



THE ENTERPRISE

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Lack of rain prompts burn ban, emergency declaration

Patrick County has declared a local emergency and issued a burning ban, effective immediately, in response to hazardous weather conditions that create extreme fire danger to the citizens and volunteer public safety personnel.

The declaration bans open air burning in Patrick County until further notice.

Experience has shown that suspending open air burning is an effective way to prevent fire from escaping and allows a quick fire agency response. Not all fires can be prevented, but with open air burning ban, the numbers of wood land and brush fires will be greatly reduced, according to a release from the county.

The ban on open air burning is applicable to public and private property and will remain in effect until the county receives sufficient precipitation to reduce the fire danger.

A recent update by the National Weather Service in Blacksburg predicts portions of the area may receive rain on Friday.

For additional information, contact Scottie Cassell, Patrick County Emergency Management coordinator, at (276) 694-4940 or email scassell@co.patrick.va.us.

Wildfire in Woolwine area expands to 500 acres

By Staff Reports

A week after fire crews worked to contain and fight a brush fire that involved 20 to 30 acres, the blaze grew to a wildfire, with 500 acres involved and about 10 percent contained.

Emergency crews are on the scene of the wild-

fire in the Ravens Den, Tuggles Gap, and Blue Ridge Parkway areas of Woolwine, Patrick County Emergency Management said in a release.

The county-wide burn ban remains in effect

(See Brush Fire p.3)



The blaze as it appeared last week when fire crews were battling it for 10 hours. (Courtesy of the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department.)



Patrick County Christmas Parade Celebrates a Community Legacy



Registration is underway for the Patrick County Christmas Parade, which will be held at 2 p.m. on December 2. (Photo by Kim Rakes for Patrick County Tourism)

One Family Productions has opened registration for the 51st annual Patrick County Christmas Parade, which will take place on December 2, beginning at 2 p.m. The Grand Marshal for this year's

parade is PCHS Cougar Baseball - 2023 VHSL state champions. The team claimed a first ever state championship baseball title for Patrick County High School this spring. In celebration of the

players, coaches, and families that have supported the PCHS Cougar baseball program over the past four decades, the parade's theme is "Community Legacy." Participants are encouraged to decorate floats to reflect and honor Patrick County's legacies and heritage.

Saturday's parade will be preceded by many activities in and around the Town of Stuart, including the Grand Illumination of the Community Christmas Tree on Main Street on Friday, December 1st. The Farmers' Market in downtown Stuart will feature its annual Mistletoe Market on Saturday morning. For a full list of holiday activities around the county, visit the Chamber of Commerce office.

Line up for the parade will begin at 12 p.m. on Wood Brothers Drive in Stuart. The parade will begin at 2 p.m. Participants should be lined up by 1:15 p.m. All traffic flow will be clearly marked on parade day,

and signage must be followed.

All participants, including businesses, educational and non-profit organizations, churches, pageant title holders, and others, should submit entry forms by November 27 to secure a place in the lineup. Entries are \$20, with a \$5 fee for late entries.

Horse and riders may be registered for \$5 per rider/horse, and fire and rescue apparatus' fees are waived.

Due to liability risks and safety concerns, ATVs/4 wheelers will not be allowed.

Registration received (via mail or digital) after November 27, will be \$25.

Mail-in registration forms are available for pick up at chamber office, or for online registration, go to <https://bit.ly/PCChristmasParade2023>. For other questions, email the parade committee at pchristmasparade@gmail.com or visit onefamilyproductions.org.

Boothe, Morse lead contested county-wide races Marshall, Kendrick, and Wood win district contests

By Staff Reports

In the three-way race for the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk post, Morgan Boothe emerged as the winner, while Glenna Morse was the top vote-getter in the race for Commissioner of Revenue.

As the interim clerk, Boothe faced challengers Nancy Turner Belcher and Erica Cipko Wade. Unofficial results indicate that Boothe received 47.47 percent, or 2,299 ballots to Belcher's 35.99 percent, or 1,743, and Wade's 16.42 percent, or 795 ballots. Write-in votes for the office totaled six, with 3,812 votes cast overall, according to unofficial results.

