



# THE ENTERPRISE

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

## Walking tours set to benefit scholarship fund

Thomas D. "Tom" Perry will host walking tours of the J. E. B. Stuart Birthplace, the Laurel Hill Farm, on November 4 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The event is a fundraiser for the Perry Family Scholarship, but it is free to the public. Donations will be accepted.

Perry encourages participants to bring their children and grandchildren to learn about this historic property in Ararat, located at 1091 Ararat Highway. The rain date will be Sunday, November 5, at 2 p.m.

The tour will include all the aspects of the property on the Virginia and National Register of Historic Places. The tour will consist of Native American history, the new Dinky Railroad exhibit, the American Revolution, and the grave of William Letcher, J. E. B. Stuart's great-grandfather, who was killed at Laurel Hill during the American Revolution. He is buried in the oldest marked grave in Patrick County.

The many histories of Laurel Hill will include the slave cemetery ex-

ploring the African American history from 1780 through 1859, the Antebellum farm life at Stuart's Birthplace, including discussion of Archibald and Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart, their home and kitchen sites, and the cemetery that includes the siblings of General Stuart.

The tour will discuss Major General James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart, who grew up on the farm before going to Wythe and Pulaski counties for education, Emory and Henry College, and the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Stuart served in the First United States Cavalry, mainly in the Kansas Territory, before resigning to rise in rank as Major General, commanding all of Robert E. Lee's cavalry in the Army of Northern Virginia during the Civil War Between The States.

Perry started J. E. B. Stuart in 1990 and led the fundraising efforts to preserve the seventy-five acres where J. E. B. Stuart was born on February 6,

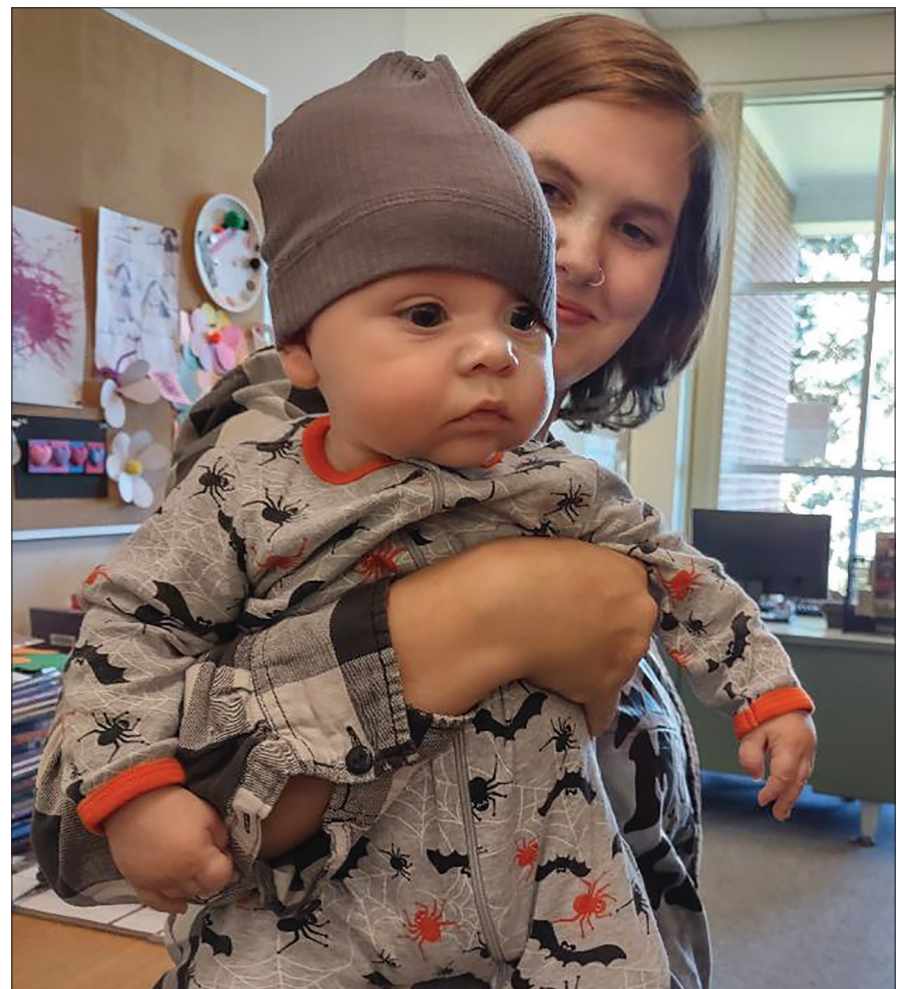
1833. Perry has written five books on Stuart, including A Portrait of J. E. B. Stuart, released earlier this year, exploring the controversies surrounding Stuart, including the portrait of Stuart taken down in a Patrick County Courtroom, the Fairfax County High School that changed its name from Stuart to Justice High School and the taking down of Stuart's statue on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia.

Perry started the Perry Family Scholarship after the death of his parents in 2021 and has given seven scholarships to Patrick County High School seniors who write a 1,000-word essay on the historical topic of their choosing.



Tom Perry will host walking tours of Laurel Hill Farm at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on November 4.

Interested parties may contact Perry at [freestateofpatrick@yahoo.com](mailto:freestateofpatrick@yahoo.com) or (276) 692-5300.



## Master Gardener's program welcomes young and old

A guest at the Master Gardener's bat program last week dressed for the occasion in a cute outfit that featured spiders, spider webs, and bats. The gardening group celebrated 'The Misunderstood Bat' in programs at the Landmark Center and the Patrick County Library. (Contributed photo)

## Voting, poll information

Voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, November 7. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sample ballots are printed in this newspaper showing the names of the candidates. Four sample ballots are included – one for the county-wide races and one each showing candidates for the Blue Ridge, Mayo River, and Peters Creek districts.

Registrar Susan Taylor said she is hopeful that at least 50 percent of registered voters will participate. Typically, the number ranges from 40 to 45 percent, she added.

Voters are reminded to bring an acceptable form of identification with them on Election Day, as Virginia law requires that all voters present an acceptable form of identification when voting. Any voter who does not have an acceptable ID may sign an ID confirmation statement.

A registered voter needing to vote early may do so in person in the Registrar's Office, located at the Patrick County Veterans' Memorial Building, 106 Rucker St, Rm 216C, Stuart, VA 24171. The office is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The final day for early voting is Saturday, November 4, at 5 p.m. For additional information, contact the Registrar's Office

at (276) 694-7206.

Due to redistricting, Patrick County voters may be voting at a different polling location than they have in the past. Voters are encouraged to visit <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation> or contact the Registrar's Office to check their information prior to Election Day.

Patrick County polling places and their locations are:

**Dan River District**  
Ararat - Ararat Ruritan Bldg. 4711 Ararat Hwy.

Claudville - Claudville Community Bldg. 1828 Red Bank School Rd.

Willis Gap - Willis Gap Community Center 144 The Hollow Rd.

**Peters Creek District**  
Dry Pond - Peters Creek Community Bldg. 2130 Dry Pond Hwy.

Patrick Springs - Patrick Springs Fire Station 181 Spring Rd.

Russell Creek - Russell Creek Community Bldg. 1808 Ayers Orchard Rd.

**Mayo River District**  
Critz/Stella - Hardin Reynolds Elementary School 3597 Dogwood Rd.

Liberty - Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department 3125 County Line Rd.

(See Sample Ballots p. 3)

## Customer service, training are among Belcher's goals



Nancy Turner Belcher

By Taylor Boyd

If successful in her bid for the Circuit Court Clerk's post, Nancy Turner Belcher would focus on customer service, training, and necessary software updates.

Belcher, who is facing interim Clerk of Court Morgan Boothe and Erica Wade in the race, said customer service is a key issue.

Though she wouldn't necessarily call it a challenge for herself, it is "definitely a focus," Belcher said, adding there would be no cost to address that issue.

(See Belcher p. A7)

## Staffing issues, technology upgrades top Boothe's list of concerns



Morgan Boothe

By Taylor Boyd

Staffing challenges are among the top issues facing interim Circuit Court Clerk Morgan Boothe in her November bid for the office.

"We are down one person until after the election. The State Compensation Board funds five full-time positions for us. That's based on the county's population and our office's workload," Boothe said. Boothe, 28, said the problem with that is the workload assessment the state counts on is about 20 years old, but "our workload has increased just like everything else in the world."

(See Boyd p. A7)

## Lack of integrity, other issues propelled Wade to seek post



Erica Cipko Wade

By Taylor Boyd

A lack of integrity, accountability, and transparency are among the issues prompting Erica Cipko Wade to seek the Circuit Court Clerk's post in November, and she cited one example at a recent forum, asserting that two people had been asked to leave the clerk's office.

In her bid for office, Wade, 33, will face challenges that include interim clerk Morgan Boothe and Nancy Belcher.

During an update to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, Boothe said she asked Patrick

(See Wade p. A7)



## Tourism Talks

Hi Patrick,  
How about the temperatures over this weekend? Did you feel like the seasons have changed a little bit? Overall, the weather was great, but there were some complaints about the heat at the Folklife Festival held at the Blue Ridge Institute and Museum at Ferrum College. Patrick County Tourism was there, promoting the county and greeting many people throughout the day. We sponsored the main music tent, and the Patrick County Banner was visible all day as the singing echoed through the venue! This was the last big festival of the year, and I am grateful for our team and their efforts to promote our beautiful home

this season! As we move into the holiday season, the evergreens take center stage, and we can see the leaves falling or already gone. The colors around us have changed, but we can find beauty in other forms, which includes us. I encourage you to watch our events calendar or visit the Visitors Center for updates, as there will be parades, fellowships, and music all around us. So, let's greet everyone with a smile and say hello to our neighbors! As always, bundle up, stay warm, and "Find yourself here."

I'll be in touch soon.  
Best regards, James Houchins,  
Director of Tourism (jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us)

# Cummings to serve on EDA board

At its most recent meeting, the Patrick County Board of Supervisors appointed Doss Cummings to represent the Blue Ridge District on the Patrick County Economic Development Authority Board.

Cummings has held multiple positions, including leadership positions, within the alcohol sales industry, and is currently working for

Childress Vineyards in North Carolina as a National Sales Manager.

The Patrick County EDA works to provide an environment of economic growth and development for the county and its residents. The EDA works with the Director of Economic Development to expand current businesses and recruit new businesses to the county.

## Innovators improve work zone safety through automation at VT Transportation Institute

A future with safer roadway work zones is here, thanks to innovations developed through Virginia Tech Transportation Institute's Division of Technology Implementation.

Attendees of DRIVE SMART Virginia's Distracted Driving Summit in Blacksburg in September toured VTTI's facilities to learn about solutions developed to reduce roadway crashes and fatalities.

Will Vaughan, a VTTI research associate, explained how the Automated Truck-Mounted Attenuator protects highway workers. It's a mobile crash cushion barrier that extends backward, absorbing impact and smoothly redirecting crashes.

According to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearing House, there were 28 fatalities in Virginia work zones in 2021, and 956 fatalities nationally.

"Unfortunately, in Virginia, these vehicles are hit about once every three weeks, and there have been two fatalities in the last month," Vaughan said. "That's due to distracted driving—motorists plowing into these things without slowing down because they're not looking ahead. But it's our goal to get drivers out of those vehicles that tend to get hit in work zones."

Some contractors are having trouble finding people to operate these vehicles voluntarily, Vaughan continued. "It's not a matter of if you're going to get hit, but when, how hard, and will you walk away?"

To address this risk, the division

team has established a lead-follow autonomous system for its ATMA.

"We have a package on the trailer hitch receiver of the lead vehicle with computing that will lay down a path for this one to follow, with driverless operation," Vaughan explained. "The vehicle in front will tell it how far behind to follow, from 50 to 400 feet. Our primary source of navigation is GPS, which follows little breadcrumbs from the lead vehicle, like Hansel and Gretel. The ATMA also can navigate using machine vision when GPS is unavailable."

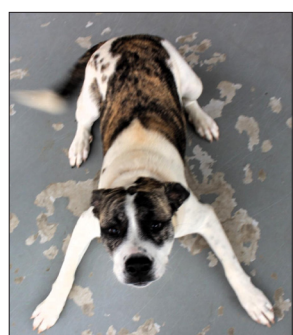
The driverless automation features external controls and wireless emergency stop buttons. It also stops and starts moving again once an unexpected object exits its path.

Following testing on VTTI's high-tech Virginia Smart Roads, Vaughan said they began operating the system on live roads, where it's performing well.

As manufacturers express interest in commercial versions of the system, motorists are still urged to do their part.

"Unlike normal road conditions, work zones involve large equipment, traffic pattern changes, lane closures, uneven pavement and workers," said David Tenenbaum, senior actuarial manager with Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co., a DSV partner. "That's a volatile environment. In a work zone, drivers must obey all traffic safety laws, drive distraction-free, adhere to all signage, and watch for highway workers."

## Pets of the Week



This silly girl is Oakey, and she is just 10 months old. She is super friendly and loves to play.

This handsome guy looking into the camera is Chico, a 4 year-old who is great with kids, likes other dogs and deserves a new home.

Both of these great dogs were just surrendered to the shelter.

So many dogs are being surrendered to the shelter at no fault of their own. We believe it is partially due to the increased cost of dog food.

If you can help these pups or any of the other shelter pets, call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259. To view available pets, check out the shelter's Facebook page. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination.

VISIT US ONLINE AT  
WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET

## HERE'S THE REAL "INVESTIGATION\*\*"

I referenced two people being turned away from the Clerk's Office and asked not to come back during the PCYP Forum because that's what I had been told while working at Chris Corbett's office that week. The individuals still have ongoing business to handle at the Clerk's Office, so they have chosen to not have their names publicly displayed. I shared one of these contacts with The Enterprise **the day after the PCYP Forum**, and they were able to validate these claims, the other individual chose to remain anonymous completely. **The Enterprise knew there was more to this story when they published the headline and article last week, but chose not to include those details** while reporting about what I consider to be a **waste** of taxpayer dollars "investigation."

A bit of background for each of these circumstances we're that the emotions were high dealing with two separate individuals and two separate estates, and the questions the individuals were asking weren't being answered by the deputy clerk. Further, they were told that there was nothing that anyone could do for them at the Clerk's Office and it would be best if they left and found someone else to help them. They continued asking questions because they were "clerk questions" and one of them were told "we're done here, you can leave now."

I do feel it is unacceptable for anyone to feel like their questions don't matter, and their voice can't be voiced. There was no officer escort out of the office or building, because these people weren't there to cause trouble, simply to have their questions answered after making an appointment to speak with the Clerks, so they each left without incident when told to do so. Neither person told me they wanted to pursue anything other than to share with our office their frustrations because they knew I was running for that office and would change how situations like these were handled.



Erica, Robbie, and Evelyn Wade.

**NOVEMBER 7, 2023...**  
**your VOTE matters,**  
**now, more than ever!**

Cast your vote for **Erica C. Wade**, a candidate who will serve the citizens while remaining dedicated to **respect, understanding, clear communication, and transparency.**

- Proven Community Leadership
  - EMT & Fire Fighter for 10+ years
  - Town Council Member
  - Patrick County Young Professional
- **12 plus years of Legal Experience in ALL legal realms**
  - **Civil, Criminal, Real Estate, Probate, and Bookkeeping**
- Worthy of our citizens' trust
- Dedicated to Patrick County

"Patrick County, we're not just voting for this election cycle, we're voting to **regain** and **retain** integrity for years to come. I want to be your Clerk of Court to serve this generation, but I also want to **reestablish** a Clerk's Office that the next generation can utilize moving forward. A vote for me, is a vote for integrity, values, and accountability for years to come." E. Wade

Vote  
**ERICA CIPKO**  
**WADE**  
CLERK OF COURT



**TIMING IS EVERYTHING.**  
**MAKE A VOTING PLAN TODAY.**

- **OCT 27:** Last day to request an absentee ballot.
- **NOV 4:** Last day to vote early, in person.
- **NOV 7:** Election Day.  
Last day to postmark a mail-in ballot.  
Last day to drop off your absentee ballot.



Make your voting plan at [Vote.Virginia.gov](http://Vote.Virginia.gov)

# Sample Ballots

(cont. from page 1)

**Blue Ridge District**  
Meadows of Dan - Meadows of Dan Community Bldg. 2858 Jeb Stuart Hwy.

Stuart Fairgrounds - Hooker Building, Rotary Field, 420 Woodland Dr.  
Stuart Community - Stuart Com-

munity Center (Patrick Henry Community College, Patrick Site) 212 Wood Brothers Dr.  
**Smith River District**

Elamsville - Fairystone Fire Station 6687 Fairystone Park Hwy.  
Woolwine - Smith River Rescue Squad Bldg. 9962 Woolwine Hwy.

Commonwealth of Virginia  
**Sample Ballot**  
County of Patrick  
Pct. 503 - Woolwine  
General Election  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023

**Instructions to voters**  
To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:  
To write in a qualified candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line.  
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.  
If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

<b>Member Senate of Virginia 7th District</b> Vote for only one	<b>Sheriff</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> William M. "Bill" Stanley, Jr. - R	<input type="radio"/> Daniel M. Smith
<input type="radio"/> Deborah I. "Renie" Gates - D	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<b>Commissioner of Revenue</b> Vote for only one
<b>Member House of Delegates 47th District</b> Vote for only one	<input type="radio"/> Tabitha L. Overby
<input type="radio"/> Wren M. Williams - R	<input type="radio"/> Glenna C. Morse
<input type="radio"/> Patricia Lynn Quesenberry - D	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Jacob C. Frogel - I	<b>Treasurer</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Sandra K. Stone
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<b>Clerk of Court</b> Vote for only one	<b>Soil and Water Conservation Director Patrick District</b> Vote for not more than three
<input type="radio"/> Morgan E. Boothe	<input type="radio"/> Joseph A. Sparks
<input type="radio"/> Nancy Turner Belcher	<input type="radio"/> E. Wayne Clark
<input type="radio"/> Erica Cipko Wade	<input type="radio"/> Richard E. Kreh, Sr.
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<b>Commonwealth's Attorney</b> Vote for only one	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Dayna Kendrick Bobbitt	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<b>END OF BALLOT</b>	
<b>Ballot Style # 013</b>	<b>Typ:01 Seq:0013 Spl:01</b>
503 - Woolwine	

Authorized by the Electoral Board of the County of Patrick, Patrick County Office Bldg, 106 Rucker St., Room 216C, Stuart, VA 24171  
The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. Any reproduction of this MAY NOT be printed on white paper. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate. For state requirements, see §24.2-622 and §24.2-956 of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

Sample Ballot shows county-wide races.

