



# THE ENTERPRISE

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Vol. 147 No. 41 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023 USPS 523-500 \$1.00

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

## Patrick school students surpass state average on SOLs

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) released the 2022-2023 Standard of Learning (SOL) test results last month, showing that Patrick County's pass rates exceeded the average state pass rates in all subject areas:

- English: PCPS - 84 State - 73 (+11 points above state average)
- Writing: PCPS - 81 State - 65 (+16 points above state average)
- Math: PCPS - 81 State - 69 (+12 points above state average)
- Science: PCPS - 80 State - 67 (+13 points above state average)
- History: PCPS - 78 State - 65 (+13 points above state average)

Patrick Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said, "Our overall performance improved in 2022-2023, and once again Patrick County Public School's scores are a shining example for the rest of the state as Patrick County is ranked 9th in the commonwealth out of 131 school divisions."

The VDOE distributed a release that Wood said "not only discusses concerning performance in much of the state but also the importance of in-person learning and especially the need for students to have good attendance in school."

"We know that Patrick County

Public School provides one of the highest-quality educational opportunities in the state and our performance shows that and we want to continue to build on our success with the help of parents and students. Making sure our students attend school, so we can teach and care for all our students is one of the best ways families can help PCPS remain top in the state and ensure our students are successful."

He added, "I am so thankful for all our employees and so proud of our students and families! From teachers and administrators to bus

drivers, cafeteria workers, nurses, custodians, and everyone who works in our division, their dedication has paid off."

Next month, when the state accreditation process factors in student growth from spring 2022 to spring 2023, Patrick schools expect an even greater reason for celebration.

Shannon Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Administration who is also in charge of state testing for the division, said, "These pass rates do not include adjusted scores for students who demon- (See Patrick School Students p.3)

## Crash among fire calls last week



One person was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. (Contributed photos)



A dryer that caught fire last week was declared a total loss.

A single-vehicle crash at the intersection of Virginia 8/103 last week resulted in one person being airlifted, according to reports from the scene.

Crews from CCDF, Stuart Fire Volunteer Department, Patrick County EMS, and Jeb Stuart Res-

cue Squad responded to the Sept. 28 around 8 a.m.

A woman is believed to have passed out while driving. The vehicle crossed the center line, hit a stump, and rolled several times, according to reports from the scene. Fire crews had to cut the roof off

to extricate the woman. Once extricated, she was transported to CCDF, where she was airlifted with non-life-threatening injuries.

On Tuesday at 1:35 a.m., Stuart Volunteer Fire Department and Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department responded to a smoke

investigation call in the 600 block of Mayo Court in Stuart. Upon arrival, fire crews discovered a dryer on fire in the back of the building. The fire was quickly extinguished, with minimal damage to the structure. The dryer (pictured) was a total loss.

## Morse views updated technology as a positive change

**By Taylor Boyd**  
Glennnda Morse is seeking the Commissioner of Revenue position in the November election against Tabiha Overby.

The current commissioner of revenue Cindy Kendrick will retire on December 31.

Morse, 57, said she believes technology is the biggest challenge the commissioner's office is facing.

"There are some things that we can do to help taxpayers and our offices address that. We are still not online as far as reading deeds and wills, and if that was online, then that would make it much easier for the clerk's office," she said.

Because technology is ever-changing, Morse believes the office needs to keep up, using funding from the county's budget.

"Unfortunately, technology changes are expensive, and it would have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors and that money set aside in" and "appropriated in the budget for that," she



Glennnda Morse would boost technology if elected in the November election.

said.

Morse believes having the public involved in the decision-making process is important. "All taxpayers need to have a voice, and yes, come in and that's what we're here for, that's what your Board of Supervisors is for,"

(See Morse p. 3)

## Overby sees few changes if elected commissioner

**By Taylor Boyd**  
Tabitha Overby is seeking the Commissioner of Revenue position in the November election against Glennnda Morse. Cindy Kendrick, the current commissioner of revenue, will retire on December 31.

Overby, 42, said the most important challenge facing the office is the taxpayers' concerns about taxes going up.

"We can't change it right now because the values cannot be changed because of the reassessment that we have," she said.

Once a new commissioner comes into play, Overby said there's nothing in the office that can really be changed because there are codes the office must go by.

"As far as challenges for a new commissioner to step into the office and take over and to make everybody in the office comfortable with what she's going to bring into the office," she said.

Overby said one way to address any potential issues the office fac-



Tabitha Overby is seeking the Commissioner of Revenue position in November.

es is to cross-train the whole office. In addition to being cross-trained herself, she noted the current commissioner has cross-trained new employees.

"But for the new ones that come in, they've had a little bit of cross-training of what personal

(See Overby p.3)

## 'Monsters' to appear on Main Street in rebranding of scarecrow contest

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce's Scarecrow contest is getting a revamp(ire) this year to 'Monsters on Main Street.' Businesses, individuals, and organizations who would like to create their own monsters are encouraged to participate in our free contest.

Once registered with the chamber, you will be given a spot along

Main Street, Blue Ridge Street, or Patrick Avenue to display your creation. Businesses along those streets will receive first accommodation for their displays to be next to their establishment. Other entities will be assigned at random.

Traditional monsters of vampires, Frankenstein, and Cookie Monster are acceptable, along with

new monster creations of homework monsters, stress monsters, or even scarecrows. All are still welcome.

When all monsters are installed, signs will be displayed with the name of the monster, business, company, individual, or organization it was created by, and a link to the online voting form.

Monsters will be installed by Friday, October 13 and voting will take place between October 13 and October 31 for the Stuart Spook-tacular.

Registration for Monsters on Main Street runs through October 4. To register and for a complete list of dates, details, and rules, visit the chamber's website.





## Tourism Talks

Hi Patrick,  
Happy Fall! Wow! I am on cloud nine at the moment. Recently, we attended the International Bluegrass Music Association and Awards event and had a fantastic time. We met people from all over the world who share our passion for Bluegrass music. Our magazine was a hit, and we handed out copies to hundreds of attendees. We have a worldwide presence now, with copies of our magazine distributed to attendees from Tokyo, Japan, Ireland, Sweden, Poland, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom. If you haven't already, be sure to get your hands on a copy!

It was also great to see the diversity surrounding the music, with performers like a young black girl and her band from Arkansas and a young Korean group from Korea, and the ages of the performers were astonishing. There were kids as

young as four years old playing. We are getting more eyes on Patrick County, and hopefully, some more tourist dollars will follow!

In other news, the County Under the Stars concert took place Saturday with a great turnout of locals and tourists. Although I missed the event, I'm happy to hear about its success. Now that I'm back in the office, I'll have some local tourism numbers for you next week; the county did well regarding tourist travel and spending; stay tuned.

Lastly, October is packed, so you shouldn't have a problem finding something to do. How about more music, Sunflower gazing, and various festivals? 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)

## 56th annual Meadows of Dan Pancake Days

The Meadows of Dan Ruritan Club and Fire Department will host the 56th annual Pancake Days fundraiser on Sunday, October 15, and Sunday, October 22, 2023, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Meadows of Dan Community Building (2858 Jeb Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120).

The Pancake meal features a selection of buttermilk pancakes, buckwheat pancakes, sausage, gravy, and all the fixings. Both buckwheat and buttermilk pancakes have never been made from a mix. Clara Harrell and Claudia Wood provided the original recipe that is still used today.

Prices at the door are \$12 for adults, and \$6 for children ages twelve and under. Cash and credit cards will be accepted. To-go orders are available and Neese's freshly ground sausage, seasoned just right, will be available for sale, too. Commemorative tee shirts will be available for purchase.

More than 50 years ago, this event started serving \$2 plates raising \$200. Currently, an average of 2,200 people are served each Sunday. People come from states away—Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. One couple stumbled across the very first Pancake Days on their honeymoon. They have made it a yearly trip. Pancake Days is a tradition not just for our mountain town but for all those who have been gathering with us for over half a century.

Proceeds from Pancake Days benefit various local community causes and organizations including the volunteer fire department, res-

cue squad, schools, college scholarships, food drives, and other needs in Patrick County. When someone has a need in this community, they know they can bring it to the Ruritans. It is the money raised at Pancake Days that allows the Ruritans to help.

"Families from miles around come together to host Pancake Days," said Debra Shelor, Ruritan Treasurer. "The impact on our community is significant by supporting youth education, ensuring our local safety squad can care for area residents, and that our community building remains a place for all area events."

"The Ruritans aren't the only organization putting on the event," says Emily Handy, Chairman of Pancake Days. "It's also the fire department and the rescue squad. We could not do this without them. It isn't about a group; it is about everyone coming together."

This is an intergenerational Fall tradition that has persisted for over 50 years. Bring the family for a not-to-be-missed event and become part of our heritage.

Tax-deductible donations are being accepted online for those who cannot attend. Visit the Ruritan-MOD.square.site for more information or to donate today.

Chartered in 1949, the Meadows of Dan Ruritans, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is committed to supporting our local communities through volunteer service and fundraising to support local events and organizations. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Meadows of Dan Community Building.

## Early voting starts in Virginia ahead of big election

By Sam Brown  
Capital News Service

Early voting started Sept. 22 and stakes are high for both parties, with all 140 seats open in the state General Assembly.

Republicans have pushed to take advantage of early and absentee ballots ahead of the Nov. 7 election. The party's support for early voting is a shift from recent years.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin called for early voting in a video released by the state Republican Party through its new initiative Secure Your Vote Virginia. The program encourages Republican voters to vote early and sign up for the permanent absentee list, which allows voters to vote by mail for all future elections. Youngkin also promoted early voting in his gubernatorial race.

"We can't go into our elections down thousands of votes," Youngkin said in the video. He will travel through key districts on a bus tour to stump with candidates and promote early voting.

Republicans in the Virginia House of Delegates introduced and passed House bills 1444 and 1947 in the last session, which attempted to eliminate the permanent absentee list, in favor of an annual application. The bills did not pass in the Senate.

The strategy is something Republicans should have done for past elections, according to Stephen Farnsworth, professor of political science and director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington.

"Gov. Youngkin has recognized that Republicans have been at a huge disadvantage with early voting over the last several election cycles and the governor is moving aggressively to try to reduce that early participation gap that has so strongly favored Democrats in recent years," Farnsworth said.

Early and absentee voting has spiked since the 2020 presidential election due to the pandemic and several legislative changes. The total number of absentee ballots increased by over 2.6 million from 2019 to 2020, according to state post-election reports. A record number of people voted absentee, according to spokesperson Andrea Gaines with the Virginia Department of Elections.

Absentee voting numbers have remained higher than pre-pandemic numbers in every general election. Almost 1.2 million absentee ballots were cast in 2021. Last year, over 990,000 absentee ballots were cast. Though there was a downward trend, the absentee votes were still more than double the combined numbers from 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Recent state changes that make voting easier, and the convenience of absentee voting, will keep future absentee voting numbers higher than in pre-pandemic elections, Farnsworth said. There is no doubt that the new system is convenient and popular with voters, he said.

"People like the idea of not having to wait to the last minute," Farnsworth said. "People don't know, something might come up — a kid

might get sick, they might be stuck in traffic, they may have to work late."

The partisan gap in early and absentee voting has favored Democrats since 2016, data shows. Democratic voters made up over 60% of early votes in the 2022 election, according to the Virginia Public Access Project. Democrats vote early by mail. Nearly 76% of mail votes were returned by Democratic voters within three weeks of Election Day in 2021, according to a VPAP graphic.

Look Ahead America, led by executive director Matt Braynard, is a national organization pushing to increase voter registration and absentee voting. Look Ahead America's primary focus is its voter turnout project for the 2023 Virginia General Assembly election, according to Braynard.

The organization identifies as non-partisan and is not engaged in turnout on the basis of party, according to Braynard. The group has shown support for people charged in the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection and referred to them as "political prisoners" in the description of its "Jobs for #J6" project that helps now-unemployed people who participated in the insurrection to find work. The riots centered around recognition of the legitimacy of votes in the 2020 presidential election.

Early and absentee ballots are a more secure and convenient way of voting, and can help track participation, Braynard said.

"It's very expensive sending you mail and sending you door knockers and reaching out to you know via phone and texting and digital," Braynard said.

Look Ahead America supports the Virginia permanent absentee list.

"The way I see it is that the more people encourage folks to vote — by any means necessary, and probably the easiest way would just [be] to get on Virginia's permanent absentee list — the better," Braynard said. "I'm glad to see more people of all political stripes join the conversation to encourage that."

Early voting begins in Virginia on Friday, Sept. 22. To submit an early ballot in-person, voters should check registration status and visit the local registrar's office with an acceptable form of identification. Some districts have additional early voting satellite locations that can be found on the state elections website.

To vote by mail, voters should download and complete the absentee application form available on the Virginia Department of Elections website. A mail-in ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day and be received by the general registrar's office by noon on Friday, Nov. 10.

Many polling places will have weekend hours closer to Election Day. The last day to early vote in-person is Saturday, Nov. 4.

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.

2024

VOTE



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FOR CLERK OF COURT

BELCHER

CLERK of COURT

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# Patrick School Students

(cont. from page 1)

strated growth in reading and math. These outstanding scores will only improve when growth is calculated next month for state accreditation.

“Patrick County Public School’s SOL performance reflects the continuous hard work and dedication of our entire school family. Our hard-working staff always goes above and beyond in providing per-

sonalized learning and meeting the needs of our students,” said Andrea Cassell, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction.

In the current school year, Cassell said, “Our focus continues to be on accelerating learning in all of our schools. Patrick County Public Schools continues to analyze specific student data to improve and provide the resources schools and

students need. Our teachers and staff are driven and ready to ensure all of our students have the resources and support they need to truly thrive.”

“We are truly blessed to have an amazing school division filled with dedicated employees, a supportive community, caring families, and great students. Patrick County Public Schools will always provide

high-quality instruction for our students, and we will remain dedicated to meeting all of the needs of our students and families, Wood said. “We have outstanding educators, counselors, nurses, administrators, custodians, food service staff, transportation staff, and maintenance staff to ensure we provide the best care and support for all our students.”

# Morse

(cont. from page 1)

she said.

The county’s tax rates and the elderly tax relief are set by the Board of Supervisors, she said, adding “when you give the tax relief when you increase tax relief, the money has to come back from somewhere it has to be recouped,” she said. “We just can’t lose that money, someone’s going to make up that difference in the tax revenue.”

Morse said county residents can also come into the commissioner’s office to sit down and talk about an assessment if they disagree with it.

“If you’ve got your truck value way high, then let’s figure it out. A lot of times assessments can’t be changed, but we will listen,” she said.