Boothe garnered 256 votes in the Dan River District; Belcher received 245 and Wade received 155, with two write-in votes, for a total of 658 ballots cast.

In the Peters Creek District, Boothe picked up 489 votes, Belcher garnered 226 and Wade received 134. Including one write-in, 850 votes were cast. In the Mayo River District, Boothe received 415 votes, to Belcher's 221 and Wade's 100, with a total

of 736 ballots cast.

Boothe garnered 346 ballots in the Blue Ridge District, with 258 cast for Belcher and 138 for Wade, for a total of 742 votes cast.

In the Smith River District, a total of 826 ballots were cast, including 430 for Belcher, 321 for Boothe and 74 for Wade.

Early voters cast 372 ballots for Boothe, 260 for Belcher and 141 for Wade, while By Mail voters cast 100 ballots for Boothe, 103 for Belcher and 53 for Wade.

A total of 3,812 votes were cast overall, unofficial results indicate.

In the Commissioner of Revenue contest, Morse was the top vote getter, with 2,331 ballots to the 2,103 cast for Tabitha Overby. Unofficial results indicated 3,477 voters cast a ballot in the contest.

Jonathan Wood won his bid for the Peters Creek District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, with 719 ballots to the 349 cast for Lisa Mickles.

Lester Harrell ran unopposed for the Peters Creek District seat on the Patrick County School Board. (See County Elections p. 3)

Unofficial Election Results

DISTRICTS	DAN RIVER	PETERS CREEK	MAYO RVR	BL RIDGE	SMITH RVR	TOTAL	
Member Senate of Virginia 7th District							
William M. "Bill" Stanley, Jr. - R	174	195	199	173	292	266	382
Deborah I. "Renie" Gates - D	29	32	26	22	53	33	71
Member House of Delegates 47th District							
Wren M. Williams - R	173	189	191	161	270	243	359
Patricia Lynn Quesenberry - D	30	34	26	29	56	35	66
Jacob C. Frogel - I	5	7	6	7	16	13	15
Clerk of Court							
Morgan E. Boothe	77	101	78	108	192	189	264
Nancy Turner Belcher	61	74	110	39	109	78	119
Erica Cipko Wade	69	48	38	49	46	39	58
Commonwealth's Attorney							
Dayna Kendrick Bobbitt	165	195	175	174	301	257	405
Sheriff							
Daniel M. Smith	190	212	216	183	324	278	424
Commissioner of Revenue							
Tabitha L. Overby	106	94	86	62	143	123	212
Glenna C. Morse	74	114	112	121	179	163	201
Treasurer							
Sandra K. Stone	178	216	195	184	329	272	417
Member Board of Supervisors Blue Ridge District							
Steve D. Marshall						215	100
Clyde M. DeLoach						120	68
Member School Board Blue Ridge District							
Shannon Royall Harrell						278	86
Ryan S. Lawson						84	81
Member Board of Supervisors Mayo River District							
H. Danny Foley, Sr.						153	71
C. Clayton Kendrick, Jr.						273	222
Member School Board Mayo River District							
Amy E. Walker						384	254
Member Board of Supervisors Peters Creek District							
Lisa P. Mickles						58	99
Jonathan M. Wood						129	234
Member School Board Peters Creek District							
Lester G. Harrell						160	287

Application Period for Fuel Assistance Now Open

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is currently accepting applications for fuel assistance online and at all local departments of social services through Monday, November 13, 2023. Applications may also be submitted by telephone by contacting the Enterprise Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. at (855) 635-4370.

The Energy Assistance Program, funded by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) federal block grant, provides state support to assist low-income households in meeting their home energy needs such as electricity, natural and liquid propane gas, oil, kerosene, coal and wood. Assistance may also be available for deliv-

ery and installation charges as well as connection or re-connection fees.