Commonwealth of Virginia  
**Sample Ballot**  
County of Patrick  
Pct. 402 - Stuart Fairgrounds  
General Election  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023

**Instructions to voters**  
To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:  
To write in a qualified candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line.  
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.  
If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

<b>Member Senate of Virginia 7th District</b> Vote for only one	<b>Sheriff</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> William M. "Bill" Stanley, Jr. - R	<input type="radio"/> Daniel M. Smith
<input type="radio"/> Deborah I. "Renie" Gates - D	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<b>Commissioner of Revenue</b> Vote for only one
<b>Member House of Delegates 47th District</b> Vote for only one	<input type="radio"/> Tabitha L. Overby
<input type="radio"/> Wren M. Williams - R	<input type="radio"/> Glenna C. Morse
<input type="radio"/> Patricia Lynn Quesenberry - D	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Jacob C. Frogel - I	<b>Treasurer</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Sandra K. Stone
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<b>Clerk of Court</b> Vote for only one	<b>Member Board of Supervisors Blue Ridge District</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> Morgan E. Boothe	<input type="radio"/> Steve D. Marshall
<input type="radio"/> Nancy Turner Belcher	<input type="radio"/> Clyde M. DeLoach
<input type="radio"/> Erica Cipko Wade	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<b>Turn Ballot Over To Continue Voting</b> →
<b>Commonwealth's Attorney</b> Vote for only one	
<input type="radio"/> Dayna Kendrick Bobbitt	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	
<b>END OF BALLOT</b>	
<b>Ballot Style # 010</b>	<b>Typ:01 Seq:0010 Spl:01</b>
402 - Stuart Fairgrounds	

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Blue Ridge District.

Commonwealth of Virginia  
**Sample Ballot**  
County of Patrick  
Pct. 302 - Liberty  
General Election  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023

**Instructions to voters**  
To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:  
To write in a qualified candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line.  
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.  
If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

<b>Member Senate of Virginia 7th District</b> Vote for only one	<b>Sheriff</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> William M. "Bill" Stanley, Jr. - R	<input type="radio"/> Daniel M. Smith
<input type="radio"/> Deborah I. "Renie" Gates - D	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<b>Commissioner of Revenue</b> Vote for only one
<b>Member House of Delegates 47th District</b> Vote for only one	<input type="radio"/> Tabitha L. Overby
<input type="radio"/> Wren M. Williams - R	<input type="radio"/> Glenna C. Morse
<input type="radio"/> Patricia Lynn Quesenberry - D	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Jacob C. Frogel - I	<b>Treasurer</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Sandra K. Stone
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<b>Clerk of Court</b> Vote for only one	<b>Member Board of Supervisors Mayo River District</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> Morgan E. Boothe	<input type="radio"/> H. Danny Foley, Sr.
<input type="radio"/> Nancy Turner Belcher	<input type="radio"/> C. Clayton Kendrick, Jr.
<input type="radio"/> Erica Cipko Wade	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<b>Turn Ballot Over To Continue Voting</b> →
<b>Commonwealth's Attorney</b> Vote for only one	
<input type="radio"/> Dayna Kendrick Bobbitt	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	
<b>END OF BALLOT</b>	
<b>Ballot Style # 008</b>	<b>Typ:01 Seq:0008 Spl:01</b>
302 - Liberty	

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Mayo River District.

Commonwealth of Virginia  
**Sample Ballot**  
County of Patrick  
Pct. 202 - Patrick Springs  
General Election  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023

**Instructions to voters**  
To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:  
To write in a qualified candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and write the name of the person on the line.  
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.  
If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

<b>Member Senate of Virginia 7th District</b> Vote for only one	<b>Sheriff</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> William M. "Bill" Stanley, Jr. - R	<input type="radio"/> Daniel M. Smith
<input type="radio"/> Deborah I. "Renie" Gates - D	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<b>Commissioner of Revenue</b> Vote for only one
<b>Member House of Delegates 47th District</b> Vote for only one	<input type="radio"/> Tabitha L. Overby
<input type="radio"/> Wren M. Williams - R	<input type="radio"/> Glenna C. Morse
<input type="radio"/> Patricia Lynn Quesenberry - D	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Jacob C. Frogel - I	<b>Treasurer</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Sandra K. Stone
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<b>Clerk of Court</b> Vote for only one	<b>Member Board of Supervisors Peters Creek District</b> Vote for only one
<input type="radio"/> Morgan E. Boothe	<input type="radio"/> Lisa P. Mickles
<input type="radio"/> Nancy Turner Belcher	<input type="radio"/> Jonathan M. Wood
<input type="radio"/> Erica Cipko Wade	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<b>Turn Ballot Over To Continue Voting</b> →
<b>Commonwealth's Attorney</b> Vote for only one	
<input type="radio"/> Dayna Kendrick Bobbitt	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in	
<b>END OF BALLOT</b>	
<b>Ballot Style # 005</b>	<b>Typ:01 Seq:0005 Spl:01</b>
202 - Patrick Springs	

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Peters Creek District.

## Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

Trista Cosner, 35, 1510 Cedar St., Christiansburg, arrested Sept. 20 on indictments that included two counts distribute methamphetamine and one count each distribute suboxone, conspire to distribute Schedule I/II drug, conspire to distribute meth - 28 grams. Christiansburg PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

Doyle Fain, 73, 11790 Ararat Highway, Claudville, was charged Oct. 20 with brandishing a firearm. Deputy C. Gilbert made the arrest.

Philip Cooley, 56, 1667 Wilson Mill Road, Bassett, was charged Oct. 20 with shoplifting. Deputy M. R. Hodges made the arrest.

Gary Wayne Tilley, 59, 171 Salem Church

Road, Reidsville, N.C., was charged Oct. 21 with probation violation. Deputy D. Dillon made the arrest.

Sandra M. Osment, 33, Patrick County Jail, was charged Oct. 21 with probation violation. Deputy D. Dillon made the arrest.

Joseph Ray Walton, 34, 679 Ararat Highway, Ararat, was charged Oct. 22 with assault. Deputy A. Kinney made the arrest.

Christine Spencer Minter, 58, 2729 Old Mill Road, Patrick Springs, was charged Oct. 24 with Contempt of Court. 1st Sgt. B. L. Viperman made the arrest.

Jennifer Anne Lunsford, 46, Patrick County Jail, was charged Oct. 26 with probation violation. Sht. C. Frick made the arrest.

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DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Dear editor,**

Thank you, Patrick County Young Professionals, for sponsoring the recent candidates' forum at the Star Theater in Stuart, an event that allowed voters to see most candidates in person and to learn a little more about them and their goals. I paid particular attention to the Virginia Senate candidates with Deborah "Renie" Gates running for the office currently held by Sen. Bill Stanley. Mr. Stanley seems to oppose solar energy and electric cars, implying that all our farms will be soon covered by solar panels and that "inefficient electric cars" are being forced upon us.

Well, if you "google" how much land it would take to power the entire United States with solar power, various sites say it would be about the size of Lake Michigan. In addition, if some farmers think they can make more money by leasing or selling their land to a solar project versus growing crops, that used to be a policy Republicans supported, something called "free enterprise." Even then, I've seen photos of animals grazing under solar panels because they can be raised to allow farm operations to continue

underneath, including growing certain crops.

As for electric cars, if the energy to charge the batteries in these cars is supplied by solar, wind, or hydroelectric power, what's "inefficient" about that? Gradually reducing our dependence on gasoline and diesel vehicles will still allow millions of older autos and trucks on the road for decades to come regardless. Meanwhile, every month this past summer seems to have been the "hottest ever recorded"

**To the Citizens of Patrick County,**

As many of you know, my family and I suffered a great loss on May 13, 2020, when my mama, Pamela Morse was murdered. This was one of the most heartbreaking and traumatic things my family and I have ever had to go through. No one should ever have to live through this.

Not knowing which way to turn, I reached out to the Clerk of Courts Office here in Patrick County to ask some questions. I called several times and left messages. I never received a call back from anyone in that office. Then, I reached out to Nancy Belcher at the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office in Stuart. I told Nancy about me calling the Clerk of Courts Office in Stuart and how I never received a call back. Nancy was very sorry to hear they had not called me back and she quickly asked me, "How can I help you?" I asked Nancy the questions that I had and asked for her help in guiding me in the

**Voters of Patrick County,**

I was appointed Interim Clerk of Patrick County Circuit Court in August of 2019 by the Honorable Chief Judge David V. Williams. Prior to that, I served as the Henry County Circuit Clerk of Court for 16 years, having served a total of 40 years.

Your Circuit Court Clerk is responsible to ensure staff are properly trained and made aware of all 800 responsibilities as set out in the Code of Virginia.

I had the pleasure of working with Morgan Boothe. I found her to be competent, dedicated and an efficient Deputy Clerk.

I understand the importance of retaining staff for many years, because as we can all relate, it takes time to become proficient in our daily tasks.

Stability in public offices requires attention to detail and knowledge

on the planet. Phoenix, AZ had 30+ days of 110 degree heat, but global warming does not exist according to Republicans.

In contrast, Renie Gates supports moving away from fossil fuels while supporting education or training for new jobs to take the place of those lost in the fossil fuel industry.

Ms. Gates, having worked with a local rescue squad, knows the problems caused by not having a local hospital. Well, Mr. Stanley has had several terms in office to try get our hospital reopened, and despite his cohort Wren Williams' much publicized predictions, Patrick County remains hospital-less.

Renie supports the right of women to make their own healthcare choices too, a topic that Mr. Stanley intentionally avoided because polls indicate most Virginia voters support current law - versus the likelihood that a GOP-controlled General Assembly would not stop at a "15-week ban" on abortions. Look for them to pass a "personhood" bill from the "point of conception" that will mean all sorts of problems for victims of rape and incest and for those women with ectopic pregnancies or who have miscarriages.

Vote Gates for Senate and Patty Quesenberry for Delegate, or go backwards on women's rights and climate change as Gov. Youngkin, Sen. Stanley, and the GOP seek to buy yet another election. Remember the \$20 million of his own money Glenn Youngkin spent to become governor? Here we go again.

John Reynolds,  
Critz

direction I needed to go. Because of Nancy's many years of experience and knowledge of the court system, she was able to respectfully and quickly give me the accurate answers that I needed.

Over the years she has fostered relationships with other counties. In doing this, Nancy was quickly able to put me in contact with the right people in Henry County, Virginia. She knew exactly who I needed to call, gave me their phone number, and she also contacted one of them for me. I made one call to Nancy Belcher, and she didn't hesitate to be there for me in my time of need. Let's vote for Nancy Turner Belcher as our new clerk of court this November. I know she will be there for each citizen of Patrick County in their time of need just as she was for me.

Jennifer Helms,  
Woolwine

of ever changed laws and practices. In my months as Interim Clerk, I learned the duties of each deputy. However, in a small office, all deputy clerks are responsible for assisting the public. Morgan has a vast knowledge of every aspect of the office. She became bookkeeper upon the retirement of the previous bookkeeper during my time as Interim.

I hope I have successfully conveyed the work ethic of Morgan Boothe, her understanding of the duties of the Clerk of Court and her dedication to the Clerk's Office and the citizens of Patrick County.

I encourage the voters to vote for Morgan Boothe for Patrick County Clerk of Circuit Court.

Vickie Helmstutler,  
Retired Henry County Clerk/Interim Clerk of Patrick County

**To the Voters of Patrick County,**

It has come to my attention that people have been told that I am supporting a candidate

for the Clerk of Court position. However, I have not publicly stated my support for any particular candidate.

In the last clerk's election, I did publicly endorse a candidate, a person with integrity, a proven record of accomplishment, and a record of effective leadership. Unfortunately, the voters

decided to elect a different candidate. So, I have chosen not to take a public position in this election, regardless of what some have been told. It is the responsibility of each voter in the county to determine which candidate possesses the characteristics that are so important in the clerk's job.

I hope you will ask the following about each candidate. Who has the values to always to what is right, to treat each and every customer

**Dear Patrick County Voter,**

I am aware of the turmoil surrounding your former Clerk of Court and the day-to-day operations of that office. I met your Interim Clerk of Court, Morgan Boothe, at New Officer Training in December 2022. I was immediately impressed with Morgan's passion for the office and desire to remedy the challenges that had faced that office prior to her being appointed Interim Clerk.

Morgan changed the way the Patrick County Clerk's Office conducted business and brought integrity, honesty, and commitment to duty back to that office and to the citizens of Patrick County.

She has managed to bring two years of delinquent criminal court orders current and implement policies and procedures within the office through technology and service guidelines.

Morgan has attended training to further her knowledge of practices for the office, has networked with other Clerk's Offices to better serve the Judiciary, Law Enforcement, Probation and most importantly the citizens of Patrick County.

During Morgan's brief time as Interim Clerk, she has worked many long hours to put the Clerk's Office on a path to success. While I do not personally know the other candidates that are seeking this office, I have taken the time and effort to research their backgrounds and qualifications. While each of these bring some small knowledge to the table, Morgan is the only candidate that has the experience and knowledge to ensure that the Clerk's Office has no future setbacks that could potentially be costly to the citizens and taxpayers of your

with respect and dignity, to assist all that come into the office, to ensure that the laws are upheld, and to make sure confidentiality is always maintained by all staff? In addition, please consider who has the integrity to ensure that the job is done correctly, and will follow through and make the difficult decisions when it might be less trouble and faster to take an easy approach or ignore an issue. Finally, please consider who will set and enforce the standards of performance to ensure that each staff member does what is right, and that they work for, serve, and assist the citizens of the county.

That is what I strove to do when I was your clerk. I am honored to have served you to the best of my ability. I encourage you to vote, and I encourage you to take your vote seriously.

Respectfully,  
Susan Gasperini,  
Stuart

county. There are many pieces to the Clerk of Court puzzle and Morgan is the only candidate that has knowledge of those pieces.

With the many varied and difficult requirements of the office of Clerk of Court, experience, and knowledge of all areas of the Clerk's statutory duties is irreplaceable. Some believe that the training to become a successful Clerk is provided by the Virginia Office of Executive Secretary. This could not be further from the truth. Experience and networking with fellow Clerks are the only way to obtain the necessary skills to have a successful Clerk's Office.

Who am I to make such an endorsement, you may ask? I am the Clerk of Powhatan County Circuit Court, have been an employee of the court system for over twenty years, am President of the Virginia Court Clerk's Association, am the first Clerk of Court in Virginia to obtain the Master Clerk certification and the first Virginia Clerk to become a Certified Court Manager.

I gladly endorse Morgan Boothe for Clerk of Court. Morgan is the only candidate who can ensure a smooth and effective transfer of the office, she has the knowledge and experience to ensure the success of the Patrick County Clerk's Office.

Morgan has the heart of a public servant and a passion for the citizens of Patrick County. You would be fortunate to have her knowledge and experience as your new Clerk of Court.

Teresa Hash Dobbins,  
Master Clerk/Certified Court Manager,  
Powhatan County Circuit Court

**Dear Editor,**

I would like to share my stance on the upcoming election for the Patrick County Clerk of Court position. Morgan Boothe has been a friend of mine for our entire lives. I view her and her family as family of my own. With that being said, I can assure you of her conscientious upbringing as well as the wonderful role models she has had to look up to. She was raised to be dedicated and hardworking and she always has been. She was also raised to be trustworthy, humble, and accountable. Morgan will always advocate for herself and those close to her while also staying true to her morals. This has been directly reflected in her time as interim clerk as well as during her campaign.

When Morgan was appointed interim clerk, her aspiration to improve the current clerk's office's imperfections began. She immediately devoted her days and nights to her new role. She worked countless hours with additional responsibilities without receiving additional compensation. Furthermore, I think the employees of the clerk's office deserve acknowledgement and praise for their hard

work and dedication rather than the condemnation that has often been directed at them. The enhancements that have taken place in the clerk's office have been the result of the combined effort of them all.

Morgan's campaign has been based solely on the improvements she has implemented in the clerk's office since serving as interim clerk and the positive qualities and experiences she has to offer the community. Unfortunately, this cannot be said about all opposing candidates. Others have chosen an agenda that has included disrespectful, misleading statements and deceitful actions. I know I am not alone in my regret and embarrassment of some of the mannerisms that have been portrayed during this election. There have been many citizens that have voiced this same concern. Nevertheless, I ask the community to acknowledge the outstanding job Morgan has done and will continue to do should she be elected Patrick County Clerk of Court on November 7, 2023. Vote Boothe at the booth!

Sincerely,  
Taylor Altizer,

**Support for Pancake Days appreciated**

The Meadows of Dan Ruritans want to thank you for your support of our 56th annual Pancake Days. We served 500 more people than we did in 2022. This wouldn't have been possible without many willing volunteers. We feel deeply grateful for your participation and generosity. Thanks

to you we will be able to offer abundant support throughout the year to individuals and organizations in need in our community. We look forward to serving you next year on the third and fourth Sundays of October.

Angie Dribben,  
Meadows of Dan

**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

*Blue Ridge Institute and George W. Owens*

**By Beverly Belcher Woody**

The above picture belonged to William Woolwine DeHart and was shared with Gail Harding by DeHart's daughter, Miss Belle Boothe DeHart, who passed away in 1986. The picture is now housed at the Patrick County Historical Society and Museum.

Gail Harding was able to identify several folks in the picture with the help of the late Mr. Fred Clifton. The photo was taken on July 25, 1931, at Vesta at a reunion for the pupils of the Blue Ridge Institute.

