

Garcia hopes to oust Kaine in a bid for Senate



Eddie Garcia hopes to oust incumbent U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine in November.

By Taylor Boyd
Eddie Garcia attended the annual Patrick County Agricultural Fair on Tuesday, September 12. Even though the event was rained out, Garcia made it a priority to speak to voters as part of his bid to oust incumbent Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Richmond, in November. A self-described conservative Republican, Garcia considers faith, family, and community a priority and said his belief in a better tomorrow prompted him to challenge the status quo.



"I believe that America's best days are ahead of it if we have leaders who are actually focused on working people across the nation," (See Garcia p. 13)



More than 10 candidates spoke at the forum. (Morgan Boothe and Danny Foley are not pictured.)

Trio seeking clerk post outline priorities

By Taylor Boyd
The three candidates seeking the Patrick County Clerk of Circuit Court post were among those to lay out their plans and respond to questions last week at the Patrick County Republican Committee's Candidate Forum. In all of the races, each candidate was asked to prepare a three-to-five-minute introduction of themselves. Afterward, those attending had the option of asking candidates questions.
Morgan Boothe
Appointed by Judge Marcus Brinks to serve as the interim Clerk of Court in November 2022, Boothe said she is "still so honored to have been chosen to take on the role of interim clerk. I believe it was a decision carefully made by Judge Brinks."
Hired in 2017, Boothe said she has experience in every aspect of (See County Clerk p. 14)

Upcoming election deadlines

Early voting for the upcoming November 7 General Election began at the Registrar's Office on Friday, September 22, and will continue through November 4 during regular office hours. The office will be open on Saturday, October 28, and Saturday, November 4, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the purpose of early voting. If you need to receive a ballot by mail, a Virginia Vote by Mail Application Form must be received on or before 5 p.m. Friday, October 27. A request to receive a ballot by mail may be done online at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>
Virginia law requires all voters to present an acceptable form of identification when voting early or on Election Day. Information about acceptable forms of identification can be found at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/in-person-voting/>. Any registered voter who does not possess acceptable ID, may sign an ID Confirmation Statement.
The deadline to register to vote or to update your address on your existing voter registration for the upcoming November 7, 2023, General Election will be on Monday, October 16. Any citizen needing to register to vote or update their address may do so by appearing in person at the Registrar's Office, mailing a completed application to Post Office Box 635, Stuart, VA, or going online at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>.
The Registrar's Office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday and is located in the Patrick County Veterans' Memorial Building 106 Rucker St. Room 216C Stuart VA.
For additional information, or to request a Virginia Vote by Mail Application Form to be mailed to you, contact the Registrar's Office at (276) 694-7206 or staylor@co.patrick.va.us or visit the Patrick County Registrar's website at <https://www.co.patrick.va.us/departments/registrar-office-of-elections>.

Solar panel presentation made to school officials



The Patrick County School Board heard a presentation from Joe DeRado, of Secure Solar Futures, on its solar energy plan for the school division.

By Taylor Boyd
The Patrick County School Board heard a presentation about potentially installing solar panels on the roofs of school buildings at its September 14 meeting.
Joe DeRado, of Secure Solar Futures, a solar developer in Central Virginia, said the company was founded in 2004 and has over 117 individual projects with roughly 37 installed megawatts.
"We were the first PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) company in Virginia, as well as West Virginia, and we're a Certified B Corporation," he said.
Being a Certified B Corporation means the company meets the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and pur-

PROJECT DESIGN

PATRICK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

ARRAY SIZE DC (kW)
900.2 kW

OUTPUT YEAR 1
1,065,732 kWh

ENERGY OFFSET
47.4%

PROJECT SUMMARY

SITE LOCATION	ARRAY SIZE (kW)	KWH OUTPUT YEAR 1	ENERGY OFFSET
Patrick County High School	900.2	1,065,732	47.4%
Meadows of Dan Elementary School	162.8	200,204	64.3%
Patrick Springs Primary School	124.2	141,046	29.0%
Patrick Springs Primary School (*)	343.6	427,392	88.0%
Stuart Elementary School	224.9	275,469	51.4%
Stuart Elementary School	380.9	480,256	89.6%
Totals	1,412.1	1,682,451	47.0%
Totals (*)	1,785.5	2,173,583	61.0%

* Reflects sizing after roof restoration

Council approves support for Spooktacular

By Taylor Boyd
The Stuart Town Council agreed to donate \$2,000 in financial assistance and in-kind support to the Patrick County Young Professionals for the 8th annual Spooktacular.
Olivia Booth, of the Young Professionals, said the in-kind support could include town staff to coordinate road closure assistance to communicate with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to close Main Street, obtain the permits for road closure as needed, and get VDOT signage for congested or road closures.
"We would also need communication with Main Street businesses and residents during the week of the road closure, town support with road closures on the day of the event to make sure that barricades and cones are available for the protection of our visitors, and to coordinate event infrastructure with such barricades, light towers, cones, trash/street cleaning after the event," she said at the council's September 20 meeting.
Booth also requested funds for a possible trolley to help transport visitors who must park a distance away from Main Street.
"I know we've had concerns about the economics of this, so we're not quite sure if this will be approved again like the trolley from last year," she said.
(See Council p. 13)



Tourism Talks

Hello Patrick,
Can you believe it's already the final week of September? The month seemed to fly by! But now, October is just around the corner, ready to take its turn for the year. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, Fall officially began at 2:50 a.m. on Saturday, and it was a beautiful day!
I am still thinking about the Fair! It was a great success, thanks to the Rotary Team, despite a delayed start due to rain on Tuesday. We appreciate their hard work putting on such a fantastic event for the county.
This week, we'll promote tourism at the International Bluegrass Music Awards in Raleigh,

N.C. We're working with the Virginia Tourism Cooperation and multiple counties in Southwest Virginia - Blue Ridge Highlands Districts to showcase everything our county offers. From primitive camping to 5-star luxury and various musical venues along the Crooked Road, we have something for everyone.
We hope to welcome more visitors to events like the PCMA gathering, Willis Gap Community Center Jams, Stable Saloon (Primland) events, and more.
Before I go, I want to remind everyone about the "Country Under the Stars" concert this weekend at Dominion Valley Park, featuring Michael Ray Fain and many others. As a special offer, I will give two tickets to the first person who comes to the visitor center and says, "I read the tourism article in the paper; I want to claim the tickets, and they will be yours!"
Check out our websites for more details on everything happening in the county. As October approaches, we have an incredible number of events planned, so be sure to clear your schedule and "Find Yourself Here!"
I'll be in touch soon.
Best regards,
James Houchins,
Director of Tourism (jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us)

Pets of the Week



This is Doggie. He is a handsome but shy guy. It takes a little time for him to warm up to you, but once he has your trust, he will become devoted. He is a favorite at the shelter with everyone there. He just needs someone who has time for him.
This handsome guy was found on Providence Road in Patrick Springs. Just look at that handsome face. He is a favorite and would love to go home or to find a new home.
The Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) has lots of nice pets looking for homes. Call them at (276) 694-6259, or view available pets on the shelter's Facebook page. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination.
The Patrick County Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) offers a spay/neuter program for dogs. Call (276) 694-2378 and leave a message. Someone will call you back.

College for Older Adults underway

Mary Dellenback Hill enrolled in The Writer's Path, offered during the Classes For Older Adults, offered at VT Reynolds Homestead, 463 Homestead Lane in Critz. Hill met her instructor Linda Maxie, on Monday 18, for the program that is presented By The Landmark Center. The course will explore the diverse and exciting world of fiction and nonfiction genres, helping a person discover which type of book suits their vision and goals.
As she arrived, Hill said she recognized one of the instructors, Tom Perry, Author, and Historian. Perry will be teaching another of her classes, Patrick County Virginia In The Civil War.



Pictured, left to right, are Melanie Gilbert, At The Homestead's Table, Darryl Holland, The Very Uncivil War Between The States, and a couple from Floyd, speaking with Tom Perry, author of the Free State Of Patrick. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill, Representative, Dan River District, Patrick County Tourism.)



Darryl Holland, instructor in The Very Uncivil War Between The States is pictured with some of his students.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:
*Darryle Theodore Hand, 48, of Martinsville, was charged Sept. 16 with one count each assault and batter, robbery, and assault. Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.
*Rebecca Diane Phillips, 42, of Martinsville, was charged Sept. 18 with warrant of extradition. Deputy C.A. Strother was the arresting officer.
*Benjamin William Plaster, 40, of Fieldale, was charged Sept. 19 with one count each monument: intentional damage and grand larceny steal. Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.
*James Daniel Biggs, 32, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Sept. 19 with probation violation. Deputy L. White was the arresting officer.
*Adam Lee Daniels, 39, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 20 with probation violation. Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

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Dellenback Hill's weekend adventures

A big 'thank you' to all who came out for Willis Gap Community Center Acoustic Open Jam, at 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat, on Friday, September 22. More than 100 people turned out to hear a great group of musicians, including it (Wilkes Family) from Walnut Cove, N.C. three visitors on their first vis-



There are five visitors of the Barnard Family from Montana. They were having a great time, and they took a moment to get their photo taken outside with our LOVE SIGN (The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail), several are holding up the new Fall Patrick County Magazine, which has some of our Willis Gap Jammers on the front cover.



Author and Historian Tom Perry Talk with Author Danny Martin/Book Corn Squeezins, on Saturday, September 23 in the Ararat Ruritan Building, 4711 Ararat Highway, Ararat. The Ruritans provided popcorn and drinks during the program. Pictured, left to right, is Darryl Rorrer, the son of Jimmie Rorrer (ABC Officer); Tom Perry, one of Jimmie Rorrer's daughters. Author Danny Martin; and another of Jimmie Rorrer's daughters.



Author and Historian Tom Perry Talk (The Dinky Railroad) with Kenny Kirkman, (one of our Directors Chip Bondurant) on September 23 at JEB Stuart's Birthplace, 1091 Ararat Highway, Ararat. Amy Brown Sawyers, Eric Sawyers, Vice President Dave Lusk, Kenny Kirkman, Christopher Corbett, John Wilson, and Chip Bondurant are pictured left to right. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill.)

Great Expectations program receives \$2,000

Patrick & Henry Community College's Great Expectations program is the recipient of \$2,000.00 in emergency funds from Virginia Foundation for Community College Education in partnership with Anthem Healthkeepers. The funding will equitably assist Great Expectations students, providing direct student funding in emergency situations including but not limited to food and housing insecurities, transportation issues, academic supply needs, and childcare expenses.

"Many of our students rely on scholarships and other assistance to stay in school. We are so grateful to the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) for their continued support and assistance in securing these important funds from Anthem HealthKeepers. Their commitment to student success ensures our students will have access to a quality education and the support they need to complete their degree," said P&HCC Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement and P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood.



Student Success Center Coordinator Seberina Tatum and Great Expectations coach Briana Koger receive the VFCCE/Anthem donation from P&HCC Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement and P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood.

Great Expectations is a program that empowers Virginia's foster youth through active support and access to higher education. The program's mission is to mitigate barriers for students who have experienced foster care as they complete a course of study. Great Expectations students are paired with an adult coach to work together to assess student skills and interests and plan for the student's future. "We greatly appreciate Anthem contributing to the cause of the Great Expectations program, which is to help these students achieve program completion," said Great Expectations coach Briana Koger.

Landmark Center wins prestigious D.A. "Woody" Brown award

The Virginia Health Care Association - Virginia Center for Assisted Living has awarded a first place D.A. "Woody" Brown Community Involvement Award to The Landmark Center for their Community Easter Egg Hunt this year.

This partnership with Blue Ridge Therapy Connection, the Chamber of Commerce, and the community brings hundreds of children, parents, and of course, residents and their families to Landmark Drive to celebrate spring.

These awards recognize members who have demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and creativity in designing activity programs that encourage and support their residents and families. VHCA-VCAL acknowledges the outstanding activity



Accepting the D.A. "Woody" Brown Award for Special Event Programming are (L to R) Lori Saul, regional director of business development for Hill Valley Health Care; Belle Pendleton, Landmark Activities Coordinator; and Lisa Martin, Landmark Director of Community Relations.

programs that involve, entertain, educate, and enrich the individuals in their care each year. Winners were honored on September 13 at the annual VHCA-VCAL conference and awards banquet at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center.