While she supports transparency in government, Morse said there are some things the office cannot talk about with the public.

“We go to the Board of Supervisors, the department heads, and give the reports,” she said.

Morse said the commissioner of revenue’s office has always excelled, in part because of the past commissioners.

“I want to follow in their footsteps with how they run that office and the policies they have in place,” she said.

However, the one major change she believes the office could use is updating technology.

Morse has worked for the Patrick County government for 22 years. She started in the Department of

Motor Vehicles (DMV) before moving into Building Inspections and then county administration.

Morse has been with the Treasurer’s Office for 16 years and is a Master Deputy Treasurer.

“I’ve seen the front end of this. You know, when you title a vehicle in the DMV and you put that jurisdiction code in, and if that’s wrong then that’s going to affect everything down the line. That affects the commissioner’s office and the treasurer’s office,” Morse said, adding she knows the importance of getting that and other information correct.

Morse said a lot of the same programs that are used in the Commissioner of Revenue’s Office are also used in the Treasurer’s Office.

“Our offices cross paths many times a day. We use a lot of the same programs, so it’s not like there’s going to be a learning curve for me to learn those. I know those,” she said.

Morse graduated from Franklin County High School and received her Master Governmental Deputy Treasurer certification from the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service in 2011.

She has been married to her husband, Tommy, for 28 years. The couple have two children, Zachary and Kristen, and three grandchildren.

In her free time, Morse enjoys being outdoors, kayaking, and spending time with her grandchildren.

# Overby

(cont. from page 1)

property is compared to what real estate is. We can kind of help each other out,” she said. “As far as the programs we work with, personal property is so confidential we cannot allow but two people to be able to see that, along with the commissioner.”

As personal property deals with Social Security numbers, Overby said the office “doesn’t want just anyone coming in and looking at that information.”

Regarding public involvement, Overby said the public can come in and bring their ideas and concerns.

“If you have something that you’re concerned about, yes, my door will always be open if I get the commissioner’s job. Come in and give me your concerns,” she said. “If they have ideas, bring them to me. We’ll talk about it and if it’s something we can’t change I will definitely say, ‘Hey, we can’t change that information, but

thank you for bringing it to the office.”

Overby said there’s only so much a commissioner can do because the office can’t change values or increase or decrease the tax level. That responsibility belongs to the Board of Supervisors.

Overby said while the office also wants to be as transparent as possible, there’s only so much it can discuss with the public on certain matters, like personal property.

“Like if you come into the office and let’s say you want to see how many vehicles I have. You’re just curious. I would have to say I cannot give you that because personal property is very confidential,” she said.

With real estate, Overby said she can let the public know how much houses are assessed at “because it doesn’t deal with social security numbers, so I can let you see those values.”

Overby said she doesn’t see the

office lacking because everyone in the office works great together.

“There’s communication. If one person is having a bad day, then we know that and we can pick up the slack. There’s really nothing lacking. We all work together, and the programs are good that we work with,” she said.

If elected, Overby wishes to keep the office running as smoothly as it has been. This was also one of the reasons why she ran.

“Keep the office how it is because it runs so great. We’re cross-trained on each other to know real estate questions or personal property questions,” she said.

Overby believes people should vote for her because she has a servant’s heart, which is needed because the office gets so many people who also want to talk about their past, what they’re going through, and other matters while getting the help they need.

“We’re there to listen, and a ser-

vant’s heart to me is number one. We’re there for the citizens, that is another important factor. As anybody who comes through that door, we help them regardless. If they’re not happy, pitching a fit, we still help them,” she said.

A veteran of the office for over 16 years, Overby said she has also worked in every aspect of the office including reading deeds, working businesses, and personal property.

A Woolwine native, Overby graduated from Patrick & Herny Community College (P&HCC), with an Associate in clerical. She then went to the University of Virginia where she received her Chief Master Deputy Certification in 2020.

Overby’s parents live in Woolwine, and her father serves as the pastor of the Apostolic Christian Church. She also has two brothers and three children.

In her free time, Overby enjoys attending church and helping with the Stuart Ruritan Club.

# Find candidates, polling places in advance of Election Day

It’s nearly Election Day, and all 40 seats in the Virginia Senate and 100 seats in the House of Delegates are up for election.

Virginians will be voting in newly drawn districts, so it’s important to know who’s on your ballot.

The Virginia Public Access Project’s election guide makes it easy to find pertinent voting information. When you visit vpap.org, simply type in your address. This will tell you who’s on your ballot, where you can vote and who your current representatives are.

Additionally, the site lists deadlines for

registering to vote: Early voting begins Sept. 22; voter registration ends Oct. 16; and Election Day is Nov. 7.

“Virginia Farm Bureau Federation encourages all Virginians to get out and vote, but especially members of our rural communities,” noted Martha Moore, Farm Bureau’s senior vice president of governmental relations. “It’s crucial for farmers to let their voices be heard and elect people who will make decisions in agriculture’s best interests.”

# Pets of the Week



This lovely lady was found on Grassy Creek Rd. This gal is well fed and wants to go home where her plate is always full.

This guy with the sweet face was found on Five Forks Road.

If you recognize these dogs, please call the shelter. If your dog is missing, call the shelter right away. Time is limited, and the shelter is past its capacity, so please consider saving a life. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) 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.

**EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

Patrick County Farm Bureau has an excellent career opportunity available in our Stuart office location. The County Administrative Assistant position serves as the primary support person to the County President, Board of Directors and office staff. Specific duties include answering phone regarding membership and/or insurance related questions, drafting and editing correspondence, coordinating projects and events, preparing presentations, assisting with board activities, and managing a complex daily schedule and travel arrangements as well as expense management and other routine office related functions.

Qualifications include a minimum of one-year administrative experience, proficiency in all MSOffice products, and strong customer service skills. A health insurance license along with property and casualty licensing are required but may be obtained after employment begins. The candidate must be energetic and proactive with excellent interpersonal skills. Must have demonstrated the ability to use discretion, handle confidential information and make sound decisions with limited day to day supervision.

For consideration, please send resume to [Betsy.Conner@vafb.com](mailto:Betsy.Conner@vafb.com) or mail to Patrick County Farm Bureau PO Box 458, Stuart, VA 24171.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Illegal Immigration – Who Benefits?**

(Newsmax, Epoch Times, Fox, USA Today, AARP, Pew Research, MRCTV)

1) Mexico. Mexico views the United States as a safety valve for potential social unrest, seeing it as a place that the impoverished might flee to rather than agitate against vast inequality at home. It is estimated that \$30 billion in remittances are sent back by mostly illegal aliens to Central American governments and roughly another \$32 billion to Mexico ---- a source of foreign exchange as valuable as oil exports or tourism.

2) Business. Employers in the restaurant and hospitality industries, and in meatpacking, agribusiness, construction, and landscaping, find Mexican nationals' wonderful workers. The lack of legality, English, and a high-school diploma are not drawbacks for the physically demanding jobs in these fields. The employer reaps the benefit of industrious young and healthy workers, and society picks up the eventual tab for the aging and injured and for dependents in terms of healthcare, education, and law-enforcement costs.

3) The elite. Inexpensive foreign "household help" — gardeners, nannies, housekeepers, cooks — is now a fixture among the wealthy and upper-middle classes of the American Southwest. The member of the blue-state elite envisions himself not as an exploiter of cheap labor, but rather more as a benefactor of the greater social good. In the elite mind, there is no contradiction between hiring Roberto to build a redwood fence in the backyard and ensuring that one's own kids go to private schools to avoid joining Roberto's kids in the neighborhood school in a nearby city.

4) The Ethnic Industry. When millions of the most impoverished

people on the planet arrive without legality, a high-school diploma, capital, or English, then they are likely to remain poor for a generation. And their poverty then offers supposed proof that America is a racist society for allowing such asymmetry to occur, providing political clout for the left.

5) The Democratic party. Democrats once were exclusionists — largely because they feared that illegal immigration eroded unionization and overtaxed the social-service resources of their poor citizen constituents. What changed?

Numbers. Once the pool of illegal aliens reached 20 million, and once their second-generation citizen offspring won anchor-baby legality and registered to vote, a huge new progressive constituency rose in the American Southwest — one that was targeted by Democrats, who alternately promised permanent government subsidies and sowed fears with constant charges that right-wing Republicans were abject racists. Due to massive influxes of immigrants, and the flight of middle-class citizens, the California of Ronald Reagan, ceased to exist.

Nevada, New Mexico, and Colorado are following California. Soon open borders will probably do the same to Arizona and Texas. No wonder that the Democratic party has been willing to do almost anything to become the enabler of open borders, by setting up sanctuary-city jurisdictions, extending in-state tuition, free medical care, and driver's licenses to those who entered and reside in America illegally.

6) Cartels. \$13 billion in 2022 ---Drugs, sex trafficking, charging illegals to cross the border.

Pray for our country.  
William Salsar,  
Stuart

**Patrick County Citizens,**

I have had the honor of knowing Morgan Boothe for the past 13 years. Within those years, was her time in the Patrick County Clerk's Office. I can remember how proud and excited she was the day she got hired and her love for that office has only grown with every new role she's taken on (and there have been many).

Morgan is one of the most kind, dedicated and compassionate people I have ever met. If you have been in her office, you most likely have seen these qualities. The reason I know she is the best candidate for the position of Clerk of Court is simple, she's already doing it and she's doing it well. Upon being appointed last November as Interim Clerk, Morgan inherited many issues that she has taken in stride,

working hundreds of extra hours, ensuring the office not only got back on track but pushing it to be the best it's ever been. Her passion and love for the Clerk's Office and the staff shows in all the updates and improvements she continues to make. There is a difference in someone who just wants the title and salary, and someone who has been there, put in the long nights and cares to see the office successful.

Morgan Boothe has stepped up for our County and its time we step up for her. I urge all Patrick County Citizens to vote for Morgan Boothe for Clerk of Court November 7, 2023, she truly deserves it.

Thank you for your time,  
Lacy Harris,  
Stuart

**China Spy Station In Cuba**

China implements systems designed to gather intelligence on U.S. military and other facilities. It has launched and directed spy balloons that have flown over the U.S. to gather information.

It appears China is negotiating an agreement with Cuba to install a spy station to gather intelligence on facilities in the eastern U.S. This would enable China to monitor communications at our military bases and other sites from Florida to Washington D.C.

China would have a potential base in Cuba which could be expanded to house offensive weapons aimed at the U.S. We nearly went to war with Russia in 1962 when Russia installed offensive missiles in Cuba, which were eventually

removed due a naval blockade of Cuba, including one of the ships I subsequently served on.

If diplomacy does not work with Cuba to remove the equipment, we could jam the communication gathering system with systems in Florida or possibly from our ships in international waters.

China is expanding its military capabilities partly due to the wealth generated by goods exported to the U.S. We have to get U.S. corporations to realize they are contributing to a weakening of our national security; and get them to bring back manufacturing facilities to our country or move them to friendly countries with cheap labor.

Donald Moskowitz,  
Londonderry NH

**Broadband update set for Oct. 16 meeting**

It has been a while since the broadband committee sent an update. A lot has happened behind the scenes in finalizing contracts and other essential but time consuming requirements including State Corporation Approvals, engineering, etc., with not much to report on.

We should soon see physical evidence of progress as construction gets underway. Charter/Spectrum, who will be providing service to areas south of Meadows of Dan along the Parkway and to some locations in the Ararat and Claudville areas, will make a presentation to the Board of Supervisors at the October 16 meeting.

RiverStreet Networks, which will serve areas in the rest of the county, will also make a presentation during the meeting that begins at 6 p.m. on the third floor of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Bring your questions and learn what you can expect and when. We expect exciting details on these projects costing over \$50 million bringing internet to our homes and businesses with offerings of phone and other services on par with the best available anywhere.

Steve Terry,  
Chairman, Broadband Committee

**PCHS Fishing Team appreciates support**

On behalf of the Patrick County High School Fishing Team, we would like to publicly thank everyone who stopped by the Patrick County High School Fishing Team booth at the 69th annual Patrick County Agricultural Fair and to everyone for their continued support.

We appreciate everyone's support of the team and fundraisers. These fundraisers assist with jerseys, tournament fees, team travel expenses to various lakes throughout the state and to national competition. We could not represent Patrick County at a regional, state and

national level without great community support.

The team's Raffle Drawing will be held October 29 via Facebook Live. If you haven't purchased a raffle ticket yet, please contact us or any youth angler and their parents/guardians. We also wanted to say a quick THANK YOU to everyone that helped at the fair. We really appreciate all of the anglers and parents/guardians.

Hylton Scott,  
Melanie Scott,  
Sandra Heath,  
Maria Roberson

**Dear Voters of Patrick County:**

I am writing to show my support for clerk of court candidate, Morgan Boothe. I have known Morgan for over ten years and she is a dedicated, hardworking employee and an advocate in the community. She is a loyal and is proud of her Patrick County roots. Morgan's career experience in the clerk's office, not only makes her the most qualified candidate for this position, but her accomplishments as Interim Clerk

of Court proves she is more than capable of continuing to succeed in this position. Morgan puts her heart into all that she does and I have no doubt that she will continue to make significant advancements for our county as Clerk of Court. I encourage you to vote for experience and that means Voting Boothe at the booth!

Jenna Turner  
Stuart

**To the Citizens of Patrick County,**

I am writing to ask you to support Morgan Boothe for Patrick County Clerk of Court. It is experience and commitment that sets Boothe far apart from the other candidates. Boothe has shown her commitment since being appointed Interim Clerk of Court, and continues to push the office forward for improvement and a better future. I have witnessed

Boothe's love for her job, co-workers and community over the years of knowing her. Her heart is pure and so are her intentions to better the position of Clerk of Court. I urge everyone to vote for the candidate with actual experience on November 7th, 2023. Vote Boothe at the booth!

Lindsey Nowlin,  
Stuart

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**Caring Hearts Free Clinic of Patrick County**

**Need a Flu Shot?**

**Flu Shot Clinic**

**No appointment needed**

**\*\*Must be a current Caring Hearts Free Clinic Patient**

**Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Letters to the Editor/Viewpoints Policy**

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

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



## Patrick Pioneers

*Hiram and Lucy Ann Conner Stanley*

**By Beverly Belcher Woody**

Last week, we looked at the arrival of the Stanleys in Patrick County in the late 1700's. Zachariah Stanley, Sr., Zachariah, Jr., and John Stanley, the gunsmith were the first three generations to live in that unique little area where Patrick, Floyd, and Carroll County come together.