According to Mr. Clifton, the group included Mrs. Canie Lewis (seated, with black hat); Miss Hattie Hylton (daughter of Ballard Preston Hylton, whom Ballard community is named for); the Owens brothers; Mrs. Fay Reynolds; Lizzie Cockram; Staples brothers; Larkin Cockram (Patrick County Treasurer for years); Tom Hopkins; Joe Ingram; Lilly Hylton Cockram; Alvis Cockram; Fay Reynolds (superintendent of schools for many years, directly in front of the tree); S. A. Thompson (front row, in three-piece suit,

minister and lawyer); Ed Reynolds; and Jeff Cockram.

According to the History of Patrick County, Virginia, Mrs. Vergie Thompson Tilley wrote the following, "In 1887, Owensville, the village now known as Vesta, became the site of the Blue Ridge Institute of Higher Learning. Under the direction of George W. Owens, teachers were attracted from as far away as Texas. Students, too, often came from sufficient distances that they boarded in the community. George Owens led his faculty in teaching mathematics, history, English, surveying, music, and penmanship. The fine Spenserian hand taught by the professional penman, Mr. Willard, is said to have survived on the mountain. Though the school closed within a few years, it has lived in the hearts and ambitions of the descendants of those students, scattered throughout the world."

I have tried to find out more information about Mr. Owens and I did find a George W. Owens, born in Kentucky in 1831, who married Josephine McClain and was working as a book agent in Christiansburg in 1880. The couple had



Blue Ridge Institute, Patrick County Historical Museum

two children, George Lamar, who moved away at a young age and John Elzie, who married Mary Ann Dalton from Stuart. John Elzie Owens and wife, Mary Ann raised at least ten children in Patrick County.

George W. and Josephine McClain Owens are buried at Creasy's Chapel Methodist Church cemetery and son, John Elzie and his

wife, Mary Ann are buried at Peter's Creek Baptist Church cemetery. I have been unable to confirm that this George W. Owens was the same gentleman that started the Blue Ridge Institute. If anyone can verify this is the same George W. Owens, I would love to know.

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 - My Birthday is on the First of the Month; When Should I Claim Social Security?*

**Dear Rusty:** I will be 62 on November first and I have chosen to take my benefits early. I know that my benefit will be less than it would be if I waited and that does not concern me, but I don't want to be without income for a long period of time. I know that if my birthday is on the first or second of the month, then I can draw that month. Does that mean that when I turn 62 on November 1st that I can receive my first check on the second Wednesday of November? And should I select November as the month I'd like my benefits to start? I also read that I would be paid the month following the month I select, hence my confusion. Signed: Confused Senior

**Dear Confused:** There are a few different Social Security rules which come into play in your specific circumstance which are likely creating your confusion. First, since you will be 62 on November first, you will first become eligible for Social Security starting with the month of November. Those born on the first or second of the month are eligible for benefits for that entire month, whereas those who turn 62 later in the month wouldn't be eligible for benefits until the following month. To claim benefits, you must be 62 for the entire month and, because your birthday is on the first, your first month being 62 for the entire month will be November, and that is the month you should specify as your benefit-start month on your application.

The next thing to be aware of is that Social Security pays benefits in the month following the month those benefits are earned. That means that your November benefits will be paid in December.

The exact payment date is determined by the recipients birthday - born before the eleventh of the month, SS payments are made on the second Wednesday; born between the eleventh and twentieth of the month, payments are received on the third Wednesday of the month; and for those born after the twentieth of the month, payment is received on the fourth Wednesday. Thus, since you were born on the first of the month and are claiming benefits to start in November, your first Social Security payment will be deposited in your bank account on the second Wednesday of December, and all subsequent Social Security payments will be made on that same second-Wednesday schedule.

You can apply for your Social Security benefits up to 4 months prior to the month you wish them to start, and SS recommends you apply at least 2 months prior to allow time for processing your application. On the application, they will ask which month you

wish your benefits to begin, and you can indicate November to get your earliest possible payment in December. Actually, you can simply select the following option on the Social Security benefit application: "I want benefits beginning with the earliest possible month and will accept an age-related reduction," which will accomplish the same thing.

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

## The Heart-Healthiest Population in the World

By now, many of us have heard that the Tsimane tribe has the lowest cardiovascular age ever detected in any sub-population. Could this become the newest health fad? How did scientists determine this and more importantly to us, what are their secrets?

Researchers recently published in the Lancet, their results of studying this tribe and comparing it to a large multi-cultural study (the MESA study) group. What they found by looking at biochemical markers, but also high tech CT calcium scoring was that the degree of coronary calcification was 500% lower in this

tribe at every age group! Clinical events such as heart attack or stroke were not reported.

So, how did the Tsimane's do it? Let's work backwards. Their risk factors were significantly lower than the MESA patients. Their weight, heart rate, blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and blood glucose levels were all lower. How did they lower their risk factor profile?

Obviously, their lifestyle is way different from the readers of this blog.

They are very active. 90% of their waking time is actively spent in hard work, such as hunting, foraging, and farming, leaving only 10% to sedentary activities.

Also, while they do eat meat, it accounts for less than 15% of their total calories.

They eat a high carb diet (about 72%), but the carbs all come from unprocessed foods that are high in fiber.

Finally, they eat a low fat diet, about 14%, which is less than what is typically considered a low fat diet in the USA.

What was also interesting is that more than 1/2 of the tribe had elevated levels of CRP, a marker of inflammation that was thought to be related to infectious disease, the biggest killer in the third world (compared to cardiovascular disease which is the biggest killer in the first world).

The future of the Tsimane tribe forward is to see how this tribe's risk factors and clinical event rates change as they come into more contact with the modern world. They've already started getting motors for their boats and using cooking oil in their diet.

faster?

If the Japan, Hawaii, and California epidemiological study is correct, we can predict that, as their lifestyle changes, so will their risk profiles, CT calcium scores, and finally, clinical events such as heart attack and stroke.

What can we learn from the Tsimanes?

Be as active as possible. Limit animal protein and fats. Not all carbs are bad for you, but processed carbs should probably be avoided.

NCD, non-communicable diseases (health problems not caused by infection, but by lifestyle) are a first world problem that is spreading to the entire world.

Your so-called "tribe" matters. Who you choose to spend time with will affect you and, in turn, you can affect others. The question is: will you change your tribe or will your tribe change you?

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Harvey Hahn, MD. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

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# Moore breaks school record

Journey Moore, a sophomore member of the Patrick County High School Volleyball Team,

broke the school record for digs in a season. She had 412 digs this season, besting the record she

set last season of 395. Moore was also named 1st team Libero for the Three Rivers District.



Journey Moore, pictured with Coach AK Scruggs.



Journey Moore picking up one of her school record 412 digs. (Photo by Pat Delaney)

# Ryan Blaney claims Championship 4 spot with emphatic victory at Martinsville

By Reid Spencer  
NASCAR Wire Service

Ryan Blaney did what Denny Hamlin couldn't do in Sunday's Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway.

As a result, Blaney will race for the NASCAR Cup Series championship next Sunday at Phoenix Raceway, and Hamlin exits the Playoffs after a hard-luck Round of 8.

During a 168-lap green-flag run to the finish, Blaney tracked down Aric Almirola and passed him for the lead on Lap 478 of 500. Twenty-two laps later, Blaney took the checkered flag 0.899 seconds ahead of Almirola to earn advancement to the Championship 4 race.

Blaney joins fellow Round of 8 winners Kyle Larson and Christopher Bell in race for the title, along with William Byron, who fought an ill-handling car all day but edged Hamlin for the final Playoff spot by eight points after finishing 13th.

Hamlin came home third, 4.149 seconds behind the race winner.

Chris Buescher, Martin Truex Jr. and Tyler Reddick joined Hamlin on the sidelines after finishing eighth, 12th and 26th, respectively.

The victory was Blaney's third of the season, his first at Martinsville and the 10th of his career, and it propelled him into the Championship 4 for the first time. Blaney aced the Round of 8 with a sixth-place finish at Las Vegas, a runner-up result at Homestead and the win at Martinsville.

"Well, I mean, felt like we put together really strong Playoffs—especially the Round of 8... we had a good run in the whole Round of 8," Blaney said. "Yeah, just overall really proud of the whole effort. RP (Team Penske owner Roger Penske) couldn't be here, unfortunately, but I know he's watching. This is awesome. Can't wait to get to Phoenix next week."

In front of a sold-out crowd at the .526-mile short track, Blaney earned the grandfather clock trophy he has long coveted.

"I grew up in High Point, not too far from here," Blaney said. "Really cool. Wanting to win here for a long time. Been super close for many years. Awesome to close it out."

Hamlin won the 130-lap first stage, finished second to Blaney in Stage 2 and was in position to advance to the title race until the race turned under caution for Michael McDowell's spin in Turn 2 on Lap 323. Blaney pitted from the lead, with Hamlin behind.

But 10 cars stayed on the track under the yellow, among them Almirola and Chase Elliott, who led 77 consecutive laps before Almirola passed him for the top spot on Lap 412. On newer tires, Blaney was able to work his way through traffic and take the lead, where Hamlin could only advance to third.

Hamlin entered the race 17 points below the cutoff for the final round because of a power



Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 Interstate Batteries Toyota, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., driver of the #47 Kroger/Reese's Chevrolet, Joey Logano, driver of the #22 Shell Pennzoil Ford, Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Hunt Brothers Pizza Ford, and JJ Yeley, driver of the #15 IFCJ.org Ford, race during the NASCAR Cup Series Xfinity 500 at Martinsville Speedway on October 29, 2023 in Martinsville, Virginia. (Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images)

steering failure that cost him dearly at Home- stead the week before.

"The mechanical failure last week with the power steering, that sealed our fate," said the driver of the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, who led a race-high 156 laps to Blaney's 145. "Really proud of this whole FedEx Toyota team for showing up today when we really needed to, having probably a mid 50-point day. They did great. They did absolutely great."

"The 12 car (Blaney) was the best car today, so congrats to them—all the final four that made it. It's going to be great. Hate we're not in it. Definitely, I was happy with the performance we had today. Really all-around."

"Just in the Round of 8, you can't have one bad week. Unfortunately, mechanical failure takes us from running really well to in the 30s. That's it."

Truex, the regular-season champion, led the first 47 laps from the pole, but a pit road speeding penalty on Lap 219 mired him in traffic, a circumstance he couldn't overcome.

"I felt like we did really good to get back to where we did," Truex said. "You just burn the tires off so much worse back there in the hot, dirty track, dirty air. You're in more rubber. It's just a dogfight."

"I don't know. We gave it a hell of an effort. I felt like we had a really strong car. I don't think we could have beat the 12 (Blaney). He was real-

ly, really strong. We were definitely close."

When Hamlin or Truex led the race, Byron was out of the Championship 4 as they ran. But the driver of the No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet held onto the final berth with a determined effort over the final green-flag run. Byron was 13th at the finish, the first driver one lap down.

"Obviously we were not very good," Byron said. "Our worst race of the year. These guys deserve it so much. They work so hard. Honestly, probably with 50 to go I felt really, really bad. I just had to drive the hell out of it. The guys stuck with me, they kept motivating me through little bits and pieces, just kind of keeping my mind straight."

"I'm just really thankful for them. It was just, yeah, a slugfest. Everyone raced me good there at the end. Congrats to Ryan. I was really happy for him... but, man, we just had to hang on. Just had to dig a little bit deeper."

"I knew when I got out of the car I was just beat. But the result means more than anything. These guys work so hard. We've worked so hard all season. I'm just really proud of them."

Chase Briscoe and Joey Logano finished fourth and fifth. Larson, Bell, Buescher, Austin Cindric and Todd Gilliland completed the top 10.

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# Belcher

(cont. from page 1)

"I think that the 25 years that I have served in the legal field, I would be able to impart what I know with the clerks that are there in the office and help to give them a good, firm foundation for the system and to teach them the 'why' of what they're doing," she said.

Belcher said she believes the office is currently lacking in knowledge and leadership.

"Along with that is being accurate and being timely with the responsibilities that they've been entrusted is one of the things that is lacking right now," she said, adding the software updates that have recently been implemented is one of the things at which the office has excelled.

"Of course, I would like to evaluate that, and see if those things are truly necessary for the citizens of Patrick County," she said.

For instance, in the case of a jury management system, "I know that prosecutors, defense attorneys, the citizens are not liking the jury management system. So, I would like to

be able to evaluate those systems that are there and be able to see if they are in fact necessary and worth the cost of what they were," Belcher said.

Because the clerk has over 800 duties and responsibilities, many of which are legally sophisticated and highly complex, Belcher said she has the qualifications needed and urged residents to vote for her.

"I have worked with and been trained by some of the attorneys here in Patrick County in those 25 years," she said. "I know that if I were elected, I could bring that knowledge and that experience with me and help the clerks that are there to understand the reason behind what they are doing. So that when things are going out the door and coming in, they understand how it affects the legal system as a whole."

Belcher said one of the major responsibilities of the clerk is public safety, and "the clerk is to be a consultant to prosecutors and law enforcement," and with her 23 years of

working in the Commonwealth's Attorney Office, Belcher believes she's the perfect candidate.

"I have the current prosecutors and current deputies frequently asking me for my thoughts, opinions, and advice today because they know what I have been through and what I've seen over the years. They draw upon that knowledge and experience and leadership that I have," she said.

"I'm not trying to talk anybody down," Belcher said, but having seen the way now retired clerks Susan Gasperini and Sherri Hazlewood ran the office, she sees room for improvement.

The system of accounting and the administrative tasks she currently performs in her post with the Commonwealth Attorney's office would be the same at the clerk's office, "so I'm not the rookie as we've been called," she said of herself and Wade.

Belcher has contacted clerks in other jurisdictions, and all have said they are willing to help her, "so I know I have resources, people

willing to help me" learn portions of the job that she may be less familiar with.

Belcher started her legal career working for the late Martin F. Clark before she joined Corbett and Brinks in their firm. She has been with the Commonwealth's Attorney Office since July 2000.

A graduate of Patrick County High School (PCHS), Belcher received her associate in computer information systems from Ricks College in Idaho. She also received ongoing training while at the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

A Woolwine native, Belcher has been married to her husband, David, for 17 years. He has two children, and the couple have six grandchildren.

In her spare time, Belcher volunteers with the Smith River Rescue Squad, is active in her church and other community organizations, likes to watch her niece and nephews in their activities and participates in car shows.

# Boyd

(cont. from page 1)

To help address the office being short-staffed, Boothe said the Virginia Court Clerks Association legislative team hopefully will address the issues with state legislators in the upcoming year.

"Maybe we'll see some progress with that workload assessment being conformed to today's time instead of 20 years ago," she said.

Other than hiring a new full-time employee after the election, Boothe said she believes the office excels at working together as a team.

"We're all taking online courses and in-person classes offered by the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) from the Supreme Court," she said. "So, we're all kind of cross-training other deputy clerks' duties and kind of seeing what everybody else is doing throughout their day so we can all pitch in to help where needed."

But, due to the staffing issue, "we lack enough hours in the day for the workload that we have."

To help address this, Boothe said many office staff stay after work hours to finish. "It's kind of like a vol-

unteer concept. If somebody's in the middle of a project they're working on, sometimes they will stay until 5:15 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. to finish it up."

Boothe said she also works on weekends and holidays to help out with deputy clerks' duties that may be left undone due to helping the public.

Appointed as the interim clerk of court in November 2022, Boothe said "Since I've had the authority to do so, I've implemented a lot of new technology and systems that greatly help out our employees and the public," and she thinks her track record would provide insight as to how she would be as a clerk.

Since her appointment, she has implemented online payments, the judicial imaging system for guest judges when they sit on the bench, the case imaging system, and automated deed numbering.

She also implemented the new jury management system, updated the speaker system in the courtroom, reconstructed the court processes to speed up case updating,

and destroyed old election materials past the required threshold with the help of EMI Security in Stuart.

"I want to keep implementing new technology and systems. We just recently finished a huge deed book scanning project a couple of weeks ago that entailed scanning deeds from 1973-1995. So, now our office is indexed from 1968 to present, and imaged from 1973 to present," she said of the project that was completed with only clerk's office funds.

Preserving the county's history is important, and she would continue pursuing ways to preserve them if elected.

"We need to get those records digitized just in case a tragedy happens," she said. "We've got automated judgments, and that turned a five-minute process into a two-second process. We've completed over 300 backlog sentencing orders, and caught up probate filings six months behind."

The office is also cross-training different positions, and all of the staff are enrolled in the Virginia Court Clerk's Association.

Staff also have access to court recordings, Boothe said and established "working relationships with other courts and clerk's offices for networking, and I've put the land transfers back in The Enterprise."

"I've been doing the clerk of court duties for almost a year. I am the only candidate that has actual in-office clerk's experience," she said. "Legal knowledge is not the same as clerk's knowledge. We're actually prohibited from giving legal advice in the clerk's office."

A Patrick Springs native, Boothe's entire family lives in the county. She graduated from Patrick County High School (PCHS) in 2013 and received her associate degree from Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) through the dual enrollment program. She also attended East Tennessee State University.

She has worked in the clerk's office since 2017.

In her free time, she enjoys being outside and sitting on the porch with her family and friends.

# Wade

(cont. from page 1)

County Sheriff Dan Smith to look into the assertions.

Wade said because the request was made by office employees, deputy sheriffs assigned to provide court security were not involved and had no knowledge about the incident when asked.

As for the issues that propelled her to run, Wade said they "can be addressed with an appropriate leader and viable training that all clerks and deputy clerks participate in."

Another issue she has heard about is the potential turnover in the office if Wade or Belcher are elected.

"I can say with all confidence that if that is the case, then I welcome all deputy clerks to apply and also open the doors for any new applications so that there can be a cohesive office that will be able to uphold the standards of our

clerk's office," she said.

"There's a budget for staffing, and if there is any additional funding that can be found with grant funding for employees, then I would be very interested in seeking those options," she said.