To qualify for fuel assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household must not exceed \$1,822. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income is \$3,750. Additional income guidelines are as follows:

Household Size	Monthly Income Limit
1	\$1,822
2	\$2,465
3	\$3,107
4	\$3,750
5	\$4,392
6	\$5,035
7	\$5,677
8	\$6,282

Each additional person \$642

“Keeping warm during the winter months should not be a struggle Virginia families have to face,” said VDSS Commissioner Danny Avula. “With this as-

sistance, households will be able to dedicate their resources towards other expenses they might have while staying comfortable in their homes. Last year, we provided fuel assistance to over 113,000 Virginia households through this program and look forward to supporting families again during this enrollment period.”

Families and individuals can apply through their local department of social services. To apply online or check eligibility for benefits assistance, visit the CommonHelp website at commonhelp.virginia.gov. Applications (available in English and Spanish) may also be submitted by telephone by contacting the Enterprise Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. at (855) 635-4370.

Chamber Chat

by Rebecca Adcock

Fall has been so busy that I wasn't able to write a September Chamber Chat, so here is a two-month review. September is always busy with the Patrick County Agricultural Fair, which was a great event this year. Our fall edition of the Patrick County Magazine came out that week and has had nothing but good reviews.

October is always busy with our many festivals, events, and school fall festivals throughout the county. We have really lucked up these past weekends with beautiful weather to enjoy the events, or just get out and enjoy the scenery. The chamber was busy helping to promote all the events happening. We attended the “Development Ready” VA Main Street workshop in Wytheville on Oct 23. This workshop gave us lots of ideas for promoting current businesses and how to help encourage others to start new businesses. Several projects will be evolving over the next couple of months.

The Apple Dumpling Festival 5K was a great success with 81 participants, many coming from outside the county to run and enjoy the festival. The festival itself was widely attended and everyone enjoyed their apple dumplings.

The 8th Annual Stuart Spooktacular on Halloween eve is always a highlight of the month. And this year did not disappoint.

A “Shout Out” to our Patrick County High School Marching Band for bringing home several first-place awards at the various competitions in which they have participated!

Coming up in November will be the Chamber and Reynolds Homestead “Lunch with Community



Leaders” on Wednesday, November 15. With a new county administrator, EDA director, Parks and Recreation director and several projects, this will be a great event to hear updates.

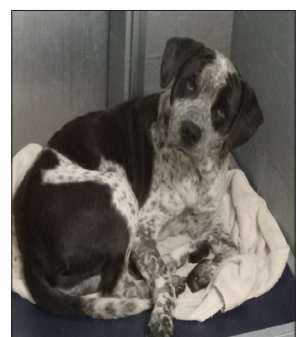
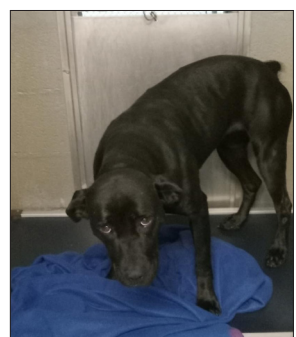
And as we head into the holiday season, I encourage everyone to shop locally this year and support our businesses that help make Patrick County a great place to live and work. For ideas, check out the article we wrote on “Shopping Small” in the Fall Patrick County Magazine.

Check out the Chamber's website for the complete list of holiday events happening www.patrick-county-chamber.com.

New Members for September and October: B & G Cleaning Service, Journey Solutions, LLC, Frontier Farm and Home Center, LLC, Smith River Biologicals, LLC, and Food Country USA. Thank you to all who join and support the Chamber of Commerce and its mission.

(Adcock is the executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.)

Pets of the Week



These two dogs, a black female and a black and white male, were picked up together on Stella Loop. If you recognize them, please call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259. To view available pets, visit or check out the shelter's Facebook page. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination.

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Brush Fire

(cont. from page 1)

and will remain in effect until further notice.

Firefighters and others are working diligently to create fire containment lines to protect against the loss of life, property, and structures. The fire is currently 10 percent contained.

Please avoid this area and beware of increased emergency vehicle traffic.