John Stanley and wife, Malinda Barnard Stanley had fourteen children over a period of twenty-six years, with Hiram being the oldest. Hiram was born just over the Patrick County line in Carroll County on the first of January 1828. He married Miss Lucy Ann Conner, the daughter of Elder Daniel Columbus Conner and Anna McAlexander Conner on the 29th of January 1852.

Hiram and Lucy Ann set up housekeeping in the Bell Spur area of Patrick County and their first son, John Conner Stanley, was born eleven months later. We will look at John in depth next week.

Hiram and Lucy Ann's second child, Annie, was born two years later in April of 1854. Tragically, she died only eleven years later. In the Patrick County death records, it states the cause of death (like so many others) is unknown.

The couple's next child, Malinda, was born in June of 1856. She married Charles William Blancett of Stokes County in 1883 and the couple settled in Westfield, North Carolina where they raised their three children, Lucy Ann, Samuel Madison, and James Reed Blancett.

Daniel Stanley, the fourth child was born to the couple on the 28th of September 1858. He married Miss Adaway Smith, the daughter of Isaac Jones Smith and Finetta Weeks Smith. Daniel and Adaway began farming in the Bell Spur Community and had four sons and two daughters, Isaac Jones Stanley, Hiram Lester, Malinda Ethel, Josiah Albert, William Jennings Bryan, and Louisa Oma.

The fifth child of Hiram and Lucy, William Stanley was born in June of 1861 and married Miss Louisa Smith,

who was also the daughter of Isaac and Finetta Smith. William and Louisa had nine children, Nora, Adaway, Walter, Mary, Lucy, Anna, Bertha, Dewey, and Virgie. Can you imagine all the double first cousins between Daniel and William's children?

Amanda Stanley was born to Hiram and Lucy in April of 1864. She married Samuel W. Collins on Christmas Day 1892. Samuel was the son of Robert and Zidanie Bolt Collins. Amanda and Samuel had a farm in Meadows of Dan where they raised their one son, John Madison Collins.

Mary "Molly" Stanley was the seventh child of Hiram and Lucy. She was born in January 1866 and never married. She remained with her parents and later on, her sister, on the Stanley family farm her entire life. Molly was known for the beautiful quilts she crafted.

Isham Barnard "Barney" Stanley was born to Hiram and Lucy in December of 1867. He married Miss Rosalie Barnard, who interestingly was the daughter of Isham Nathaniel Thompson Barnard and Mary Jane Webb. There were three Isham Stanley's in the community during the same time frame. The other two were Isham (son of John and Malinda Barnard Stanley) who married Lucy Saffrona Pendleton and Isham Barnard Stanley (Isham and Lucy's son) who married Laura Belle Rorrer. Whew!

The ninth child born to Hiram and Lucy Conner Stanley was Larkin McKinley Stanley, born in September of 1870. Larkin married Miss Mahala Susan Blancett and the couple moved several times, from Pulaski to Maryland to Pennsylvania. Larkin and Mahala had three children, Elisha, Maggie, and Lelia.

Baby Isaac Stanley was the tenth child of Hiram and Lucy and tragically, only lived one year from 1873 to 1874. Their next son, Josiah, was born in 1875 and only lived four years.

By the time Hiram and Lucy's eleventh child, Madison "Matt" Jennings Stanley was born, Lucy was 47 years old! The picture shown above is shortly after Matt was born to the couple. Matt Stanley was only four years old



Lucy Conner Stanley at her home surrounded by family. (Courtesy Hilda Stanley Vivier)



Lucy, Matt, and Hiram Stanley. (Courtesy Hilda Stanley Vivier)

when his father, Hiram Stanley died of heart disease at the age of 55.

In November of 1902, Matt married Miss Nancy Ellen Cock, the daughter of Enoch and Elizabeth Marshall Cock of Meadows of Dan. Tragically Nancy died only six months later in May of 1903. Matt remarried in April of 1907 to Miss Virginia Velma Marshall, the daughter of Harbert and Valeria McGrady Marshall of Meadows of Dan. A year later, their daughter, Gladys Eva was born on the Stanley farm and shortly after her birth, Matt and Virginia and baby Gladys moved to Montrose, Colorado. Heartbreak occurred again only two years later when Virginia died in Colorado in 1910, leaving Matt with a toddler to raise on his own. Matt never remarried or returned to Virginia.

Lucy Conner Stanley remained on the Stanley farm until her death in 1907. Pictured above is Lucy at the home she and Hiram built in 1880, flanked by three of her children and some of her grandchildren from son John Conner Stanley. After Lucy's death, daughter Molly remained on the farm and her sister, Amanda, her husband, Sam Collins, and their son John moved in. John and his wife Gracie Marshall Collins lived there until John's death in 1968. Just prior to John's death, the home was sold to a development company and sadly, was torn down in the mid 90's.

Thank you so much to Hilda Stanley Vivier for graciously sharing photos and family history. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

## Social Security Matters

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

**Ask Rusty – About Federal Taxation of Social Security Benefits**

**Dear Rusty:** Why are my Social Security benefits being taxed at all? The Social Security FICA payroll taxes taken out of my paycheck while I was working were paid with taxable income. Signed: Disgruntled Taxpayer

**Dear Disgruntled Taxpayer:** Many Americans share your belief that federal taxation of Social Security benefits is unfair because we pay into the program through payroll taxes on our taxable earnings. Unfortunately, Congress took a different view in 1983 when taxation of Social Security benefits was first enacted at a time Social Security was having financial issues. Congressional logic back then was that a beneficiary only personally pays 50% of the Social Se-

curity contributions made (the other half is paid by the employer) so, since your Social Security entitlement was only half paid for by you and the other half by your employer, the portion of your benefit attributable to your employer's contributions should be taxable. So, it's that other half – the portion of your benefit which resulted from employer contributions - which the 1983 Congress decided should be taxed. So, starting in 1984, if a beneficiary's overall annual income from all sources exceeded \$25,000 for a single filer or \$32,000 for those filing married-jointly, half of that person's Social Security benefits became part of their income taxable by the IRS.

That was how it worked until 1993 when a new and different Congress added another threshold which, if exceeded, resulted in up to 85% of Social Security benefits received during the tax year becoming taxable. The logic used for the 1993 law was that beneficiaries, on average, would only personally pay for about 15% of the

lifetime benefits they would eventually receive, leading that Congress to conclude that if your combined income from all sources exceeded the higher threshold (\$34,000 for single filers and \$44,000 for those filing married/jointly), up to 85% of your benefits should be taxable. Please understand that I'm not defending nor endorsing those historical Congressional views, but I have researched why Social Security benefits are taxable at all, and the above is what I've learned from that research.

For information, the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC), has long advocated for eliminating federal taxation of Social Security benefits or, at the very least, raising the thresholds at which benefits become taxable. The income thresholds for taxing Social Security benefits were established in 1983 and 1993, but those thresholds have never been adjusted for inflation. When taxation of Social Security started in 1984, less than 10% of beneficiaries paid

income tax on their benefits, whereas today that percentage is over 50% and growing. If you want to add your voice to those who oppose federal taxation of Social Security benefits, you may wish to contact your Congressional Representative to do so. And it is worth noting that eleven U.S. states, to varying degrees, also levy income tax on Social Security benefits.

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

## Health—in a Hurry

"What's for lunch today or dinner tonight?" Pizza and pop? Burger and shake? Fried Chicken in a box? Sticky bun on the run? "No time to think about it—I'm hungry—and in a hurry!" Fast, frenzied, and failing—that's how too many of us are tanking up—but we're only fueling fatigue, obesity, depression, and disease.

Something's got to give—don't let it be your good health. Is it possible to enjoy bountiful meals and better health in spite of our crazy-busy schedules? The answer is Yes! Here are some tips for quick-cuisine that can jump-start your journey to good health—in a hurry. Fast doesn't have to be bad! F-A-S-T is good when it spells Fresh, Affordable, Satisfying, and Tasty! And that spells better health, more energy, and less sickness. And isn't that the kind of "quick" we all need?

**Breakfast Bonanza**

For fill-up value and good nutri-

tion, start your day off right with a brain-boosting, high fiber breakfast. It can be as easy as peanut butter and applesauce on whole grain toast or whole grain cereal topped with fresh fruit, soy milk, and walnuts. Build a better breakfast in three easy steps: include fresh fruit, whole-grains, and nuts every morning.

**Super Sandwiches**

Focus on whole grains, healthy fats, garden veggies, and beans. Start a great sandwich with whole grain bread, bagels, or pita bread. Great sandwich fillings include: frozen garden patties; garbanzo hummus or bean spread, baked tofu slices; and veggie cheese slices. Top with avocado, tomato, sprouts, raw spinach, cucumber slices, soy cream cheese spreads.

Enjoy hummus or beans on: whole grain bagel or whole grain crackers.

pita bread with salsa, shredded cab-

bage, shredded carrots, and a touch of your favorite dressing.

whole wheat or corn tortillas with spinach leaves, chopped onion, salsa and sliced olives. Roll up and enjoy hot or cold.

**Take Your Tottables:**

Carry a water bottle with you. Use a thermos for hot soup. Keep containers with tight fitting lids on hand to fill your insulated lunch box with favorite leftovers.

**Be Supper-Savvy**

1. Prepare enough at one meal to last for the next meal or freeze for later.

2. Plan meals around easy soup, brown rice, potato, whole grain pasta, or bean recipes.

3. Keep instant brown rice on hand, as well as frozen mixed vegetables and stir-fry vegetables for a quick, tasty meal.

Three Cheers for Salad—Raw, Raw, Raw!

1. Start lunch and supper with fresh raw salad or veggies. Use mixed greens and raw spinach to ramp up nutrition.

2. Use brain-healthy fats on salads, such as olive oil and avocado. Use a little fresh lemon to increase iron absorption. Keep dressing separate when toting salad for a meal.

3. Add garbanzo or kidney beans for a complete, high fiber meal.

4. Buy prepared and packaged shredded cabbage, broccoli slaw, and shredded carrots to increase nutrition and reduce prep time.

Care for yourself as well as you care for your family and your pets. Eat on time and nourish your body with foods that give you strength. "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit." 1 Corinthians 6:19. A temple is a sacred place.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Used by permission [www.lifestylematters.com](http://www.lifestylematters.com). Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing, Stuart, VA)



# Cougar Baseball team receives state championship rings

**By Pat Delaney**  
The 2023 state champion Cougar baseball team received their championship rings during a ceremony held at halftime of the Patrick County and Floyd County football game.

The team and coaches were joined on the field by many past Cougar baseball players and coaches who returned to celebrate the first state championship in school history.

Before the football game, the team and coaches, past and present, took part in an open house at Cougar Field where they were able to see the improvements made to the field and facilities over the years.



The 2023 State Championship ring of Head Coach Tal Swails.



The players and coaches gather after the ring ceremony for a final team cheer.



The rings beside the State Championship trophy prior to the ceremony.



Graduated seniors such as Jaivontae Penn, returned for the ceremony.



Head coach Tal Swails receives his ring from athletic director, Terry Harris.

# PC Golf Team advances to regionals

**By Ashlee Mullis**  
The PC Varsity Golf Team advanced to regionals with a 2nd place finish at the 2C Sub-Region match at the Olde Mill Golf Club on September 26. The Cougars finished with a 362 behind winner Floyd County, who shot a 320.

Chance Corns led the Cougars with an 86. Kendra Worley shot a

90, Carter Gregory shot a 93, and Lauren Worley shot a 94.

"Carter played a solid round of golf today for us," said Coach Philip Steagall. "I'm proud of all the hard work this team has put in this season, and I am looking forward to seeing them play in the 2C Region Tournament next week at Great Oaks Country Club."



Lauren Worley shot a 94 during play at the Olde Mill Golf Club on September 26.

# 'No quit' as Cougar football team falls to Floyd

**By Pat Delaney**  
The Patrick County Cougars dropped a district contest with the visiting Floyd County Buffaloes, 28-9, on September 29.

Floyd County came into the game at 1-3, but defeated James River 42-7 the previous week. The Cougar coaching staff knew Floyd was improving each week, and would be a tough opponent.

"That team is much better than their record, and we knew coming in that they were better than the record," said Coach David Morrison. "As a coaching staff, we knew coming in they're much better than their record. As you watch on film, they've continuously gotten better as the seasons progressed. So that tells me as the season progresses, yeah, they're only going to continue to get better, and that's going to be a really tough team moving forward."

Floyd struck early, picking off a Cougar pass. Facing 4th and 9, they scored on a touchdown pass, taking the lead. The Cougars answered with a solid drive, ending with a long field goal attempt coming up short.

In the second quarter, neither team seemed able to gain any mo-

mentum. A big swing came on a Cougar punt that was mishandled by the Floyd returner and recovered by Patrick County. With 2:37 to go in the half, the Cougars got on the board with a 37-yard, Reyli Martinez-Tejada field goal, closing the gap to 7-3.

Opening the second half with the ball, Floyd went on a nearly six-minute touchdown drive to increase their lead. Patrick County stalled on their first drive, being forced to punt from their own end zone. Floyd found the end zone once again with 11:11 to go in the 4th quarter, upping their lead to 21-3.

The Cougar offense replied following a kickoff return into Floyd territory. The offensive line opened some holes for the Cougar backs who moved downfield on several solid runs. With 10:22 to go, Aden Penn took the ball 36 yards for the touchdown.

Once again, Floyd seemed able to hold the Cougar momentum at bay, driving downfield, deep into Cougar territory. Forced to go for it on 4th and 10, Floyd responded with another touchdown pass, increasing their lead to 28-9.

After the Cougars turned it over

on downs, Floyd took a knee to end the game.

A deciding factor in the game was the battle at the line of scrimmage, where Floyd's size was an advantage.

"You look across the front and you know we were outsized. They've got some really good-sized kids up there," said Coach Morrison. "At the end of the day, we've got to do a better job in every matchup, in every battle. You've got to figure out where you can win, and that's just something that we didn't do a good job of tonight. We didn't figure out where our advantage was, especially until later in the game."

Floyd also struck on many big, momentum shifting plays. The Cougar staff made adjustments to slow down the Floyd attack.

"A lot of their big plays came to their sideline, and that's typical high school football. You can't see the other side of the field and they find a little wrinkle that you can't cover over there and they're going to keep running it. And so that was one of the things that we saw, and we had to make some adjustments on the fly and try to figure out what they were doing."

"Once we kind of figured it out,

we kind of forced their hand to come back the other way," said Coach Morrison, adding, "unfortunately, we had a couple of miscues. And you know when you have miscues, a team that's that good is going to take advantage of it and they're going to capitalize."