Wade said a Secure Remote Access Portal, currently only available to attorneys and title searchers at a cost of \$50 per month, could be expanded to genealogists and the participating public, with any additional funding used to help cover expenses.

Additionally, Wade said the staff lacks diverse and cross-training.

"I believe that one of the reasons is because our former clerk (Sherri Hazlewood) kept the deputy clerks in the office, doing their own jobs only," Wade said. "As far as cross-training, it was very minimal other than recording of deeds. There are specific criminal clerks and there are probate clerks."

Given those circumstances, if the office was closed such as during

the Covid pandemic, Wade said work would get backed up, "and that's what was happening for the past few years, and can still happen here at the clerk's office because of the lack of cross-training."

Wade works with the clerk's office on all types of matters that would be filed in the clerk's office, including work on civil cases, divorces, adoptions, real estate matters, deeds, deed searches, probate filing (with attorney Chris Corbett as a Commissioner of Accounts), and she has worked in the criminal field.

"I have seen the actual intricacies of all these things and how they're supposed to work, and when they're supposed to be filed and when they're supposed to be delivered to various offices like the sheriff's office. So, I know the timelines and I know the background of what this information is," she said. "I have seen the clerk's office work at its highest peak when Ms. Gasperini was there, and I see where it is currently."

"I want the public to vote for me because I want them to have the confidence that they currently have in me as a paralegal at Chris's office and

Wren's (Williams) office. I just possess the qualities that a clerk of court should have," Wade said.

A Patrick County native, Wade is married to her husband, Robbie Wade. The couple have a six-month-old daughter, Evelyn.

Wade received an advanced degree from Patrick County High School (PCHS). She also received a B.S. in biology from Longwood University and has received training in fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Wade worked at Hall's Plants while in high school and again briefly after coming home from university. She started working at Corbett's law office in 2011 and then Schneider & Williams, P.C. in 2018.

Wade also serves on the Stuart Town Council. As a council member, if elected Wade said she would step down due to a potential conflict of interest.

In her spare time, Wade enjoys camping, going to music festivals, being a mom, and running rescue calls with the Stuart Volunteer Fire Department.

## 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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# WHEO



## 92.7 FM Classic Hits

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# PS club awards three scholarships

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club presented scholarships to three 2023 Patrick County High School graduates from the local community. The club presented scholarships to Jalen Hagwood, George Peyton Stovall, and Tyler Stowe-Holt. Kevin Reynolds, secretary of the club and chairman of the scholarship committee, presented the awards. The club provided a hamburger/hot dog meal for the parents and sons at a monthly meeting. Recipients spoke to the club, discussing their future plans in college and career goals. The club is proud of these young men and their future aspirations.



Jalen Hagwood is presented with a scholarship by Kevin Reynolds.



George Peyton Stovall receives a scholarship from presenter, Kevin Reynolds.



Kevin Reynolds presented a scholarship to Tyler Stowe-Holt.

## Reynolds receives prestigious award

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club presented the Tom Downing Fellows Award to a member of the club during the October monthly meeting.

Kenneth Reynolds, a member since 2007, received the award for years of service to the Patrick Springs community and Patrick County.

The prestigious Tom Downing Award is the highest award given to a Ruritan. Fewer than 4% of all Ruritans are Tom Downing Fellows making this a distinctive honor among members. This honor from Ruritan National Foundation, sponsored by the club, is earned by one who demonstrates unselfish personal effort to the club and the community. Reynolds received the award with family, friends, and Ruritan members present at the meeting. Participating in the presentation was Pamela Smith, Zone 1 Governor of the Dan River District.



Kenneth Reynolds is presented the Tom Downing Fellows Award by Pamela Smith.

## Researchers analyze COVID-19's impact on motorist behavior after rise in traffic fatalities

The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on roadway safety nationwide.

Data scientists presented theoretical reasons for this at September's DRIVE SMART Virginia Distracted Driving Summit, held in Blacksburg and partially sponsored by Virginia Farm Bureau.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported the largest six-month increase ever recorded, when over 20,000 people died in motor vehicle crashes in the first half of 2021, up a staggering 18.4% over 2020.

Though lockdowns reduced traffic density, social capital deteriorated, and a dominant demographic of bored motorists used open roads for riskier driving.

Bryan E. Porter, associate dean and professor of psychology at the Old Dominion University Graduate School, shared a big-picture overview on how COVID-19 impacted U.S. motorists.

He said economic recessions historically have resulted in lower traffic fatalities, until COVID-19.

"When the U.S. loses money, they actually save lives on the road," he said. "It's a correlation we've seen time and time again. Now look at 2020 when COVID occurred. This is the first time during a recession where roadway deaths did not drop but increased."

In Virginia, 973 people died in traffic-related accidents in 2021, a 14.5% increase over 2020.

Though U.S. fatality rates stabilized in 2022, Porter said, "We're nowhere near recovery, but may be hitting the threshold."

In global comparisons, he noted that Sweden's roads were safer through the pandemic.

"They were a natural experiment," Porter said. "But what did they do differently? They did not shut down and remained fully open. We can talk about their COVID rates—that's fair—but they had improvements in traffic deaths."

Data scientist Nicholas Ward discussed psychological theories and influences that may explain COVID-19's behavioral impacts, like seatbelt negligence and speeding.

AAA data shows the traditional driving population changed during the pandemic, as "older, safer people" stayed home, and younger, typically male drivers took to roads for essential work.

Changes in social capital—how strongly we feel connected to each other and the community—also contributed to fatalities.

"Data shows communities with stronger social capital have a better traffic safety record because you feel connected to people sharing the road with you," he said. "There is evidence to show that during COVID, attachment to social groups changed to focusing on immediate family."

Lockdown boredom was another psychological factor, Ward said.

"People try to regain excitement in their life when they are bored," he explained, adding that those directly impacted by the illness exhibited intensified boredom. "To offset that, they saw more benefits to taking risks, and did it when they could on the road!"

## Self-Defense Class for EMS, Healthcare, and Education Personnel slated for Dec. 9

Surry Community College is offering a self-defense class especially designed for emergency medical services, rescue, fire, education, and hospital personnel, on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at SCC's Center for Public Safety in Mount Airy.

The class is geared to teach people who work with the public in stressful situations to improve their ability to defend themselves against a sudden assault during the course of their duties. The instructor for the course is Robert Hamilton, a former Guilford County deputy sheriff and current trainer for Hamilton Protective Training Solutions.

"Over 65 percent of EMS and fire personnel have stated they have been assaulted in the line of duty. Forty-seven percent of emergency room personnel have been assaulted, and of those attacks, 51 percent harmed patients. Almost one in three, or 33 percent, of teachers have indicated they have faced violent encounters. Not only do these first responders, healthcare workers, and teachers need to protect themselves, they also need to protect those for whom they're responsible," said Dr. Douglas Underwood, SCC Director Yadkin Campus and Director of Emergency Medical Programs.

This course integrates principles and tactics from the SPEAR (Spontaneous Protection Enabling Accelerated Response) System, which has been used by law enforcement and military personnel to protect themselves against sudden assaults. SPEAR Defense utilizes the speed and reliability of the startle-flinch mechanism to convert the human body's natural response to a sudden attack into a tactical response.

The class will meet at the Center for Public Safety, 1220 State St., Mt. Airy. The fee for the course is \$70. Visit [bit.ly/SCCself-defense](https://bit.ly/SCCself-defense) to register for the course.

If you'd like to learn more about this opportunity, contact Dr. Douglas Underwood, Director of Yadkin Center/Director of Emergency Medical Programs at (336) 386-3584 or [underwoodd@surry.edu](mailto:underwoodd@surry.edu).



Surry Community College is offering a self-defense class especially designed for emergency medical services, rescue, fire, education, and hospital personnel at SCC's Center for Public Safety in Mount Airy on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Course fee is \$70. To register, call (336) 386-3584 or visit [bit.ly/SCCself-defense](https://bit.ly/SCCself-defense).



# SECU Foundation Provides Bridge to Career Scholarships to SCC Students

Surry Community College workforce training students were recently awarded the SECU Bridge to Career Scholarship established by the member-funded SECU Foundation to assist students across North Carolina in obtaining their educational goals.

SECU representatives announced the scholarships during the September SCC Board of Trustees meeting. The member-funded SECU Foundation has provided funding for up to 30 local students to receive a \$500 check to be used for study at Surry Community College.

EMS students receiving scholarships were Brandon Anderson of Ronda, Isaac Hampton of Yadkinville, Hilary Irwin of Elkin, Darrin Wolfe of Lewisville, David Woodall of Hamptonville, Robert Blizard of Mount Airy, Alexis Timmons of Mount Airy and Justin Wilmoth of Mount Airy.

Nurse Aide students receiving scholarships were Tina Lineberry of Mount Airy, Carly Phillips of Yadkinville and April Royall of Jonesville.

The scholarship awards were presented by Jennifer Pardue, SECU Advisory Board Member, Dobson, and SCC Director of College & Career Readiness; Brea Hull, SECU District Senior Vice-President, Mount Airy; Julie Edwards, SECU Vice-President, Dobson; and Elizabeth White, SCC Director of Financial Aid.

SECU Foundation introduced the SECU Bridge to Career Program in 2018 to help students seeking to obtain careers with sustainable wages in their local communities through North Carolina's workforce development program. Administered by each college, the initiative focuses on assisting individuals with finding vocational and job placement opportunities through eligible training programs that lead to state-regulated or industry-recognized credentials. Scholarship funding will be applied to educational expenses.

"This scholarship program has become an integral part of our support for individuals seeking a job in a high-demand industry trade or enhancing their education with new skills to



The member-funded SECU Foundation has provided funding for up to 30 local students to receive a \$500 check to be used for study at Surry Community College as a part of the Bridge to Career Scholarship program. Pictured left to right: Julie Edwards, SECU Vice-President, Dobson; Nurse Aide student and scholarship recipient Tina Lineberry, EMS student and scholarship recipient Isaac Hampton, Jennifer Pardue, SECU Advisory Board Member, Dobson, and SCC Director of College & Career Readiness; and Brea Hull, SECU District Senior Vice-President, Mount Airy.

advance their career," said Jama Campbell, SECU Foundation executive director. "This is a wonderful collaborative effort with state educators to create a better future for scholarship recipients, their families, and our communities. On behalf of SECU Foundation and SECU members, we offer our congratulations to these recipients."

With the combined commitments for the SECU Bridge to Career and "People Helping People" Community College Scholarship pro-

grams, SECU Foundation funding for the NC Community College System totals over \$1.6 million annually.

Surry Community College's Financial Aid Office assists many students with finding the funds necessary to pursue an education by helping them discover valuable scholarships like the SECU Bridge to Career Scholarship. Contact SCC's Financial Aid Office at (336) 386-3264 or [financialaid@surry.edu](mailto:financialaid@surry.edu) or go to [surry.edu](http://surry.edu) for more information.

# Golf Tournament Raised \$102,600 for Scholarships

The Surry Community College Foundation raised around \$102,600 during the 27th Annual Woltz-Harold Golf Tournament for student scholarships, exceeding last year's total.

About 230 golfers organized into 58 teams played in the tournament on Sept. 14, at Cross Creek Country Club in Mount Airy, which featured a morning and an afternoon tee off.

Each year, the SCC Foundation awards approximately \$225,000 to \$260,000 in scholarships to students including endowed and pass-through scholarships. Money is also set aside to help students through the Student Emergency Fund. The SCC Foundation has held a golf tournament for 27 years to raise money for student scholarships, netting more than \$1.4 million.

The tournament honors past SCC Foundation Board of Directors Pat Woltz and Bobby Harold, who personally endowed scholarships for students and volunteered annually for the golf tournament.

"The Surry Community College Foundation Woltz-Harold Scholarship Tournament has been blessed beyond measure with sponsors generously contributing year after year," said SCC Foundation Director Sheila Franklin. "I hope our loyal supporters know how much their kindness has changed the lives of countless students."

Tournament winners will have scholarships awarded in the name of their team for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Winners of the morning round were as follows: Cross Creek flight – Thermo King Central Carolinas, first place, and H&W Trailer Sales, second place; Pebble Beach flight – Central Continuing Care, first place, and Earlie Coe Team, second place; St. Andrews flight – Alliance Insurance, first place, and Surry Early College High School, second place.

Winners of the afternoon round were as follows: Cross Creek flight – TLG Peterbilt of Greensboro, first place, and Surry-Yadkin Electric, second place; Pebble Beach flight – Surry Animal Hospital, first place and Gene Rees Team, second place; St. Andrews flight – Pardue Team, first place, and Professional Air Systems, second place.

SCC Foundation Golf Committee members include Gary Harold, Susan Harold Thomas, Jerry and Marion Venable, Peggy Rees, Ann Vaughn, Jim York, and Alice Connolly, along with college employees Sheila Franklin, SCC Foundation Director and Dr. David Shockley, SCC President. Volunteers included SCC employees, college retirees, SCC Board of Trustee members, and State Employees Credit Union staff.

The Surry Community College Foundation was established in 1966 to provide financial support to students and the college at-large, promoting educational opportunity for students. As a part of its mission, the SCC Foundation administers student scholarships sponsored by individuals, civic organizations and business/industry partners. SCC serves 3,200 curriculum students and 12,000 Workforce, Technologies and Community Education students annually,



The SCC Foundation has held a golf tournament for 27 years to raise money for student scholarship, netting more than \$1.4 million, all of which goes to help students in need. The tournament honors past SCC Foundation Board of Directors, Pat Woltz and Bobby Harold. WXII TV personality and meteorologist Lanie Pope (right) participated in the afternoon round.



Golfers and volunteers enjoyed a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream at the 27th annual Woltz-Harold Golf Tournament which raises scholarship money for students in need enabling their educational dreams.

SCC enables students to follow their educational dreams through transfer to four-year colleges and universities, as well as technical programs

leading directly to the workforce.

To learn more, contact Sheila Franklin at (336) 386-3205 or [franklins@surry.edu](mailto:franklins@surry.edu).

**Bonnie Lee DeHart**

Mrs. Bonnie Lee DeHart, age 78 of Stuart, passed from this life on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at Atrium Health Baptist Hospital with her loving family in attendance. She was born on March 7, 1945, in Washington, D.C. to the late Lloyd and Ann Shoemaker Henderson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, Elijah Aaron "Junior" DeHart who passed in 1989; her only son, Terry Lee Carter, who passed suddenly in 2014; a half-brother, John D. Pope, Jr.; and a sister, Jacklyn Ann Golladay.



enjoyed working with her clients over the years as well as her co-workers who became like family.

Her passion was breeding and showing her beloved Boston Terriers all across Virginia and neighboring states. They were sold to customers all across Virginia, North and South Carolina, Maryland, and Florida. She was a member of the N.C. Boston Terrier Club and V. President in the early 90's. The highlight of her career was having her Champion "Russell" selected for competition at the Westminster Kennel Club at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

She loved cooking for her family gatherings, feeding the hummingbirds and raising the most beautiful potted flowers every Spring. She loved listening to "ole time rock and roll" music. She could sing along with most of the songs knowing the words to them. She

lamented that today's music didn't "say anything".

She is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law, Sherrie Pearson Kendrick of Bellevue, WA, Brooke Renee and Brandon Spencer of Stuart; one grandson, Bradley Kendrick of Bellevue, WA; two granddaughters, Elizabeth Gilbert and husband, Jack of Bellevue, WA, Nicole Carter Medina and husband, Miguel of Stuart; four great grandsons, Mason Reilly Carter, Ryker Ethan Medina, twins: Alex Jameson and Ben Carter Gilbert; one brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Karla Henderson of Stephenson, VA; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear in-laws also survive. Also surviving is her precious constant companion, Tinker.

Funeral services will be held Monday, October 30, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Shaun Draughn officiating. Burial will follow in Patrick Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Flowers will be accepted or donations may be made in her memory to the Patrick County Animal Shelter. Online condolences may be made to [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Esther Bryant Jones**

Mrs. Esther Bryant Jones, age 95, of Stuart, Virginia went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at the Fork Mountain Adult Home in Rocky Mount. She was born in Patrick County on December 23, 1927, to the late William Arthur Bryant and Ada Brammer Bryant. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Hubert Isaac Jones; brother, Chester Columbus Bryant; and two sisters, Elzena Bryant Weinmeister and Zilphia Bryant Bowling.



(Ramzi Maalouf), Julie Turner (Ross Patterson), Robert Shively (Erin) and Jeremy Jones (Caroline); six great-grandchildren, Analeigh Jones, Maelynn Jones, Camden Shively, Declan Shively, Tenley Shively, and Maddox Shively; several nieces and nephews; and many dear friends.

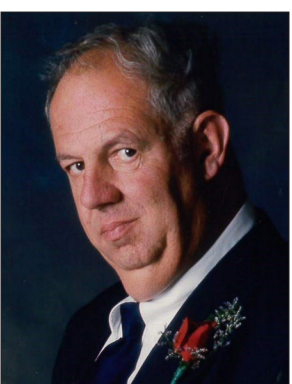
A graveside service for Mrs. Esther Jones will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Elamsville Church of God of Prophecy Cemetery with Pastor Greg Martin officiat-

ing. Mrs. Jones will lie in state at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart on Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Flowers will be accepted, or memorial donations may be made to Amedisys Hospice #1734, 5221 Valley Park Drive, Suite 2, Roanoke, Virginia 24019, or to the Elamsville Church of God of Prophecy Cemetery Fund, c/o Harold Jones, 3300 Elamsville Road, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Jones family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservice.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservice.com).

The family of Mrs. Jones would like to express their special thanks and gratitude to Sarah Campbell and the staff at the Fork Mountain Adult Home for the great level of care given to Esther during her stay.

**Donald Gene Elgin**

Mr. Donald Gene Elgin, Sr., age 74, of Stuart, Virginia passed away on Friday, October 27, 2023, at SOVAH Hospital of Martinsville. He was born in Patrick County on February 3, 1949, to the late Lynn Elgin and Era Conner Elgin. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Elmer Lee Elgin, and Walter Elgin. Donald loved fishing, NASCAR, and baseball. He participated in athletics, such as basketball and track & field, during his high school years. Donald was a truck driver for 37 years. He was a talented musician and could play both the piano and the guitar. His favorite thing was to be grandpa to both of his grandchildren. Donald was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.