Survey aims to combat digital divide among Virginia communities

A new statewide survey is working to bridge the digital divide among Virginia communities and offer all residents the necessary tools for learning, employment and other essential services. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Office of Broadband recently announced the launch of a statewide survey to gather data that will help develop the Virginia Digital Opportunity Plan. Digital opportunity is when all individuals and communities have the information technology needed for full participation in today's society, democ-

racy and economy, according to the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. The Virginia Digital Opportunity Plan will enable Virginians and eligible entities to apply for federal broadband funding from the Digital Equity Capacity Grant program. Grants will be used to improve the affordability of internet services in Virginia, increase digital literacy programming and resources, and fund unique programs that address the digital divide beyond access to physical broadband infrastructure. Conducted by the Southeastern Institute of Research in partnership

with Virginia DHCD, the survey aims to understand how Virginia citizens access and use internet services. Virginians are encouraged to complete the 10-minute survey to help the Virginia broadband office ensure that residents have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet—a persisting problem in rural America. In 2021, the Federal Communications Commission found that 17% of rural Americans lacked fixed broadband service at minimum speeds of 25/3 Mbps, compared to 1% of urban Americans. For many rural communities, access to health care, government services and educational and business opportunities can only be gained by using broadband services and sophisticated technologies that require high-speed connections. For farmers in rural areas, broadband access is essential to managing and operating successful businesses, but 18% of U.S. farms have no access to the internet, according to a 2021 U.S. Department of Agriculture re-

port. Farmers and ranchers depend on broadband to ship food, fuel and fiber across the country and around the world; follow commodity markets; communicate with customers; access new global markets; and comply with regulations. Limited broadband access impedes farmers' ability to embrace technology that allows their businesses to be more efficient, economical and environmentally friendly. Much of the latest technology, like precision agriculture, requires broadband connections for data collection and analysis performed on the farm and in remote data centers. For more information on rural broadband and its impact on American agriculture and communities, visit fb.org/issue/infrastructure/rural-broadband. To participate in the online survey, visit dhcd.virginia.gov/digital-opportunity. The survey is available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Ukrainian. Paper copies of the survey are available through the Virginia DHCD website.



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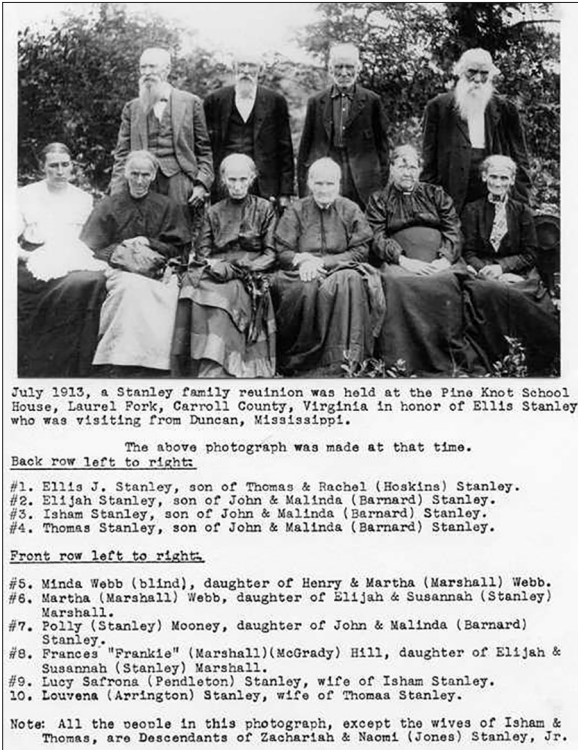
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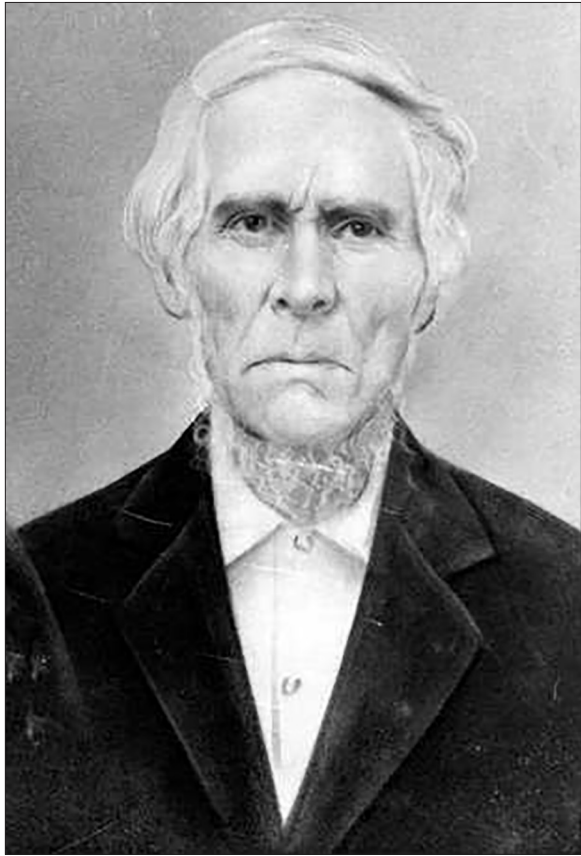
Stanley Family of Laurel Fork
By Beverly Belcher Woody

By the time that John's father, Zachariah Jr. had passed away in Illinois in 1835, John and Malinda Barnard Stanley had four children, Hiram (1828-1883), followed by Lucinda (1830-1889), Thomas (1833-1927), and Isham (1835-1926). Over the next nineteen years, John and Malinda had ten more children; Sarah (1837-



Stanley Family Reunion (Thank you Hilda Stanley Vivier.)

I recall while growing up hearing a story that there used to be a silver mine in the Squirrel Spur area. The story went that the only entrance to the silver mine was behind a waterfall on the



John Stanley, the Gunsmith. (Thank you to Hilda Stanley Vivier.)

A sincere thank you to Hilda Stanley Vivier for providing all the documentation and photographs for the Stanley story. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

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

Regarding the “special extra credit” for military service, Social Security FICA taxes weren’t withheld from military pay prior to 1957 so you didn’t pay Social Security payroll taxes (FICA) from your mili-

tary earnings during the years you served. As a result, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those 1951-1953 service years. But when you claimed Social Security later in life they would have asked if you served in the military and given you "special extra credit" in the form of presumed earnings for your service years. They likely would have asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your earnings record for each active duty month during those 1951-1953 years. Note they do not give you an extra amount of Social Security; rather, for benefit computation purposes, they reflect your earnings for those years a bit higher than are shown in your earnings record (which would likely show zero for your service years). For example, if you served 12 months active duty in 1952, when your Social Security benefit was calculated they would consider your 1952 earnings as \$1,920 ($\160×12), instead of the zero shown in your record because you didn't actually pay FICA tax on your military pay. But whether

So, the bottom line is this: if, over your lifetime, you worked for at least 35 years paying into Social Security via FICA payroll or self-employment tax, then the “special extra credits” for your military service years had no effect on your Social Security benefit. But if you worked less than 35 years in which SS taxes

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Volleyball Loses Two

By Ashlee Mullis
The Patrick County Volleyball Team suffered two losses last week.
The Lady Cougars lost in straight sets to Carroll County at home September 19 with scores of 13-25, 18-25, 23-25. Lilly Hazelwood and Marissa Bentley had 8 kills each. Eliza Clifton had 25 assists, and Journey Moore had 19 digs.
On September 21, Cougars travelled to James River, losing in straight sets 16-25, 17-25, 11-25. Hazelwood had 8 kills and 6 aces. Moore had 22 digs, 2 kills, and 2 assists. Clifton had 10 assists and 7 digs.

PCHS Sports Schedule

Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of Sept. 27-Oct. 3:
9/28 7pm Volleyball at Glanvar
9/29 7pm Football vs Floyd County
10/2 TBA Golf Region Competition at Floyd County
10/3 7pm Volleyball vs Radford

Golf Competes at Olde Mill



Parker Roop tees off during the match.

By Ashlee Mullis
The Patrick County Varsity Golf Team traveled to Olde Mill Golf Course, September 14, to compete in a match against Franklin County and Abington.
Abington won the match with a score of 317, followed by Franklin County with a score of 346. The Cougars shot 373 in the loss. Parker Roop shot an 88. Chance Corns, Kylee Joyce, and Lauren Worley all shot a 95 for Patrick County.
“We have sub-regionals at Olde Mill next week. We just need to keep working on our short game and shots in the scoring area,” said Coach Philip Steagall.

William Byron Claims Victory at Texas Motor Speedway, Secures Hendrick Motorsports’ 300th Cup Series Win

By Holly Cain
NASCAR Wire Service
Hendrick Motorsports driver William Byron took the lead on a restart with six laps remaining and held off the field to claim Sunday’s AutoTrader EchoPark Automotive 400 victory on a steamy-hot highly dramatic afternoon of NASCAR Cup Series Playoff action at Texas Motor Speedway.
It marks a historic 300th victory for the championship Hendrick Motorsports organization – the most in NASCAR history for a NASCAR Cup Series team - and is the series-best, personal-high single-season sixth victory of the year for the 25-year-old Charlotte native Byron. He came from third place on the final restart to ultimately drive away from the field and take a 1.863-second victory ahead of Trackhouse Racing’s Ross Chastain to claim an automatic berth in the Playoffs’ Round of 8 which starts in three weeks.
Those final six laps out front were the only laps Byron led all day. He turned in a fabulous final re-start in the race to pull ahead of 23XI Racing’s Bubba Wallace, who was out front on that start after leading a race-high, career-best 111 laps in his No. 23 23XI Racing Toyota. Wallace finished third, ahead of Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Christopher Bell and Denny Hamlin. All five drivers among the 2023 Playoff contingent.
“I finally got a good re-start at the end, and number 300 for Hendrick Motorsports, but [teammate] Kyle [Larson] really deserved this one, I’ve got to say, those guys were really fast all day and I hate it for them in the end,” Byron said, noting his teammate Larson’s crash while leading with 20 laps remaining.
“But man, it was awesome getting this car to the front. My car loved clean air. We just fought through traffic all day. My Liberty University Chevrolet was just tight back in traffic but had good pace. ... it was a grind-it-out day and our team was there at the end and I’m really proud of this one as hot as it was, it was tough. We’ll take it and go on to the next round.”
As for the historic 300th win for his team, Byron grinned, “I don’t know if I can even put it into words, I was such a Hendrick Motorsports fan growing up as a kid, watching Jimmie Johnson and became really fond of Jeff Gordon as I got to know him. Just thankful for all the men and women back at Hendrick Motorsports. ... just appreciate all Rick Hendrick has done for me. This is awesome. We’re really going to enjoy this one.”
Wallace, who turned in a career



FORT WORTH, TEXAS - SEPTEMBER 24: NASCAR Hall of Famer Rick Hendrick team owner of Hendrick Motorsport (L) and William Byron, driver of the #24 Liberty University Chevrolet, celebrate Hendrick Motorsports’ 300th NASCAR Cup Series win after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Autotrader EchoPark Automotive 400 at Texas Motor Speedway on September 24, 2023 in Fort Worth, Texas. (Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images)

day in his first career Playoff stint, was obviously disappointed in the final outcome. He started from pole position and his triple-digit laps out front were a personal best.
“Just choked,” Wallace said. “My worst re-start (of the day). Hate it for my team, hate it for [sponsor] McDonald’s. We deserved to be in victory lane but nothing’s ever guaranteed, you have to go out and fight for it and not give it away and that’s what I did.”
“We struggled a little in traffic but kept our heads in the game, made great strategy calls all day and had track position. So good points day.”
Larson had been out front for 34 laps and was racing alongside Wallace when his No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet got loose with 17 laps remaining and flushed into the outside wall. He looked strong all day leading 99 laps himself as Wallace’s strongest competitor for most of the afternoon.
“We just went in there side-by-side and I lost it,” said the 2021 series champion Larson, who finished 31st. “Pretty bummed, but happy for William and Mr. H. (Hendrick) Three hundred Cup series wins is incredible and a great night overall for our organization.”
Stewart-Haas Racing’s Kevin Harvick, Roush Fenway Keselowski driver Brad Keselowski. – also a Playoff driver, Trackhouse Racing’s Daniel Suárez, JTG Daugherty Rac-

ing’s Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and SHR’s Chase Briscoe rounded out the top 10.
There were 11 caution periods on the day and multiple issues for the 12 Playoff drivers competing in this three-round series of races to decide which eight will advance to the next round. Byron’s victory is an automatic ticket. Several other Playoff drivers had impactful days – for the good and bad – as well.
Among the other Playoff competitors, RFK’s Chris Buescher finished 14th and JGR’s Martin Truex Jr. – the regular season champion – finished 17th. Defending race winner Tyler Reddick – Wallace’s 23XI Racing teammate – was 25th.
Team Penske’s Ryan Blaney (28th), Hendrick’s Larson (31st) and Richard Childress Racing’s Kyle Busch (34th) all suffered DNFs – all involved in incidents.
It was indicative of the afternoon with 10 Playoff drivers experiencing some sort of setback – from crashes, to pit road penalties to pit road issues.
Bell had jack issues early. Hamlin had a pit road door-to-door collision with his JGR rookie teammate Ty Gibbs but was able to continue, while Gibbs’ Toyota suffered enough damage he had to retire early.
Busch’s No. 8 RCR Chevrolet slammed into the outside wall only a couple laps after the two-time series champion had radioed to his team

that he thought he had a front tire going down. He stayed out on track and ultimately suffered a rear tire failure on Lap 74, that slammed his Chevrolet hard into the wall. Busch drove it backwards all the way around the track and onto pit road, but the RCR team was unable to repair it.
“I was going to come to pit road and I second-guessed it and said, ‘I don’t think so, something’s wrong, something’s not right but it’s not a flat,’” Busch said. “Then all on its own, it just turned to the bottom of the race track in Turn 1, just swapped ends on me.”
“Hate it for everybody. For sure I thought our car was top five today.”
With the victory, Byron earned the automatic ticket to the next round. Hamlin now leads the points standings by 37 points on the ninth place elimination line. Buescher (plus-22), Bell (plus-20), Truex (plus-19), Chastain (plus-12), Keselowski (plus-8) and Larson (plus-2) round out the top eight.
Wallace is the first driver below the elimination line – two points behind Larson. Reddick is three points off the elimination line, followed by Blaney (-11) and Busch (-17) heading to the always unpredictable Talladega Superspeedway next week for the YallaWood 500 (2 p.m. ET, NBC, MRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Chase Elliott is the defending race winner.