The homes of concern in the Ravens Den, Tuggles Gap, and Blue Ridge Parkway areas of Woolwine have been notified. If the situation changes, emergency personnel will notify the public. There will be continued emergency personnel on the scene and on patrol throughout the week.

A Declaration of a State of Emergency was issued by Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Tuesday, Nov. 7, which specifically names the Tuggles Gap fire along with others in the state.

If you have any concerns regarding your home's safety, call the Patrick County Sheriff's Office Dispatch non-emergency number (276) 694-3161. If it is an immediate or life-threatening emergency, please call 911.

Patrick, Henry, Floyd, Surry, and Carroll counties, along with the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Department of Emergency Management continue to help battle the blaze that began last week, when a tree fell onto a powerline and knocked it down, according to the release and Kenny Brady, a member of the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department.

For nearly 10 hours on Monday, October 30, fire crews battled what began as a brush fire, Brady said, adding last week's call came in at 12:40 p.m. The department cleared the scene around 10 p.m.

"We couldn't get any water in there to it," he said. Instead, fire crews used rakes and leaf blowers to fight the blaze. The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) plowed "a fire line around it, and we had a little bit of rain coming in. We left it overnight and went back up there the next morning. By the next morning, the fire was completely out."



A helicopter dropped water on a wildfire in the Woolwine area as heavy smoke filled the air. (By Eric Phillips)

Brady said the VDOF's fire line encompassed about half a mile on either side of the brush fire with approximately 20-30 acres of land involved. He estimated that number could reach 100 acres because the VDOF planned to go and backburn a larger portion of the area.

"They will burn everything in between where they got the fire lines so that it doesn't spark back up and jump a line or anything like that. It will be a controlled burn to get rid of the underbrush," he said.

About 50 people were fighting the fire that day, he said, adding crews fought the fire from two different locations - 15668 Woolwine High-

way, near the Floyd County line, and off of Ravens Den Lane.

Crews from Ararat Volunteer Fire Department, Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department, Woolwine, Stuart Volunteer Fire Department, Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department, Moorefield Store Volunteer Fire Department, and Meadows of Dan Volunteer Fire Department were among those responding, along with the Floyd County Fire Department, VDOF, Appalachian Electric Power (AEP), Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad, and Smith River Rescue Squad, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director Scottie Cassell.

County Elections

(cont. from page 1)

Board and picked up 918 votes.

Incumbent Mayo River District Supervisor Clayton Kendrick, Jr., easily fended off Danny Foley's bid to unseat him, picking up 620 ballots to the 300 cast for Foley.

Amy Walker, incumbent school board member for the district, also won her unopposed bid for reelection, with 822 ballots.

Clyde DeLoach, incumbent Blue Ridge District member of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, lost his bid to Steve Marshall, who won 537 votes to the 374 cast for DeLoach.

Shannon Harrell, incumbent Blue Ridge District member on the Patrick County School Board, won her race against challenger Ryan Lawson, with 599 votes for Harrell to Lawson's 343.

Incumbents in uncontested county wide races also handily won reelection, including Commonwealth's Attorney Dayna Kendrick Bobbitt, with 99.17 percent of the vote; Sheriff Dan Smith with 98.41 percent of the ballot and Treasurer Sandra Stone's 99.10 percent, unofficial results indicated.

According to unofficial results, incumbent Sen. William M. "Bill" Stanley, Jr., R-Moneta, defended his post against challenger Deborah I. "Renie" Gates, and incumbent Del Wren Williams, R-Stuart, won his bid against challengers Patricia Lynn Quesinberry, a democrat, and Jacob. C. Frogel, an independent.



Morgan Boothe



Glenda Morse



Steve Marshall

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Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Benton Calvin Hall, 59, of Ararat, was charged Oct. 28 with fail to obey court order. Roanoke City made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Zachary James Denny, 27, of Bassett, was charged with fail to appear. Deputy D. Perry was the arresting officer.

*Ronnie Daniel Goad, 49, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Oct. 30 with one count each attempted malicious wounding, carry concealed weapon, and public intoxication. Deputy R. Haynes was the arresting officer.