Offensively, the Cougars were led by Aden Penn's 93 yards rushing and a touchdown. Stephen Spencer rushed for 45 yards. On defense, Jay Haward led the way with 15 tackles.

Coach Morrison liked the fight his team gave the entire game, not showing any signs of quitting.

"We're not going to give up, and we're just going to keep pressing the issue. That's something that we have to do for us to be successful, and in any aspect of life, you can't give up, you can't quit."

"When everything is stacked against you and things are going rough, you just got to keep grinding, because at the end of the day, you'll never win by quitting, that's for sure," he said.

Next up for the Cougars will be district opponent, Glenvar, at home, October 6th at 7 p.m.

See more photos online at [theenterprise.net](http://theenterprise.net).



Aden Penn speeding toward the end zone for a Cougar touchdown.



Trever Joyce pounced on the misplayed punt return, giving the ball back to the Cougars.



Jaiden Wilson goes airborne, narrowly missing the catch.



Easton Harris tries to break free of the defense.





# Ryan Blaney wins YellaWood 500 thriller at Talladega

By Holly Cain  
NASCAR Wire Service

Ryan Blaney's No. 12 Team Penske Ford crossed the finish line about a foot ahead of Stewart-Haas Racing's Kevin Harvick to claim victory in a thrilling final 10-lap push to the YellaWood 500 checkered flag at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway on Sunday.

With the crucial Playoff win — Blaney's third on the famed 2.66-mile high-banks — the driver of the No. 12 Team Penske Ford punched his ticket to the next round of the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs after being points away from elimination at the Talladega green flag three hours earlier.

Blaney led eight laps on the day but was out front the final two laps to secure the win by a slight .012-second — about the length of a tire — over former series champion, Harvick, who is retiring at the end of the season. It's the 29-year old Blaney's second trophy of the season and ninth of his career.

"I don't really know, pretty wild last restart, let alone last couple laps," said a smiling Blaney, who admitted he wasn't sure if he won until his spotter confirmed. "Kinda lost momentum, then getting it back, got clear to the bottom to kind get to the front row and drag race it out with Kevin [Harvick]. It's so cool to win here three times at Talladega.

"I won it by more than I had the last couple years," Blaney conceded with a laugh. "You just don't know. You have to drag race to the line and hope you get help. William [Byron] gave me a pretty good shove on the bottom."

"This is such a special place to win at so I cannot wait to go to Victory Lane," he said.

Kevin Harvick's No. 4 Ford failed post-race inspection, resulting in a disqualification. As a result, he was moved to last place in the running order. Playoff drivers Byron, who drives the No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, and Denny Hamlin, who drives the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota finished second and third. Spire Motorsports' Corey Lajoie was fourth — his third career Top-5 finish — just ahead of a multi-car accident just before the finish line.

Blaney's Penske teammate Austin Cindric, Hendrick's Chase Elliott, Kaulig Racing's Justin Haley, Harvick's teammate Ryan Preece and Front Row Racing's Riley Herbst — making only his fourth career NASCAR Cup Series start — rounded out the Top-10.

It was a typical action-packed Dega day with 70 lead changes among 24 drivers. Blaney's teammate Joey Logano led the most laps (24) but finished 25th.

Seven drivers led double-digit laps, but only one of those — Byron — was a Playoff driver.

Hamlin's fourth place final effort was especially impressive considering he was issued a pit road penalty mid-race and had to recover from being a lap down.

"Not how we drew it up, but a dub (W) is a dub (W) and that was a dub (W) in our book," Hamlin said. "As close as it gets to it. Made a statement bringing me a car fast enough for us to win. And obviously when I had to go there, I could, and just made the right moves at the right time and a Top-5 is a long way from where we were with about 15 laps to go."

Blaney joins last week's Texas winner Byron with victories in this three-race Playoff round to earn a position in the next eight-driver round. Hamlin's rally — after running outside the Top-20 for much of the middle of the race — keeps his position atop the Playoff standings (50 points) among those 12

drivers still Playoff eligible.

JGR's Christopher Bell, who finished 15th, remains fourth in the championship standings. Roush Fenway Keselowski driver Chris Buescher, who finished 20th at Talladega, is ranked fifth. Hendrick's Kyle Larson, who finished 16th Sunday, holds a 17-point edge on the eight-driver cut-off line tied with regular season champion Martin Truex Jr., who finished 19th at Talladega.

Brad Keselowski, one of two Playoff drivers to suffer a DNF on Sunday, still holds a slim two-point edge on Tyler Reddick for that eighth and final transfer position going into next week's race at the Charlotte ROVAL, which will determine which eight drivers advance to the penultimate three-race round to set the Championship Four field.

23XI Racing's Reddick, who finished 17th, is in ninth place — a mere two-points back. Trackhouse Racing's Ross Chastain who was involved in an early-race accident and suffered his first DNF of the Playoffs dropped below the cutoff line for the first time this round and is now 10th place, nine points back.

Chastain is tied in points with 23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace, a former Talladega race winner who finished a frustrating 24th on Sunday. His team co-owner, NBA superstar Michael Jordan met up with Wallace on pit road after the race offering a handshake, pat on the back and some encouraging words.

Two-time series champion Kyle Busch still finds himself in a catch-up role, essentially needing a walk-off victory next week at the ROVAL road course through Charlotte Motor Speedway. He finished 26th and now sits 26 points behind eighth place Keselowski.

Keselowski's position in the standings — thanks in part to his sixth stage win (stage 2) of the season — is remarkable considering his tough luck day at Talladega. He was among the eight cars collected in Talladega's "Big One" with 25 laps remaining that brought out a nearly 10-minute red flag for clean-up.

Chastain was the first NASCAR Cup Series Playoff driver to suffer a major Talladega woe — caught up in an incident involving Busch and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. on Lap 59 racing toward the Lap 60 Stage 1 break. Busch made contact with Stenhouse's Chevy, which was slowing on track after running out of gas. As Busch swerved to avoid crashing, his No. 8 Chevy caught the corner of Chastain's No. 1 Chevy. It sent Chastain hard into the wall and then directly to the garage, his first DNF of the Playoffs.

"It's just the way it goes, nothing personal with it, I don't take any of this personally here," said Chastain, who finished runner-up in the 2022 NASCAR Cup Series Championship. "Could have stayed bottom a few laps earlier probably, just had a couple cars laying in my lap and I went for the gap. Will study it and be better next time.

"Lefts and rights and living my dream," he said of the crucial ROVAL race next weekend, "so whatever our team brings next week we'll put our best foot forward as long as I'm getting to drive these rocket ships that Trackhouse [Racing] brings me, I'm living my dream and we'll keep fighting."

The Bank of America ROVAL 400 is next Sunday afternoon at the Charlotte Motor Speedway Road Course (2 p.m. ET, NBC, PRN, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio). Bell is the defending race winner.

## OBITUARIES

### Leon Hancock



Mr. Leon Hancock, age 80 of Bassett, passed away Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at his home. He was born in Patrick County on June 14, 1943, to the late Robert Lem Hancock and Irene Elizabeth Joyce Hancock. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Betty Jean Lewis, Janet Hancock; and one brother, John Hancock. Leon was a member of Pleasant View Baptist Church. He enjoyed fishing but his main passion was fishing.

Surviving is his loving wife of 60 years, Bonnie Wright Hancock of the home; two sons and daughters-in-law, Bryan and

ers-in-law, Helen and Ray Shough of Patrick Springs, Kathy and Wink Parnell of Bassett; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Wilford and Joann Hancock of Patrick Springs, Kenny Hancock of Bassett; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Friday, September 29, 2023, at 11:00 AM at Pleasant View Baptist Church with Dr. Joey McNeill officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends Thursday evening from 6 to 8 at the church. Online condolences may be sent to [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

Phyllis Hancock of Chase City, Alan and Kelly Hancock of Martinsville; five grandchildren, Naomi Stone (Justin), Alycia Holt (Cody), Kacie Wine-sette (Andrew), Kelcie Nester (John), Jessica Wheeler (Matt); seven great grandchildren, Aiden, Andon, Kyleigh, Oakley, Madison, Cole, Tate; two sisters and broth-

### Billy Jack Gray



Mr. Billy Jack Gray, age 91 of Stuart, passed away Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Patrick County on January 30, 1932, to the late Brockley Moore Gray and Fannie Heath Gray. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Billy Ray Gray; and three sisters, Louise Rogers, Elva Bary, and Thelma Corns. Billy was a member of Minnie's Chapel Wesleyan Church. He was a member of the High Standard Hunting Club in Amelia. He en-

joyed hunting and fishing. His most favorite thing was to watch his grandsons, the lights of his life, play sports. Surviving is his wife, Lilla Mae Sisk Gray; one daughter and son-in-law, Chris-

tie and Ricky Vernon of Stuart; two grandsons, Austin Vernon and girlfriend, Amber Quesinberry, Colby Vernon and wife, Samantha; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 11:00 AM at Minnie's Chapel Wesleyan Church Cemetery with Rev. Ricky Rogers officiating. Memorials may be made to Mountain Valley Hospice, 730 E. Church St., Suite 13, Martinsville, VA 24112. Online condolences may be sent to [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

## PCHS Sports Schedule

Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of October 5-11:

10/5	7pm Volleyball	at Floyd
10/6	7pm Football	vs Glenvar
10/10	7pm Volleyball	vs Alleghany

*Lindsey Puckett*  
ASSOCIATE BROKER

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Saturday, October 7

Pre-Register for \$25 (includes event T-shirt)  
VENDOR SPACES AVAILABLE

EVENT PARTNERSHIPS:  
• The Landmark Center  
• Clark Gas & Oil  
• Patrick County Family Practice  
• Piedmont Community Services  
• CPB Behavioral Therapy & Advocacy Services

10:00 am - Registration/Check-In  
11 am - Introductory Ceremony with guest speakers  
11:45 am - Walk begins around the track with DJ, vendor booths open  
1:00 pm - Walk ends

[stuartruritans@gmail.com](mailto:stuartruritans@gmail.com)



**Lula "Mae" Rakes Dalton**

Mrs. Lula "Mae" Rakes Dalton, age 93 of Stuart, Virginia passed away peacefully on September 30, 2023. She was born in Patrick County, Virginia on October 17, 1929, to the late Elder Dewey Branscomb Rakes and Viola Mae Sink Rakes. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Edward A. Dalton; three sisters, Gladys Lenora Rakes Barnard, Shirley Jean Rakes, and Mary Jane Rakes Lumpkin; and one brother, James "Jim" Dewey Rakes. Mae was of the Primitive Baptist faith. She retired from United El-



tic Corp after forty-five years of service. She truly loved her family and family gatherings. Mrs. Dalton is survived by one daughter, Gail D. Fain of Stuart; two grandsons, Jamie Fain (Crystal) and Brandon Fain, all of Stuart; two great-grandsons, Lo-

gan Fain, and Dante Marot; two brothers, Everett Rakes (Linda), and Raymond Rakes; several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A funeral service for Mrs. Dalton will be held at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Gary Combs officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the Elamsville Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services on Wednesday afternoon. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Joseph Winfred Dawson**

Mr. Joseph Winfred Dawson, age 98 of Stuart, Virginia passed away at The Blue Ridge Therapy Connection on Monday, September 25, 2023. He was born in Pittsylvania County on June 11, 1925, to the late John William Dawson and Lillie Vaughn Dawson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth Riddle Dawson; his second wife, Mary Lou Lawless Dawson; one son, Phil Dawson; one brother, Earl Dawson; and five sisters, Ruth Morrison, Catherine Pilson, Margaret Bennett, Madeline Elgin and Doris Atkinson. Mr. Dawson proudly and faithfully served in the United States Army during World War II. He was a member of Buffalo Ridge Pentecostal Holiness Church, where he served as a trustee on



the church board. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling. He will be remembered for his willingness to always help others in need. Mr. Dawson is survived by a daughter-in-law, Arline Dawson; two grandchildren, Kent Dawson, and Ward Dawson; stepchildren, Nancy Slate, Dianna Adams, Ronnie Lawless, Donnie Lawless, and Tim Lawless; numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral service for Mr. Dawson will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at Buffalo Ridge Pentecostal Holiness Church with Rev. Kenneth Terry officiating. Burial will immediately follow the service in the church cemetery. Military rites provided by Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services on Thursday afternoon. Memorial donations may be made to Buffalo Ridge Pentecostal Holiness Church, c/o Naomi Pilson, 202 Bob Kat Lane, Stuart, VA 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Lewis Dale Largen**

Lewis Dale Largen, age 66, of Meadows of Dan, Virginia, passed away at his home on Monday, September 25, 2023. Lewis was born in Patrick County on February 11, 1957, to the late Lloyd Glenn Largen and Martha Ethelean McAlexander Largen. Lewis loved bluegrass music, Harley Davidson Motorcycles, and traveling. The joy of his life was being Poppy Lou to his grandbabies.

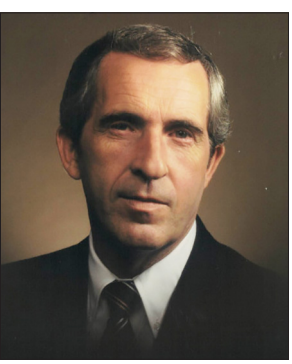


Katelyn Marie Cox and husband, Adam, Jacob Mackenzie Turman, Abigail Elise Turman, Addison Rose Turman, great-granddaughter, Savannah Marie Cox; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Harvey Largen and wife, Therese Haugh, Carlton Largen and wife, Barbara; several nie-

ces and nephews. The funeral service will be held Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Reed Island Springs Baptist Church and burial will follow at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Vesta Rescue Squad P.O. Box 911, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Melvin O'Neal Bowman**

Melvin O'Neal Bowman of Meadows of Dan, VA passed quietly at Lynchburg General Hospital after a brief illness on September 24, 2023. He was the proud father of his two children, Deborah Bowman of Madison Heights, VA and James Bowman of Lynchburg, VA; and his sister, Imogene "Jean" Wilson of Lynchburg. Most all the people who knew him called him "O'Neal" or "Neal" and that suited him. One of his true enjoyments was to fish for real native trout in a stream. Some of those areas were deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains he called home. He would take anyone who was brave enough to get in the streams. Like his friend Jimmy Campbell and a cousin, Cliff Bowman, and others. Neal graduated from Meadows of Dan High School and received college classes through his military time in the Army. He trained as Special Forces personnel and as Military Police with a lifelong friend named Robert



Smith from Chicago. They shared many laughs and thoughts over the years.