Left to cherish the fond memories of Mr. Donald Elgin are his loving wife of 54 years, Joyce Clark Elgin of the home; two children, Stacie Elgin-Wiltshire of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, Donald Gene Elgin, Jr. of Stuart, Virginia; two grandchildren, Amber Lee Elgin of Mount Airy, North Carolina, Ethan Isaiah Wiltshire of Medford Lakes, New Jersey; one sister and brother-in-law, Verna Hill (John) of Stonewille, North Carolina; two sisters-in-law, Christine Elgin of Stuart, Virginia, Elva Elgin of Collinsville, Virginia; many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, and

many dear friends.

A funeral service for Mr. Donald Elgin will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at New Hope Church of the Brethren (2007 New Hope Road, Stuart, VA 24171) with Pastor Rick Randall officiating. The burial will immediately follow the funeral service in the Ross Harbour Methodist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the funeral service at the church on Saturday afternoon. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Mr. Donald Elgin may be made to the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 138, Woolwine, VA 24185, or to the Smith River Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 122, Woolwine, VA 24185. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Elgin family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Clyde Leon Vaughn**

Clyde Leon Vaughn passed away in Lexington, KY on October 22, 2023. Leon was born in Patrick County, Virginia on September 18, 1945, to Moir Wesley and Sallie Ann Dollarhite Vaughn. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sisters Vera Burnette, Ellen Handy, and Stella Gusler; brothers Willie, Cecil, Ray, Herman, and Cotton. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Brenda Cox Vaughn; their two sons and daughters-in-law, Jonathan and Leslie Vaughn of Lexington, KY, Ryan and Charisse Vaughn of Dallas, TX; grandchildren; Henry, Jack, Stella and Wesley Vaughn, and his sister, Jane Lawson of Midlothian, VA.



and married Brenda in July of 1969. Leon obtained his college degree upon graduating from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia. He devoted much of his professional career as a co-owner of an automotive parts and supply company and later as an accountant for the U.S. Forest Service.

Leon lived admirably, often taking the road less traveled as a result of his strong moral convictions. He served his community as a member of the Stuart Rotary Club, a volunteer youth sports coach and by providing "acts of service" to many others. He

enjoyed golf, gardening, trips to Topsail Island, NC, seeing the United States with Brenda and his closest friends, and the University of Virginia athletics. He was affectionally known by many as "The Hoo" due to his affinity for his alma mater. Leon fiercely loved his family and enjoyed any time he had with his grandchildren. Perhaps most importantly, Leon leaves behind a legacy of faith in Christ for his family and others to follow.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service to be held at Grace Baptist Church in Stuart, VA on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at 1 PM, with reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested for Grace Baptist Church, c/o Mark Elkins at PO Box 1108, Stuart, VA 24171 or the Arthritis Foundation. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

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**OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON**

# PATRICK PULPITS

## The Beatitudes and Beyond

By E.G. Walker

The air is turning crisp, leaves are changing colors, and pumpkins overflow the bins in front of Walmart. Fall has arrived! I spent the vast majority of my life living in the deep South, where we had Summer and less hot summer. I love that I get to experience four seasons living here. Combined with my excitement over cold air and colorful trees are thoughts of upcoming holidays. Autumn holidays, in particular, bring an expectation of blessings and gratitude. We celebrate by gifting each other an abundance of candy, decadent meals, and quality time. These gifts have no strings attached; the giver expects nothing in return, with the exception of seeing the delight which these gifts bring.

I recently felt led to study the Beatitudes (what theologians call Matthew 5:2-12) and to ponder over their meaning. Some are self-explanatory, but I felt that others lost some of their impact in translation from ancient Aramaic and Greek to modern English. The verses as translated in the English Standard Version state:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

At first glance, these don't really seem all that great, and some are downright confusing. How can someone be blessed if they are mourning? What do the verses mean by the word “blessed”? I've heard people define the word “bless” as both “happiness” and “gifts.” When asked how things are going, “Oh, I'm blessed!” When complimenting someone on their new car, “Oh God has richly blessed me!”

The way we use this word is not wrong, but I think it has a richer meaning. In the scripture above, Jesus says that we are blessed when we are persecuted, reviled, or in mourning—three things that don't really bring about happiness or thoughts of God bestowing gifts. According to Bible commentaries, the word “blessed” connotes the idea of having God's approval, a spiritual well-being that springs out of close communion with the Creator. So if we were to take that meaning and apply it above, verse 7 would read something like this: “God approves of the people who are merciful, and as such they will receive mercy.” So there is a gift, but it is not a gift that we might find under a Christmas tree.

Beyond this, I found others that struck me as confusing or in need of deeper investigation. What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”? Some people have falsely focused on the word poor and explained this phrase as referring to people who are financially poor. (If that were true, then how did God approve of Job, Abraham, or David—all wealthy men?) The word “poor” here means deeply destitute or crouched over, and when followed by the phrase “in spirit” we understand that the people who receive God's approval are those destitute in their spirits, seemingly those people who recognize their spiritual poverty without God. Is this not what the prophet Micah refers to when he says that God does not want sacrifices but a person who will walk humbly before Him (Micah 6:8)? When we gain a right understanding of this phrase, it helps us to understand the next word - mourn - better.

When I think of the word “mourn” I immediately picture a funeral. But everybody mourns something or someone at some point in their lives, so does that mean that every person has received God's approval? Of course not. If the previous verse tells us anything, I think it shows us that these people are mourning over personal as well as global sin. They mourn over the corruption and decay our world faces because of humanity's choice to try to live apart from God. The people who receive God's blessing, His approval,

are those who recognize their need for God and mourn the fact that they, their families, and the entire world has rejected God and respond accordingly.

The response is meekness. Apart from the Bible, I don't think I've ever heard anyone use this word in a normal conversation. I've often heard this word defined as “gentle.” The commentaries explain that the ancient Greek word for “meek” is incredibly difficult to translate. The word means “gentle strength.” It refers to “exercising God's strength under His control—i.e. demonstrating power without undue harshness.” I imagine it this way, a parent is physically stronger and more knowledgeable than a Kindergartner. When the child reaches for a hot stove, the meek parent pulls the child away and explains the danger. When the child refers to something with the wrong word, the meek parent reminds the child of the correct word. A parent who slings a child on the ground and punches him in the face is abusive. If the parent berates the child for using the wrong word and calls him stupid, that's abuse. That is demonstrating power with harshness.

Another example comes from scripture. In John 2:13-21, Jesus finds money-changers and sacrifice hawkers in the temple. He makes a whip of cords, turns over their cash boxes, and drives them out of the temple. At first glance, this seems rather abusive, but when reading closely, we find that Jesus never physically touches any of the people. He also does not insult or degrade them in any way. He calls them out on the truth of the situation. He says, “Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.” He then takes the time to explain and teach the people who confront Him. As the son of God He could have called down fire from heaven for their sinfulness, but He didn't. He certainly made a statement, but His power was completely under control.

The last phrase that caught my attention was “peacemaker.” The word seems self-explanatory, but I felt the Spirit nudging me to dig deeper. True peace, in the Biblical sense, is not the absence of conflict. It is a divine contentment in the midst of any situation. So that means that a peacemaker is not simply a person who stops others from fighting. In Matthew 10:34, Jesus explains, “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.” Reading the rest of the passage we find that Jesus divides families, but not out of malicious intent. When people decide to follow Jesus, they become separate from the world, and their lives are not the same. In Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 2:14-22, 2 Corinthians 5:18, and Romans 5:11 (among others) are verses that describe how Jesus brought peace to those who accept as true His life, death, and resurrection. So thinking about all this, what is a peacemaker if peace is not the absence of conflict, but divine contentment in any situation?

Jesus didn't shy away from dealing with contentious religious leaders; He was quite forceful with them. (Remember the whip?) Yet He sacrificed His reputation by the people He hung around and by giving up His life as a result of a trial where He was falsely accused. When it came to conflict between His followers, He sought to redirect their thoughts so that their focus centered on God rather than each other. Therefore, a peacemaker is one who seeks to bring people to God. They do this through sacrifice and intentional intervention. A peacemaker in this context is one who seeks to help people discover that divine contentment from the Holy Spirit that only comes from the Father through knowing Jesus Christ, the Son. If we bring all this into consideration, the above verses look more like this:

The people who recognize they need God have received God's approval and will live in His presence. The people who are grieved that they and the world have rejected Him for their own pleasures and devices have received God's approval, and God will comfort them. God approves of those people who are slow to anger, compassionate, and seek God's strength to control their power. God grants them special blessings. God approves of those who live to drive others to Christ so that they might receive His divine contentment. Those people are called God's children.

May God richly BLESS you, and see you through this week and beyond.

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Abaddon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Matthew 12, when an evil spirit returns to a person, how many companions does it bring? 2, 3, 7, 16
3. In which book's 22:18 does it state, “Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live”? Exodus, Numbers, Isaiah, Hebrews
4. The mark of the beast number (666) is found in which chap-

ter of Revelation? 1, 7, 11, 13  
5. From 1 Samuel 16, which king of Israel was tormented by an evil spirit? Solomon, David, Elah, Saul  
6. Who called the city of Nineveh the mistress of witchcraft? Ahab, Nahum, Lucifer, Peter  
ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 7, 3) Exodus, 4) 13:18, 5) Saul, 6) Nahum  
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).  
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## Super Crossword

“MM, GOOD!”

- |  |  |   |   |                                  |  |
|--|--|---|---|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>  | 41 — v. Wade                                   | 99 — alla Scala                           | 5 Add ammo to                           | 39 Moses' peak                   | 87 Merry-go-rounds                           |
| 1 Kiddie-lit elephant  | 42 Aussie critter                              | 101 Intensely, with “up”                  | 6 Emails or texts: Abbr.                | 40 Seltzer, e.g.                 | 88 Not kosher                                |
| 6 Seder bread  | 44 Electrolysis particles                      | 102 Antique auto                          | 7 Wet mo.                               | 41 ICU VIPs                      | 89 Hurry-scurry                              |
| 11 Warren in the Pro Football Hall of Fame                   | 45 Reading quickly in the Scandinavian manner? | 103 Trouncing in a number-adding contest? | 8 Come — halt                           | 46 Imbiber's hwy. offense        | 91 For free                                  |
| 15 Numbered work of a composer                               | 50 Novelist Stout                              | 109 Bullring call                         | 9 Body not staying at rest?             | 47 “— be nice if...”             | 93 Furious state                             |
| 19 “I'd love to help”  | 52 Hammer or Spade                             | 110 Balcony box                           | 10 “My treat!”                          | 48 Like taffy                    | 94 Spill cleaner                             |
| 20 Fictional town in an Edgar Lee Masters title              | 53 History topic                               | 111 “Send help!”                          | 11 Family in computer games             | 49 Bea Arthur sitcom             | 95 Sony products                             |
| 22 Intensity, with “up”                                      | 54 Hot tub sigh                                | 112 Netflix rival                         | 12 DuVernay of “Queen Sugar”            | 51 Air-testing gp.               | 96 1962 Paul Anka hit                        |
| 23 Aged female horse that has won lots of singing awards?    | 56 Tranquility                                 | 115 Pork serving                          | 13 Flawless                             | 55 Hispanic “hello”              | 97 Tarnished                                 |
| 25 Dog food brand  | 60 Brainchild                                  | 118 Of sentence units                     | 14 Request in advance, in a way         | 57 Intensity, with “up”          | 98 Tarnished                                 |
| 26 Filmy   | 62 Big meeting to discuss                      | 121 Cork's land                           | 15 Spoken exam                          | 58 Loving sound                  | 100 Chinese soup                             |
| 27 Hive swarm  | 66 Foot the bill                               | 122 Decreed to be the most prudish?       | 16 Sicily's capital                     | 59 Previously, poetically        | 104 Sort                                     |
| 28 “Lie Down With Lions” novelist Ken                        | 69 A-bomb, e.g.                                | 126 Observes                              | 17 A gazillion                          | 61 12-hour clock toggle          | 105 Facet                                    |
| 30 Romanov royal   | 71 “— dare?”                                   | 127 Computer programming output           | 18 Brief plugs for political candidates | 62 Lowing sound                  | 106 “Surprised to run into you!”             |
| 31 — -fi film  | 72 — Lilly                                     | 128 More skillful                         | 21 Bread variety                        | 63 Fluid dram fraction           | 107 University in Greenville, South Carolina |
| 33 Michael of “Superbad”                                     | 73 “Tamerlane” poet                            | 129 Chances                               | 24 — Lube (STP alternative)             | 65 “Hawaii —” (Jack Lord series) | 108 In a blazing brandy sauce                |
| 34 Stephen of the screen                                     | 74 Cold, damp park birds?                      | 130 Covered with bathroom rolls, slangily | 29 Chou En- —                           | 66 Acer offerings                | 114 Fed Eliot                                |
| 35 Time when everybody turned down their radios all at once? | 79 Declare                                     | 131 Outback food                          | 31 Add fuel to                          | 67 Styled after                  | 115 Ace or queen                             |
|  | 82 Apia locale                                 | 132 Fliers' homes                         | 32 Groups on church risers              | 68 Orange tuber                  | 116 Fruit drink brand                        |
|  | 83 Elton John's '70s label                     |   | 33 The Plame affair, informally         | 70 Say aloud for transcription   | 117 Tip jar bills                            |
|  | 84 Figure skater Midori —                      |   | 35 Hammer or spade                      | 75 Net access provider           | 118 Nursery school, briefly                  |
|  | 86 Bet to win and place                        | <b>DOWN</b>                               | 36 52-wk. units                         | 76 Groom, e.g.                   | 119 Play — (perform some songs)              |
|  | 90 Cloning stuff                               | 1 Strike with the horns                   | 37 Dad's partner                        | 77 “The Dance” singer Brooks     | 120 Env. items                               |
|  | 92 Was an overly aggressive barber?            | 2 Court champ                             | 38 Longtime wire svc.                   | 78 Canned heat                   | 123 Receivable                               |
|  | 96 Cato's “to be”                              | 3 Lead-in to “done that”                  |   | 80 Good Grips brand              | 124 John in court cases                      |
|  |  | 4 “Eek!”                                  |   | 81 Nursery cry                   | 125 High-tech organizer                      |

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# Blue Ridge Folklife Festival Celebrates 50 Years



A bluegrass band plays at the Ferrum Folk Life Festival on the stage sponsored by Patrick County Tourism. (By Pat Delaney)



The New North Carolina Ramblers featuring Darren Moore of Chatham on acoustic guitar. Band leader Kinney Rorrer of Danville plays banjo, Wayne and Margaret Moore of Raleigh, NC, play the fiddle and autoharp.



Sisters Jane and Alice Brown pose with grandmother, Sherrie Bryant, of Collinsville, at the rug hooking demonstration. Jane and Alice are the youngest rug hookers in the Blue Ridge region. (Photos by Gabrielle Walker)



Classic cars and one of the grounds next to antique engines.



The Patrick County Tourism booth manned by director James Houchins.



The Pleasant Quilters from Henry County. Seated from left to right: Libby Bondurant, Myrna Ferguson, Janet Mitchell, and Nora Guilliams

**By Gabrielle Walker**

This past Saturday, the Blue Ridge Institute hosted the 50th annual Blue Ridge Folklife Festival. Spread across the beautiful Ferrum College campus, the festival hosted a number of activities. Vendors crossed county and state lines to showcase classic cars, antique engines, and traditional handicrafts for thousands of visitors. Across the street, the Blue Ridge Farm Museum hosted livestock demonstrations and competitions in the midst of a recreated nineteenth century farmstead. The festival began at 10 and was scheduled to end at 5, but that did not seem long enough for visitors to see everything available.

After walking through the Farm entrance, bluegrass music was heard over passing cars, drawing just as many people as the nearby BBQ vendor.

James Houchins, Patrick County Tourism Director, was seen smiling and nodding his head in time to the beat. He explained that he believes in forming mutually beneficial partnerships with neighboring counties to foster economic growth and community uplift. When asked if the Patrick County Tourism department would be interested in sponsoring the festival,

Houchins agreed and sponsored one of four tents dedicated to live music. Just before lunch, Henry County resident Darren Moore climbed the stage with his acoustic guitar and

played with the New North Carolina Ramblers. Band leader Kinney Rorrer, of Danville, explained that his great uncles Posey Rorrer and Charlie Poole helped form the original Ramblers in the 1920s in Franklin County. They were the first to record the well-known bluegrass song "I'll Roll in My Sweet Baby's Arms" in New York for Columbia Records. The New Ramblers ended their set with this song, bringing several flat footers to the dance floor.

Across from the music stage, a chil-



Cam Carr of Floyd poses with "Smoke" his Treeing Walker Coonhound.

dren's play area provided youngest guests with old-time entertainment. Using burlap sacks, kids raced each other and their parents, threw horseshoes, and tested their strength playing tug-of-war. The highlight, however, was a pile of hay in the corner where kids searched for candy.

The Franklin County Parks and Recreation tent situated at the side of the play area, hosted a checkers tournament for children and adults. Marcia Cramblitt, manager of the Office of Aging and Recreation, explained that originally Parks and Rec hosted checkers and horseshoes, before changing to cornhole. She said the time seemed right to bring checkers back. Thomas Walker and son Bailey, both of Stuart, took home first place trophies for the adult and child tournaments.

A few yards away from the play area, livestock demonstrations began. One farmer brought sheep and demonstrated how he uses his dog to herd livestock safely. Several farmers brought draft horses, displaying their strength in pulling thousands of pounds of weight effortlessly. Others brought their mules for a jumping contest, but the animals' resistance revealed that mules are just as stubborn as ever. Early in the afternoon, the Coonhound dog contests began. "Smoke," a Treeing Walker Coonhound from Floyd, took home first place in the water race and water treeing contest.