P&HCC Named a 2023 Great College to Work

Patrick & Henry Community College is one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to the Great Colleges to Work For® program.

The results, released Monday in a special insert of The Chronicle of Higher Education, are based on a survey of 194 colleges and universities. In all, 72 of those institutions achieved “Great College to Work For” recognition for specific best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with Patrick & Henry Community College included among the small universities with 500 to 2,999 students.

“Patrick & Henry Community College is a great college to work for because we are on a mission to empower our students and their families to achieve economic success. We do this by providing education and training that leads to high demand jobs with wages that can support a family. In other words, we don’t just award degrees, we award “J-O-B” degrees - credentials that open the door to real, tangible career opportunities in our community,” said President Greg Hodges.

Patrick & Henry Community College won honors in 6 categories this year: Job Satisfaction & Support, Professional Development, Compensation & Benefits, Mission & Pride, Faculty Experience, and Confidence in Senior Leadership.

Patrick & Henry Community College was also named to the Great Colleges Honor Roll, a status granted to only 42 colleges each year who are highlighted most across the recognition categories.

“This is a very satisfying affirma-



Pictured are P&HCC employees Gary Dove (Chief of Campus Police), Steve Aaron (Payroll & Leave Specialist), Julie Meador (Associate Professor of Administrative Support Technology & Legal Assisting), and Chloe Mayhew (Coordinator of Dual Enrollment) celebrate the Great College to Work For distinction.

tion of Patrick & Henry Community College, but our real goal is not recognition – it’s being a community that values the needs and contributions of every individual. In that sense everyone at P&HCC helps to make this a great place to work,” said Hodges.

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institution questionnaire that captures employment data and workplace policies from each institution, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was employee feedback.

The Great Colleges to Work For® program is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. For more information and to view all current and previous recognized institutions, visit the Great Colleges program website at GreatCollegesProgram.com and GreatCollegesList.com. ModernThink, a strategic human capital consulting firm, administered the survey and analyzed the results.

Tri-Area to receive federal funds for renovation, expansion

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded \$1,201,000 to Tri-Area Community Health for the renovation and expansion of the Laurel Fork Clinic and Pharmacy in Carroll County, according to a release from Rep. Morgan Griffith. The funding was a fiscal year 2023 Community Project Funding request made by Griffith.

“I am pleased the Department of Health and Human Services has awarded this funding, which I requested, so that the Laurel Fork Clinic and Pharmacy has the resources its needs to update their facilities,” Griffith said. “The clinic provides a vital service to those living in Carroll County and this funding will ensure they are able to continue to do so.”

OBITUARIES

Emmett Leon Lawson

Emmett Leon Lawson, 82, of Ridgeway, VA, passed away on Monday, September 18, 2023. He was born in Stuart, VA, April 22, 1941 to the late Thomas Johnson Lawson and Mattie Stovall Lawson.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters Elva Hazelwood, Carrie Rakes, Mary Holt, Peggy Williams, Opal Turner, Jewett Bullins and Vergie Lawson; and his brothers Hanson Lawson, Clarence Lawson and Bennie Lawson.

He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Janice Marie Burney Lawson of Ridgeway, VA, his daughter Emily and Erik Nelson of Fairfax Station, VA and his son Thomas and Heather Lawson of Clover, SC. He was delighted with his grandchildren, Elizabeth Nelson, Catharine Nelson, Katie Lawson and Simon Lawson, and they were especially fond of his biscuits and gravy. He is also survived by in-laws, nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. Each of these were dearly loved and blessed by him.



Emmett worked as a Machine Operator, a Lab Technician and served on the Safety Committee before retiring from Dupont. Another of his almost lifelong professions was Butcher which he did for grocery stores, as well as independently, for farmers and hunters alike.

Although blessed with jobs that gave Emmett and his family a good life, his favorite “job” was farming and mowing. He did both almost to the very end and many have benefitted from his efforts. He became an EMT to volunteer with the Ridgeway Rescue Squad, served at the voting polls and helped set up the 911 system in Henry County. He also shared his garden and meats, mowed numerous yards and fields, served in summer church camps,

provided engineering expertise and the list goes on and on.

If you knew Emmett, chances are that he helped you in some way. He did not come empty-handed and gave from his heart. God blessed him generously and he returned the favor to family, friends and strangers, thus serving His heavenly Father and his neighbor well.

Emmett’s Celebration of Life and Internment was held on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at Living Waters Outreach Ministry was officiated by Pastors Bud Sedwick, Curtis Stump and Travis Burney. Pallbearers who served Emmett’s family were as follows: Billy Corns, Dustin Harbour, Danny Lamberth, Joey Lamberth, Ryan Lawson and Jimmy Sands. Interment followed the service at Mountain View Cemetery. A visitation was held from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at Collins Funeral Home on Friday night September 22, 2023.

Collins Funeral Home, Bassett, Va. is serving the family.

To express condolences online, please visit www.collinsmckeeestonebassett.com.

Drop sites, dates of Pesticide Collection Program

Farmers, pesticide dealers, pest control firms, certified applicators, homeowners and golf course operators are encouraged to participate in the 2023 Virginia Pesticide Collection Program. The program collects unwanted, outdated or banned pesticides, at no cost to eligible participants, and disposes of them in a safe manner.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Office of Pesticide Services, with participation from Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, oversee the program, which has collected and destroyed more than 1.8 million pounds of outdated and unwanted pesticides since its inception. The program is funded through pesticide product registration fees collected by VDACS.

The following is a list of the 2023

collection sites and schedule. All locations are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sept. 27 - Southern States-Farmers Cooperative, 182 Smi Way, Farmville, Va.

Sept. 28 - Meherrin Ag & Chemical, 1409 Vincent Store Rd., Charlotte Court House, Va.

Oct. 3 - Nutrien Ag (Fertilizer Warehouse), 204 South Lunenburg Ave., South Hill, Va.

Oct. 4 - Halifax County Agriculture Marketing Center, 1001 Farmway Ln., Scottsburg, Va.

Oct. 5 - Piedmont Farmers Cooperative (Formerly known as Southern States Chatham Co-op), 485 Tightsqueeze Industrial Rd., Chatham, Va.

Oct. 11 - National Guard Armory, 315 Commonwealth Blvd. W., Martinsville, Va.

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Vicki Bennett - New York Life

Lisa Martin - The Landmark Center

Debbie Tatum - Dept. of Social Services

Ciera Wilson - Southern Area Agency on Aging

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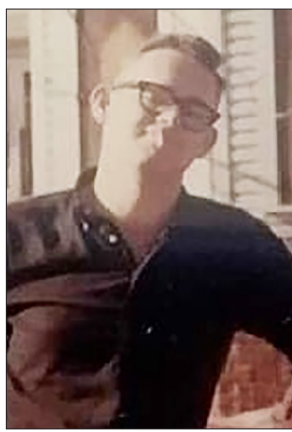
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William Haynes Gunter

Mr. William Haynes Gunter, age 80 of Stuart, Virginia passed away Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at his home. He was born in Sumter, South Carolina on January 1, 1943, to the late William Irvin Gunter and Rheba Haynes Gunter. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sons, Christopher Todd Gunter, and Adam Haynes Gunter. Mr. Gunter was a straightforward man, he loved his cars, kids, and animals. Mr. Gunter is survived by four children, Samuel Gunter



(Patricia) of Collinsville, Rebekah Baker (Jeff) of Martinsville, Tiffany Bateman (David) of Port St. Lucie, Florida, and Junebug Reynolds of Stuart; sixteen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren;

one brother, John Gunter of Riner, Virginia; his dog, Big Boy; and his cats. A graveside service for Mr. Gunter will be held Saturday, September 23, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in the Gunter Family Cemetery with Alfred Turner officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Clover Cat Rescue, P.O. Box 829, Stuart, VA 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is in charge of the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Elsie Mae Clark Fain Phillips

Mrs. Elsie Mae Clark Fain Phillips, age 96 of Stuart, passed away Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection. She was born on August 2, 1927 to the late Jim and Una Clark. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Phillips was preceded in death by her first husband, Albert Fain, a second husband, Ralph Burton Phillip; six, brothers and sisters. Mrs. Phillips was a good Christian woman and a very sweet lady who loved everyone. She loved working in her flowers and was best known as "Granny Fain". Mrs. Phillips is sur-



vived by three children, James Fain and wife Mary of Patrick Springs, VA, Dorothy Cockram and husband Bobby of Myrtle Beach, SC, and Patsy Hyler of Cascade, VA; six grandchildren; four step grandchildren; eleven

great-grandchildren; six step great-grandchildren; one brother, John Clark of Georgia; one sister, Rose Lawson of Patrick Springs, VA; several nieces and nephews. A graveside service for Mrs. Phillips will be held on Friday, September 22, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. in the Community Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery with Elder Tim McGrady officiating. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Dovie Marie Fain Spencer

Mrs. Dovie Marie Fain Spencer, age 84, of Patrick Springs, Virginia departed this earthly life on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at her residence. She was born on May 31, 1939, to the late James Irvin Fain and Nancy Emmarie Handy Fain. In addition to her parents, Dovie was preceded in death by three brothers, Ralph Fain, Raymond Fain, and Charlie Fain. Dovie had retired from Bassett Walker with over 30 years of experience and enjoyed creating quilts. She was a loving wife, mother, "granny or ninny", great-grandmother, sister, and aunt. Mrs. Spencer will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. Left to cherish the special memories of



Mrs. Dovie Spencer are her loving husband, Frank A. Spencer, Sr. of the home; one son, Frank A. Spencer, Jr. of Stuart, Virginia; one daughter, Teresa Spencer Lawson of Patrick Springs, Virginia; five grandchildren, Joshua Wayne Lawson, Autumn Angel Spencer, Kevan Tanner Spencer, Kody Austin Spencer, Keeper Trey Spencer; one great-grandchild, Gaike Devon Lawson; three sisters-in-law,

Sue Fain of Stuart, Virginia, Carol Fain of Stuart, Virginia, Joann Fain of Rocky Mount, Virginia; two nephews; one niece; and many dear friends. A funeral service for Mrs. Dovie Spencer will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor J.R. Shelton officiating. The burial will follow the funeral service in Patrick Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends on Sunday evening, September 24, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Spencer family, and online condolences may be expressed by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Rhonda McAlexander Gunter

Mrs. Rhonda McAlexander Gunter, age 43 of Stuart, passed away Friday, September 22, 2023, at her home. She was born on December 31, 1979, in Martinsville. She was preceded in death by her husband, Adam Haynes Gunter. Rhonda worked at Spectrum Brands in Blacksburg and was a member of Peters Creek Baptist Church. She loved taking pictures of her family, the ocean, and the various trips they would take. She was a loving mother, wife, daughter, and sister.