During his life he was a contractor that built numerous houses. Then the proud owner of Lynchburg Seamless Gutters. He retired and began the enjoyment of the game of golf with Mabel Short, who liked to challenge him in most parts of his life. Neal enjoyed listening to John Hagee for the work of God in his spiritual life. He supported their ministry and the Boys Town organization as well. If anyone was interested in asking for help in life or starting a business, then he was there to help and truly enjoyed people in general. Politics was a large source of conversation and

motivation for Neal. Most knew he would get them into a debate whether they realized it or not and that could end up being quite an event to behold. One of the most valuable lessons he would tell others was to be honest and stand for your principles no matter what may occur. Because this is the true representation of what makes a person who they will be through life. He was truly loved by many friends and family and will be missed. May he rest in peace.

A funeral service for O'Neal will be held on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 12:00 pm at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. Burial will follow in the Reed Island Springs Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends a half hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Military rites will be provided by the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard. Expressions of condolences can be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Josie Marie Boyd Epperson**

Mrs. Josie Marie Boyd Epperson, age 97 of Ararat, Virginia passed away on Friday, September 29, 2023, at the Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson, North Carolina. Mrs. Epperson was born April 14, 1926, in Patrick County to the late Harvey and Sarah Gwynn Boyd. Josie was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Surviving is her daughter and son-in-law, Carla Epperson Shimko and husband Richard; two sons and daughter-in-law, Gregory Epperson, Brent Epperson and wife Julie; ten grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Judy Boyd Johnson and husband Jimmy,



Margaret Boyd and husband David Brown; a sister-in-law, Jewel Boyd; two brothers and sister -in-law, Clark Boyd, Donald Boyd and wife Christa; along with many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Epperson was preceded in death by her husband, Roy N. Epperson; a stepson Harold Epperson and his infant daughter, Jennifer; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Louette Boyd Bolen and James, Annie Boyd Johnson and

Clyde; a sister-in-law, Shirley Boyd; and four brothers and sister-in-law, Jesse Boyd and wife Frances, Monroe Boyd, Roger Boyd, and Clifford Boyd. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Unity Church in Ararat, Virginia with Reverend Buford Jessup officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends on Monday, October 2, 2023, at Moody Funeral Home in Mount Airy from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. The body will lie-in-state on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, thirty minutes prior to the service at the church. Moody Funeral Services in Mount Airy has been entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**EDA announces new officers**

At its most recent meeting on September 28, the Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board selected new board officers. Ron Haley, former vice chairman, was selected to serve as the new chairman. Debra Shelor, former Treasurer, was selected to serve as the new vice chairman. Harold Gregory was selected to serve as the Treasurer. Other EDA Board members are Danny Foley, David Lusk, and Rick Worley. Currently, the Blue Ridge District seat on the board is vacant.

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Pete Campbell, Manager  
Terri S. Wood, Assistant Manager

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## LEGAL

**NOTICE OF TAKING PROOF OF DEBTS AND DEMANDS**

In Re: Hugh A. White, Jr., Deceased Patrick County Circuit Court Case File No: 210000018

At the request of the Executor of the Estate of Hugh A. White, Jr., deceased, and pursuant to Virginia Code Section 64.2-550, I have scheduled October 23, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., at my office located at 6 Moss Street, The Phoenix Building, Martinsville, Virginia, as the time and place for receiving debts and demands against the said decedent or his estate.

Janine M. Jacob, Commissioner of Accounts  
P.O. Box 884, Martinsville, VA 24114  
Phone: 276-403-4252

## 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

## LEGAL

**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  
kncevov@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



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## 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. Belmgay [ ] CLERK [ ] JUDGE

## LEGAL

**JUSTICE COURT, LAS VEGAS TOWNSHIP Clark County Nevada**

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

**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:

- a. 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/.)
- b. 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



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

\*Notwithstanding 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.

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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**Meetings**

**Tuesday, Oct. 17**  
The Patrick County Planning Commission will have a sub-committee work session at 4 p.m. followed by a regular business meeting at 6 p.m. at the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) community room.  
**Wednesday, Oct. 25**  
The Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board will meet at 7 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building.

**Events**

**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.  
The Woolwine Methodist Food Truck will be at the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department from 3 to 4:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Oct. 7**  
Community Breakfast at Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad from 7-10 a.m., at 1258 American Legion Road, Stuart. Donations accepted.  
Dippin for Dolly Ice Cream Fundraiser at The Back Yard Cow Ice Cream Shop located at 9869 Woolwine Highway, Woolwine. Eat ice cream, raise funds for the Patrick County Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program. Proceeds from that day's sales will be donated to the program. Additional donations will be accepted and also the opportunity to register your child for the program. The Back Yard Cow will be open from 2 to 7 p.m. for our Dippin for Dolly Fundraiser. This will also be the second to last day the ice cream shop will be open for the season. So come and enjoy one last taste of summer and support a great cause.  
The Woolwine Methodist women will be making apple butter and having a yard sale starting at 9 a.m.  
Meadows of Dan Women's Club Bingo, at the Meadows of Dan Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m., games start at 6 p.m. Raffle Drawings; Cards 3 for \$25. Food available for sale. For more information, call (276) 952-2674 or (276) 952-6395.

**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**  
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.  
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.

**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.  
**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. Located at the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department Grounds in Woolwine. Music provided by Friday Night Band, Jordan T Morrison & The Foothill Boys and Twin Creeks String band (Formerly Dry Hill Draggers). Events include Music, Dancing, Apple Butter, Crafts, etc. Food: Hotdogs, Fried Apple Pies, HAM PLATES, Bake Sale and Beverages. Craft vendors are welcome at no charge. Call (276) 229-8241 for more information.  
The 53rd annual Lord's Acre Sale will be held at Rotary Field with doors opening at 7 a.m. There will be food, baked goods, crafts and homemade treasures available. A brief worship service will be at 10:30 a.m., and an auction beginning at 11 a.m.

Forest School at Philpott Lake, 1058 Philpott Dam Road, Bassett, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join DRBA and the US Army Corps of Engineers at Philpott Lake for a free family event which will provide learning opportunities about our natural resources. Educational exhibits and activities will be set up in the grassy area for youth to participate in with giveaways. Free meals will be provided to the first 100 youth and their parents.  
**Sunday, Oct. 15**  
The Thanksgiving service for Lord's Acre will be at 7 p.m. at the Mt. Nebo Pentecostal Church. Pennies for the Penny House will be collected at this service.  
**Thursday, Oct. 19**  
The Patrick County Republican Committee will meet at 6 p.m. at the Motorsports Hall of Fame Auditorium, 212 Johnson St., Stuart.  
**Friday, Oct. 20**  
The Patrick County Library will hold an educational presentation about Medicare and Social Security starting at 12 p.m.  
**Saturday, Oct. 21**  
Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department County Breakfast, 6:30 until 10 a.m., 6687 Fairystone Park Highway, Stuart. Dine-in price is \$10 per adult plate and \$5 for a child's plate. All take out/to-go plates are \$10. Call in orders on (276) 930-2113. Sponsored by the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary.

**Ongoing**  
\*Fridays in October - The Stuart Farmers' Market is open from 8 a.m. till noon, with locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats, baked items, eggs, crafts and more.  
\*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 intended 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 holds Rook games on Mondays 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.

ter Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary.

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P.O. Box 348 - Stuart, Va.  
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Phone (276) 694-3101  
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www.theenterprise.net  
The oldest continuously operated business in Patrick County. Published each Wednesday except the last week in December by The Enterprise, Inc., and entered as second class matter at the post office in Stuart, Virginia 24171. Postmaster: send address changes to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 348, Stuart, VA 24171-0348.

Publisher Michael Showell  
Editor Debbie Hall  
**Subscription Rates:**  
\$32 per year in Patrick County;  
\$42 elsewhere.  
Single copies \$1.00.

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Email to: dhall@theenterprise.net

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**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

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# Oversight Subcommittee Hearing on Maui Fires



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

is in session, and we continue to work on numerous issues of concern, while the spending debate continues.

For example, recently the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which I chair, held a hearing on the devastating Maui fires that occurred this past August.

Specifically, the Committee investigated what role Maui's electric infrastructure might have played in the events leading up to the fires.

Our witnesses included the Chairman of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, the Chief Energy Officer of the Hawai'i State Energy Office, and the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hawaiian Electric.

As many of you may know, in early August a series of fires broke out on the island of Maui, including one that devastated the town of Lahaina on the west coast of the island.

As of now, at least 97 lives have been tragically lost and the damage caused by the fire is estimated at nearly \$6 billion.

It seems there were many known risk factors related to Maui's electric infrastructure which contributed to the likelihood of a wildfire. Some wildfire experts have noted that dense, flammable non-na-

tive grasses have multiplied across the island in recent years, facilitating the deadly spread of the recent fires.

Some utility law experts argued that Hawaiian Electric waited too long to pursue important upgrades to harden and modernize the electric grid against wildfire risks. The reported slowness in replacing outdated and deteriorating poles (caused by weather, bug infestation, etc.) have also played a factor.

During my questioning, I focused on the actions taken by Hawaiian Electric on the morning of August 8th.

Weather reports from the National Weather Service stated that between August 7th and 8th the region would experience enhanced wind gusts and very dry conditions, issuing a High Wind Warning on the afternoon of August 7th. A Red Flag Warning was also issued, meaning that there was an even greater increased risk of fire.

During her testimony, Hawaiian Electric President and CEO Shelee Kimura stated that the company was aware of the Red Flag Warning, noting that they were aware certain areas were experiencing wind gusts of 80 miles per hour.

I asked Ms. Kimura when during the night the company learned exceptionally high winds were occurring. Even though she is the President and CEO of Hawaiian Electric, and knew she was coming to Congress to testify under oath, she could not tell us at what time

the company learned dangerous winds were hitting western Maui.

My Senior Policy Advisor, JR Walker, quickly informed me that the National Weather Service had issued the Red Flag Warning at 4:42 a.m. on August 7th. This information is important as Hawaiian Electric did not deenergize their power lines on Maui until around 7 a.m. on the 8th.

By 6:37 a.m., a brush fire was reported as dry grass had caught fire due to sparks from downed power lines. Though thought to be contained by the Maui Fire Department around 9 a.m., the fire then flared up again around 3:30 p.m. This was the devastating fire in Lahaina that many saw on the news.

I was disappointed we could not get answers on the timeline leading up to the deenergizing of the power lines on Maui. Ms. Kimura could not even tell us how long it would take for the power lines to be safe after deenergizing.

We still have more questions than answers.

Hawaiians and all Americans should know what led to the fires and how to prevent something like this from happening again in our country.

The Committee will continue to investigate in the months ahead.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or to reach my office via email, visit [www.morgangriffith.house.gov](http://www.morgangriffith.house.gov).

As we approach the end of the fiscal year and approved government funding, many of us are working hard to cut spending. Because of the increased spending our nation is facing, we've seen a \$2.3 trillion deficit this year alone, adding to the overall \$33 trillion national debt.

Republicans are still working hard trying to come up with an agreement that funds our government, secures our southern border, and reins in spending. The Democrats, however, are not willing to help. I feel this is partly philosophical, but mostly it is because they believe that the government shutdown benefits them in the elections next year.

In the meantime, Some wildfire experts have noted that dense, flammable non-na-

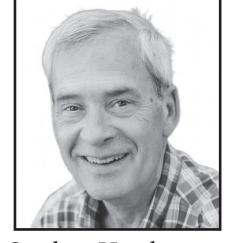
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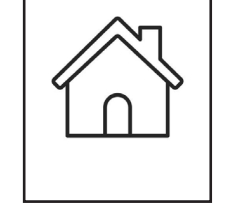
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## Alzheimer's Group Honors Dr. Cole's Service

Patrick County has endured many changes in its available health care of

the years, including the loss of many doctors and a hospital. One bright light has shown through the darkness: Dr. Richard Cole and his dedication to the health care of Patrick County residents. Last Thurs-

day the Patrick County Alzheimer's Group honored Dr. Cole with a plaque recognizing his years of service and dedication to the area. Terri Birkett, a longtime friend, presented the plaque. Astrid Cole, RN, was also recognized as a beacon of strength behind her husband as he worked hard for this county. Thank you, Dr. Richard Cole and Patrick County Family Practice, for continuing to support our county!



Pictured left to right are Sally Smith, Alzheimer's Group Executive Director; Terri Birkett, Astrid Cole, and Dr. Richard Cole.

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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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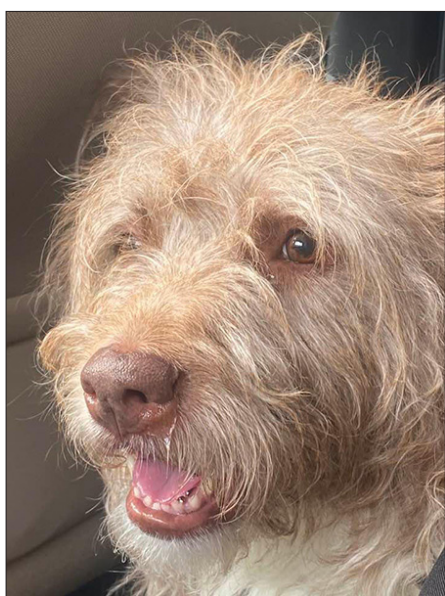


# Blessing of the Animals service set

On Saturday, October 7th at 2 p.m. Mayberry Presbyterian Church will hold a "Blessing of the Animals" service in front of the historic rock church that is located just off the Blue Ridge Parkway south of mile marker #180. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held behind the community building across the street and under the porch.

Feel free to bring whatever animals who bring joy to your life: dogs, cats, birds, pigs, sheep, donkeys, and non-poisonous snakes. But please keep your animal friends under control and on a leash or in a cage. After the service, we'll have treats for dogs and cats.

The tradition of blessing animals comes from Francis of Assisi, who lives in the twelfth century. Born to a wealthy family, Francis gave up his life of privilege and became a monk. A lover of nature, there are many stories of him conversing with God's creatures, who often seemed enchanted by this simple holy man



Mia will be among the pets attending the Blessing of the Animals service at Mayberry Presbyterian Church. Mia's human is Jeff Garrison.

who called on all to praise God.

The service will short and meaningful and led by Pastor Jeff Garrison, Leslie Shelor and Carol Strickland. Everyone is invited.

# Golden Oldies Jam held

The Golden Oldies Open Jam on Tuesday, September 26 at the Hollow Road in Ararat featured (left to right) Doug Reeves on electric guitar; Author and historian Tom Perry volunteering in the kitchen; Lar-

ry Wishon on keyboard, and Lead Singer Ronnie Landert. View our videos on Facebook and give the group a 'like.' (By Mary Dellenback Hill, Representative of Dan River District, Patrick County Tourism.)