Back on the college campus, food and drink vendors worked tirelessly to fill orders. Along with BBQ and fried chicken, vendors offered milkshakes, lemonade, and coffee - which one person made with a nineteenth century steam engine. Unsurprisingly, moonshine booths became some of the most popular. Vendors offered tastings, explained the process of making moonshine, and shared some of the lore of local moonshine history.

Houchins explained that he has been working with Franklin County Tourism Director Kevin Tosh and Floyd County Tourism Director Kathleen Legg on creating a Moonshine Heritage Trail that will pass through Patrick, Franklin, and Floyd counties, eventually including Henry as well.

After experiencing several demonstrations of nineteenth and early twentieth century engines and tractors, visitors eventually entered the traditional handicraft area. Vendors offered items for sale of course, but the draw for many was seeing the traditional process for making them. Henry County group the Pleasant Quilters began learning to hand quilt in 2004. Libby Bondurant, of Figsboro, explained that the group started about 60 years ago, and the original members have all passed away.

"When I retired in 2004, I went to

the group and said 'If y'all don't teach us how to quilt it's going to become a lost art,' she said, and they said, 'Sure, come on!'"

The Pleasant Quilters take quilt tops from others, add the backing, and hand quilt it to give to those who need it. Next to the Pleasant Quilters, Reynolds Homestead had a table with several women rug hooking. Leslie Marsh, owner of Uptown Suites of Stuart, explained that women would take old clothes, cut strips, and pull the strips in various designs through feed sacks to make rugs. Some artisans sell these for hundreds of dollars, but Marsh explained that she sells some for much less than that while the rest are used as they were meant to be - as rugs.

If you've never had the pleasure of attending the Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, save the date for next year! It is always held on the fourth Saturday in October.

A few tips for first timers:  
Buy admission tickets online. Not only are the tickets cheaper, but you get to skip the long line of people waiting to purchase tickets on the day of the event.

Check the weather. There isn't a lot of shade, and the festival is spread out. If it's going to be sunny and hot, bring your sunscreen and maybe an umbrella.

Arrive early. A lot of people attend the festival. Arriving early can help you get a better parking spot! Also, most of the classic cars left before 3 p.m. and antique tractors began leaving soon after, so arriving early allows you more time to view them.

Be prepared to walk. Parking is free, but thousands of people attend the festival, so you'll probably have to park a good distance away from the campus unless you arrive early. Also as mentioned earlier, the events are spread out over the campus and Farm Museum.

Bring chairs or a blanket to sit on. There are some seating options but not many. The various demonstrations can last anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour, so bringing something to sit on can make watching these more enjoyable.

Plan for meals. Food and drinks weren't cheap, so if you'd rather spend money on crafts, bring food and drinks with you. That stated, the food was amazing, so if you want to try it, be prepared to spend!

Bring cash. Several vendors accept cards, but having cash made many transactions easier.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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- Prevented Looming State Intervention or Taking Control of Our County Government

Paid for and Approved by Clyde DeLoach



**Meetings**

**Wednesday, Nov. 1**  
 The Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) will meet at 7 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building.

**Thursday, Nov. 9**  
 The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the division's new administration office, 132 North Main St., Stuart.

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**  
 The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the Town Office.

**Monday, Nov. 20**  
 The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

**Events**

**Friday, Nov. 3**  
 The Woolwine Methodist Church food truck will be at the Woolwine VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Nov. 4**  
 Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church Food Bank will hold a fundraiser yard sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Table spaces for rent, \$10 for the first table, and \$5 for each additional table. Hot dogs, drinks, and desserts will be sold as well. All proceeds for table rentals and food will go to support the food bank. Anyone interested in setting up should call Kathy Trent at (276) 694-6084.

Community Breakfast, from 7-10 a.m., at Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad, 1258 American Legion Road, Stuart. Plates are \$8. Dine in, carryout, and curb service options are available. Orders can be placed by calling (276) 694-6171.

Meadows of Dan Women's Club Bingo, Meadows of Dan Community Center, 2858 JEB Stuart Hwy  
 Doors Open at 5 p.m., games start at 6. Concessions available. For more information, call (276) 952-2674.

**Monday, Nov. 6**  
 A BETA RHO Literary Night will be held at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-

CC) at 5:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. Hot dogs, chips, drinks, and cookies will be served.

**Tuesday, Nov. 7**  
 Community coffee at Church of the Living Water, 10 a.m., Scottie Cassell, Jr., Director of EMS, will give new updates.

**Thursday, Nov. 9**  
 Dedication Ceremony and Open House, 5 p.m. at Patrick County Schools new Administration Building, located at 132 North Main St., Stuart.

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its next monthly meeting at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Jimmy Handy. The Reynolds Homestead will be providing the meal for all attendees. Attendees are requested to bring desserts to share with the group.

**Saturday, Nov. 11**  
 Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard, American Legion Post #105, VFW Post #7800, VFW Post #8467, will honor past and present veterans for their service, protecting the freedoms that Americans enjoy today in a service that begins at 2:00 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Parking Lot. Bring a chair and help honor deserving veterans for the service to our nation.

**Wednesday, Nov. 15**  
 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.

The Patrick County Library will hold an educational presentation about Medicare and Social Security starting at 12 p.m.

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and the Reynolds Homestead will hold a Lunch with Our Community Leaders event from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hooker Building located at 420 Woodland Drive in Stuart. Tickets are available online at the Chamber's website: [www.patrickchamber.com](http://www.patrickchamber.com).

**Ongoing**

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the American Legion Post 105. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

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](mailto:patrickcountyquilters@gmail.com).

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

The Ararat Ruritan Club will hold Rook games every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m. Introduction to Zen Meditation and Zen Buddhism, second and fourth Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Blue Ridge Regional Library, Stuart site.

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. Event is for anyone wanting a deeper understanding of the Old Testament and how it relates to us now. Come and discover the Hebrew side of the Christian Faith during the meetings held at The Honey Pot, 106 N. Main St., Stuart (across from The Coffee Break). Call (276) 694-2356 for more information.

Last Tuesday of each month, Golden Oldies, Open Jam at Willis Gap Community Center, 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat, with 50s, 60s, 70s Rock and Roll. Doors open at 6 p.m. Music gets underway at 7. Food is available.

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*My Family and I would like to thank you, Patrick County, for your support, kindness, and well wishes this past year!*



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**A VOTE for NANCY TURNER BELCHER**

# VADOC Receives \$1.2 Million to Address Substance Use Disorder

The Virginia Department of Corrections has been named a recipient of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) Funding to the Agencies of the Commonwealth.

The department will receive more than \$1.2 million to fund three projects in the upcoming year aimed at addressing Substance Use Disorder (SUD).

The first project will fund six contracted, specialized clinical social workers to support opioid-use disorder therapies at six VADOC facilities that operate Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs. The second is a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of long-acting injectable opioid agonists in the continued care of inmates with diagnosed opioid use disorders, which will be overseen by the VADOC's medical director. The third project is the creation of a video that provides SUD education to all inmates entering VADOC custody. The video will focus on

addiction as a chronic, yet treatable illness and will highlight the program options that are available to inmates within the VADOC.

The approved projects were selected through a competitive application review process. The awards are the first allocation of OAA funds for state agencies since Virginia received its first set of national settlement payments from manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids in 2022.

"The Virginia Department of Corrections greatly appreciates this funding from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority," said VADOC Director Chadwick Dotson. "The VADOC remains committed to addressing Substance Use Disorder in the face of the opioid and fentanyl epidemic affecting the Commonwealth and United States."

For years, the agency has progressively responded to the opioid epidemic in Virginia. In 2017, the VADOC was selected by the National Governor's Association to participate

in a learning lab designed to develop strategies to expand access to addiction treatment for inmates and probationers with opioid use disorder along with seven other states. In July 2018, the VADOC initiated its Medication Assisted Treatment Reentry Initiative (MATRI) and provided intensive SUD programs and naltrexone (an injectable medication that can help prevent relapses into alcohol or substance use) to individuals released from specific pilot sites. The MATRI program expanded again in March 2021, when the VADOC allowed the continuation of buprenorphine at its Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP) facilities. Due to its success at CCAP facilities, the program expanded throughout the VADOC in 2023. Medications for Opioid Use Disorder are available throughout the DOC based on review from a physician.

VADOC has provided rapid RE-VIVE! training and two doses of naloxone to inmates and probationers

released from 15 pilot locations since 2019. Additionally, the Department recently implemented a marketing campaign using posters drawn by incarcerated individuals to dissuade illicit substance use while incarcerated.

Various levels of SUD care are offered throughout the VADOC, including residential inpatient services, intensive outpatient groups, process groups, and peer mentor and peer support services.

For those on community supervision, the VADOC offers contracted SUD treatment services with vendors and Community Services Boards that include inpatient residential treatment, intensive outpatient, and SUD assessment and referral services.

Continuing education and training on substance use disorder is an important aspect of service delivery. The VADOC offers various forms of virtual and in-person training and opportunities to attend addiction-specific conferences and webinars to further addiction education.

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## Report shows women's health stagnates despite improvements

**Edwin J. Viera**  
*Virginia News Connection*

Progress in bolstering women's health in Virginia has stagnated, according to a new report.

Virginia ranks 14th among the states in the latest America's Health Rankings report on the Health of Women and Children. The report said clinical care and health behaviors have improved, but cited modest declines in health outcomes. Also, maternal mortality in Virginia increased to almost 27% in the last year.

Virginia Commonwealth University recently was awarded more than \$1.5 million for maternal-health innovation. Shannon Pursell, senior director of the Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative, described how that money can be spent.

"What we are going to do with this," she said, "is really provide that connection within communities, to and for women and their families, to ensure that they get connected to services."

Overall, she said, she wants to see better partnerships between health-care providers and specialized services for maternal health. The report also



found fewer women of child-bearing age in Virginia are smoking, but more are being diagnosed with depression.

Across the United States, maternal mortality increased 29-percent between 2014 and 2021. The pandemic only added to this, as more than 500 maternal deaths between 2020 and 2021 were related to COVID-19.

Dr. Lisa Saul, national medical director at UnitedHealthcare, said a healthy pregnancy boils down to health-care access.

"We know that access to

obstetric care, access to hospitals, is something that is an issue in our country," she said, "and we know about maternity care 'deserts,' where sometimes women might have to travel for two hours to not only see their physician or their OB provider."

The March of Dimes found that 8% of counties in the United States have seen shifting maternity-care access in the last few years. At least 94 counties increased access while 153 saw less access to care.

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# Try That in a Small Town

Has the way of national politics and rhetoric infected local politics? What is meant by this? Will the candidate throw something out there and see if it sticks, hoping no one will actually look up what is factual, a half-truth or just plain BS? Words have meaning and when those words are used in the proper context, they lead the reader to the proper conclusion. When words are used to mislead the reader to the wrong conclusion, we will just consider that BS.

We have two critical upcoming elections, Commissioner of Revenue and Clerk of Court. All of the candidates use the words experience and leadership in their ads and fliers. Merriam-Webster would define experience as "the fact or state of having been affected by or gained knowledge through direct observation or participation". Let's focus on experience and leadership relevant to the office the candidates seek. While all of the non-incumbent candidates have experience that may cross over into some aspects of the office they seek; only two candidates are currently working within their office. Again Merriam-Webster defines leadership as "the act or an instance of leading" and further states "leadership molds individuals into a team". Two candidates are already part of a team and have in office experience.

## Lets look at the candidates for the Commissioner of Revenue:

- **Tabitha Overby:** over 16 years of experience in the Commissioner's office, Master Deputy Commissioner and already a part of a team. Research found no spoken or written derogatory remarks by Mrs. Overby about her opponent.
- **Glenda Morse:** over 16 years experience in the Treasure's office, Chief Deputy Treasurer and part of a team, as well as experience in the DMV satellite office and other offices within the county. Research found no spoken or written derogatory comments about her opponent.

Running on their accomplishments rather than debasing their opponent or those within the office that they are seeking constitutes the voters' due diligence in making their decision .

## Now on to the candidates for Clerk of Court:

- **Morgan Boothe:** 6 years of in office experience with 1 year as interim Clerk. Already the leader of a team of Deputy Clerks, whom according to the article in The Enterprise dated 10/18/2023 "are in my corner". Further research revealed a letter of recommendation from Teresa Dobbins, Clerk for Powhatan County, who was Vice President of the Virginia Court Clerks Association (VCCA) at the time she wrote the letter. She has since been elected President of VCCA. In her letter she writes, "Morgan changed the way the Patrick County Clerk's Office conducted business and brought integrity, honesty, and commitment to duty back to that office. Morgan is the only candidate who can ensure a smooth and effective transfer of the office". The October 25th issue of The Enterprise has an ad that lists numerous improvements at the Clerk's Office that have been made under her leadership. We have found no evidence of either written or spoken negativity about either of her opponents. The only thing we found which some people might possibly view as derogatory is an ad pointing out that Ms. Boothe's opponents have "zero in office experience and clerks training", which is a statement of actual fact.
- **Nancy Belcher:** 25 years of legal experience, and currently serves as administrative assistant to the Commonwealth Attorney. Mrs. Belcher stated in the Patrick County Young Professional candidate forum "she lacks in-office experience", which is a statement of fact. However, she asserts her legal experience qualifies her as the best candidate of choice and went on to debase the entire Clerk's office staff by stating "the clerks are doing a good job for what they know, but they don't know what they don't know". Finally, Mrs. Belcher stated that the honorable Judge Brinks' appointment of Morgan Boothe as Interim Clerk was mandated by law, and he had no choice under a statute that she read. The statute she read (24.2-228.1 pp B) is only applicable if there is a vacancy in the office. At the time of the appointment, there was no vacancy in the office since the elected clerk had neither retired nor resigned. The applicable statute is 15.2-1635, which provides that "Whenever it is found by the judge of a circuit court that a clerk of such court is, by reason of mental or physical disability, temporarily unable to perform his duties, the judge of the court may, by order entered of record, designate some other person as deputy clerk to perform the duties of such clerk. The person so designated may be the clerk or deputy clerk of another county or city or any other qualified person". Judge Brinks had a choice and he made it. Mrs. Belcher cited the wrong statute while claiming "I know the law", proving that 25 years of legal experience does not provide sufficient knowledge of the business of the Clerk's office. It appears that Mrs. Belcher is the one that "doesn't know what she doesn't know"?
- **Erica Wade:** 12+ years as a paralegal and currently works for Corbett Law firm. Her press release states, "Erica is the only candidate who has served the people of Patrick and surrounding counties for many years in every aspect of what occurs daily at the Clerk's office". We do not doubt her knowledge from the attorney's side but find encompassing "every aspect of what occurs daily at the Clerk's office" to be questionable. Her flier states "since 2017, our Clerk's office has failed 4 out of 5 years of audits". This leads one to think that there were 5 audits. In reviewing the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts website [www.apa.virginia.gov}, research found there were only 4 audits conducted during a 5.25-year period and in actuality only 3 of the 4 audits identified issues. Were there accounting errors? Yes. Nowhere did we find the use of the word "misappropriated" as stated in her flier. The use of this word implies embezzlement, see Merriam Webster Dictionary Legal definition. Her newspaper ads have the word misappropriated changed to "misallocated". Nowhere in the auditors' report were either of these words used. I did find the words "mis-coded", "over charged" and "not charged". We found only 20 cases with audit issues of the 91 cases tested by the auditors; not "41" as stated on the flyer. She also claimed that "the current interim clerk was the proud bookkeeper during these failed audits". In reading the reports, she should have known the 30-year bookkeeper retired in the fall of 2019. She runs on "unwavering integrity", but changing words and numbers shows lack of honesty and integrity. At the last public forum Mrs. Wade alleged that 2 persons had been asked "to leave and not return to the Clerk's office". Ms. Boothe responded quickly by investigating within the office and calling upon Sheriff Smith to investigate with the deputies charged with courthouse security. According to the Oct. 25th edition of The Enterprise, these allegations could not be substantiated by Ms. Boothe, Sheriff Smith nor The Enterprise. Again, this brings her honesty and integrity into question. At this same forum she stated that she felt Judge Brinks chose "an easy fix" in his appointment of Morgan Boothe as Interim Clerk. This implies that it was not a carefully considered and well-grounded decision. We find this flippant statement quite disrespectful to Judge Brinks and to the honor he has earned and been afforded. Lastly if in fact, her "lifelong dream" has been to be Clerk of Court, why had she never applied to work in and glean knowledge of the office?

Both Mrs. Belcher and Mrs. Wade have disparaged Ms. Boothe and the entire Clerk's office. Ms. Boothe has run an admirable campaign with no negativity, stating only proven actual facts and her merits, accomplishments and qualifications. Knowledge gleaned from this research leads us to cast our vote for Interim Clerk Morgan Boothe for Clerk of Court. It is our hope that this assists others in their due diligence.

All documents for this research have been provided to The Enterprise for verification and are available to the public.

**Not endorsed by any Candidate**

**Authorized and Paid for by the Coalition for Truth in Patrick County Politics**



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

(cont. from page 1)

**Voters of Patrick County,**

I have a few observations regarding the Patrick County Clerk of Court race. Earlier this year, as campaigns began, several extraordinary events happened.

Erica Cipko Wade launched personal attacks on the deputy clerks of the Clerk's Office for the failings of the previous Clerk of Court, who left under a dark cloud. Why do Ms. Wade's ads keep referring to "returning honesty, integrity, and accountability to the Clerk's Office?" Was this problem not remedied by appointment of an interim Clerk and the retirement of the previous Clerk? This seems to be accusing the current staff of being dishonest, deceitful miscreants.

In ads, she accuses the staff of being ignorant of their jobs, stating Patrick County deserves a "knowledgeable" staff in the Clerk's Office. In my opinion, a flier that Ms. Wade is circulating appears slanderous, accusing some unnamed person at the Clerk's Office of misappropriating funds. One had better have receipts for such accusations. On October 10th at the Young Professionals, Meet the Candidates event, Ms. Wade referenced two people turned away from estate and probate and told not to come back. Estate and probate are by appointment only. If someone appears without an appointment, they are not seen that day and told to call for an appointment. What proof does she have that the people were told not to come back? Who supposedly told them this and what is their side of the story? Where is the honesty, integrity, and accountability in this

one sided accusation? Ms. Wade said these people were turned away "this week." The Clerk's Office was closed October 9th for Columbus Day. Two people turned away on the same day of her presentation, October 10th, seems very convenient.

