."

Family of man killed in officer-involved shooting demand tapes **A3**

Forum for county candidates set for Oct. 15 **A5**

Two hepatitis A cases confirmed at SW Va. Regional Jail **A3**

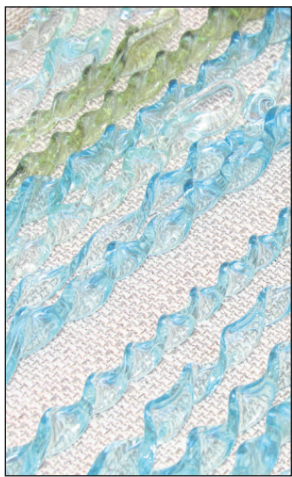


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ART



Glass artist makes jewelry, utensils and more in mobile studio **» B2**

AGRICULTURE



Pumpkin patches ready for season despite drought **» B1**

COMMUNITY



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HARBOR HOUSE



Melissa Owens, a server at Harbor House, talks to customers Jerry and Brenda Umbarger of Atkins, Virginia. The couple said they drove to Abingdon after a day trip to Boone, North Carolina, just to eat at the seafood restaurant.

'Harbor' out of house + home

For employees and customers, Harbor House more than a restaurant

BY CAROLYN R. WILSON
FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS
ABINGDON, Va. — Teresa McCracken said she's had little time to grieve over the closing of Harbor House Seafood and Steak Restaurant in Abingdon, her workplace since the

See **HARBOR**, Page A6



Teresa McCracken, a longtime server at Harbor House Seafood and Steak Restaurant, takes the order for customer Bill Branson of Saltville, Virginia. "I've always had good service here. I sure will miss this place," said Branson.

Dry weather has firefighting helicopter crew at the ready

BY ROBERT SORRELL
WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS
ABINGDON, Va. — A firefighting helicopter crew is preparing to head home soon, ending a long, but relatively easy season, but first, they're stationed in Abingdon to wait for any fires that could ignite in the dry and hot southern Appalachian Mountain region.

The crew of a massive Columbia CH-47D Chinook helicopter has been stationed since Sept. 26 at Abingdon's Virginia Highlands Airport. The helicopter and crew, which includes two pilots, maintenance crew and fuel truck driver, have a 150-day contract with the

See **FIRES**, Page A5



Helicopter pilot Perri Hagen talks about flying the CH-47D Chinook helicopter with the capacity to carry 2,800 gallons of water to fight fires. The helicopter's crew will be stationed in Abingdon to provide rapid response to fires in the area.

Attorneys speak out against moving courthouse

BY JOE TENNIS
WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS
ABINGDON, Va. — Abingdon attorneys John Lamie and Byrum Geisler urged voters Thursday to reject the Nov. 5 referendum that could result in the relocation of the Washington County Courthouse to a vacant Kmart.

"I personally am very opposed to moving the courthouse," Geisler told the Booklovers Club at the Washington County Public Library in Abingdon as part of a presentation Thursday. About 60 people attended Thursday's presentation, including Abingdon Mayor Wayne Craig, Vice Mayor Cindy Patterson, Town Manager Jimmy Morani and the town's legal counsel, Cameron Bell.

Moving the courthouse See **ATTORNEYS**, Page A5

Abingdon approves bond to fund sports complex

BY JOE TENNIS
WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS
ABINGDON, Va. — Abingdon Town Council moved ahead with two projects near Interstate 81's Exit 17 at its meeting last Tuesday.

On a motion by Councilman Al Bradley, council approved a general obligation refunding bond in a principal amount not to exceed \$7.5 million to fund the sports complex at The Meadows, which is under construction.

This move, according to Town Manager Jimmy Morani, allows the town to gain a lower interest rate — not to exceed 2.89% — on a 25-year bond that is part of a previously approved \$10 million line of credit, used to fund the sports complex and related projects at The Meadows.

The sports complex will include baseball and soccer fields, a splash pad, a playground, a walking trail and a connector to the nearby Virginia Creeper Trail.

In a separate move, also on a motion by Bradley, council approved subdividing the old Magic Mart property, where a new Hampton Inn is slated to be built, at Washington Crossing.

In other business, Morani

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Harbor

From Page A1

restaurant opened 28 years ago.

Ever since word spread through town that the fish house was closing its doors at the end of the month, faithful customers have flocked to enjoy one more meal.