# Personal property, real estate tax due dates set

Statements for the year 2023 Personal Property Taxes were mailed to Patrick County taxpayers on Monday, September 11.

Each taxpayer should receive a statement for any personal property such as cars, trucks, mobile homes, business equipment, machinery and tools registered on your tax record as of January 1, 2023. If you do not receive your tax statement, please contact the Patrick County Treasurer's Office at 276-694-7257. Failure to receive a statement does not relieve one from the penalty and interest added after the due date. Please mail or bring the bottom portion of the statement(s) with you when paying your taxes.

Also, the 2nd installment of the year 2023 Real Estate Tax is due December 5, 2023. The 2023 Real Estate statements were mailed around the end of April with two payment stubs, the first payment was due June 5th and the second payment is due December 5, 2023. Payments received will be applied to the oldest tax owed (VA Code Section 58.1-3913). If your Real Estate statement has been misplaced and you do not know the amount due in December, please contact the Treasurer's office. An insert was placed in with the personal property statements to remind taxpayers to pay the 2nd installment of real estate taxes.

Tax due date s Tuesday - De-

ember 5, 2023

A penalty of 10% is added on December 6, 2023, and 10% per annum interest begins to accrue 26 days after the due date.

Treasurer Office Hours are Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. - Located in the Veterans Memorial Building/County Administration Building, Room 221.

The office will be closed the following holidays:

Monday - October 9 - Columbus Day

Tuesday - November 7 - Election Day

Friday - November 10 - Veterans Day

Wednesday - November 22 closing at noon and remaining closed

Thursday and Friday - November 23 and 24 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Treasurer, Patrick County and mailed to: Sandra K. Stone, Treasurer, P.O. Box 668, Stuart VA 24171. Payments by credit card can be made online by contacting ACI at [www.acipayonline.com](http://www.acipayonline.com) or by calling 1-833-398-6729 (use jurisdiction code 6215) a fee is charged for this service. Credit Cards accepted in the office are VISA, MasterCard, and Discover. A 3% convenience fee is charged. All transactions in office processed as credit.



PCHS Class of '73 - 50th Class Reunion September 23, 2023

# Class of '73 celebrates 50 years

Patrick County High School Class of 1973 met Saturday, September 23, 2023, to celebrate their 50th Class Reunion. It began with a tour of PCHS followed by a social hour and a short program before a catered dinner at the Eagles Club. A time of remembrance was held in memory of the 27 deceased classmates. The Class of 1973 has always held a reunion every five years.

Class of 1973 - Seated - Jeff Amos, Dean Harbour, Stephanie Turner Martin, Bessie Clark Weber, Karen Elgin Wheeler, Carol Blackard Wood, Connie Blackard Abdullah, Janet Montgomery Reynolds, Sharon Hooker Marshall.

2nd Row - Dianne Lyon Hunt, Freda Spencer Gilmer, Marla Haynes John-

ston, Karen Adams Kroplin, Karen Shockley Coleman, Velma Marshall Anders, James Hyler, Ronnie Harris, Frank Tatum, Verneice Hill Alley, Edward Niten, Victor Williams, Lewis Joyce, David Anderson.

3rd Row: - Rick Hill, Ronnie Collins, Wanda Inman Hill, Joe Knight, Jennifer Thomas Nowlin, Linda Griffith Dunlap, Jackie Griffith Belcher, Larry Fulcher, Karen Turner Fulcher, Becky Tuggle Platt, Ann Light Cruise, Joy Willard Vaughn, Jo Via Kapfer.

4th Row - Joe Bowman, Pete Foley, Dale Craig, John Witt, George Rakes, Stewart Roberson, Gary Dalton, Rick Cole, Ray Hairston, Vance Agee, Henry Hairston, Steve Hairston, James Hagwood, Clayton Kendrick, Joan Baliles Achord, Buren Kendrick.

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OCTOBER PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY 2023					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7
Yoga 10:00 Registration required Senior Chair Exercise 1:30 LEGO Club 4:00	Storytime 10:30 Squirrels	Yoga 10:00 Registration required	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15		Family Movie 11:00 Trick or Treat Scooby-Doo!
9	10	11	12	13	14
Yoga 10:00 Registration required Senior Chair Exercise 1:30 LEGO Club 4:00	Storytime 10:30 Scarecrows	Yoga 10:00 Registration required	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15 Halloween Craft 2:30 Registration required Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00		Board Game Day
16	17	18	19	20	21
CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING DAY	NO STORYTIME	Yoga 10:00 Registration required Retired Teacher's Book Club 11:00	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15 Open Art Studio 1:00	Medicare 101 12:00	Youth Art Program 10:30 Halloween Bags Registration required @ Apple Dumpling Festival
23	24	25	26	27	28
Yoga 10:00 Registration required Senior Chair Exercise 1:30 LEGO Club 4:00	Storytime 10:30 With the Master Gardeners: Bats Introduction to Zen 1:30 Books & Bakes 5:00	Yoga 10:00 Registration required	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15		
30	31				
Yoga 10:00 Registration required Senior Chair Exercise 1:30 LEGO Club 4:00	Storytime 10:30 Halloween Costumes welcome Stuart Spooktacular 5:30-8:00	Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352.			





## Seniors enjoy a break from class

The College For Older Adults, presented by The Landmark Center at VT Reynolds Homestead in Critz, is taking a break between the Uncivil (Civil War). Pictured (left table) is Instructor Darryl Holland, Tim Smith of Floyd (far right table), with Patrick County

In The Civil War, Instructor, Tom Perry. Thankful to Melanie Gilbert (Instructor, The Homestead's Table) for putting out refreshments for the early morning. (Photo by Mary Dellenback Hill, Representative of Dan River District, Patrick County Tourism.)

## Voter Education and Candidate Forum set

The Patrick County Young Professionals (PCYP) invite you to attend the 4th annual Voter Education and Candidate Forum. The Tuesday, October 10, event will be held in the historic Star Theater, located at 318 Patrick Ave, in Stuart. The forum begins at 6 p.m.; doors open at 5:45 p.m.

The PCYP is a non-partisan organization seeking to engage our local community in the electoral process. In hosting this event, it hopes to share information with community members, to register anyone who is not yet registered to vote, and to connect voters to their candidates and local officials.

The group has confirmed a majority of our local candidates to speak at this event.

The Registrar will also be on hand

with voter registration information and to answer any questions about deadlines and the voting process.

Candidate introductions will be followed by a meet and greet session with light hors d'oeuvres. Please come support your community and learn about your candidates.

Patrick County Young Professionals seek to better the community by connecting ambitious individuals who will inspire through their integrity, social responsibility, and commitment. PCYP is partnering with local organizations to host the 8th annual Stuart Spooktacular on October 31. For more information about the PCYP's events, email pcyounpros@gmail.com or visit the group's Facebook page at Patrick County Young Professionals.

## Pre-register now for Apple Dumpling 5K

Lace up those sneakers and join the fun on Saturday October 21, in Downtown Stuart for the annual Apple Dumpling Festival 5K.

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Dan River Basin Association, is presenting this annual fundraiser. The 5K race is run along the Mayo River Rail Trail before the Town of Stuart's Apple Dumpling Festival.

One of the most scenic and flat 5K's in

Patrick County, pre-registered runners receive a guaranteed T-shirt. All runners receive a finisher medal, marked course, chance for awards, and a great time. Proceeds benefit the Dan River basin Association's trail development in Patrick County.

The 22nd annual Apple Dumpling Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information and to register for the 5K visit [www.patrickchamber.com](http://www.patrickchamber.com) or call (276) 694-6012.

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**JOB WELL DONE: Nancy Belcher:** "Ms. Boothe has done a wonderful job in updating..."\* (referring to technology updates) **Erica Wade:** "...things have seemed to take a better turn..."\* (referring to the time since Boothe has taken over)

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Paid for by Morgan Boothe for Clerk of Court

\*The Enterprise 9-27-23 Page 14 (coverage of Republican Forum)

## PCMA returns with Opry Show

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) is set to kick off its Tri-Fest of shows for the year on Saturday, October 21 with the Opry Show.

Sponsored by The Landmark Center and Blue Ridge Therapy Connection, doors open at 5 p.m. and the music will start at 6 p.m.

PCMA President Denny Alley said The Country Boys, the longest running Patrick County band in history, will serve as the event's headlining act.

"They've been together 40-something years, I don't know how many, but a long time," he said.

Alley said The Country Boys will play bluegrass, country, and gospel music.

"The usual 'around here' music," he said.

Scarlet Norman, Lonesome Heart, River Ridge, Miller Hopkins, and Roger Handy will also

take the stage.

Alley said he believes the Landmark Center and Blue Ridge Therapy will offer blood pressure and health checks during the event.

The November 18 event will be the PCMA's Veteran Appreciation Show, with The Churchmen taking the stage.

The Lonesome River Band and Nu-Blu will headline Sammy Shelor's Banjorama on December 9.

Admission is a \$5 donation at the door. Lawn chairs are encouraged, and prizes will be awarded throughout the night.

Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds going to teach children in the area firearm safety.

For more information or to watch past music performances, visit [Facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation).



The Country Boys will headline the Patrick County Music Association's (PCMA) Saturday, October 21 show.

## Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

\*Felton Lewis Mayfield, Jr., 44, of Collinsville, was charged Sept. 20 with one count each grand larceny steal and intentional damage to a monument. Deputy D. Perry was the arresting officer.

\*Crystal Lynn Nourse, 41, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 21 with embezzlement. Senior Trooper J.M. Hylton was the arresting officer.

\*James Nelson Thompson, 24, of Bassett, was charged Sept. 22 with probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Noah Trevon Mcleod, 18, of Dobson, NC, was charged Sept. 22 with reckless handling of firearm. Senior Trooper JM Hylton was the arresting officer.

\*Jeremiah Ermais Ward, 18, of Ararat, was charged Sept. 23 with warrant of extradition. Task Force Officer Trooper J. Helton

was the arresting officer.

\*Deshaun Michael Hughes, 35, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 23 with one count each fail to appear and probation violation. Deputy C. Gilbert was the arresting officer.

\*Timothy Underwood, 24, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 22 with one count each strangulation, abduction, and assault. Deputy C. Gilbert was the arresting officer.

\*Ivy Rayne Hollinger, 30, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 25 with fail to appear. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

\*Christopher Kirk Gray, 53, of Claudville, was charged Sept. 27 with distribute Schedule I/II. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

\*Jacob Lee Bowman, 21, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 27 with one count each probation violation and fail to appear. Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

\*Kenneth Dane Gray, 54, of Claudville, was charged Sept. 27 with possess ammunition by a convicted felon. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

\*Heather Nicole Lockhart, 30, of Patrick Springs, was charged Sept. 28 with probation violation. Sgt. C. Frick was the arresting officer.

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# Claims for unemployment insurance decrease again

The number of initial claims for unemployment insurance decreased in the latest filing week to 1,417 and remained at typical pre-Pandemic volumes experienced in 2019, data from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) suggests.

Continued unemployment insurance claims in Patrick, Henry and Franklin counties for the week were reported to be 0 to 100, according to the VEC.

For the filing week ending September 23, the figure for seasonally unadjusted initial claims in Virginia was 1,417, which was a decrease of 70 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 12,830, which was 456 claims lower than the previous week but an increase of 34.2% from the 9,563 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An industry was reported for ninety-four percent of claimants. Of those, over half (53 percent) of continued claims were from professional, scientific, and technical services (1,965), administrative and support and waste management (1,728), manufacturing (1,498), and health care and social assistance (1,128). Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so

not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

In the week ending September 23, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 204,000, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 201,000 to 202,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs[1], unadjusted, totaled 174,590 in the week ending September 23, a decrease of 1,996 (or -1.1 percent) from the previous week. There were 153,821 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Georgia's preliminary weekly change (-2,010) was the largest decrease. South Carolina's preliminary weekly change (-1,308) was the second largest decrease. New York's preliminary weekly change (-986) was the third largest decrease. Florida's preliminary weekly change (-743) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia had the 21st largest decrease (-78).

# Local, state and federal authorities work on narcotics investigation

Multiple local, state and federal law enforcement agencies effected 24 search warrants in nine southwest Virginia localities on Sept. 28. The search warrants are part of an extensive, ongoing criminal investigation into allegations of money laundering and illegal narcotic distribution network by retail establishments in Lee, Montgomery, Pulaski, Roanoke, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington and Wythe counties.

No arrests were made as a result of the searches, according to a release from the Virginia State Police. The investigation is ongoing.

The investigation involves the Buchanan, Dickenson, Carroll, Grayson,

Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell and Washington County sheriff's offices; Gate City, Weber City, Abingdon, Damascus, Grundy, Richlands, Tazewell, Bluefield, Marion, Wythe, Galax, Pulaski, Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Radford police departments; Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Wytheville and Salem field offices; United States Postal Inspection Service; Drug Enforcement Administration; Virginia Attorney General's Office; and the Lee, Montgomery, Pulaski, Roanoke, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington and Wythe County Commonwealth's Attorneys.

# Fieldale man Indicted in alleged real estate scam

A federal grand jury in Roanoke returned an indictment last week charging a Fieldale man with engaging in a fraud scheme in connection with a residential real estate transaction valued at more than \$1.3 million.

An indictment is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

According to court documents, Herman Lee Estes Jr., 40, who was on federal pretrial supervision due to an illegal firearms charge, contacted a real estate agent on January 17, 2023, inquiring about purchasing a Roanoke County property then listed at \$1.2 million, according to allegations.

Estes allegedly falsely represented to the agent that he was due a tax refund of \$18 million, which would soon be transferred to his estate as part of a trust.

On January 25, he pleaded guilty to federal firearms charge and remained on pretrial release pending sentencing.

In March 2023, Estes allegedly again contacted the real estate agent, falsely stating that his tax refund had cleared, and he was ready to move forward with the purchase of the property. At Estes's direction, the real estate agent prepared a cash offer for the property in the amount of \$1.3 million.

To prove he had funds available, Estes is alleged to have provided a letter, dated March 29, which indicated he had been approved for a private real estate loan in the amount of \$1,315,000. In addition, he allegedly provided the real estate agent a phone number for a person he represented to be the manager of his purported trust. The real estate agent contacted this individual, who falsely claimed to be Estes's trust manager and then approved the cash offer. The contract was ratified, and the parties proceeded to closing.