*Joseph Michael Perkins, 39, of Richlands, was charged Oct. 31 with fail to appear. Tazwell County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*April Dawn Bowman, 45, of Dobson, N.C., was charged Oct. 31 with fail to appear. Sgt. C. Frick was the arresting officer.

*Christopher Dewayne Simmons, 29, of Stuart, was charged Oct. 31 with fail to obey court order. Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Jadakiss Finney-Martin, 21, of Martinsville, was charged Nov. 2 with one count each obtain money by false pretense, forge, and utter. New River Valley Regional Jail made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Charles Nicholas Doss, 25, of Asheboro, N.C., was charged Nov. 2 with fail to comply with terms of bond. Deputy M. Nester was the arresting officer.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Special Olympics Thank You

In a world filled with uncertainty and challenges, it's often the strength of a community that shines through, illuminating the path to a brighter and more inclusive future. We are delighted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to the outstanding individuals and businesses who played a pivotal role in making our recent Special Olympics event a resounding success. Their unwavering support and dedication have left an indelible mark on the lives of our athletes and the wider community.

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the following remarkable individuals and businesses who generously contributed to the success of our Special Olympics: Norma Bozenmayer, Clark Gas & Oil, DTB Farms - Lynn Boles, Infinity Acres, Lambert Realty, Little Caesars, Mattie B's, Moody's Funeral Home, Outdoor Entertainment, PC Master Gardeners, Outdoor Entertainment, Barbara Reichard, Tom, Angela, Lincoln, & Elizabeth Rose, Shelton Logging, Simply Redd's, United Country, and the dedicated PCHS teachers, staff, and students for their unwavering support.

Your support went far beyond monetary donations; it represented a commitment to our athletes and the values of inclusion, acceptance, and empowerment. Through your generous contributions, you enabled us to host a truly memorable

event, showcasing the remarkable talents and determination of our Special Olympics participants.

We must also express our deep appreciation for the dedicated teachers, staff, and students of PCHS who put their hearts and souls into making the event a reality. Your hard work, passion, and enthusiasm were instrumental in creating an atmosphere of support and encouragement, ensuring that our athletes had the opportunity to shine and achieve their personal best.

As we reflect on this incredible journey, we recognize that it is through the unity and collaboration of our community that we can achieve remarkable feats. We look forward to continuing this journey together, building a more inclusive, accepting, and compassionate world for all.

Once again, we extend our deepest gratitude to Norma Bozenmayer, Clark Gas & Oil, DTB Farms - Lynn Boles, Infinity Acres, Lambert Realty, Little Caesars, Mattie B's, Moody's Funeral Home, Outdoor Entertainment, PC Master Gardeners, Outdoor Entertainment, Barbara Reichard, Tom, Angela, Lincoln, & Elizabeth Rose, Shelton Logging, Simply Redd's, United Country, and the dedicated PCHS teachers, staff, and students for their unwavering support.

With heartfelt thanks,
The Patrick County High School Varsity Club

Palestinian War Ethics

I try to be mindful of the fact that The Enterprise is a local paper, keeping my topics to local happenings. The events concerning Israel and Palestine aren't local, however many locals are discussing it.

People have asked me, "What do you think about when a military does 'x,y,z'?" Of course, I have my thoughts, but my main thought is that it's ridiculous for civilians to judge the choices made by soldiers who, on paper, exist to protect the freedoms of civilians. I don't live in the soldier's world. I'll probably never have to ask, "shoot or don't shoot?"

That being said, there must be a recognition that war has its rules separate from civilian life. If I shoot a man on the street I would be charged with murder, possibly manslaughter. When a soldier shoots the enemy it's not murder. Historically convicted murderers received capital punishment, however we didn't call execution "murder."

All this to say: I don't have a problem if Israel, in the process of defending itself, inadvertently kills Palestinian women and children. Are the two nations at war because they hate each other or because each side thinks they have a right to the land? If you say that the latter is not a justifiable cause for war then I don't see how you could continue living in America, which was forcibly claimed by the English, and then won by warring colonists against their former sovereign.