McCracken, a longtime server, and other staff at the restaurant have been called in to work on their days off to help manage an overwhelming number of customers, even on weekdays when business is usually slower.

"We never dreamed it would be like this. We've been here nearly three decades, and we're doing more business now than we've ever done," said Allen Hashbarger, owner of the business. "The outpouring of support has been overwhelming to us."

Hashbarger has leased the building for 28 years from Bran-Bowie Investments in Bristol, Tennessee, with the option to purchase it, but a spiraling economy throughout the years never allowed him to take that option.

Now, the building is being sold, and the beloved restaurant that's attracted many families in town for years will close its doors at 8 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 27.

Jamie Arnold and Ovene Sloan, both of Whitetop, Virginia, didn't know about the closing until they arrived in town one day last week. "We try to visit the restaurant every month. This is where we had our first date in 2006," said Sloan.

Douglas Lester of Honaker, Virginia, has been coming with family and friends to eat for years.

"We'll miss it," said Lester.

Emotional roller coaster

Coming to work the past few days has been like an emotional roller coaster for the employees.

"There have been a lot of tears and hugs. In a way, I feel like someone has passed. It just doesn't seem real," said McCracken, who has worked at the establishment since 1990 when it was first named Mayflower Seafood by a previous operator.

The server stayed on board with the restaurant when Hashbarger took over the business a year later, eventually changing the name to Harbor House Seafood and Steak Restaurant.

"I'm only as successful as the people who have been working for me all these years," said the owner. "They see the public every day. It's been these employees who have brought our customers back continuously."

Melissa Owens has worked nearly nine years as a server at the restaurant. "We're like family here. The closing has been very upsetting," she said.

Tracy Garrett, 33, started working at the restaurant when she was 18. "That's a lot of my life."

Weathering storms

Despite the ups and downs in the business world, the restaurant has weathered storms and remained open throughout the years.

"Business is good now, which, I think, makes the closing even harder to accept," said McCracken.

"We were holding our own in the late 1990s until Walmart opened at Exit

7 in Bristol and all of the restaurants opened at that location. It really hurt us. For about three years, it was touch and go.

"We almost have made a full recovery since Walmart recently came to Exit 19 in Abingdon. But I knew the property had been for sale for a good while. It was only a matter of time when things would change on this end of town."

Service with a smile

"It's been so much more than a job," said the server. "I never did decide what I wanted to be when I grew up. This job has been more like play," she said with laughter.

"But don't get me wrong. The job of a server is hard work, especially when dealing with not-so-pleasant customers.

"It can be physically demanding, too."

McCracken said restaurant servers often wear an invisible mask that never reveals the pain from a back that aches or feet that need to take a rest.

"You have to wear that mask all day even when you don't feel good or you're going through bad stuff in your personal life. Basically, it's like run, run, run all day, which I like. I'd rather be busy than bored at work."

McCracken has no idea how many steps she makes during a shift. "But, let's put it this way," she said, "my foot doctor told me I need a new pair of shoes every three months."

A heart for her work

The server has always exhibited a "heart" for her work and for the people who have become like her family. She recently

was awarded best server in the Best of Washington County awards.

After one of her elderly customers died, McCracken was faced with serving the family at the restaurant after the funeral services were held.

"I expressed my sympathies before they started to order, then I just lost it. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't hold back the tears. I had to walk away and come back."

Building relationships has also been an important ingredient in her work.

"I held myself together pretty good when Allen first told us about the closing, until he mentioned our customers."

McCracken said the hardest part of closing has been telling the customers, many of whom she's served for decades.

"I know I'm going to miss the people I work with and the customers I serve. And I feel very fortunate to have worked for Allen all these years. He's



CAROLYN R. WILSON/FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

Melissa Owens prepares a tray in the kitchen at Harbor House. After working at the seafood restaurant for nine years, Owens said the employees and regular customers are just like family to her.

been such a good employer," she said.

"I've made so many friends working here. I've seen young parents carrying their babies into the restaurant. Now, I'm seeing those grown children carrying their kids in."

McCracken isn't sure

where her path will lead her next.

"I don't know if anything will ever feel like home again."