On April 10, 2023, Estes is alleged to have provided the settlement company a 62-page 'exten-

sion of credit' document, which he falsely represented to be trust documents, as part of his closing procedures. Estes stated that he did not deal with public banks but rather dealt 'directly with the Federal Reserve Bank'.

Documents allege that Estes paid for the property with a fraudulent cashier's check, with a routing number purported to be drawn from the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond, in the amount of \$1,307,199.43. He allegedly shipped the check via FedEx on April 12, 2023.

On April 13, 2023, the fraudulent check was deposited by a settlement company into its account at American National Bank and Trust. Closing for the sale occurred the following day, the deed was recorded with the Circuit Court of Roanoke County, and Estes took possession of the property.

On April 17, 2023, the purported cashier's check was returned by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and marked fraudulent.

Estes is charged with one count of bank fraud, one count of wire fraud, and one count of mail fraud, and with committing each of these offenses while on federal pretrial release. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Christopher R. Kavanaugh of the Western District of Virginia made the announcement.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which handled the previous federal firearms investigation, is investigating this case, with assistance from the Internal Revenue Service. The Federal Reserve Board, Office of Inspector General, and the Roanoke County Police Department have also assisted in the investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kristin B. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

# Patrick, Martinsville to benefit from GO Virginia grants

Patrick County and the City of Martinsville are among the 11 localities that will receive more than \$3.7 million in Growth and Opportunity for Virginia (GO Virginia) grant awards, according to Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

The grants are earmarked for projects that are designed to empower workforce development, bolster startup ecosystems and promote economic growth. These initiatives will play a pivotal role in nurturing skilled talent, fostering entrepreneurial ventures and bridging the gap between job seekers and employment opportunities.

The announcement "underscores

our unwavering commitment to stimulating economic growth and expanding opportunities across our Commonwealth," said Youngkin. "By investing in talent, bolstering entrepreneurial innovation and cultivating the conditions for startup success, we are actively shaping the future of our workforce and positioning Virginia as a hub for innovation and opportunity."

Patrick County and Martinsville are among the localities in Region 3 to receive a Talent Pathways Planning Initiative Application. The Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SOVAPHS) will use the \$133,000 grant to

develop a plan to improve healthcare access in the region, which has been cited as a barrier to business and talent recruitment and retention.

This project will engage industry and other stakeholders, deliver a labor market analysis and evaluation of training programs, and result in the development of an action plan for developing, attracting and retaining healthcare workers in the region.

Patrick County will also benefit from a SOVA RISE Innovation Hub Corporation that will increase business starts and expansion of scalable businesses by expanding

the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region, providing ready access to capital for innovators and entrepreneurs through targeted resource navigation, technical assistance, and outreach. This project will involve the launch of the RISE Community Navigator program, expanding the RISE Entrepreneurship Training Pipeline and extending outreach storytelling.

The GO Virginia program advances regional economic growth and diversification by enabling cooperative projects that taps into workforce enhancement, cluster expansion, innovative business initiatives and site development.

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# Search warrant nets two arrests

Two Claudville men were arrested following the execution of a narcotics search warrant, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

At approximately 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 27, members of the sheriff's office tactical team served a search warrant at 427 Pedigo Ridge Road in Claudville.

Two men were taken into custody in connection with the

incident.

Christopher Kirk Gray, 53, of 427 Pedigo Ridge Road, Claudville, was charged with possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

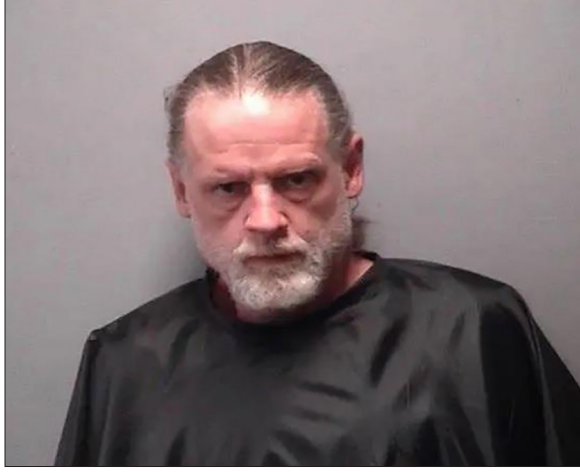
Kenneth Dane Gray, 54, 427 Pedigo Ridge Road, Claudville, was charged with possession of ammunition by a convicted felon.

Both men have multiple felony convictions involving

methamphetamine, Smith said. They are being held in the Patrick County Jail without bond.

"If you are selling this poison, your time will come," Smith said in a Wednesday release. "We will be relentless in finding you."

Sheriff's Lt. Nicholas Pendleton and Investigator Brian Hubbard led the investigation.



Kenneth Dane Gray



Christopher Kirk Gray

# Two indicted on federal charges in alleged gun store break-in

Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith and Lt. Steve Austin released mug shots of the two men federally indicted in connection with a breaking and entering incident at Rabbit Ridge Gun Shop and Range in Ararat.




Justin Darrell Whitaker



Bradley Wayne McCraw

Bradley Wayne McCraw, 43, of Gaffney, South Carolina and Justin Darrell Whitaker, 30, of Cleveland County, North Carolina were each indicted on one count possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, knowing-



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ly and intentionally stealing firearms from a Federal Firearms Licensee, and possession of stolen firearms.

The alleged break in occurred on September 22, 2022. Authorities were notified via an alarm call from Rabbit Ridge Gun Shop and Range. Deputies responded and found entry had been made into the business.

In accordance with Federal law, local authorities contacted the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), to assist in the investigation and determine the number of firearms stolen, if any.

During the investigation, Patrick County investigators Jason Kruse and Oscar Tejada, along with ATF Special Agent Drew Effing developed two men as suspects.

Patrick County investigators and ATF Agents traveled to South Carolina on multiple occasions, conducting interviews, retrieving stolen property, and collecting other evidence related to the crime.

At the conclusion of the investigation, Kruse and Tejada, along with ATF investigator presented the facts of this case to the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia.

On August 18, 2023, a Federal Grand Jury in Roanoke, Virginia returned the indictments for McCraw and Whitaker.

"This has been a long and multi-faceted investigation," Smith said in a release. "I specifically want to commend Investigators Jason Kruse, Oscar Tejada, and ATF Special Agent Drew Effing for the time and effort they put into this case."

Both McCraw and Whitaker are being held without bond at the Western Virginia Regional Jail.

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# Agencies share tips for school bus safety

Students across the Commonwealth are already into a new school year, and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) remind motorists of the importance of school bus safety laws and being extra alert for children getting on and off school buses.

"Since most school bus-related crashes happen when students are walking to or waiting at the bus stop, we encourage all drivers to be on the lookout when backing out of driveways and driving through neighborhoods," said DMV Commissioner Dr. Gerald Lackey, the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. "By following school bus safety laws and being extra cautious near bus stops, you can do your part to better ensure a safer school year for our children."

"Our bus drivers work diligently to keep Virginia's students safe on their way to and from school, but it's not just up to them. We all have a responsibility to take safety seriously," said VDOE Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Lisa Coons. "We recommend parents and guardians talk with their children about staying off their phones at the bus stop, being aware of their surroundings, and when possible, standing in groups to be more visible. Let's work together to stay alert and keep our kids safe."

School bus safety laws motorists are required to follow include:

- Motorists must stop for stopped school buses with flashing red lights and an extended stop sign when approaching from any direction.
- Motorists must remain stopped until everyone is clear, and the bus moves again.
- Motorists must stop whenever the bus is loading or unloading passengers, even if the lights and stop sign are not activated.
- If a school bus is on the opposite side of a median or barrier, motorists aren't required to stop; however, drivers should be prepared for students entering or exiting the school bus and crossing into their lanes.

Tips for students getting off and on the bus:

- If students have to cross the street in front of the bus, they should walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus before crossing.
- Students need to make sure they can see the bus driver, and that the driver sees them.
- When the bus approaches, students should line up at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the curb and the street.
- When the bus comes to a complete stop and the door opens, students should check for traffic once more before boarding.

# Federal funds to bolster drug court

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded \$1 million to the Piedmont Regional Community Services Board, which serves the counties of Franklin, Patrick, and Henry, and the City of Martinsville, for the enhancement of its adult drug court.

This funding, through BJA's fiscal year 2023 Adult Treatment Court Site-Based program, will be used to increase the court's capacity, serving an additional 60 participants.

Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, said, "This funding by the Bureau of Justice Assistance will allow the Piedmont Regional Community Services Board to expand its drug court to help an additional 60 individuals with pending felony drug or drug-related charges battle their addiction, reduce their chance of recidivism, and find stability, through housing and employment."

# SCC To Offer Medication Aide Course in October

Surry Community College is offering a 24-hour Medication Aide Course, beginning Oct. 10, and running through Oct. 19.

The course is designed to meet the training requirements for becoming qualified as a Medication Aide. Upon completion, students should be able to take the competency exam and demonstrate the skills necessary to qualify for listing on the North Carolina Medication Aide Registry.

Students wishing to take the course must have a high school diploma or high school equivalency and have a current N.C. Nurse Aide I listing.

The course will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the Dobson Campus in Building J, Room 211. The fee for the course is \$71, and those interested should contact Deborah Cave, Director Allied Health Programs, at (336) 386-3372 or [caved@surry.edu](mailto:caved@surry.edu).



# Preserve a Garden's Bounty to Save Food and Promote Family Traditions

By Denny Jennings

Patrick County Master Gardener

Many of us remember summers sitting on the porch with an endless supply of beans to be snapped, corn to be shucked, or apples to be peeled. Our Mamas and Grandmas ruled a steaming kitchen with the pressure canner and hot-water canner processing jars filled with all the produce we helped prepare.

Home food preservation like this is enjoying a revival as more people become conscious of the nutritional value in the food they eat. Several processes for food preservation are available to allow you to have these luscious foods for the coming months, including water bath and pressure canning, freezing, dehydration and fermentation.

We need to preserve our produce because our world is full of microorganisms in the forms of bacteria, yeast and molds. Some are helpful. Some can be harmful. It is important to prevent the growth of harmful microorganisms in foods so they will not deteriorate food and promote the growth of pathogens that can make us sick.

Proper food preservation also maintains most of the home garden flavor and freshness.

Many organizations, such as the US Department of Agriculture and the National Center for Home Food Preservation, have researched methods of preserving our harvest and offer valuable resources to help us safely preserve our food

## First Things First

Preparing food for preservation starts long before you sit down on that front porch. First, clean your work area and equipment.

Then select the freshest fruits and vegetables to preserve. Some sources suggest you do this early in the day so that processing can be finished within 6-12 hours of harvest. Select produce that is firm. Clean your produce well and remove all blemishes, cuts, and bruises.

Canning and freezing require that you blanch foods before you preserve them by dipping them in boiling water for two to three minutes, then submerging them in ice water to stop the cooking process. This also helps destroy unwanted microorganisms.

Blanch all vegetables except peppers and onions and dip fruits that brown easily in ascorbic acid prior to canning or freezing.

## Science of Canning

Canning involves sealing food in specially tempered glass jars and heating the jars to sterilize the food and force air out of the container.

There are two types of canning,

water bath and pressure, and the one you use depends on the acidity of the produce you are saving. For either type, the magic pH number, or level of acidity, is 4.6. Foods with a pH at or below 4.6 can be safely processed by hot water bath canning since there is enough acidity in the food to stop the harmful bacteria. This includes jams, jellies, fruits, pickles, and acidified tomatoes.

Foods with a pH higher than 4.6 -- including meats, seafood, poultry, and most vegetables (yes, even green beans) -- must be processed by pressure canning, where pressurization uses steam to create a higher heat that can kill the bacteria.

Well-sealed canned goods are shelf stable for up to one year.

Use only tempered, embossed canning jars. Save the un-tempered mayonnaise jars for other collections that do not require such high heat or air pressure. Use two-part lids and rings to seal the jars. The rings are reusable, but once the sealant on the lid is used, the sealing ability diminishes, and the lid should be discarded. (Used lids make good coasters.)

Water bath canning is for foods with an acidity level of 4.6 or lower. In this process, jars of produce are covered in boiling water for a specific amount of time to kill bacteria.

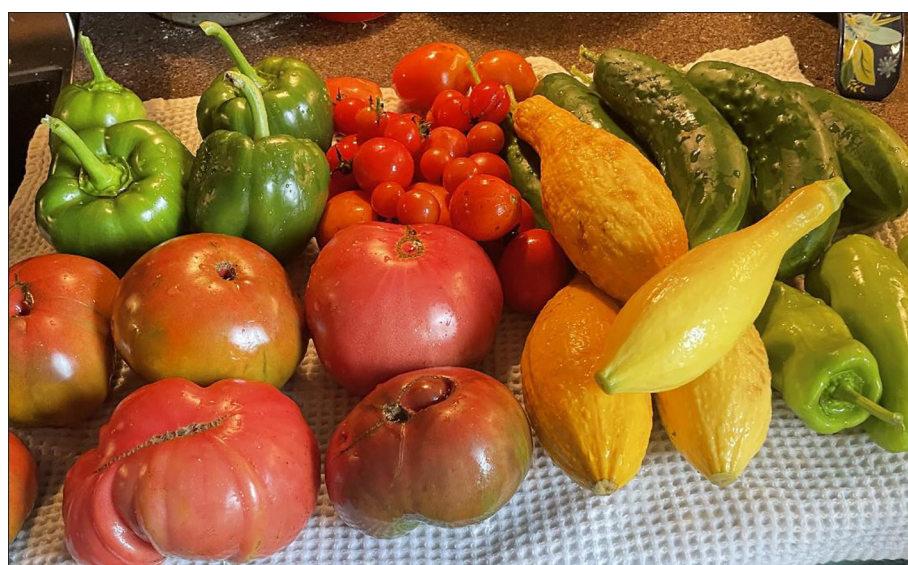
This method requires a large pot, deep enough to manage water at least one inch above the filled canning jars. Use clean, hot canning jars for your food. Tested, reliable recipes for foods to be processed in a hot water bath will indicate how much head space to leave in a jar (amount of space above the line of food and liquid) and the amount of time to process the jars.

The processing time for water bath canning must be adjusted for altitude. The higher the altitude, the more time is needed to get the liquid boiling and able to kill pathogens. At sea level, water boils at 212o F. But in Meadows of Dan, which is almost 3,000 feet above sea level, water boils at 206o. That may not be hot enough to kill harmful bacteria, so you boil the jars longer.

Allow plenty of time for the jars to cool when finished and listen for that joyous "ping" of jars sealing.

Foods with a pH higher than 4.6 require the higher heat of a pressure canner to kill harmful bacteria. Be sure to use a pressure canner rather than a pressure cooker. They are not the same.