Ms. Wade also expressed she is no longer "met with the friendliest faces" at the Clerk's Office. What does she expect after all the accusations slung at these folks, by her, for the previous nine months! That might create some hard feelings.

Not to seem one sided, Nancy Belcher, at the same event, said the Honorable Judge Brinks had no choice but to appoint Morgan Boothe interim Clerk according to VA Code Section 24.2-228.1 Paragraph B which reads in part "If a vacancy of a constitutional office ...." There was no "vacancy," (e.g., died, retired, et al) as the Clerk was still in office until June 30th, 2023, long after Ms. Boothe was chosen interim Clerk. Paraphrasing Ms. Belcher, I guess she don't know what she don't know. The Honorable Judge Brinks, by order, November 6th, 2022, used VA Code 15.2-1635 to appoint Ms. Boothe interim Clerk, as the Clerk was unable to perform her duties, being in jail and all. So much for Ms. Belcher's "years of legal experience."

Ms. Boothe took the oath of office November 7th, 2022. Listening to and reading the rhetoric of this election, the only candidate not embroiled in this mudslinging cage match has been, and is, Morgan Boothe.

Michael Hudson,  
Stuart

**Keeping the peace**

flagration.

Beyond the Middle East, every country in the world seems to be in turmoil to one degree or another. Conjecturing from current events what awful things might happen next can easily lead one into a state of fear. We wonder where God could possibly be in all this. The simple answer is, right in the middle. God not only knows what will happen, He has His sovereign hand over every last detail. The current world situation is no surprise to Him, nor should it be to those of us who are Christians, for Jesus clearly spoke of "wars and rumors of wars" and other great troubles that would precede His eventual return for those who've trusted him for salvation. Although this world is in chaos, because of Him, our hearts need not be. The Bible tells us even greater troubles are ahead for planet Earth before Jesus returns to finally set things right. But the Bible also tells us God is ultimately going to utterly destroy evil and restore His creation. The Bible says that if we put our faith in Jesus, we needn't fear anything that might happen, for our souls are safe in Him. Such fearlessness seems like a tall order at times, but God is faithful, and His Word is true and trustworthy. Christians can look beyond the trouble toward our Savior's return, and those who have not yet put their faith in Him can look away from the fear-instilling chaos and evil of this world and toward the One who can give them eternal, perfect peace.

David Robinette Jr.,  
Patrick Springs

**We Have a New Speaker**

On October 3rd, a motion to vacate was brought to the House floor and eight Republicans voted with Democrats to oust the Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy.

The Republicans were frustrated that Congress was unable to pass all 12 fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills before the September 30th deadline and so we had to pass a continuing resolution to give us 45 more days of government funding so that the House could further debate and vote on the bills.

Though I understood their frustration, I disagreed with this move. It was my belief that there was nobody at that point in time who could quickly obtain the 217 votes needed to become speaker.

It seems I had a point. For the next three weeks, Republicans debated and voted on who to nominate. Three different candidates were put forward by the Republican conference: Steve Scalise, Jim Jordan, and Tom Emmer. But they did not have the votes to win on the floor.

On October 24th, after numerous rounds of voting, it became clear Mike Johnson of Louisiana had the support within the Republican conference and on the floor to become the 56th Speaker of the House.

On the floor, he received all of the votes of Republicans present, 220.

Besides calling on all of us to work together and for a restoration of trust, Speaker Johnson laid out his vision for

how the House should conduct itself moving forward. Below are his core principles for our nation.

**First, Individual Freedom.**

All Americans are endowed with individual, God-given liberties that are to be preserved against government intrusion. We must all work to maintain and promote our rights and liberties.

**Second, Limited Government.**

This country was founded on the belief that legitimate government is more efficient and less corrupt when its size and scope are limited. This means decentralizing authority, limiting government regulations, and reducing bureaucracy.

**Third, The Rule of Law.**

In order to maintain a civilized society and for our liberties to be respected, we must adhere to the Constitution and ensure that justice is administered equally and impartially to all Americans.

**Fourth, Peace through Strength.**

A strong America is good for the entire world. As our greatest ally in the Middle East, Israel, faces violence and with tensions high in the Indo-Pacific region, it is more important than ever to show the world that we are able to defeat any adversary or threat, no matter the circumstance, because we have the strongest and most capable military in the world.

**Fifth, Fiscal Responsibility.**

Our country's national debt has reached over \$33 trillion, and Con-

gress has a duty to rein in spending, balance the budget, modernize federal entitlement programs, pursue pro-growth tax reforms, and restore regular order in the budget and appropriations processes. Speaker Johnson said that he would be establishing a bipartisan debt commission to begin working on the debt crisis immediately.

**Sixth, Free Markets.**

Free markets and free trade encourage entrepreneurs and business owners to pursue their dreams and with that, our country and economy can thrive. Our country will see more growth, more jobs, and a greater chance of upward mobility because of free markets.

**Seventh, Human Dignity.**

All men and women are created equal, and every American deserves respect and dignity. As a society, we must encourage education and hard work so that every American has a fair shot at a good and fulfilling life.

In fact, earlier in his speech Speaker Johnson talked about how G. K. Chesterton, the English author and philosopher, noted that the United States is the only nation in the world that is founded on a creed. That creed, spelled out in our Declaration of Independence, is that all men are created equal and



**Morgan Griffith**  
Representative

are endowed with the same inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thankfully, once elected, Speaker Johnson immediately got to work.

His first move was to bring a resolution to the floor to show our support for Israel and its right to defend itself. As our number one ally in the Middle East, it was imperative that the House show its bipartisan support for Israel.

After the Israel resolution, we immediately began debate on the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill. I was able to speak on the House floor on behalf of my amendment to better balance fossil fuel and renewable energy research funding at the Department of Energy.

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




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# SOVA Innovation Hub Receives \$600,000 Boost for Entrepreneurial Support

Southern Virginia's entrepreneurial ecosystem – the synergistic combination of people, organizations, and culture that interacts and cultivates business creation and growth - is poised for extraordinary growth, thanks to a \$600,000 grant recently awarded to the SOVA Innovation Hub to strengthen the collective regional entrepreneurship initiative known as RISE Collaborative. This substantial investment is set to fortify Southern Virginia's standing as a central hub for fostering small business growth, innovation, and economic development.

This means that current and future entrepreneurs and businesses in Patrick and Henry counties and the City of Martinsville can benefit from this support. Through RISE programs, events, and network, entrepreneurs gain a supportive community of peers, direct access to business resource providers, dynamic training and skill-building content, and value-added networking opportunities.

The grant was awarded by GO Virginia, a state-funded initiative administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) that works to strengthen and diversify Virginia's economy and foster the creation of higher wage jobs in strategic industries. The funding will support RISE Collaborative, a dynamic initiative dedicated to providing essential support for entrepreneurs in Southern Virginia. Through RISE Collaborative programs, events, and network, entrepreneurs gain a supportive community of peers, direct access to business resource providers, dynamic training and skill-building content, and value-added networking opportunities.

"The RISE Collaborative, the SOVA Innovation Hub, and other key stakeholders who have joined this project will assuredly elevate and advance entrepreneurship and business growth region-wide," said Tim Clark, chairman, GO Virginia Region 3 Council. "I join my Region 3 Council colleagues to say we applaud your past successes, and we look forward

to the SOVA RISE Collaborative becoming a best-in-class for Virginia and the nation."

## Winter 2024 RISE Business Bootcamp

The first program to launch under this grant will be the Winter 2024 RISE Business Bootcamp powered by CO.STARTERS. Participants will immerse themselves in their business concepts, business strategies, financials, marketing blueprints, and other elements, with the goal of positioning their businesses for either a successful launch or expansion. This 10-week virtual live bootcamp is open to all types of business that are capable of growing and creating jobs and investment in Southern Virginia. More information about the program and program application is available online at [sovarise.com/business-bootcamp](http://sovarise.com/business-bootcamp). Applications for the program are due Friday, December 8, 2023. The program will meet on Zoom on Tuesday evenings beginning January 9, 2024 and will conclude in March 2024. If you need assistance completing the application, please email [hello@sovainnovationhub.com](mailto:hello@sovainnovationhub.com) or call (434) 570-1305.

In addition to the SOVA Innovation Hub, the collaborative effort includes key partners such as the Longwood Small Business Development Center, Hampden-Sydney College, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, Patrick & Henry Community College, Microsoft TechSpark, and Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC). Together, they will work hand in hand to break down barriers for historically marginalized populations and rural communities to successfully start, grow, and scale businesses, promoting equity and inclusivity as core principles.

"This funding underscores a resolute commitment to catalyzing innovation in Southern Virginia, fortifying its economic future, and empowering the local workforce with critical skills and resources", said Tad Deriso, President & CEO of MBC and Chair of the SOVA Innovation Hub. "With this grant, the SOVA Innova-

tion Hub and its partners are primed to expand their reach, nurture talent, and continue to grow a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region."

"Just as MBC provides middle mile fiber infrastructure to Southern Virginia, the RISE Collaborative initiative provides infrastructure for the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Just like the internet, the ecosystem works best when it is connected," said Lauren Mathena, Director of Economic Development and Community Engagement at MBC, who serves as the RISE Collaborative Project Manager for the SOVA Innovation Hub. "If you are a business owner who is ready to grow, if you are an innovator with a startup concept, or if you are an experienced entrepreneur willing to be a mentor, we invite you join RISE Collaborative at an upcoming event. We are especially excited about our upcoming Global Entrepreneurship Week events in November and the launch of the next RISE Business Bootcamp, which is accepting applications through December 8th and will kick off in January 2024."

"Longwood University is committed to supporting the economic health of our region," said Sheri McGuire, Associate VP for Community and Economic Development and Executive Director of Longwood Small Business Development Center (LSBDC). "As a long-standing economic development partner on the local and regional level, our Small Business Development Center network is excited to continue our work with RISE Collaborative as a training and consulting resource for entrepreneurs."

"Hampden-Sydney College is committed to invigorating the entrepreneurial spirit within our rural communities. We wholeheartedly believe that by co-sponsoring the GO Virginia RISE Collaborative grant, we can nurture the next generation of rural founders," said Dr. Andrew King, Director of the Flemming Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Hampden-Sydney College. "Our goal is to both educate and empower them to transform our regional entrepre-

neurial ecosystem. This partnership signifies our steadfast dedication to making a meaningful difference in our growing community."

"We are grateful for this opportunity to expand our role with the RISE Collaborative," said Dr. Betty Adams, Executive Director, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC). "Adding an entrepreneurship track to the CTA Work-Based Learning Program will increase the critical knowledge, skills, and opportunities that students need to gain employment or create their own small businesses. This benefits local communities and further enriches our growing entrepreneurial ecosystem."

"Expanding the entrepreneurial ecosystem is absolutely essential for improving a community's economic growth and overall vibrancy," said Dr. Greg Hodges, President of Patrick & Henry Community College. "Patrick & Henry Community College is honored to be part of the RISE Collaborative and will use these resources to hire a Business Navigator in order to expand our entrepreneurial outreach and provide even greater opportunities for our critical small business owners."

"Microsoft's partnership with the SOVA Innovation Hub brings inclusive tech opportunities to entrepreneurs and communities in rural southern Virginia," said Jeremy Satterfield, Microsoft TechSpark Manager, Virginia. "This additional funding helps nurture local businesses and foster greater economic opportunity across the region."

RISE Collaborative serves current and future entrepreneurs and innovators who live or own a business in GO Virginia Region 3. GO Virginia Region 3 includes the Counties of Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, and the Cities of Danville and Martinsville. To find entrepreneurship and small business resources across the Southern Virginia region, visit [www.sovarise.com](http://www.sovarise.com).

# Unemployment insurance claims down from the previous filing week

The Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (DWA) announced that the number of initial unemployment insurance claims decreased in the latest filing week to 1,481 and remained at typical pre-Pandemic volumes experienced in 2019.

For the filing week ending October 21, the figure for seasonally unadjust-

ed initial claims for unemployment insurance in Virginia was 1,481, which was a decrease of 174 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 12,204, which was 151 claims lower than the previous week but an increase of 98% from the 6,152 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An in-

dustry was reported for ninety-three percent of claimants. Of those, over half (54 percent) of continued claims were from professional, scientific, and technical services (1,838), administrative and support and waste management (1,645), manufacturing (1,506), and health care and social assistance (1,117). 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 October 21, the advance U.S. figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 210,000, an increase of 10,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000

from 198,000 to 200,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs[1], unadjusted, totaled 191,892 in the week ending October 21, an increase of 9,498 (or 5.2 percent) from the previous week. There were 184,420 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported increases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. Oregon's preliminary weekly change (+2,477) was the largest increase. New York's preliminary weekly change (+2,093) was the second largest increase. Pennsylvania's preliminary weekly change (+1,234) was the third largest increase. Georgia's preliminary weekly change (+1,064) was the fourth largest increase. Virginia had the fifth largest decrease (-227).

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# Youngkin Announces Eligible Taxpayers Will Begin to Receive Tax Rebates

Taxpayers can go to [tax.virginia.gov/rebate](http://tax.virginia.gov/rebate) and check their eligibility for this one-time tax rebate. Beginning this week, tax rebates will begin to be distributed. Rebates will be sent on a rolling basis, with some taxpayers receiving their rebate within the next three weeks.

The Commonwealth anticipates issuing most rebates by November 7th, eligible taxpayers will receive one-time tax rebates of up to \$200 if they filed individually, and up to \$400 if they filed jointly. To be eligible, taxpayers must file by November 1, 2023, and have had a 2022 tax liability.

"We're excited to announce that

tax rebates will begin to be distributed in the coming days. As Virginians continue to face inflation and high prices as a direct result of policies out of Washington, D.C., these rebates are an important step going into the holiday season to help Virginians keep more of their hard-earned money for gas, groceries and essentials," said Gov. Glenn Youngkin. "My administration has delivered over \$5 billion in tax relief to Virginians, and we're pleased that these rebates will provide needed relief to Virginians."

Taxpayers who received a state tax refund by direct deposit this

year will likely receive their one-time tax rebate by direct deposit in the same bank account. All other eligible taxpayers will receive their rebate by paper check in the mail.

"For the second time in two years, the Commonwealth is returning excess tax revenues to Virginia taxpayers," said Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings. "Over the next few weeks, more than \$900 million will be refunded to taxpayers that filed a Virginia income tax return for tax year 2022. That brings the total to \$2 billion in excess tax receipts that are being returned directly to Virginia

families since last fall."

Debt Setoff Rules Required for Rebates

If a taxpayer owes money to Virginia Tax, or another state or local agency, the Commonwealth will use their tax rebate to satisfy that debt before sending the taxpayer the remainder of the rebate (along with contact information for the agency that was owed). In the event a taxpayer owes more than the amount of the one-time tax rebate, Virginia Tax will send the taxpayer a letter explaining the use of the rebate toward the debt as well as contact information for the agency that was owed.

# Ferrum College Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre to offer Emmet Otter Winter Show

The Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre and Ferrum College Theatre Arts received a special license to perform Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas for the Winter 2023 season. The Theatre in residence at Ferrum College is the only Theatre granted a license to perform this show to date outside of Timothy Allen McDonald and Music Theater International (MTI).

Dr. Mirta Martin credits the talent and passion of the faculty, students and community of the Theatre as the reason this special license was granted by McDonald and MTI. "This is the reason why this great opportunity we are about to unveil has come to Ferrum College for this very special Winter theatre season."

The story of Emmett Otter is often recognized from the 1989 movie featuring Emmett Otter's Jug Band Christmas which originally debuted as a television special in 1977 directed by Jim Henson and is based on a children's book of the same name inspired by "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. The story was adapted for theater by Timothy Allen McDonald, Chris-

toper Gattelli and Paul Williams. MacDonald says he knows Emmet and Ma and all of the critters in Waterville will feel right at home with this production by Ferrum College.

McDonald's journey with the story began almost 10 years ago when Paul Williams suggested it as his next project. The show was first staged with Goodspeed Musicals in Connecticut in 2008 and 2009 where it sold out and people came from all over the globe before it hit some legal snags that kept it off stage for a decade. Once the rights were cleared in 2019, the show eventually opened at The New Victory Theater in New York City among the first eight Broadway shows to try to come back from the COVID-19 pandemic closures.

This season, the show will run in Ferrum, December 5-17 and in Chicago November 20 through December 31. Chicago rehearsals began last Sunday. While the Henson puppets will be on stage in Chicago and brought to life thanks to puppeteers who sing, act, and dance, the Ferrum show will fea-

ture puppets made at the College by the Theatre staff as well as human cast members and musicians.

Rebecca Crocker, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts and Musical Theatre, said the show was a long-time dream shared by the Theatre.

"We crafted a letter to Tim McDonald and his response was 'I can't think of a better place for Ma and Emmett to be. This is an incredible opportunity for collaboration between our students faculty, staff and the community to build puppets ourselves for this production - it will be humans and puppets together. We are incredibly excited!'"

Emily Blankenship-Tucker will direct the production. She emphasized the Theatre's interest in the show stems from the values and culture of their own community reflected in this story. "This production is going to be an opportunity for us at Ferrum College to show off who we are and to make the most of what we do best."

Like Dr. Martin, she credits the heart and soul of the Blue Ridge

Dinner Theatre as the reason the special license was granted. "The reason, I believe, why ultimately the creative team said 'yes, you can have licensing rights' to something that is precious to them, something they are still stewarding into making its way into the world, is that we told the story of who we are and where we are. We told the story of the work our students do who are our musicians and our performers and our artists and the community that comes together as this Theatre. This company and the work we do, we see it as multigenerational...we play together and for each other."

The dinner theatre cast will feature Ferrum College faculty, staff, students, musicians, community members and veteran performers.