Surviving are two daughters, Kelsey Gunter, and Kaitlyn Gunter; her parents, Jerry, and Pam Belcher McAlexander; her brother, Ryan McAlexander all of Woolwine; several aunts, uncles, cousins; and

her special fur babies, Piccolo, and Dorian. A graveside service will be held Friday, September 29, 2023, at 2:00pm, at the Gunter Family Cemetery with Rev. Terry Ragsdale officiating. The family will receive friends from 12:30 to 1:30 at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Rhonda M. Gunter Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 307, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Betty Lou "Evelean" Lawson Gammons

Mrs. Betty Lou "Evelean" Lawson Gammons, age 85 of Westfield, North Carolina (formerly of Martinsville, Virginia) passed away on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at the Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson, North Carolina. She was born in Patrick County on May 29, 1938, to the late Jesse Allen Lawson and Rachel Beasley Lawson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph E. Gammons; one son, Joey Allen Gammons; one sister, Patsy Willard; and one brother, Bennie Lawson. Evelean was a faithful member of Trinity Baptist Church in Westfield for over 50 years. She deeply

loved and enjoyed her church, working in the church, her family (especially being Granny), and serving the Lord. Left to cherish the memory of Mrs. Gammons are her daughter, Lisa Rogers and husband, Howie; two grandchildren, Meagan Lawson and husband, Andy and Dillon Rogers and wife, Shelby; three great-grandchildren, Jacob Lawson, Maggie Lawson, and Lane Rogers; brother, Jim Lawson and Sue Hall; sister-in-law, Brenda Lawson; and several nieces and nephews; and beloved dog, Chloe. A funeral service for Mrs. Gammons will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at Moody Funeral Home in Stu-

art with Pastor Tommy Nichols officiating. Burial will be private. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service on Tuesday afternoon at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Trinity Baptist Church, 1233 Collinstown Road, Westfield, NC 27053. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com. The family would like to extend their sincere thanks and gratitude to Mountain Valley Hospice for all the care your staff rendered to Mrs. Gammons. You made her last days much brighter and comfortable. For that they are very grateful and appreciative.

Donald Lee Haynes

Donald Lee Haynes, 88 of Floyd formerly of Woolwine, passed away on Thursday, September 21, 2023. He is preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Claudine Vest Haynes; parents, Murray C. & Allene Moran Haynes; and brother & sister-in-law, James C. & June Haynes. He is survived by his son & daughter-in-law, Anthony & Jessica Talley-Haynes; grandchildren, Alexis Hudson and Sekai Talley-LaRoche; great-grandchild, Eleanor Hudson; sisters-in-law & brother-in-law, Ina Wood and Lorine & David Huff;



nephew, J.C. (Barbara) Haynes; and nieces, Anita (Lamont) Lancaster and Debra Cook. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 23, 2023 in the Jacksonville Cemetery with Rev. Richard Thomas officiating and Military Rites by the VFW Post

#7854 and American Legion Post #127. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Doris Harris, Mike Still, and Barbara Pack for their love and devotion as caregivers. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Floyd County Fire Department, P.O. Box 33, Floyd, VA 24091, to the Floyd County Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 257, Floyd, VA 24091, or to the Floyd County Humane Society, P.O. Box 862, Floyd, VA 24091. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.maberryfuneralhome.com.

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OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

PATRICK PULPITS

Life is but a Vapor and Tomorrow is not Assured

By Evonne Wimbush
Fresh Harvest Christian Church
(D.O.C.)

As we go through life there are good and bad days, ups and downs, moments of disappointment and moments of joy. We each handle situations differently and at times, surprise ourselves with our reactions. Without a thought, we consider that tomorrow is assured.

We can be laughing and talking at 9 a.m. and be gone from this earth at 9:01 a.m. We tend to take things, people, places, and time for granted, not considering that life is short. We get upset with one another and choose not to speak or we harbor resentment. There is no assurance that tomorrow will come for us; we may not have the opportunity to ask for forgiveness or to forgive. You do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. James 4:14.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tender-

hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31-32 KJV. When you forgive, God will forgive you (Mark 11:25). Won't you forgive someone today?

Gone too soon are loved ones and borderline loved ones. Gone too soon are friends and family. Gone too soon is the opportunity to give someone a smile or make their life a bit brighter. Once we leave this earth there is no longer the opportunity to "make things right." Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered – how fleeting my life is. You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath. Psalm 39:4-5 NLT.

Embrace today and thank God for the new mercies that He showed you (Lamentations 3:22-23). Show your gratitude by forgiving someone today. Give thanks by letting go of hatred, bitterness, and envy. Live today with a grateful and forgiving heart. Life is but a vapor, and tomorrow is not assured.

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1:00 pm - Walk ends

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BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Esther (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who killed 69 of his brethren, but spared Jotham for he hid himself? Abimelech, Jeroboam, Uzziah, Hiram
3. From Proverbs 25, "Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without ____." Meaning, Hope, Breeze, Rain
4. Who was the wife of Ananias, who died along with her husband after lying about an offering? Jezebel,

Anna, Sapphira, Jael

5. Which two foods were said to flow in the land of Canaan? Peaches/Cream, Figs/Apples, Milk/Honey, Manna/Bison

6. What were the Israelites, as slaves of Egypt, mainly forced to make? Bread, Bricks, Staffs, Spears

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Abimelech, 3) Rain, 4) Sapphira, 5) Milk/Honey, 6) Bricks

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

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Super Crossword

OH NO!

ACROSS

- 1 Vermicelli, e.g.
6 Commercial spots
9 16th-century pope
14 Olympic length unit
19 Had a dull, steady pain
20 Chart topper, often
22 Cockeyed
23 Hidden stockpiles of certain infield bags?
25 Low-pH liquids
26 Certain Southern sib
27 Tax doc. whiz
28 Lead-in to Pen
30 Ranch unit
31 Grassy tract
34 Instructions for securing a bottle with a screw cap?
39 Gods, in Italy
40 Some thin batteries
43 Owner of Zipcar
44 Promotional links
45 Dad providing the finances?
49 Cottage cheese piece

- 50 Reject, as a lover
51 Turner of "Betrayed"
52 Sashimi fish
53 Jestng type
56 Bane of not knowing which college major to choose?
62 Vigoda of old TV and film
65 Hirer of many 27-Acrosses, for short
66 Skyrocket
67 Toll highway
68 Chemistry class cost
70 Like the letter O in this puzzle's entire solution
73 Applies drippings to
75 Brain flash
76 Hajj city
77 "Palooka" actor Erwin
78 She's shearable
79 Design of a three-masted ship?
86 "The Addams Family" cousin
87 Swivel on an axis
88 Ribald
89 Org. against pet abuse

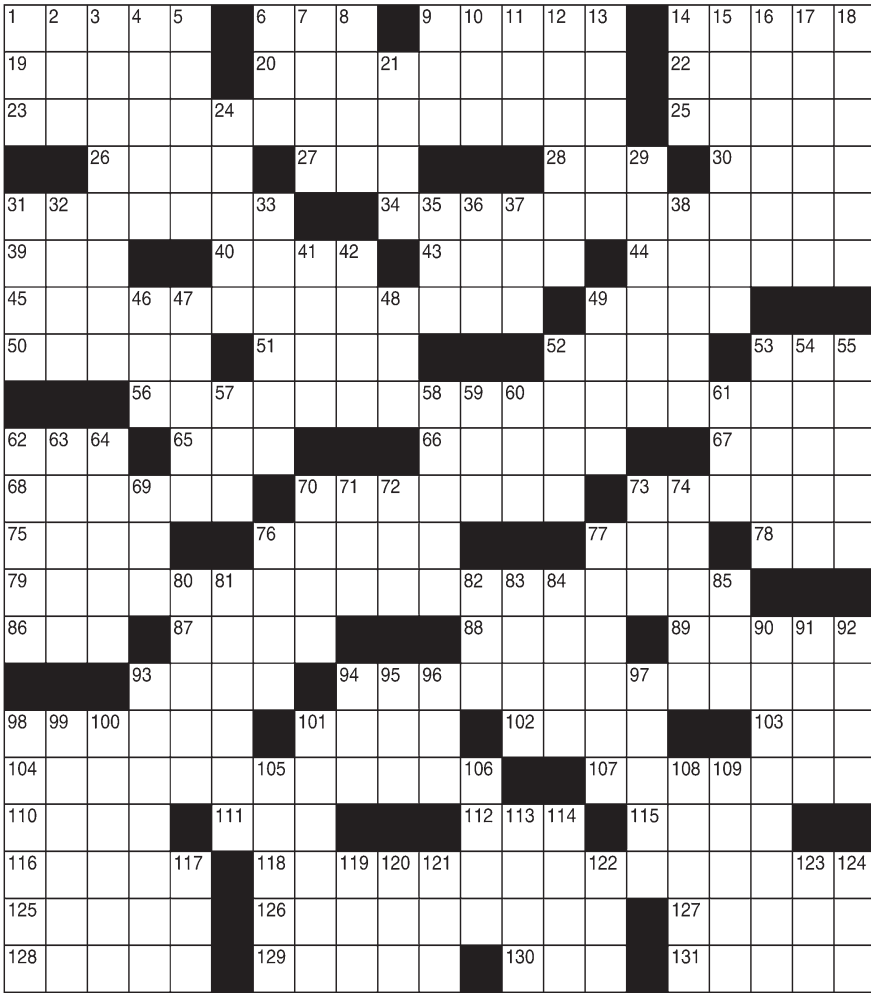
- 93 "Will you let me?"
94 Reiner or Sagan wearing a Santa suit?
98 Hawaiian porches
101 Diminish
102 Malevolent
103 Eat dinner
104 British apartment doubling as a malt shop?
107 Ticks by
110 Sister of Meg, Jo and Amy
111 Diminish
112 Comedic actress Issa
115 Fit for the job
116 Lauder of makeup
118 Famous German taleteller who lived in a farm building?
125 Rhythmic swings
126 Rhythmic way to march
127 Strike hard, biblical-style
128 Very inclined axis
129 Dutch cheeses
130 Stitch clothes
131 Consequently

DOWN

- 1 Butter square
2 Frau's "Alas!"
3 Small, agile Japanese dog breed
4 Irwin of "Crikey! It's the Irwins"
5 "Puff" snake
6 "I have it!"
7 Part of DVD
8 Stride
9 Actress Zadora
10 Business mag
11 "I hate it!"
12 Precipitates cold pellets
13 Italian motor scooter brand
14 Hamm of soccer
15 Boxed up
16 Slow-paced martial art
17 Footballer's sweep
18 "Start over" buttons
21 "Begone!"
24 Queen guitarist May
29 Not off-key
31 Alternatives to JPEGs
32 Sign on for another tour of duty
33 Hawk cousins
35 Toddler's cry

- 36 "— got a feeling ..."
37 Geraint's title
38 Theoretical physicist Paul
41 Way yonder
42 Did karaoke
46 Joanne of "Red River"
47 Bellybutton type
48 Driveway goo
49 Adorable
52 Eldest son of Mitt Romney
53 Be the author of
54 Cockeyed
55 Duck cousins
57 Rapping "Dr."
58 Very, in music scores
59 Hwy. crime
60 Banquet liquid holder
61 Rival of DHL and FedEx
62 Perp's story
63 Having no knack for
64 Roger of "At the Movies"
69 E-help page
70 No more than
71 Former U.S. RR regulator
72 Educ. facility
73 A/C meas.
74 Subtle glews
76 Kihel's island
77 Perplex
80 Pan Am rival

- 81 Paris palace
82 Bi- plus one
83 Make lighter
84 Video surveillance syst.
85 PC key abbr.
90 Submits, as a test paper
91 Mötley —
92 High peaks
93 Jungle knife
94 Half- (java option)
95 "Good" cholesterol, for short
96 Lulu Hogg player Peggy
97 Imam's God
98 Vilifies in print
99 Scores 100 on the test
100 Stinging plant
101 Certain radio frequency range
105 Yippee Hoffman
106 Not false
108 Discomit
109 Large feather
113 Raggedy — (some dolls)
114 Livy's "Lo!"
117 Seer's "gift"
119 Sanyo rival
120 '60s war site
121 ENTs, e.g.
122 Hack down
123 & so forth
124 Once called



Puzzle answers page 12

CLASSIFIED

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Searching for high school student to help landowner with weekend mowing and occasional additional outdoor work. If interested, please call 276-694-6510.

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Room for rent in Stuart. Available October 1st. Single only. Call or text 276-224-2596 for information.

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LEGAL

PS Form 3526 (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)			
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE LEASE & OPERATION OF THE STAR THEATRE TOWN OF STUART, VIRGINIA

The Town of Stuart is seeking proposals from interested parties and organizations to lease, operate, and manage the Star Theatre, a 250 seat facility located in Stuart, Virginia. The Facility is owned by the Town of Stuart and is centrally located in the Stuart Downtown Historic District, at 318 Patrick Avenue.

The Town intends to enter into agreement with an organization that has demonstrated experience in theatrical management or other qualified experience involving live performances, music, film, spoken word, and/or conference activities. Respondents to this Request for Proposal must demonstrate an understanding of current market trends in their written submission, and verbally, through presentation to the Stuart Town Council.

The Town of Stuart will accept bound and concise Proposals until 4:00 PM (EST), on Thursday, November 2nd, 2023. Two (2) hard copies, and one (1) digital copy (via email or direct link accepted), of the Statements shall be mailed or hand-delivered to PO Box 422, 100 Patrick Avenue, Stuart, VA 24171. Inquiries regarding this solicitation should be made prior to Thursday, October 12th 2023, to Kathleen McEvoy of the West Piedmont Planning District Commission.