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Complete care for every woman

Welcome Dr. Jacquelyn Wentworth

Growing up overseas - Denmark, Romania and Pakistan - gave Dr. Jacquelyn Wentworth a worldly perspective on different cultures and their approach to medicine. She witnessed desperate situations in which people gave up anything they had to get the medical care they needed. When she returned to the States at 17, she decided to go into medicine. She was particularly drawn to treating women so she could share in the milestones of their lives: OB/GYN affords her the opportunity to provide continuous care to women as they make the transitions from puberty to menopause.



Dr. Jacquelyn Wentworth offers obstetrics and gynecologic care for women of all ages. Her services include:

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- Labor and delivery care at Johnston Memorial Hospital
- Pregnancy and prenatal care
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WANDERING AROUND WASHINGTON

Editor's note: "Wandering Around Washington" is a regular, exclusive column from Joe Tennis highlighting the untold stories in the county, direct from the people who live and work here. Watch for him to wander into shops, restaurants and parks to bring you the gab and gossip — only in the Washington County News.

Compassion at Columbine

Wallace Middle gets message of kindness from shooting victim in school program

WALLACE, Va. — Everyone's eyes closed in meditative thought.

And when they reopened, it seemed like the soul of Rachel Joy Scott, a 17-year-old girl who attended Columbine High School during its infamous mass shooting, had suddenly filled the gymnasium of Wallace Middle School, as piercing rays of morning sunlight streamed through the windows.

Hundreds of middle school students had packed the gymnasium at Wallace on Oct. 3, perhaps expecting to hear a funny, upbeat message as summer lingered into autumn.

But "Rachel's Challenge" was none of that — expect for being upbeat, in the end.

The assembly's takeaway: Be kind to others, and show acts of kindness that could cause a chain reaction throughout the world.

It was a poignant message delivered by a Wisconsin public speaker named Matt, who simply kept his presence on a first-name basis.



Joe Tennis

That fit.

The real star, you see, was actually a young lady who died more than 20 years ago.

Rachel Joy Scott was the first shooting victim at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999, in Columbine, Colorado, where 12 students and one teacher were killed.

When Rachel died, she was only 17 — just a bit older than the students at Wallace.

Still, the students got to know Rachel through her diaries, presented in readings and on video at "Rachel's Challenge," a traveling program that has been presented for millions of students.

Everyone heard how Rachel had premonitions that she would die early — yet still change the world.

That, she is still doing.

"Rachel's Challenge" is a nonprofit program that visits schools, like Wallace in Washington County, with a message that small acts of kindness and compassion can cause a ripple effect in society and cause others to be kinder and gentler.

That's important.

Especially in the muddled, troubled and confusing middle school years.

Here, you're not quite a kid anymore.

And, yet, you're hardly old enough to do much more than see a PG-13 movie without a parent.

But you can befriend the new kid in town. You can speak politely. And you don't need to be a bully.

"I had my ups and downs. I fell a few times," Rachel wrote in one of her journals. "But I did not give up. Don't give up."

Rachel is gone. But her lessons for others live on.

And so does her compassion.

"Compassion is the greatest form of love humans have to offer," Rachel wrote in a journal. "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."



JOE TENNIS/WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

"Rachel's Challenge," a nonprofit program dedicated to the memory of Rachel Joy Scott, who was killed at Columbine High School 20 years ago, brings a message of compassion to Wallace Middle School.

PUMPKIN SEASON



LEFT: James Hayes helps fill boxes of pumpkins onto a tractor-trailer that will deliver the fall crop to produce markets throughout the South. RIGHT: This pumpkin patch is located in Grayson County, Virginia, but a patch in Washington County is located immediately off Exit 26 at Emory. The pick-your-own patch will be open from noon to 6 p.m. on Fridays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays; and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays through Oct. 27. Another pumpkin patch is located at Haynes Greenhouse, 36554 Fleet Road in Glade Spring, off Exit 32.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Hitting a dry patch

Pumpkin growers ready for season despite months of drought

BY CAROLYN R. WILSON
FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

EMORY, Va. — Despite hot, dry weather conditions, a local farmer said his pumpkin patches are ready to make a grand entrance.

James Hayes estimated he'll sell 100,000 pumpkins this season at local produce markets, such as Food City, and wholesale businesses from South Carolina to Florida. Hayes already has shipped eight tractor-trailer loads of pumpkins to stores and produce lots throughout the South.

"I have 104 boxes loaded on two tractor-trailers going to Virginia Beach in the morning," said Hayes last weekend.