"Caleb, you're a Christian. How could you say such things?" Because I actually read my Bible: in Deuteronomy 7:2 God commanded

the Israelites to "utterly destroy" the Canaanites, and in 1Samuel 15:3 God commanded King Saul to "smite" the Amalekites all the way down to the women and children. If you don't go to such lengths you're simply leaving a remnant that will create an insurgent army: read of Hadad's revolt against King Solomon in 1Kings 11:14-21. The mentioned scriptures serve as interlude to Romans 13:1-6.

Most Americans are happy that the Union won the Civil War. Never mind that the Union General, William Tecumseh Sherman, burned not only bridges and military posts, but farms, livestock, and homes too. Maybe he didn't kill women and children, but he sure left some destitute. Sherman famously said, "War is Hell." I doubt he enjoyed those moments.

We love our freedom in America, and we don't think too much of the women and children we killed on August 6th and 9th in 1945. Historically speaking, the death of their children represents freedom for others worldwide. It's war: rook takes pawn, knight takes rook. In the national sense we're pieces on a chess board.

It's not just the Bible that shapes my thinking, but classic literature like Thomas Hobbes' Leviathan: any people have the right to form a commonwealth, but with that right comes the responsibility of self-defense. If Israel cannot defend itself then it should expect to be overthrown.

If you disagree with me then I hope you'll write into The Enterprise. I'd like to hear from you.

Caleb Robertson,
Martinsville

email us
DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

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.

America Last -- Again

(Fox, The Daily Signal, The Federalist, Newsmax, Daily Caller, Reuters, US Energy Administration)

President Joe Biden showed leadership by flying into an active war zone to personify solidarity with America's embattled friends and allies in Israel. Too bad Biden's appeasement of Iran made the trip necessary.

Many of the articles surrounding the atrocities of the Hamas attacks on Israel have referenced the recent \$6 billion "deal," in which the U.S. gave money to Iran in exchange for five Americans. But this one detail hyperlinked quickly in most articles is part of a larger spider web of hidden details.

Biden has been the ayatollah's best friend since long before this \$6 billion prisoner-swap payoff.

*Biden relaxed sanctions on Iran, while obsessively demolishing anything that Trump had accomplished.

*By letting the mullahs sell more oil, particularly to China, Iran's oil production swelled from 775,000 barrels per day just before Trump left office—to between 1.4 and 2.2 million barrels per day under *Biden. Modest estimates value this relief at \$25 billion annually.

*Biden's war on domestic oil hiked prices has gilded Tehran's coffers. Crude averaged \$57.96 per barrel under Trump and \$83.84 on Biden's watch, per the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That increased Iran's oil revenue—up 44.65%.

*Iranian oil shipments began to pick up toward the end of 2020, as candidate Joe Biden announced in September of that year his intention to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which Trump rightly hurled

atop the ash heap of history. Iran's exports subsequently soared from a low of 100,000 barrels per day under Trump according to Reuters, to 1.5 million barrels per day under Biden —up 1,400%.

*Former Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe explained Iran's access to foreign-exchange reserves went from \$4 billion in the Trump administration to \$72 billion in the Biden administration—up 1,700%.

Biden has impoverished America and enriched Iran.

Biden did all of this, even while Iran topped the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. Iran has never hidden its motivations. Even in the past, Iranian lawmakers proudly chanted "Death to America" and posted it on the news. They have always told us exactly who they are, and we still made a deal with the devil.

We are stopping oil production in America while allowing Iran to export more, all under the facade of "green energy." The administration has given the green light to increase oil production to the country that is the greatest existential threat to the free world.

At this point, America has not simply left the world stage — it is funding terror. The extent of this hidden money trail has yet to be fully realized. It is not only Gaza. It is Lebanon. It is Syria. It is Iraq. It is Afghanistan. It will be Paris and London. It is pouring over the U.S. southern border. And it is coming to a neighborhood near you. Biden needs to put the Trump sanctions back in place and cancel the \$6B dollar deal.