The full Request for Proposal can be found on the Town of Stuart's website at: WWW.STUARTVA.ORG
INQUIRIES
Pre-submission questions and inquiries regarding any aspect of this Request for Proposal or any other matters related to this RFP may be directed in writing to the Town of Stuart representative by October 12th.

Kathleen McEvoy
Director of Community Development
West Piedmont Planning Commission
1100 Madison St
Martinsville, VA 24112
kmcvoy@wppdc.org
(276) 638-3987

PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

Respondents must submit (2) sealed copies of the proposal, and one digital copy. Proposals are due on November 2, 2022 at 4:00 and submitted to:

Town of Stuart, VA
Attn: Town Clerk
PO Box 422
100 Patrick Avenue
Stuart, VA 24171

LEGAL

VDOT

Virginia Department of Transportation ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2023-2024. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubbertire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at https://plow4va.com/. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (https://eva.virginia.gov).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Monday October 2, 2023 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday. Phone: 276-629-2582
Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov
EEO/AA Employer

LEGAL

JUSTICE COURT, LAS VEGAS TOWNSHIP Clark County Nevada

Ahern Rentals Inc, Plaintiff(s))
vs.) Case No. **22C013102**
Land Unlimited LLC, Jody Dellenback) Department No.: **05**
Defendant(s))
SUMMONS

NOTICE: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS.' READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is set forth below, an Answer to the Complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

* If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 20 days after this Summons is served on you, exclusive of the day of service, you must do the following:


- File with the Clerk of the Court, whose address is shown below, a formal written response (Answer) to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the Court. A \$71.00 filing fee is required, or you must file an Application to Proceed In Forma Pauperis and request a waiver of the fee. (You may obtain forms and information at the Civil Law Self-Help Center located in the Regional Justice Center or at its website at http://www.civillawselfhelpcenter.org/.)
- Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address is shown below.

* Unless you respond, your default will be entered upon application of the Plaintiff, and this Court may enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief.

* If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney, you should do so promptly so that your response will be timely.

Kopolow, Stephen R, ESQ 8533

Mark A. Kirkorsky PC
8020 W Sahara Ave Ste 225
Las Vegas, NV 89117
888-519-2173
Attorney Name, Address and Phone

By: 
DEPUTY CLERK
Justice Court,
Las Vegas Township
Regional Justice Center
200 Lewis Avenue
PO Box 552511
Las Vegas, NV 89155-2511
06/13/2022
Date

APPROPRIATE COURTROOM ATTIRE AND SHOES ARE REQUIRED. NO SHORTS, HALTER TOPS, TANK TOPS, FOOD OR DRINK ARE PERMITTED.

¹Notwithstanding the above, the State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, employees, board members, commission members, and legislators, each have 45 days after service of this Summons within which to file an Answer to the Complaint.

² When service of the Summons is made by publication, the Summons shall, in addition to any special statutory requirements, also contain a brief statement of the object of the action substantially as follows: "This action is brought to recover a judgment for the sum of (indicate dollar amount), due and owing," or as the case may be. (JCRC4(b)).

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Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan Receives Federal Approval

The federal government has approved Virginia’s application to change the essential health benefits (EHB) benchmark plan for Affordable Care Act (ACA) health plans offered in the Commonwealth in the individual and small-group markets beginning January 1, 2025. The EHB benchmark plan sets the required benefits that must be provided by comprehensive fully insured individual and small-group health insurance coverage issued in Virginia. This is the first time changes have been made to Virginia’s EHB benchmark plan since 2017.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency primarily responsible for ACA oversight, approved Virginia’s application in late August.

The State Corporation Commission’s (SCC) Bureau of Insurance (Bureau) submitted the application pursuant to legislation passed by the 2023 Virginia General Assembly directing the Bureau to select a new EHB benchmark plan for plan year 2025.

In addition to the legislation regarding the 2025 EHB benchmark plan, the 2023 General Assembly passed legislation that establishes a new formalized process for future review and updates to Virginia’s EHB benchmark plan.

“We are pleased to announce CMS’s approval of these benefits for the 2025 EHB benchmark plan as specified by the Virginia General Assembly,” said

Virginia Insurance Commissioner Scott A. White. “We look forward to our continuing future review of potential health benefit options to present to legislators for possible inclusion in the EHB benchmark plan for individuals and small groups who purchase fully insured health coverage in Virginia.”

Among the changes that have been made to Virginia’s EHB benchmark plan for qualifying health plans that begin January 1, 2025, are the following:

- Coverage for enhanced prosthetic devices and components – the new EHB benchmark plan redefines medically necessary prosthetics to include myoelectric, biomechanical or microprocessor-controlled prosthetic devices; and
- Formula and enteral nutrition products for inherited metabolic disorders as medicine – the new EHB benchmark plan requires coverage of orally administered, medically necessary formula and removes the requirement that medically necessary medical formula provide more than 51% of caloric needs.

Benefit changes to Virginia’s EHB benchmark plans do not apply to grandfathered plans or large-group plans, such as plans offered through large employers (51 or more employees).

A state’s EHB benchmark plan must include coverage for the following:

- *Ambulatory patient services
- *Emergency services
- *Hospitalization
- *Maternity and newborn care
- *Mental health and substance use disorder services
- *Prescription drugs
- *Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices
- *Laboratory services
- *Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management
- *Pediatric services, including oral and vision care

For questions or to learn more about Virginia’s 2025 EHB benchmark plan, contact the Bureau of Insurance by telephone at 804-371-9741 in Richmond or toll-free at 1-877-310-6560, by email at BureauofInsurance@scc.virginia.gov, or visit its website at Virginia SCC - Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan.

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. JJ004919-06-00/07-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §8.01-316
PATRICK J & DR - JUVENILE
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* EASTER, BREYER
PATRICK CO. DSS v. TIFFANY ALFRED
RONALD EASTER

The object of this suit is to: PATRICK CO. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES SEEKS TO TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF TIFFANY, ALFRED, MOTHER AND RONALD EASTER, FATHER TO THE CHILD BORN TO THEM ON 6-16-2019 NAMED BREYER EASTER. ALL PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 16.1-283 It is ORDERED that TIFFANY ALFRED & RONALD EASTER appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before 10/26/2023 at 2:30 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 *Kimberly R. Belmgia*
[] CLERK [] JUDGE

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. JJ004920-06-00/07-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §8.01-316
PATRICK J & DR - JUVENILE
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* EASTER, RYDER
PATRICK CO. DSS v. TIFFANY ALFRED
RONALD EASTER

The object of this suit is to: PATRICK CO. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES SEEKS TO TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF TIFFANY, ALFRED, MOTHER AND RONALD EASTER, FATHER TO THE CHILD BORN TO THEM ON 6-16-2019 NAMED RYDER EASTER. ALL PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 16.1-283 It is ORDERED that TIFFANY ALFRED & RONALD EASTER appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before 10/26/2023 at 2:30 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 *Kimberly R. Belmgia*
[] CLERK [] JUDGE

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF A MODIFICATION TO ITS
RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, BC-RAC, PURSUANT
TO §§ 56-585.1 A 6 AND 56-585.1:9 OF THE
CODE OF VIRGINIA
CASE NO. PUR-2023-00102

- Appalachian Power Company (“APCo”) has applied for approval to revise its rate adjustment clause, BC-RAC.
- In this case, APCo has asked the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) to approve the BC-RAC for the rate year beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025 (“2024 Rate Year”).
- For the 2024 Rate Year, APCo requests a revenue requirement of \$6.75 million, which would increase the bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per month by \$0.92.
- A Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on December 13, 2023, at 10 a.m., for the receipt of public witness testimony.
- An evidentiary hearing will also be held on December 13, 2023, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive the testimony and evidence of the Company, any respondents, and Staff.
- Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On August 25, 2023, Appalachian Power Company (“APCo” or “Company”) filed a petition (“Petition”) with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 and § 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia, seeking to approve to revise its existing Broadband Capacity Rate Adjustment Clause, the BC-RAC, to reflect the actual costs of providing broadband capacity under the Company’s existing broadband projects in Grayson County and Bland and Montgomery Counties, respectively, as well as the projected costs associated with its broadband project in Patrick, Henry, and Franklin Counties.

Through its Petition, APCo requests approval of an annual revenue requirement of approximately \$6.75 million through its existing BC-RAC to be in effect during the rate year beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025. The Company states that the annual revenue requirement is related to all three broadband projects and is composed of three elements: a combined forecast revenue component of \$5.76 million; a true-up revenue component credit of \$3.84 million; and a bridge period revenue component of \$4.83 million. The Company states that implementation of the revised BC-RAC, as proposed, will result in an increase of \$0.92, or 0.6%, on the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month.

Interested persons are encouraged to review APCo’s Petition and supporting documents in full for details about these and other proposals.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Petition and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company’s Petition and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on APCo’s Petition. On December 13, 2023, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned will hold the telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before December 6, 2023, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Hearing Examiner to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filing out a form on the Commission’s website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on December 13, 2023, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On December 13, 2023, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and has required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company’s Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: James G. Ritter, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or jritter@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before December 6, 2023, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition electronically by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00102.

On or before November 1, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be sent to counsel for the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00102.

On or before November 8, 2023, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness’s testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on Staff, the Company, and all other respondents. In all filings, the respondent shall comply with the Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00102.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice.

The Commission’s Rules of Practice, the public version of the Company’s Petition, the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in this case may be viewed on the Commission’s website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

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Meetings

Wednesday, Sept. 27

The Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) will meet at 7 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building.

Events

Saturday, Sept. 30

Walk to End Alzheimer's, 10 a.m., DeHart Park, Stuart, \$25 registration includes T-shirt and breakfast.

Sunday, Oct. 1

The family reunion of the descendants of Jim Payne and Minnie Lankford will be at the Peters Creek Community Building. The meal will be at 1:30 p.m. and people are encouraged to bring a covered dish.

The Woolwine Methodist Food Truck will be at the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department from 3-4:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, Oct. 3 – Oct. 17

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) will hold a Photography Workshop Introduction to Photography every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. The cost is \$60 and pre-registration is required by going to ph.augusoft.net or calling (276) 656-5461.

Friday, Oct. 6

Stuart Farmers' Market, 8 a.m. to noon. Tool Sharpening available for a fee.

First Friday Fall Jam Series, 6 p.m., Stuart Farmers' Market, Downtown Stuart.

Saturday, Oct. 7

The Woolwine Methodist women will be making apple butter and having a yard sale starting at 9 a.m.

The Meadows of Dan Women's Club will hold Bingo at the Meadows of Dan Community Center with doors opening at 5 p.m. and games starting at 6 p.m. Food will be available for sale.

Sunday, Oct. 8

Buffalo Ridge Pentecostal Holiness Church will hold its homecoming beginning at 10:30 a.m. with singing by the church group "The Voices of Praise." At 11:15 a.m. the preaching

service will begin with Bishop Tommy McGhee and a covered dish meal will follow in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Volunteers are needed for the Woolwine October Festival Community Apple Peeling starting at 8 a.m. at the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department Grounds in Woolwine. Lunch will be provided.

The Patrick County Community Food Bank will hold a food distribution day at the Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m. There will be a morning distribution in Ararat from 8:30-11 a.m., and an evening distribution in Meadows of Dan from 5-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 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 Johnny Joyce and friends. The Landmark Center and Blue Ridge Therapy Connection will be providing the meal for all attendees. Attendees are requested to bring desserts to share with the group.

Friday, Oct. 13

The second annual Early Childhood Community Connections Event will be at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Frith building, room 129-exhibit hall from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Stuart Farmers' Market, 8 a.m. till noon. Fall crops of spinach, kale, leafy greens and more.

Saturday, Oct. 14

The annual Woolwine October Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department Grounds. Admission is free.

Ongoing

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

The Patrick County Library hosts Story Time with Ms. Sam at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, with books, songs, finger plays, and more. For more information, call (276) 694-3352.

The Patrick County Library will hold the LEGO Club with Ms. Sam on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. This program is mainly intend-

ed for school age children. For more information, call the library at (276) 694-3352.

The Patrick County Quilters' Sit-N-Sew is held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Quilted Colors. For more information, call 276-694-3020 or email patrickcountyquilters@gmail.com.

The Stuart Elementary School Running Club will hit the pavements along the sidewalks in town on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

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

The Patrick County Parks and Recreation Office is now accepting basketball registration for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Students who are currently in grades K - 7 are eligible to participate in the recreation department's basketball program. Registration forms are available at any elementary school or parents can call the recreation office at (276) 694 – 3917 to register children. The deadline for registration is Friday, October 27, 2023. Games will begin the second week of November 2023.