The performance will be staged in Scholfield Hall at Ferrum College with luncheon and dinner options served in Franklin Hall. Call (540) 365-4336 or visit [www.ferrum.edu/play-tickets](http://www.ferrum.edu/play-tickets) for auditions, tickets and information.



Rebecca Crocker in the Rex Stephenson Theatre at Ferrum College.

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## NOTICE

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

### Super Crossword

*Answers*

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# Bat Tales Take Flight



The Misunderstood Bat was celebrated at the Landmark Center and the Library, with bats and bat facts flying at each place last week.

Master Gardeners Jen Harrison, Jess Hines and Norma Bozenmayer presented a special bat program at Landmark Center and then flew to the library where they joined children's librarian Sam Edmundson for more bat fun at the library's Storytime with bat themed books, "Never, Not Ever!" by Beatrice Alemagna and "Bat Jamboree" by Kathi Appelt.

Children learned bat facts and decorated their very own bat to fly home.

Bats can live 10 to 30 years and can eat 1000 insects a night.

For more bat facts or information on other Master Gardener programs, email mgpcva@gmail.com



(The first picture was taken at the Landmark Center. The rest were taken at the library.)

# Witches invade Willis Gap



Carolyn Inscore Choate's niece, Linda Beck, is pictured riding Ginger, a cow owned by Jonathan Large.



Linda's mom, Connie Inscore, is pictured with two Linda's sisters, Nancy Beck and Sharon Jones. Mia Jones, center, is the adorable 3 year-old witch.



The group of witches loaded up and spent part of a recent Saturday visiting Willis Gap Grocery.



Sisters Sharon Jones, (left), is pictured with Linda Beck.



Mia Jones.



Mike Gammons is pictured with Sandy Eaton Marshall. (Photos by Carolyn Inscore Choate)

# Monsters on Main



From the ghoulish to the cute, the Town of Stuart, Mattie B's, the Monsters on Main were out in full force recently, just in time for Halloween. This group was created by Patrick County Master Gardeners and PC Circuit Clerk. (By Pat Delaney)

## Southside Virginia growers join forces to boost profitability of area farms

What began as a vision five years ago has blossomed into a force of change for Southside Virginia and beyond.

The Southside Virginia Fruit and Vegetable Producers Association consists of about 20 growers from eight counties. They work together to feed locally grown produce to Virginia families—an idea dreamed up by five Charlotte County farmers in 2018.

As primarily small vegetable growers, the group sought to expand marketing opportunities beyond direct consumer sales.

"We thought about coming together and aggregating our product to sell into some bigger markets," explained Cornell "Brick" Goldman, SVFVPA president and founding member. "And we thought that in coming together, we could help each other—sharing equipment, knowledge—and become more efficient as small growers."

Support came pouring in once word spread about the group's mission. Funds from county Farm

Bureaus helped kickstart the initiative, and assistance from groups like Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia State University and the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation and Rural Sustainability helped launch SVFVPA into a bustling operation.

In 2019, they began supplying produce to Food Lion and attracting other large buyers.

"We've been blessed," Goldman remarked. "We've been able to get new people to come in and buy from us each year."

Whitney Perkins, assistant director for VA FAIRS, said it's been "inspiring" to watch them work together. "This association really came on the backs of some core volunteers who had a vision and put in a lot of hard work to see it through."

VA FAIRS helped SVFVPA secure over \$739,000 in state and federal funding, including a \$126,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant. The funds supported the purchase

of walk-in coolers and the group's first refrigerated truck in 2019.

"It's amazing to see an actual reefer truck pull out with pallets of produce on it—I still haven't gotten over that feeling," said Amy Carwile, SVFVPA founding member and office manager. She recalled the group's early days of unloading produce by hand from minivans.

Another \$176,000 grant from The Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission funded the purchase of a permanent headquarters on 10 acres of land with test plots for beginning farmers. The group is set to move from its current space in January.

Perkins said the group's passion for mentoring young and aspiring growers is especially encouraging.

"That's an extra step that their association is taking that's really important for their community—making sure that pipeline of growers is sustainable," she said.

"We always make room for new growers," Goldman added. He said he and other experienced growers

will sometimes offer a few acres of land to newcomers eager to learn.

The group also gives back to other communities by supplying food banks and school systems with fresh produce. They work to expand their reach, with some deliveries reaching food banks as far as Washington, D.C., and 4P Foods, which delivers to schools across the state.

"I'm just amazed at how many people this little band of growers has been able to feed," Carwile said. "We're a group of people that love farming and growing produce for anyone that has a need or desire."

The organization continues to expand its operations and resources, growing by about 25% annually, and transitioning from a volunteer workforce to a paid one.

Membership is open to anyone. Annual dues of \$100 per farm are primarily intended to ensure commitment from growers. Those interested are encouraged to contact Carwile at 434-391-4754.

**THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE**

## Dear Citizens of Patrick County:

My name is Morgan Boothe, and I am a candidate for Clerk of Court for Patrick County. I am currently the Interim Clerk of Court as appointed last November by the Honorable Judge Marcus Brinks pursuant to code section 15.2-1635.

I am a lifelong resident of Patrick County, having graduated from Patrick County High School, and Patrick & Henry Community College. I then chose to attend East Tennessee State University and finally Radford University.

I applied for an open position and have been working in the Clerk's office since 2017 and I appreciate Judge Brinks' recognition of my abilities and dedication by naming me Interim Clerk. I have experience in every aspect of the Clerk's office, and although additional education is not mandated by the VA Supreme Court, I chose to receive additional professional education to support my duties and I encourage my entire staff to do the same. This enables our staff to better serve the public.

My duties, when first hired, consisted of working the front desk which also had me doubling as a civil clerk. That entails greeting and helping all the incoming public, recording deeds, issuing marriage licenses, passports, concealed handgun permits, filing civil cases, prepping filings for the Judge, search warrants, administering oaths, filing custody and visitation, criminal appeals, issuing subpoenas and summons and many more tasks.

Next, I was promoted to criminal clerk entering certified criminal court cases, entering indictments, issuing capias and show causes, updating the case management system with recent arrests and fingerprints to the database for state police access, preparing dockets for attorneys and judges of all pending cases and scanning sentencing orders to the database for Department of Corrections' access.

Since taking over as Interim Clerk almost a year ago, I am proud of the many improvements that were made and were long overdue. With the help of my hardworking staff, I've implemented several new, modernized programs that will help ease the sometimes-difficult issues citizens have faced in the office.

Since being appointed, and given the authority, some of the improvements I have initiated are:

- Online payments for fines and costs which streamlined and increased collections.
- Automated the Judgments process on court cases saving hours of staff time and money.
- New Automated Deed Numbering system eliminating chances of error.
- In collaboration with other clerks in the office, I restructured court input processes, to streamline case management, thus eliminating unnecessary rework of data.
- New online Judicial and Case Imaging Systems capturing every document for immediate access by court personnel saving old fashioned paper research and creating greater efficiency.
- After consultation with the Virginia Supreme Court Office, I established a new procedure and brought current all probate filings that were left unsigned by the previous administration.
- Created a new informational Facebook page for updates to the public.
- Strengthened the depth of coverage and enhanced career development by cross training the entire staff in various positions, increasing office efficiency and morale.
- Creating paid, online secure access and greater efficiency by back scanning deeds from 1973-1995 into the Secure Remote Access database and increasing revenues to the Clerk's office.
- Providing publicly available land transfer information to The Enterprise for publication.

Since becoming Interim Clerk, our staff has cleaned up an egregious backlog of over 300 sentencing orders inherited from the previous administration, that staff was not allowed to address. Some of those dated back to 2019. I'm sure this was appreciated by the local courts and law enforcement.

The above are just a few of the improvements made since November 2022. I have many plans for the future if allowed to continue to serve as your Clerk of Court. Some examples of those are:

- We will be making available new, plastic credit card sized concealed carry permit cards before the end of this year.
- Renovations are planned for the Clerk's office to make it more secure for the staff and public while simultaneously making it more welcoming and efficient.
- New E-recording procedures for the electronic transfers and recording of deeds from verified sources.
- New E-Filing procedures to process civil suits.

I have also built a robust network of relationships with the Virginia Supreme Court, the Virginia Court Clerks' Association, and numerous other Clerks of Court in Virginia. I've been commended on a job well done by the Virginia Supreme Court and the Virginia Court Clerks' Association and endorsed by the Clerk of Court of the City of Martinsville, Prince William County and by Teresa Dobbins, President of the Virginia Court Clerks Association.

Before you vote, please consider these five facts:

1. I am the Interim Clerk of Court, having been deputy clerk for over 5 years, Interim Clerk for the last year.
2. I am the **ONLY** candidate in this election that has ever worked in the Clerk's Office, therefore the only candidate with any actual Clerk's experience at all.
3. I have the full support of all the deputy clerks in the office who have worked hard right along beside me this last year to make tremendous improvements.
4. I've shown my dedication to this position through hundreds of hours of continuing education and professional conferences to acquire the skills, knowledge, and professional networks necessary to perform the over 800 statutory duties outlined in the Clerk of Courts handbook. If one of my opponents is elected, that new Clerk, with zero clerk experience, will have to be trained by a deputy clerk working under her. Do you want to pay your hard-earned tax dollars for the new Clerk to receive on the job training from another employee?
5. The Clerk's office has seen enough instability. The citizens of this county deserve a clerk that will not have to start at the bottom to learn the basics, as it takes years to master some of these duties.

If I haven't got around to knock on your door, I do apologize, however, I feel I have an obligation to my position of Interim Clerk and I need to be in the office every day. I ask for and greatly appreciate your vote. If you have already voted early and filled in the circle beside my name, I truly thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I humbly ask to allow me to continue to serve Patrick County as your Clerk of Court.

Sincerely,  
Morgan Boothe



**CIRCLE T AUCTIONS**

# AUCTION SALE

FOR THE ESTATE OF CLYDE HYLTON

**NOVEMBER 4TH**  
**10:00 AM**  
**1802 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD**  
**MEADOWS OF DAN, VA. 24120**



**FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE PROVIDED BY MOUNTAIN VIEW UNITED CHURCH**

**PLEASE CONTACT JEFF THOMPSON WITH ANY QUESTIONS OF INQUIRIES (540)392-7944**



**Jonathan Wood**  
*for*  
**Peters Creek Supervisor**

**GOALS:**

- ★ Provide a transparent government in all financial matters and other dealings.
- ★ A budget at the county and departmental level (sheriff's office, school system, health and welfare, etc) that all people can understand.
- ★ Add business and industry that provides good paying jobs with benefits for ourselves and children
- ★ Balanced budget without tax increases.
- ★ Allow for greater public input and participation in BOS meetings without making the speakers feel as they are on trial.
- ★ Increased support for Fire and Rescue.
- ★ Push for access to 24-hour medical care.
- ★ Increased infrastructure including internet access.

Paid for by Jonathan Wood for Supervisor

**105 Mattie B's Gifts & Apparel**

**Celebrating 10 Years Join the Fun!**

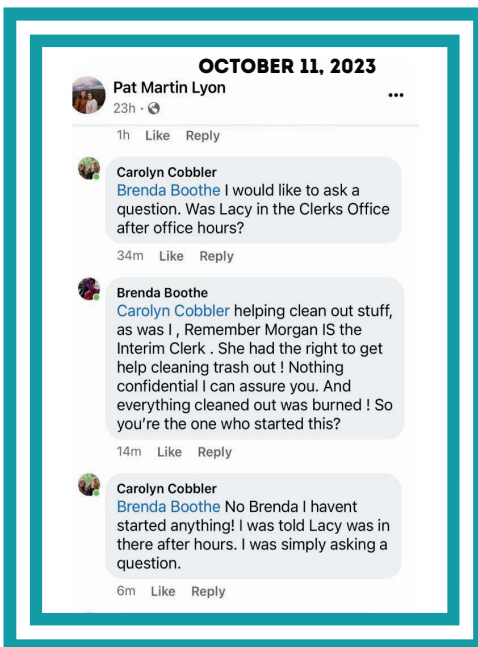
**11/2 10-5**  
**All Day Fun!**  
**11/3 10-5 With**  
**Buckin' Good Eats food truck 11:30-2**

**Follow us to learn more**   
**Mattie-Bs.com**

105 N. Main Street, Stuart

## INTERIM CLERK'S MOM AND FRIEND CLEAN OUT "STUFF" THEN BURN CIRCUIT COURT MATERIALS WITH NO RECORD OF WHAT WAS BURNED...

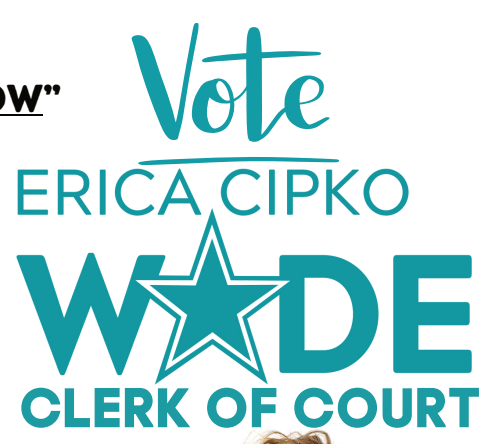
**§ 42.1-86.1. Disposition of public records.** No agency shall destroy or discard a public record unless (i) the record appears on a records retention and disposition schedule approved pursuant to § 42.1-82 and the record's retention period has expired; (ii) a certificate of records destruction, as designated by the Librarian of Virginia, has been properly completed and approved by the agency's designated records officer;



As of October 23, 2023, there was NO designated records officer. Is this the "in-office experience" Patrick County is supposed to put their faith in? Burned materials, no proper record disposal, no completed paperwork as mandated by the Code?

**THIS IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF "NOT KNOWING WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW"**

This post to the left, made on October 11, 2023, was DELETED off of Facebook shortly after these comments were made. Does that show transparency and give confidence to the voting public? Brenda Boothe is Morgan Boothe's mother. Neither Brenda Boothe or Lacy [Harris] are sworn Deputy Clerks for the Patrick County Clerk's Office.



Was it confidential? **We will never know.**  
 Did they follow the Library of Virginia Record Management guidelines? **NO, only the designated record officer can destroy public records, confidential or public.**  
 Does the Interim Clerk even know the guidelines exist? **Ms. Boothe never completed the necessary paperwork with the Library of Virginia, so it would seem she does not.**  
 Should Patrick County put their trust in an Interim Clerk who proceeds recklessly, without learning the proper steps of how to complete a transition of an office?  
**NO! Put your confidence in a candidate that will stand up for what is right for the good of the citizens. A candidate that will maintain transparency, integrity, and accountability. That candidate is Erica Cipko Wade.**

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS, MAKE IT COUNT ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023**





# Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.

Phone: (540) 745-2005 or Toll Free: (800) 375-0423  
102 S. Locust Street, Floyd, VA 24091

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## FEATURED LISTINGS



**STUART, VA**

Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home on 3.4 acres of land. The home has a full, unfinished basement and a nice deck overlooking the backyard and creek. **\$190,000**



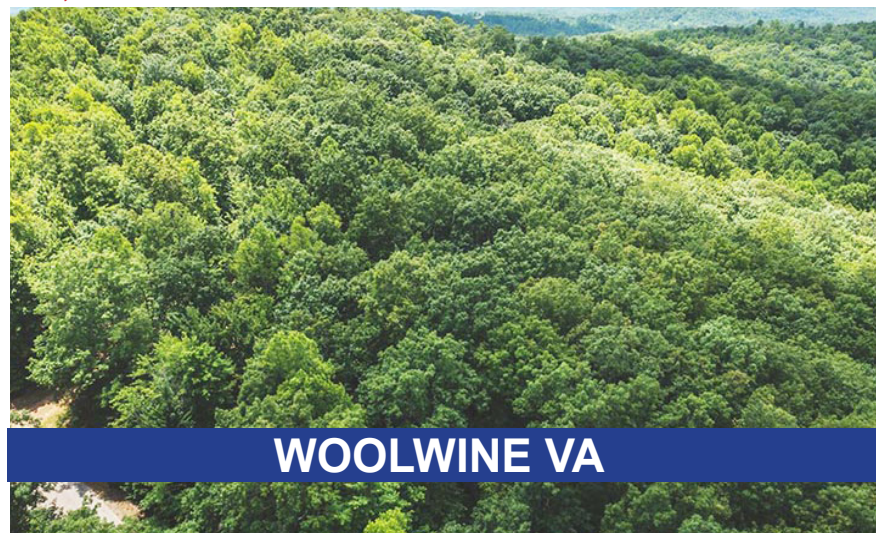
**WOOLWINE, VA**

Check out this wooded 12.394 acre property that features multiple springs and a stream. It offers great road frontage and would be ideal for a permanent home, weekend getaway, or hunting cabin. **\$75,000**



**PATRICK SPRINGS, VA**

Check out this 33 acre tract that features a mix of wooded and pasture land. Property has a well, septic, underground utilities and a nice stream. **\$240,000**



**WOOLWINE VA**

Wooded 7.2 acre building site for sale. Property would be great for your dream country home! **\$47,000**



**PENDING**

**STUART, VA**

Nice +/- 1.05 acre building lot. The property is mostly level and would be ideal for a new home!



**SOLD**

**MEADOWS OF DAN, VA**

Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath mountain home on +/- 6.6 acres. Home offers breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.



**PENDING**

**STUART, VA**

Stunning 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on +/- 323 acres of land. Property has over 1.6 miles of frontage on the North Fork of the Smith River.



**PENDING**

**MEADOWS OF DAN, VA**

Beautiful mountain cottage on 3+ acres of land with creeks and springs. Home has 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, and just over 1,000 sq ft of finished living space.

## Farms - Homes - Land - Estates - Personal Property

Interested in selling? Our Jumpstart Program might be the answer! Contact us today for more information at (540) 745-2005.

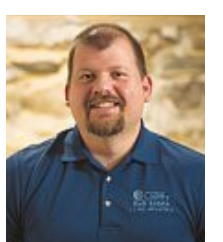


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**Matt Gallimore,**  
Broker/Auctioneer  
Lic.#0226000240