Pray for our country.
William Salser,
Stuart

Remembering Veterans

On this Veterans Day in 2023 we extend our appreciation and thoughts to Americans who are serving in our military and to all veterans. We also wish to acknowledge the veterans of the Jones and Moskowitz families who served during major wars from the Civil War to the War On Terror.

During the Civil War 1st Sergeant John B. Jones (Elizabeth's grandfather) and Corporal William E. Jones (Elizabeth's great uncle) were in the 5th New York Cavalry Regiment from upstate New York from 1861 to 1865. They fought in many battles, including the Orange Court House, Brandy Station, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor and Gettysburg.

Donald's grandfather, Pvt. Max Moskowitz, served in the U.S. Cavalry (Roughriders) in 1898 during the Spanish American War; and was a government inspector during WWII, monitoring a number of manufacturing plants in New England.

During World War I Alton Christmas Jones (Elizabeth's father) and William Howard Jones (uncle) served in the USMC and saw action at Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, Aisne-Marne, and Meuse-Argonne. Alton suffered some gas exposure during one of the battles. William Howard received the U.S. Silver Star and the French Croix De Guerre medals for his "action at Blanc Mont Ridge on October 3, 1918 where he held off a German attack using a machine pistol."

Donald's father, Sidney Moskowitz, was a machinist who repaired ships at the Charlestown, MA Naval Shipyard during WWII. Elizabeth's cousin, Barney O'Neil, was a U.S. Army infantryman who landed in Normandy in June 1944. Bob Rosenblatt (Donald's relative) served in the Army at the end of

WWII. Barry Rowe (Donald's brother-in-law) was a Commander in the U.S. Navy who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

John Jones and Edward Persson Jones (Elizabeth's brothers) served in the late 50s and early to mid 60s, John U.S. Army and Edward, USMC. Donald Moskowitz was an E5 in the Navy in the 50s and then was a Vietnam era veteran in the 60s serving as a Navy officer on 13 ships. Donald has continued his service to veterans through participation in the American Legion, Department of New Hampshire, having served as the Department (State) Treasurer and a Department Vice Commander. Additionally, he served as a Commander and Adjutant at the American Legion post in Londonderry NH. Robert Nichol (Elizabeth's cousin) was a platoon leader in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. He was in the 1st Infantry Division and the 101st Infantry Division. During his Vietnam service he was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts.

Michael Gerard (Donald's and Elizabeth's son-in-law) was an Airman First Class, USAF in the early 80s. Jeffrey Ammons (Donald's nephew) served as an Army officer during the War On Terror.

Anton Olsson, Elizabeth's second cousin, served on board a corvette in the Swedish Navy.

We must continue to remember all of our veterans who have served our country in times of peace and war. Veterans appreciate being recognized in public for their service to our great country, and a greeting of "thank you for your service" goes a long way in showing that appreciation.

Donald Moskowitz, Elizabeth (Jones-Persson) Moskowitz, Londonderry, NH

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Patrick Pioneers

Ivalien Hylton Reynolds, Ronald and Chris Belcher

By Beverly Belcher Woody

I hope you will indulge me as I write about my own family this week. Last week and next week are some very sad anniversaries for our family. October 31st was the third anniversary of the death of our beloved Ivalien and November 9th is the thirty-fifth anniversary of the accidental drownings of Ivalien's only child and grandchild, Ronald and Chris Belcher.

Dorothy Ivalien Hylton was born to Stowell Hylton and Gracie Hall Hylton on October 2, 1933, in Meadows of Dan; she was their only child. Ivalien attended the Mountain View school in her early school years. Miss Carrie Rangeley was her teacher there. As a young teen, Mountain View school closed and Ivalien went to Meadows of Dan High School where she graduated as salutatorian in 1952.

Ivalien married Calvin Edgar Belcher in 1953 and their son, Ronald Steven Belcher was born in January of 1958. Ronald was Ivalien's only child and Stowell and Gracie's only grandchild.