This year, the farmer planted 40 acres of the pumpkins at an Emory, Virginia, location and another 10 acres in Grayson County.

Since most of his wholesale pumpkin orders have been filled, the businessman has opened the Emory patch to the public, who can choose from as many as 29 varieties to purchase. The stems of the pumpkins have been pre-cut for easy customer access.

A pick-your-own patch immediately off Exit 26 at Emory will be open from noon to 6 p.m. on Fridays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays; and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays through Oct. 27. Varieties from the petite daisy ornamental gourds to the traditional jack-o'-lantern pumpkins will be available. Prices range from \$1 for small varieties to \$20 for large jack-o'-lanterns. Hayes said his prices are competitive. "We want families to have jack-o'-lanterns and to enjoy the holidays. That's what it is all about."

Despite the large volume of pumpkins harvested on his farms, Hayes said the hot, dry summer has taken a toll on his crop.

"Dry weather has hurt all the pumpkin growers in the area this season," said Hayes, a Grayson County



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tim Hollingsworth, who helped James Hayes grow some of the pumpkins on his farm in Grayson County, Virginia, helps an H-2A worker (top) package the boxes for shipping.

farmer who has grown the plants for three years.

"The yield has been off. It started getting dry the first of July at a time when the plants should have been growing and setting fruit."

Hayes explained that each pumpkin plant produces both male and female flowers. Bees transfer pollen from male blooms to female blooms, and that process sets fruit.

Pumpkin farmers rely heavily on bees to pollinate their crops in order to get the best yields. Pollination usually occurs the first three weeks in July.

But this season, the bees had to work harder due to hot, dry conditions.

"I have several vines that don't have any fruit because of this," he said. The dry weather affects more than just the pollinators. Energy that's ordinarily used to grow the fruit gets consumed by the plant to help it stay alive.

"Therefore, you end up with smaller fruit," said Hayes, who also noted that the yield is not as abundant as it was last year. But the farmer can't complain. His largest pumpkin grown this year on his Grayson County farm weighs in at a hefty 60 pounds.

Pumpkins are becoming among one of Virginia's top 20 agriculture commodities.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service report said pumpkin sales in Virginia reached an estimated \$11 million in 2018. The bulk of sales came from wholesale pumpkins, generating \$10.3 million, while pick-your-own pumpkins brought in around \$700,000.

Phil Blevins, Washington County extension agent, said he's not seeing a large number of pumpkin growers in Washington County. "But there are growers that produce hundreds of acres of pumpkins in Southwest Virginia."

"To grow sizable acreage, you have to have outlets that can handle a lot of pumpkins. It can be a good cash crop if you have the market and grow high-quality pumpkins."

"Growing this many pumpkins is a big business, but it's an expensive business," said Hayes. "People think we make a lot of money off of it, but it takes a lot of money to grow a crop of pumpkins like I have."

To ensure a prolific amount of fruit, Hayes rented 10 stands of honeybees from a local beekeeper

If You Go

Pick-your-own pumpkin patch

» **Where:** Off Exit 26, Emory, Virginia
 » **When:** 12-6 p.m. on Fridays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays; 12-5 p.m. on Sundays through Oct. 27.
 » **Info:** 276-685-4861, jameshayes68@yahoo.com to schedule appointments

Other patches

Haynes Greenhouse, 36554 Fleet Road, Glade Spring, Virginia, Exit 32.

to help with pollination.

"The chemicals and insecticides we use on the pumpkins are sprayed at night when bees are in their hives. Fungicides that are sprayed during the day are bee-friendly," said Hayes.

Hayes estimated it took about 40 pounds of pumpkin seeds to get started. Seeds were planted by hand during the first weeks of June.

The field required spraying for insects and fungicides every seven to 10 days. "That cost us \$700 to \$1,500 each of the 10 times we sprayed."

This year, the labor-intensive operation required 10 workers from the H-2A program, which allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs.

The last leg of the operation is shipping. "The pumpkins are stored in a warehouse and loaded on tractor-trailers that ship them out. That's the end of the process," he said.

When it's all over, Hayes hopes he will see a profit of \$25,000 to \$30,000 from his pumpkin business, most of which goes to help support his Christmas tree business.

Carolyn R. Wilson is a freelance writer in Glade Spring, Virginia. Contact her at news@washconews.com.