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. Event is for anyone wanting a deeper understanding of the Old Testament and how it relates to us now. Come and discover the Hebrew side of the Christian Faith during the meetings held at The Honey Pot, 106 N. Main St., Stuart (across from The Coffee Break). Call (276) 694-2356 for more information. Last Tuesday of each month, Golden Oldies, Open Jam at Willis Gap Community Center, 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat, with 50s, 60s, 70s Rock and Roll. Doors open at 6 p.m. Music gets underway at 7. Food is available.

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NOTICE

All announcements to be included in the Community Calendar must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday the week before publish date. Items are published as space permits. Email to: dhall@theenterprise.net

Super Crossword

Answers

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Garcia

(cont. from page 1)


and specifically across Virginia,” he said.

To be successful and reverse some of the economic problems across the U.S. and Virginia, Garcia believes the government needs to concentrate on rural America and blue-collar workers of all backgrounds and persuasions.

“We got to bring jobs and opportunities back to smaller towns to start to rebuild them, and hopefully when we do that, there’ll be less of an inflow into some of these overpopulated population centers like Northern Virginia,” he said.


There, Garcia said the number of people and workers makes it difficult to find housing and jobs that support the expensive cost of living prevalent in the area.

“So, we’re kind of in a bad scenario on both sides,” he said. “I think to reverse that, we got to have a blue-collar agenda outside of the population center. We really got to focus on rural America and rural Virginia.”



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right now internationally because we’re so weak domestically,” he said. “We’ve got to reengineer the outsourcing, and offshoring that we’ve seen take place over the last 30 years.”

To do that, Garcia said the U.S. needs to grow job sectors it can lean on in a future economy, such as robotics, cyber security, industry, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

A sensible energy policy will lessen or end the country’s current dependency on foreign powers for oil and other energy sources, Garcia said.

“I believe we need a lower 48-state nuclear energy program that connects all lower 48-states,” he said of the program that would “drive down the cost of energy overall, employ people in the next 30 years because it’s going to build out. I think that’s how we start to reengineer what’s been hollowed out for 30 years.”

While it may take “30 years to bring back, you got to start now,” he said, adding he doesn’t think anyone in D.C. is really focusing on solutions.

Education

Garcia is running on a national school-choice voucher program.

“I think that the purpose of education is for the betterment of the child, and right now there’s a lot of money that comes from the federal government that gets split off in a variety of places before it actually gets to the education of that child,” he said.

Through the school voucher program, Garcia wants to give a voucher, money for a child, directly to the parents so they can decide what they want to do.

“If they want to homeschool their kid, they can cash in that voucher and homeschool their kid,” he said.

For example, Garcia said he and his wife homeschooled their two daughters for two years. At the same time, the Arlington Public School District received nearly \$20,000 per child per year.

“So, \$ 40,000-year number one, and \$ 40,000-year number two,” he said. “We didn’t get a tax break, we didn’t get a deduction, we didn’t qualify for any programs, we had to pay for all the curriculum and all the supplies from our own pocket. Meanwhile, the \$40,000 still went to the public school system.”

Garcia said those funds could help a single parent who earns about \$40,000 a year in a regular job and is sending her two children to a failing public school.

“She could be able to stay, homeschool her kids, collect the same amount of money, and actually spend time and educate her kids; raise her kids,” he said.

As a family and faith conservative, Garcia said families should be encouraged to spend as much time with their children as possible “as that’s how children learn the best.”

If families don’t want to homeschool their children, Garcia said the vouchers can subsidize private schools, charter schools, and other alternative school types.

With this program, Garcia said class sizes in public schools will be reduced because fewer children would attend public schools. This will allow for more adult supervision, more quality learning, and fewer distractions for those remaining students.

Term-Limits

Garcia said incumbents win nearly 90 percent of all elections, partially because they spend their entire time in public office raising money. Others spend time working for their families and futures.

He believes setting and enforcing term limits would level the playing field in campaign finances and fundraising by allowing voters to elect people who represent them, their values, and their interests.

“I will fight for term limits and provide an opportunity for regular people to represent the working class of this nation,” he said.

Affordable Housing

Garcia said he will do three

things to help solve the affordable housing crisis, first by expanding the low-income tax credit for affordable housing, which doesn’t punish recipients from seeking higher incomes and better employment as other programs do.

“Second, I will introduce a bill that takes \$2 billion of the nearly \$4 billion currently designated for Community Development Block grants in the Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill and require that that money be spent specifically on affordable housing developments, all across the nation,” he said.

Finally, with the creation of this new fund, Garcia would stipulate that the funds be released only if the state and local government can fast-track affordable housing developments within a 24-month time frame, he said.

Garcia said housing development projects currently take an estimated five years between submission and the actual breaking of ground.

“My plan reduces that length of time and increases housing availability. It brings more homes to the market and affordable housing to workers who can’t afford to live in the cities that they work in. This is how we solve problems,” he said.

Garcia, an Army veteran who served for 22 years, completed six combat deployments, three in Iraq and three in Afghanistan. He was also a member of the special operations community for 14 years, where he commanded paratroopers in the 82nd Airborne Divisions.

Following his active-duty service, Garcia spent five years serving as a national security advisor and legislative liaison where he worked with policy experts, legislators, and the Pentagon to pass legislation on national security, the welfare of veterans, and Gold Star families.

Garcia has a B.A. in Business Administration and an M.A. in Information Technology from the University of Maryland Global Campus. He also has an M.A. in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Council

(cont. from page 1)

Mayor Ray Weiland said last year’s event had a huge turnout, but not a lot of trolley riders.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said it’s a little difficult for him to justify supporting the trolley idea.

“We spent \$600 and had 100 people ride it. It’s really hard for me to believe that we’ll have enough people on a Tuesday to come to this that we will need that transport,” he said.

The council did not support funding a potential trolley.

Booth said the group anticipates between 2,000 to 2,500 visitors to its Tuesday, October 31 event.

“That’s a pretty big event as you all know every year. Our goals

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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of the event for children of the county, and even surrounding our county,” she said.

She said the Young Professionals also have the task of building the legitimacy of the event by having town and county support, grow the event, and find strategic ways to ensure safety and enjoyment at the event.

“We also have a desire to be a positive impact on the town, and build this event annually by creating a tradition of the town and county,” she said.

In other matters, the council:

- *Approved the meeting minutes as presented.
- *Paid the bills.
- *Heard a public works update.
- *Approved giving \$2,500 to the Patrick County Music Association (PCMA).
- *Approved giving the Young Professionals permission to use the Star Theatre on October 10 for its annual voter education and candidate forum event.
- *Accepted a quote of \$4,500 to do a sand-blasting of the caboose, and a quote of \$7,000 to \$7,500 to repaint the caboose, for a total estimate of around \$12,000. It also includes a five-year warranty from the painter.
- *Created a proposal review committee of vice-mayor Rebecca Adcock, Dave Hoback, Weiland, and Erica Wade.

Vice-mayor Rebecca Adcock attended the meeting via phone.



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County Clerk

(cont. from page 1)

operations in the Clerk’s Office.

“Although additional professional education is not mandated by the Virginia Supreme Court, I chose to receive additional education to support my duties and encourage my staff to do the same,” she said.

Initially, Boothe said her duties consisted of working the front counter, which meant she also doubled as a civil clerk.

“That entails helping the incoming public, recording deeds, issuing marriage licenses, passports, concealed permits, filing civil cases, prepping filings for the jobs, search warrants, administrative oaths, filing custody and visitation, criminal appeals, issuing subpoenas and summons, and many more tasks,” she said.

She then moved up to a criminal clerk, where she was responsible for entering certified criminal court cases, and indictments, issuing show causes, updating the case management system with recent arrests and fingerprints for the state police, preparing dockets for attorneys and judges for all pending cases, and scanning sentencing orders to the database for the Department of Corrections.

When the previous bookkeeper retired at the end of 2019, Boothe assumed that role as well and began making daily deposits, journal vouchers, running restitution checks, applying fines and costs to defendants, setting up defendant payment plans, and filing unclaimed property with the state.

Since taking over as interim clerk, Boothe said she’s also made improvements that were long overdue like implementing several new modernized programs to help ease issues employees and citizens have faced in the office, including “online payments for fines and costs, which streamlined and increased collections; automated the judgment process on court cases, saving hours of staff time and money; automated the deed numbering system, eliminating chances of error; I created a new informational Facebook page to give information to the public,” and other changes.

Boothe said she’s been commended for a job well done by the Virginia Supreme Court and the Clerk’s Association. She has also been endorsed by the Clerks of Court of the City of Martinsville and Prince William County, and the President of the Clerk’s Association.

Noting that she is the only candidate in the election who has ever worked in the Clerk’s Office, Boothe said she is the only candidate with actual experience.

“I have the full support of all of the deputy clerks in the office who have worked hard right beside me over the last year to make tremendous improvements. This position needs a clerk that won’t have to be trained by a deputy clerk working under her,” she said.

Nancy Belcher

A Woolwine native with 25 years’ experience in the legal field,

Belcher said she has “worked for some of the best attorneys that this county has to offer. Three of those are currently presiding judges in our court system, so I have learned from the very best.”

In addition to her legal knowledge, both civil and criminal, Belcher also has administrative responsibilities that she has honed during her tenure.

Belcher said she works with the county budget daily.

“I know the comp board system, and it would not be starting from ground level for me to take over. I have transitioned to the Commonwealth’s Attorney Office three times, and every time it has been a seamless transition,” she said. “Not one day of work has been missed, nothing has fallen through the cracks, or anything like that.”

In addition to the budgets, Belcher also manages an office of eight to 12 employees, “so, managing a staff would not be anything new to me either.”

Belcher said she was also recently asked to be on a panel for hiring an administrative assistant in Henry County for the Commonwealth’s Attorney office.

Mary Clark, of the Blue Ridge District, asked Belcher if she had the technological skills and the training needed to bring new technology to the Clerk’s Office.

With her associate degree in Computer Information Systems, Belcher said “I have grown through the years because obviously things have changed over the years. Our IT person for the county is located out toward Richmond. We do our own in-house technology and so about eight years ago we started our database system, and I was able to help transition that.”

Blecher said she can figure things out and she knows how to ask for help when needed.

Clark also asked what new technologies Belcher would implement if elected.

“Ms. Boothe has done a wonderful job in updating, and so I would get in there I would evaluate and see what is needed,” Belcher said. “Right now, I can’t tell you, ‘oh, I would start this program,’ but there are things that she (Boothe) has done that has helped that office a tremendous amount, but there’s always room for improvement.”

Erica Wade

A Patrick County native, Wade said she started working with Chris Corbett’s office in 2011 and then joined Schneider & Williams, P.C. in 2018.

“At each of these offices, I’ve become very skilled in all the facets that come along with the legal world. That’s working with the public, doing real estate transitions, working with the commissioner of accounts doing probate and estate filings, civil filings, and criminal work,” she said.

If elected, Wade vowed to make county residents feel welcome, respected, and understood. She has this perspective because she comes

from a place that deals with the clerk’s office every day.

“I know what needs to happen to make their journey, their trip, their trials better through the clerk’s office,” she said. “For the last 12 years, I’ve developed a concrete understanding of what the legal realm actually entails and why the clerk’s office is so important.”

Wade said the clerk’s office remained in her eyes one of the most prestigious and best clerk’s office in Virginia when Susan Gasperini served as the Clerk of Court.

“Since then, things have fallen,” she said.

Retired clerk Sherri Hazlewood had several legal issues.

Since then, “things have seemed to take a better turn, but they’re still not where they need to be,” Wade said.

Unlike the other constitutional offices which have four-year terms, the clerk of court has a term of eight years. Wade said this is because of the vast knowledge it takes and the fact that “turnover is not going to be helpful in a clerk’s office to keep things regulated moving forward.”

Wade said she is dedicated and motivated to do this job, wants to return the clerk’s office to the standard it should be, and doesn’t want there to be things like bad audits.

“If you were at our former forum or saw anything about that, Ms. Boothe stated that ‘they’re not failed audits.’ I will grant that to her, they’re not pass or fail. However, the audits done by the Virginia Public Auditor’s Office are ones that should be in comparison to restaurants that have a 75 percent sanitation rate and a 98 percent sanitation rate. Which restaurant would you have more confidence in, I think the answer’s obvious,” she said.

Wade said training and procedures need to be implemented to reverse that.

Also, if elected, Wade said another goal is to create a cohesive amount of training and the ability for everyone to work together with the public and to be understood.

“I hear in the office every once in a while, that some of our public are met with challenges and they are not greeted with answers at the clerk’s office, and that’s got to be frustrating for all parties. It’s not normally true with me, and that’s been a very nice thing,” she said.