Pressure canning requires a smaller amount of water and heats this water to create steam. The



A sampling of Denny Jennings produce is pictured.

steam forces the air out of the jars and kills the harmful bacteria. Tested recipes will indicate the head space for jars, the time to process the jars, and the pressure per square inch (psi) that the canner must reach.

With pressure canning, the adjustment for altitude is done by manipulating the amount of psi rather than the processing time.

## Frozen or Dried

What could be easier than sticking your meats, fruits, and vegetables into the freezer?

Well, safe food preservation requires a bit more. Select containers that are made for freezing, such as freezer plastic bags, plastic airtight containers tested for the freezer, and tempered canning jars with lids. Vacuum sealing is another safe way to prepare foods for freezing.

Freezing manipulates the temperature of the food and slows down bacterial growth. When foods are frozen, ice crystals form in the food cells and rupture the cell walls. So, when the foods are thawed, they are softer than when they went in the freezer. When foods are frozen quickly, such as fruits or berries on a baking sheet in the freezer for an hour or so, the ice crystals are smaller, and the thawed food is firmer.

Blanch vegetables before freezing. Fruits may be frozen in dry sugar, sugar syrup or no sugar.

Drying fruits, vegetables, and meats -- that is, dehydration -- removes the moisture from the food. This makes the food more compact and lighter, great for trail snacks. Food may be sun dried, oven dried, or dried in a food dehydrator. Dehydration requires steady heat, low humidity, and air circulation to remove the moisture.

Prior to dehydration, vegetables should be blanched in hot water or a sugar syrup. Fruits that

turn brown when exposed to oxygen, such as apples, bananas, and peaches, should be dipped in a solution of ascorbic acid before drying.

Cool the food well after dehydrating and store in an airtight container. Set this aside for 7-10 days to see if any moisture appears in the container. If it does, return the food to dehydration for another round.

## Fermentation

People have been fermenting foods for centuries to enhance their flavor, kill harmful bacteria, and make them stable in the absence of refrigeration. The process occurs in a container with little or no oxygen but with acidic vinegar or a salt brine. When you enjoy that wonderful dill pickle, you are eating fermented food.

Cucumbers and cabbage are the most fermented vegetables, yielding all manner of pickles and sauerkraut. Kombucha (a fermented tea) and kimchi (another form of fermented cabbage) are also popular. Other vegetables and fruits are also pickled, often with added herbs and spices: green beans, peppers, cauliflower, apples, peaches, watermelon rind, and many more.

Whether you have grown your own wonderful fresh fruits and vegetables, or they have come from another's garden, use these processes to enjoy your harvest for many months to come and rest well in a job well done.

What is more, you will have made memories of your own as you canned, froze, dried, and fermented the glories of the harvest.

Resources: Virginia Cooperative Extension Agency, publications Pressure Canning, Boiling Water Bath Canning, Vegetable Fermentation; National Center for Home Food Preservation, Easy to Preserve, 2020; USDA, The Complete Guide to Home Canning, 2015; Ball Blue Book Guide to Preserving, 2020.

# Gardening On a Dime

By Angie Dribben

How can a person budget in a whole garden—flowers or vegetables—when a packet of 20 seeds cost six dollars? Or a 24 flat of marigolds is fourteen dollars or more? What if most of the seeds or flats you invest in are annuals? Then it becomes a yearly expense. Whole system thinking could help you grow your garden without emptying your wallet.

A good place to start practicing whole system thinking is at the time of plant selection. Choose a plant that boasts numerous uses. For example, marigolds provide endless opportunities to the gardener. They can be grown as a companion plant to eggplants, potatoes, squash and more. Their distinctive scent often acts as a pest deterrent. They also attract good bugs, such as butterflies and praying mantis, and delight the eyes with a bright pop of color in the vegetable garden.

As the flowers begin to dip past their peak, you can harvest them for a variety of purposes. Marigolds have high amounts of antioxidants which can help reduce inflammation and protect cells from free radical damage. They

also contain compounds that can help stimulate collagen production in the skin, which reduces the signs of aging. Marigold petals have antibacterial and antifungal properties, making them a useful ingredient in skin care products. Lastly, they can help relieve menstrual pain and reduce symptoms related to inflammation.

Oftentimes, fresh marigolds are used for culinary purposes and some teas whereas dried are used in skin products. Do your own research to decide which path is better for your purpose.

The flowers can be fodder for chickens. Have you ever eaten an egg with a golden orange yolk? It may very well be from a chicken with marigolds in their diet. According to the Journal of Poultry Science, Marigold flower extract can positively impact egg laying and egg cholesterol. Many homesteaders and farmers simply feed the Marigold flowers—as opposed to extract—to the chickens and report similar effects.

Allow the remaining flower heads to reach their final stage of dried and dropped petals when the base of each bloom (the seed pod) is turning brown. Marigold

seeds are feathery slivers that are half black and half white. These slivers are the marigold's fruits—achenes—to which the seeds are attached. If the seeds are not ready to be harvested, the entire achene will be light in color. The dark end of the achene is the seed. A wealth of seeds in the base of every bloom waits to be saved for next year.

Once the seeds are harvested, clean, and dry, store them in a cool, dry location away from direct sunlight. Exposure to temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit will greatly decrease the viability of your seed for future planting seasons. Seeds can be stored in sealed containers, wax or paper envelopes, or glass jars. If storing seeds for many seasons, the freezer may be the best option.

Seeds from Marigolds that are hybrid varieties may produce plants that don't resemble the parent producing the seeds. Some sources say that the seeds can be sterile. Other sources say they will reproduce but may revert to one of the original plants used to produce the hybridization. That's not a bad thing, as long

as you don't mind an adventure in your garden. If you want seeds that grow identical flowers to the parent plant, opt for heirloom/open-pollinated marigolds.

Whatever you don't use from your plant can be placed into compost to feed your soil and plants for next year. From one plant, you can fuel your whole system.

One last benefit of saving seeds is that they make thoughtful gifts. Again, seed saving is part of a larger picture.

Try not to feel daunted by starting plants from seed. Seed set-ups range from no-cost to high-cost.

Don't feel limited to Marigolds. Remember this is one example of whole system thinking. There's benefits and abundant uses to so many other plants like squash, basil, sage, native wildflowers, and countless more.

Don't stop at Marigolds and don't stop at seed saving. Other no-cost ways to propagate are division, root cuttings, and layering.

If you don't have seeds of your own, you may have to begin by buying a pack. But first browse the Patrick County Master Gardener's (See Gardening p. 19)



# All about Apples

Did you know that the apple is America's 2nd favorite fruit? It's a close second to the banana. On average each person consumes over 19 pounds of whole apples per year, and over 50 pounds of

a combination of fresh apples and apple products (applesauce, juice, etc.).

Story time at the library was all about apples this week with Master Gardeners Jess Hines,

Revonda Gilbert and Norma Bozenmayer joining children's librarian Sam Edmundson leading a program on apples. It included reading about apples, learning apple parts and making apple art.

The program ended with eating apples and drinking apple juice. We are so lucky we can grow apples in Patrick County and have wonderful orchards to buy fresh apples to enjoy.



## Gardening

(cont. from page 18)

dener's Seed Library. It is housed in the Patrick County Library at 116 W. Blue Ridge Street in Stuart, Virginia. There may be a free pack of Marigolds waiting for you! Another way to obtain free seeds is to admire others' gardens. If you see a flower you like that's ready to be harvested, ask. Most folks will excitedly say yes! There are variations among seeds from different flowers, yet

general rules of thumb exist. Patience—wait until the flower has bloomed and delighted you. Wait until the pollinators have visited. Wait until the flower begins to fade. Let it linger on its stalk until its petals have faded and tumbled to the earth. Wait until all that's left is a dried dark black or browned head. Pluck the stalk and remove the seeds. It will likely be evident where the

seeds are. Even flowers like dahlias that are typically propagated from tubers produce seeds. The flowers from the seeds often do not resemble the mother plant, but they are flowers.

Careful observation of your plants—flowers and vegetables—will help you better understand how to harvest different seeds. Every seed harvest may not be successful, that's okay. You are still becoming better acquainted with what you are growing, and this will make you a more successful and fulfilled gardener.

A tremendous amount of information can be discovered online through the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office about seed saving.

Another way to gain knowledge like this is to connect with people who have similar interests. Two local groups are the Patrick County Master Gardeners and Floyd Flower Power. Although there is a cost to join PCMG, there are scholarships to cover this cost. The experience is im-

mensely rewarding both in personal growth and community development.

Enjoy all the bounty every plant has to offer!

If you're interested in visiting us at Bent Fox Farm to see how we implement whole system thinking, contact me at (276) 952-5258.

For more information about saving seed: <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-316/426-316.html>

For information about Floyd Flower Power: <https://floydflowerpower.com/>

For information about PCMG: <https://www.facebook.com/PatrickCountyMasterGardeners/>

For more information about growing Marigolds: <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/marigold/>

For more information about including Marigolds in your chickens' diet: <https://scialert.net/abstract/?doi=ijps.2017.11.15>

(Dribben is a trainee with the Patrick County Master Gardeners)

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## FEATURED LISTINGS



**LAUREL FORK, VA**

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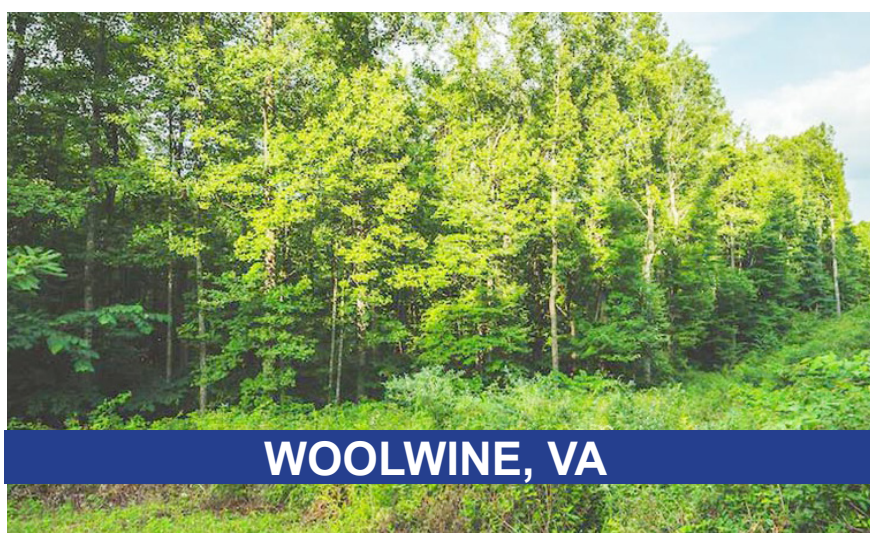
**FLOYD, VA**

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**



**WOOLWINE, VA**

Check out this wooded 4.7 acre lot with great road frontage! Lot would be ideal for building your dream home on. **\$30,000**



**WOOLWINE, VA**

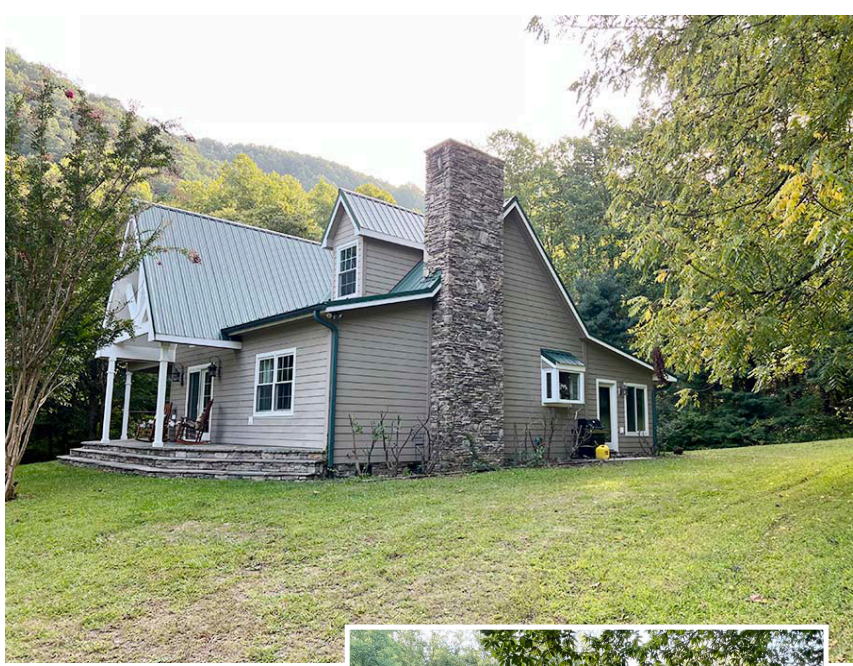
This 4.98 acre lot has frontage on Route 8 and Dogwood Mountain Ln. Property is wooded with underground utilities in place. Jill Creek runs throughout. Adjoining lots provide a great opportunity to purchase multiple to secure the acreage you desire. **\$33,997**

## ONLINE AUCTION

**Ends Friday, October 20th at 3 PM**

**Secluded Mountain Retreat for Sale in Stuart VA  
1423 N. Fork Rd., Stuart, VA 24171**

**Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com**



Discover your very own piece of heaven in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This extraordinary property, located in Patrick County, VA, offers 323.59 acres of secluded land and a stunning 2,500 sq ft home.

Built in 2008, the beautiful 1.5 story home features 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and 2,500 sq ft of living space. The home's interior features, hardwood and ceramic tile floors, tongue and groove walls, a beautiful rock fireplace, a wood stove, and a loft overlooking the vaulted great room. Enjoy the serenity of the outdoors from your large, covered rock porch.

With 1.6 miles of impressive creek frontage along the North Fork of the Smith River, this property is a dream for outdoor enthusiasts. Cast your line into the river and enjoy fishing with both native and rainbow trout at your doorstep. This expansive property is densely wooded, providing a natural sanctuary for wildlife and endless opportunities for recreation and exploration. Whether you're a hunter or simply seeking seclusion, this land has it all. There is a conservation easement in effect for the property. Please refer to the bidder packet at VAAuctionPro.com for more information. The property also includes a 24x30 barn and a 16x32 detached garage, offering ample space for storage and projects.

This is your opportunity to own a secluded retreat where the wonders of nature are right at your doorstep. Whether you're seeking a peaceful escape, a hunting paradise, or a fishing haven, this property has it all.

**Terms:** 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$20,000 required on day of sale. Close on or before December 4th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence placing a bid. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

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