Bill Clark, of the Blue Ridge District, asked Wade about her original statement posted on Facebook about why she was seeking the position. In that statement, Wade said she’s “the only candidate who has served the people of Patrick County and surrounding counties for many years in every aspect of what occurs daily in the Clerk’s Office.”

Bill Clark asked Wade if she still stood by that statement and to explain how she felt she was the only candidate to serve the county

residents, with her opponents also claiming service and experience.

Wade said she believes she has served the people of Patrick and surrounding counties in every aspect of the clerk’s office from the work done every day in the attorney’s office.

“I have not physically been in the clerk’s office. However, the actual serving of what goes on in the clerk’s office from the matters that are handled, I do feel like I have handled those in every facet, and I don’t know that Ms. Boothe has done full out probate and worked with the commission of accounts much just like I don’t know if Nancy (Belcher) has recently,” she said.

Wade said the other two candidates have worked with the public in the roles they do daily, and fielded a question from deputy clerk trainee Melissa Clark about the skills and training she could offer for future hires.

Wade said she knows there’s an opportunity to work with the Virginia Supreme Court in Richmond and also the Clerk’s Office Association. If elected, she intends to go through and be trained in.

“I do know what happens daily, again from a public standpoint, and it is my hope to have cohesive training that is offered through these organizations to be able to bring that to all the deputy clerks there along with myself,” she said.

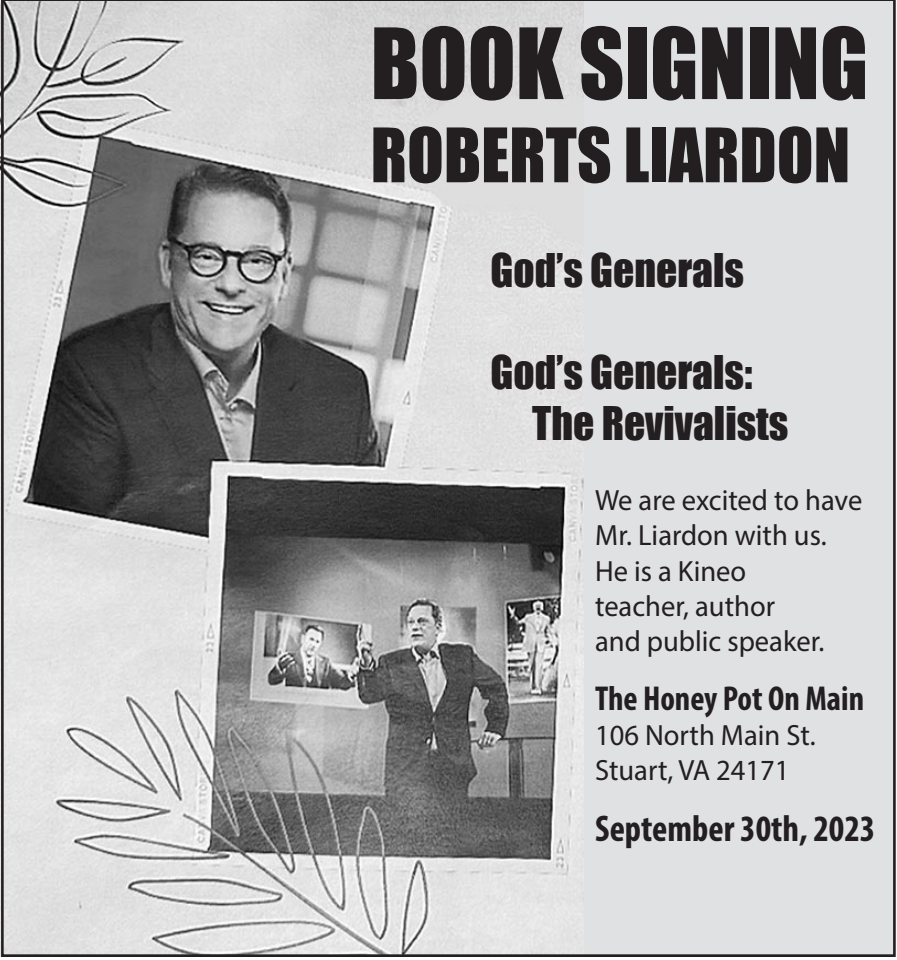
Lisa Mickles (pronounced Michaels), who works in the Clerk’s Office, questioned Wade’s statement about the position being for an eight-year term because of the vast knowledge one needs to do the job, and how would it be beneficial to bring Wade in when she’ll have to start from scratch, especially with the year of transition the office has seen.

Wade said it was obvious if she started this position, it would take a long time to grasp every detail.

“However, I do have the support of those around me to be able to learn from prior clerks and those in other communities. It is something that every deputy clerk that is currently serving at the Patrick County Clerk’s Office, Morgan (Boothe) was hired by Susan Gasperini for a few days, but had worked under” Hazlewood, she said, adding the office standards then fell.

“There were backlogs of sentencing orders, there were things that weren’t completed through the years, and nobody stepped up to do those until just recently,” Wade said, “So, it’s one of those things that I find that, while I do believe that it’s going to be a learning curve to be able to handle all of the duties there, I’m fully equipped in being able to handle that.”

Wade also fielded a question about why she never applied for a deputy clerk position before choosing to run for the Clerk of Court position. She responded that she liked the job she was doing at the time.



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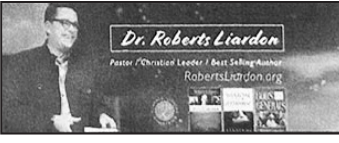
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Forum

(cont. from page 15)

Overby has been with the Commissioner’s Office for more than 16 years, starting in April 2005. She was hired full-time in November 2006.

When looking through paper-work one time, Overby said it read, “Tabitha has maintained an above-average rating, and she is a dedicated employee.”

Overby has done every job in the Commissioner’s Office, including real estate, reading deeds and wills, surveys, and working with tax maps, and the tax mappers to help prepare the real estate book.

“Our personal property, we also have to prepare the personal property list that you get, we work and value all the vehicles from 2004 and below. We value those vehicles manually. The rest of the vehicles come from” JD Power and Associates, she said.

Overby said she’s also worked with different programs for tax relief, veteran’s relief, mobile home reports, building permits, sales tax reports, meals tax, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), and address changing reports.

For Overby, the most important part are citizens of Patrick County. “When you come in that office, we make sure before you leave that every question is answered. We may have to do a little digging sometimes, but we figure it out,” she said.

Glennnda Morse

More said she started working for the county 22 years ago, starting “in the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) Select Office,” and then in Building Inspections, county administration, “and the last 16 years, I’ve worked in the Treasurer’s Office as a Master Deputy Treasurer.”

Morse said she feels all of those jobs have helped prepare her for the Commissioner of Revenue position.

“I have worked with personal property, real estate taxes, meals tax, transient occupancy or lodging tax, tax relief programs, have hands-on experience with preparing departmental budgets, and a financial background working with personal property and real estate taxes,” she said.

Morse said she wants to continue to build on what previous commissioners started and change what needs to be changed to keep up with the continually changing times and technology.

Noting the duties of the Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue are not the same, retired Commissioner of Revenue Janet Rorrer asked what experience Morse actually has in the commissioner’s office.

Morse said she’s worked in the Treasurer’s Office right beside the Commissioner’s Office, and the jobs do overlap. The Treasurer’s Office works hand in hand with the Commissioner’s Office.

“If there is a DMV stop or whatever on the account we work together, abatements, that kind of thing we do work together. There are a lot of areas that those two areas overlap,” she said. “The Commissioner prepares the books for taxes, the Treasurer collects those taxes.”

Rorrer said by the codes in the Constitution of Virginia, the two are separate offices, with separate duties, and then asked what changes Morse would implement if elected.

Morse said changes are hard in the Commissioner’s Office because they are regulated by state code and the board of supervisors.

“Technology is the big thing. I think we are still walking across the parking lot to read the deeds and the surveys, and I think that could be changed,” she said.

Board of Supervisors Peters Creek District Lisa Mickles

Mickles (pronounced Michaels) said she decided to run for the seat because there seems to be a huge part of the county’s populus that feels they are underrepresented.

“I worked at the bank here in

Stuart, I was a branch manager at the bank on the mountain, and I currently work at the Clerk’s Office doing estate and probate for the county,” she said. “A lot of people I see talk to me, and there seems to be a huge consensus that they feel forgotten, or left behind, their voice is not being heard.”

Mickles believes that sometimes her not being originally from the county gives her a unique perspective to hear those people in a different way because she looks at it in a different way.

Mickles said one of the things that are the most important to her in the county right now is the safety of school children.

“They are what is going to continue on in Patrick County and hold onto our morals, our beliefs, our values moving into that next generation. If we don’t protect them at all costs, what do we have at the end of the day,” she said.

Another focus is establishing critical medical care for county residents.

“That’s something a lot of people are concerned about. I feel like that is a void that needs to be filled here in the county, and I would like to do anything I can to facilitate that happening,” she said.

Mickles said she won’t make false promises, and noted a majority vote is needed to make changes, “but I hope, and my desire, is that you would let me possibly be one of those three to vote in that change.”

Jonathan Wood

Wood has served as a Patrick County High School (PCHS) teacher, Boy Scout master, on Virginia’s Young Farmers Committee for the Farm Bureau, and as the president of the Patrick County Farm Bureau.

“So, I’ve been a voice for a large number of people in this county already because farming and agriculture and greenhouses still play a vital role in our economy,” he said.

Wood believes common sense is what Patrick County needs in leadership right now. He also believes the board and the county administrator need to be actively looking for businesses and industries to provide good-paying jobs with benefits.

“Trying to raise a family on a single income is tough. We need those benefits with insurance costs going through the roof, grocery bills - all it takes is one trip to the store and you realize what condition we’re in right now,” he said.

Currently, Wood said it seems that residents are being viewed as having an unlimited budget.

“Real estate taxes are raised to balance the budget. Balancing a budget by increasing taxes, that’s not an option for your family or mine. We have a steady income source, and most households in our county, so we have to decide what we need to adjust,” he said.

Wood also believes transparency is important and that the county budget should be available in an easy-to-read document so citizens can see line items on what is increased and decreased.

The county needs to expand its infrastructure as “COVID showed us that our county needs more reliable internet and cell phone access,” he said and noted there were some PCHS students without adequate access.

“We’re not going to be able to bring businesses to our county that are going to rely on the internet if it’s not up,” he said.

Mayo River District Clayton Kendrick

The incumbent in the race, Kendrick serves as chairman of the board. A member of the former Patrick County Watchdog group, he also served on the Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) for eight or 10 years.

Kendrick said elected, he and other board members had a “pretty good mess” from the previous board.

“The county accountant had recommended a 22-cent real estate tax increase that year. The Treasurer was having to operate with

a line of credit up to, I think, \$3.2 million to make payroll in case the tax money wasn’t there,” he said.

Kendrick said the previous board decided 22 cents in one year was too much, and instead decided to do an 11-cent increase, with the understanding that “when we came on, (we) would be looking at another 11-cent” increase.

“But we all worked together and balanced the budget that first year without a tax increase and actually put a few dollars in the contingency fund,” Kendrick said. “They all said it couldn’t be done, but it was done.”

The cuts, he said, didn’t cripple any one person or entity. He noted the majority were in areas that had been lax before. For example, he said the telephone system and the phones at that time were still rented from CenturyLink.

The county “paid long distance by the minute, and this was in 2019,” Kendrick said, noting there were no money-saving bundles, and the county had not looked for more cost-effective internet service at the time.

Since coming onto the board, Kendrick said there’s only been one tax increase, 5 cents on the real estate tax. He voted against that increase. “I think we could have squeaked by again,” he added.

Danny Foley

Foley previously served on the board for eight years - from 2004-2007 and from 2011-2015. He also took a leadership course at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

“I was on the Patrick County Watchdog group for a while, and we tried to keep taxes low in the county years ago,” he said.

Foley said he believes the county’s economic development group should talk to the county’s business owners to see what their needs are and what they think.

“If we don’t keep up with the business owners, we don’t really know what’s going on,” he said.

Foley said the county needs to find ways it can grow, and residents need to work together to improve their community for future generations.

“Our county has a lot going for it. We got great schools and great teachers, it’s hard to improve on that. We have great county employees who will go the extra mile to answer questions and help you. Our first responders and firefighters are top-notch, we couldn’t do without them,” he said.

Foley believes tourism is a driver of the county’s tax base.

“We don’t really have the tax revenue, and tourism’s a big part of it. Primland is a very important piece of tourism in our county, and of course, Rotary does a great job,” he said.

To improve, Foley believes the board needs to work on the county’s infrastructure, particularly its water and sewer.

“Right now, water and sewers are very limited. Without water and sewer, nothing grows. If you look at other localities, that’s what they’ve been doing and it’s working,” he said.

Foley said the tax base also has to be increased or taxes will keep increasing.

“Everybody knows their property taxes have been going up, our personal property taxes are going up, and they’re going to keep going up until we turn it around and try to get more business in the county to increase the tax base,” he said.

Blue Ridge District Clyde DeLoach

An incumbent, DeLoach said since he joined the board, he’s learned it’s not as easy to change things as one would think.

“You’re one of five votes, so your job is to get along with the other people so that you can do the best for the county. I think we as a board of supervisors have done a great job of doing that, and I’m very proud of the people I work with,” he said.

DeLoach said he also learned the state can tell a board to do things

and not pay for it, “which is great for the state, but not for us.”

When he first joined the board, DeLoach said the budget was a mess and the county’s auditors told the board the county was on the edge of a disaster.

“We balanced the budget, and it was a team effort to do it. We worked hard to keep it balanced. We have not borrowed any money. They were borrowing money every year, we haven’t borrowed any money,” he said, adding the board, unfortunately, did raise the real estate tax once.

DeLoach said the board has also improved its relationship with the school board and the constitutional officers. If re-elected, both continuing the good relationships the board has with others and keeping the budget balanced are his goals.

“We have to attract industry, but we’re not going to do that without a hospital or some kind of emergency medical. We’re not going to do it, so we need to do that if we want to continue to have top-notch schools, which we do,” he said.

DeLoach also wants to continue to make connections for the benefit of the county.

Steven Marshall, who is challenging DeLoach for the seat, did not participate in the forum.

School Board Blue Ridge District Shannon Harrell

The incumbent, Harrell taught for five years at PCHS and currently teaches at the Piedmont Governor’s School in Martinsville.

“As the educator on the board, I have the teacher’s perspective and I understand the value of the programs we continue to try to participate in,” she said.

Harrell said she believes the programs the school division participates in help keep class sizes small.

“Starting pre-k, getting kids in early to teach them how to read - that is just so important,” she said.

Harrell said she also understands curriculum, special education as she works with students with disabilities, general education, teaching, and operations.

She is “super thankful for the 1-percent sales tax that the taxpayers voted on because we started making some improvements,” she said. “Our schools are amazing, but some of them are older. They smell good when you go in, there’s no mold, but with that one percent we’ve been able to start making some changes.”

For example, Harrell said the board plans to use the tax proceeds to make the PCHS bathrooms and locker rooms Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant, fix the lighting on the football field, and fix the tennis courts.

Harrell said more Career & Technical Education (CTE) vocational programs have also started.

“I really believe in CTE, because not every student needs to go away to college. The welding program, we have two of the three graduated with a welding degree. We’ve started electrical this year,” she said.

Harrell said a pole was just put up at PCHS, so the school division can partner with P&HCC, which is partnered with Wytheville Community College so students can get pole training.

Ryan Lawson, also an incumbent school board member, is unable to seek reelection due to redistricting and is challenging Harrell for the post. He did not participate in the forum.

Several other candidates also did not participate in the event, including Sheriff Dan Smith; Treasurer Sandra Stone; Lester Harrell, who is running for the Peters Creek District seat on the School Board; Amy Walker, who is seeking reelection for the Mayo River District seat on the school board.

Joseph Sparks, E. Wayne Clark, and Richard Kreh, Sr., who are running for the three seats on the Soil and Water Directors, did not participate in the event.

The Floating Lotus: A Celebration of Life returns

A celebration of life will take place at 6:30 p.m. on September 28, at Riverside Park in Axton. Hundreds of lotus flowers, symbolizing memories and celebration of loved ones, will be set afloat in the pond at sunset at the Dan River Basin Association's Floating Lotus event. The event will support environmental education programs provided by the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) that reach close to 10,000 youth annually.

"This is the only event like this in Virginia," said Tiffany Harworth, DRBA's Executive Director. "DRBA hasn't done this event since 2019, but we've had so many people request that we bring the Floating Lotus back, we decided to do it this year. There is something so precious and unique about setting a flower afloat and honoring and remembering someone we love."

Lotus Flowers are still available for just a \$20 donation online or cash only at the event. The \$20 donation allows guests to choose up to 30 lotus flowers to set afloat at sunset and then take their flowers home with them. The donation

also gives guests a voucher for a free slice of the Boardwalk Baker's homemade cheesecake and a drink. Guests can choose to purchase one lotus flower at the event for \$5 cash only. Additional slices of cheesecakes and drinks will be available for purchase at the event.

To date, flowers have been purchased in memory of passed loved relatives and pets, for living relatives and friends, and for new births, weddings and special occasions. Guests have an opportunity to note who and why they are getting Lotus Flowers for on DRBA's website.

"When DRBA hosted this event in 2019, people brought blankets and lawn chairs and sat and talked about who and why they chose to get their Lotus Flowers for and it was a celebration of life," said Brian Williams, DRBA's Virginia Program Manager. "The event was just beautiful, and I think everyone who came out to see the flowers felt inspired knowing that each one of those flowers represented the celebration of someone or a pet who is, or was, loved very much."

Williams added, "DRBA staff



Nearly 1,000 lotus flowers were set afloat in 2019. (Photo by the Dan River Basin Association)



The lotus flowers are made from recycled water bottles and guests can keep their flowers after the event. (Photo by the Dan River Basin Association)

and volunteers will collect all of the flowers after the event making sure there is no negative environmental impact."

To learn more about the Floating Lotus, visit, www.danriver.org/lotus. To learn more about DRBA's impact and programs that protect and conserve our natural resources, visit www.danriver.org.

The mission of the Dan River Basin Association is to promote and protect the natural and cultural resources of the Dan River basin through education, recreation, and

stewardship. DRBA works to fulfill that mission by building river accesses and trails, educating people of all ages about protecting our natural resources, and protecting our water resources through water quality monitoring efforts. The Dan River basin is 3,300 square miles including sixteen counties throughout Virginia and North Carolina. To learn more about DRBA and how you can protect our natural and cultural resources, visit www.danriver.org.

More than 50 complete accelerated training program



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The Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM) program hosted a completion ceremony on Friday, September 15, at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of the 50 students in the program's seventh cohort.

"We are thrilled to continue to facilitate the ATDM program, which prepares promising men and women for high-quality, meaningful career opportunities with com-

panies in the defense industrial base that support the nation's military. Days like today, where we can celebrate these students' hard work and future career trajectory, are a great reminder of the incredible impact this program is making," said IALR President Telly Tucker.

ATDM is a 16-week, hands-on program that trains adult learners in the skills needed to work in the submarine and defense industrial base – the system of companies that produces parts and equipment for the U.S. military. This program directly contributes to the defense of the United States by expanding the pool of skilled workers in five tracks – welding, CNC machining, additive manufacturing, non-destructive testing and quality control inspection (metrology) – needed to develop submarines and other military equipment.

This cohort included a diverse pool of adult learners, including 10 active-duty military personnel who completed the additive manufacturing program, a father-daughter duo who graduated from the non-destructive testing program together, and a pair of cousins who pursued their dream of welding together. Students came from 13 different states.

A veteran of the United States Navy, Ulises Velasquez said during the ceremony that he found the ATDM program through a social

media post during a time when he was weighing his options and was unsure of what he wanted to pursue next. He applied almost immediately and, now that he has completed the program, will be welding in Texas.

"This opportunity has enabled me to not only make a smooth transition into civilian life but also continue serving my country," said Velasquez, a welding graduate.

By 2025, it is estimated 800-1,000 students will graduate annually. A new facility is currently under construction on IALR's campus that will support the estimated 800 – 1,000 students that will graduate annually by 2025. Each of the five tracks will be offered across three shifts when the training center is completed within the next 24 months.

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research serves Virginia as a regional catalyst for economic transformation through applied research, advanced learning, manufacturing advancement, conference center services, and economic development efforts. IALR's major footprint focuses within Southern Virginia, including the counties of Patrick, Henry, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Halifax, and Mecklenburg along with the cities of Martinsville and Danville. For more information, visit www.ialr.org.

**NWC PRESENTS**

HALLOWEEN MAYHEM

NWC WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
CASKET MATCH

NWC MID-ATLANTIC HERITAGE CHAMPIONSHIP
TILE MATCH

THE CUBAN ASSASSIN VS THE DRAGON
SCOTT LEE

THE HANGMAN VS THE DUSTMAN
LARRY COOTER MARK ANTHONY

AMATEUR WRESTLING EXHIBITION

TONY RAY VS SCOTT WEDDIE
CHAD HUDSON VS WENTWORTH LEE

TAG TEAM ELIMINATION MATCH

YOLA MAN VS John Hartman

GRUDGE MATCH

CRASHING VS LANCE
CASSIDY VS CRISON

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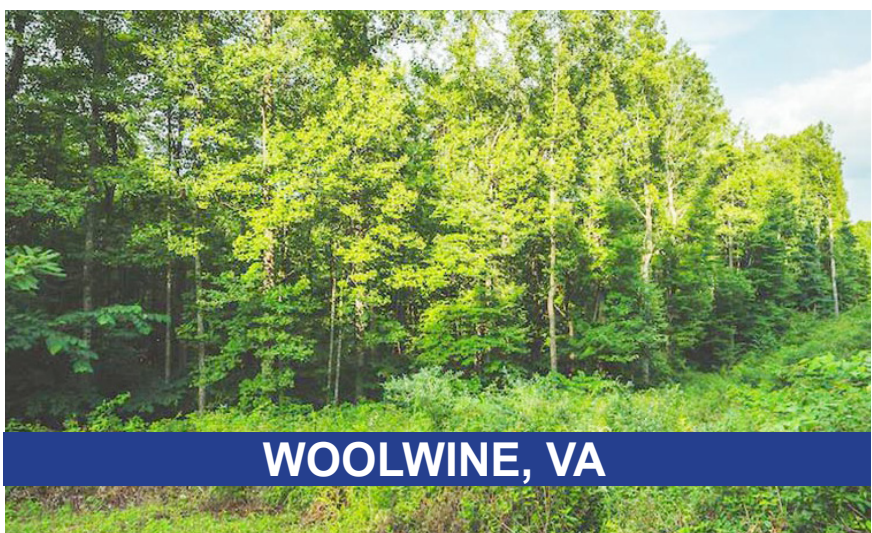
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Well-maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on 3.48 acres located minutes from town! The home has just over 1,500 sq ft of living space. **\$239,000**



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WOOLWINE, VA

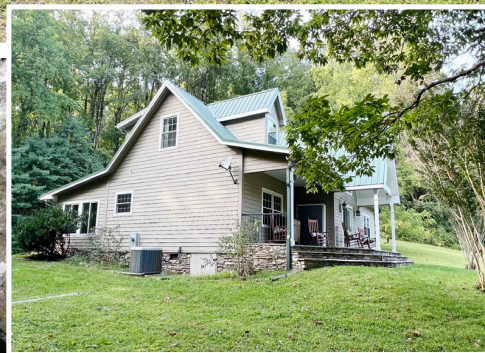
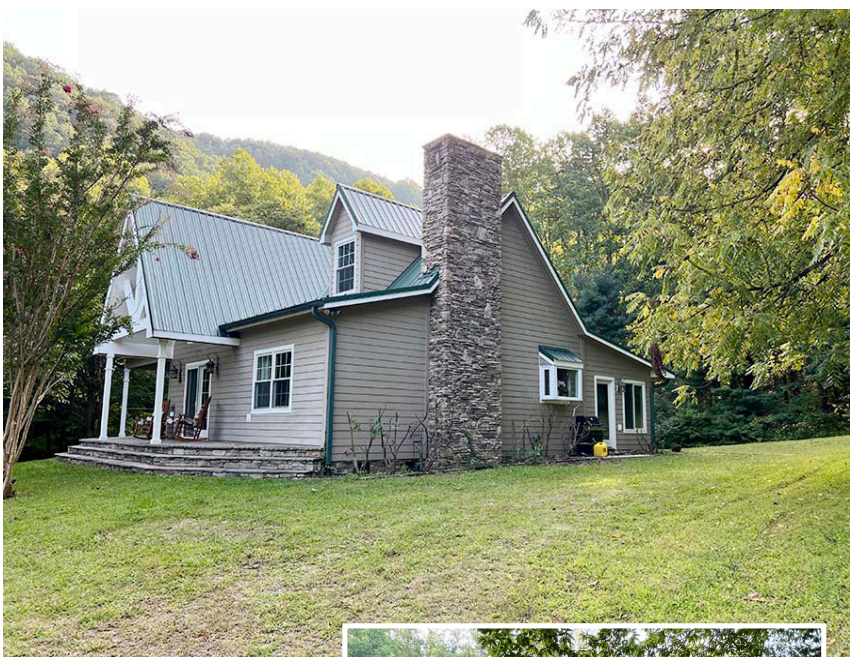
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