Ivalien worked so hard all her life, including driving off the mountain for twenty-four years to work on piece rates at Bassett-Walker Knitting in Stuart. If you have never worked on piece rates (being paid for each piece you produce), it is hard to explain how difficult that type of work is. All these local families that owned textile and furniture factories grew very wealthy on the hard work of women like Ivalien, but sadly, the wealth did not pass down to the workers.

During the time that Ivalien raised her son alone and worked at the textile mill, she also ran calls for the rescue squad on the mountain and taught Sunday School at Mountain View



Five generations - Nannie Hall Wood holding great, great grandson Chris; kneeling is Ronald Belcher, Gracie, and Ivalien.

Methodist Church. Ronald graduated from Patrick County High School in 1976 and shortly afterwards, Ivalien started writing her weekly column, Mountain Top Party Line, for the Stuart Enterprise. Ivalien would continue writing this column for the paper for nearly forty years. She was 86 years old when she stopped writing.

Ronald married Darlene Gardner in May of 1981 and their son, Christopher Ron was born in January of 1983. In the early 80's, Ivalien also started writing wonderful stories about the mountain people for the Mountain Laurel, a popular monthly newspaper started by Bob and Charlotte Heafner. Ivalien would eventually write forty-four stories for this paper, which are all available online. Ivalien was the inspiration for my column, Patrick Pioneers. She taught me how important it was to capture the stories of our people before all memory of them disappears.

On November 9th, 1988, tragedy struck in the most horrible way anyone could imagine. Ronald and Chris were living downtown on the hill above the old service station that was run by Lloyd and Larry Joyce, and later by Harvey and Randy Pruitt. Thirty-year-old Ronald and five-year-old Chris always went for a daily walk when Chris got off the school bus, but this evening, they did not return. Ronald and Chris' bodies were found about 8 p.m. that night; they had both drowned in the Mayo River, above the old T.J. George Mill.

After losing her only child and only grandchild in one instant, it was too difficult for Ivalien to continue working at the factory. She began another twenty-four-year stint, this time working for Ronnie Greene at Poor Farmer's Farms, first on the mountain and then later, at Ronnie's store in Critz.

Ivalien married Claude Ellis Reyn-



Ivalene Hylton is Salutatorian of the Meadows of Dan 1952 Senior Class.

Ivalien's graduation photo.

olds in 1992 and moved off the mountain to Patrick Springs. While working for Ronnie and later for Stanley Fain at All Seasons, she volunteered at the food ministry three days a week and the Jesus House one day per week. In fact, Ivalien volunteered at these service organizations until six weeks before her death. Ivalien received the Patrick Springs Rurians Outstanding Citizenship Award in 2014. Ivalien walked this Earth 31,785 days and did not waste a single day. She devoted her entire life to the service of others.

After dealing with such a horrible tragedy as losing your entire family, it would make the best of us bitter, angry, and resentful, but not Ivalien. She faced each day with love, compassion, and hope. I think about her every day and miss her so much.

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 - When Should I Retire and Claim My Social Security Benefits?

Dear Rusty: I am 64 years old and having difficulty working due to my arthritis, but I can continue part time as a podiatrist. I do not know the best way to determine when to retire. What is the formula or a way to determine which is a better choice? Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided: There is a difference between deciding when to retire from working and deciding when to claim your Social Security benefits. For the former, you should consult with a certified financial advisor, but I'll provide you with how Social Security fits into your personal circumstances. In deciding when to claim Social Security, you should look at your financial needs, your life expectancy, your work status, and your marital status. There is no one formula right for everyone because everyone's circumstances are different, but here are some things to help decide what is right for you:

- Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects Social Security before reaching their full retirement age (FRA). Your FRA is 66 years and 8 months, and that is the point at which you get 100% of the SS benefit earned from a lifetime of working. If you collect SS before your FRA and continue to work, there is a limit to how much you can earn without jeopardizing your benefits. For example, the earnings limit for 2023 is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" benefits by withholding future payments until they recover the penalty for exceeding the limit. If your earnings are substantially over the limit, you will be ineligible to collect Social Security until either your earnings are less, or you reach your FRA.

- If you claim SS before your FRA your benefit amount will be permanently reduced. If, for example, you claim SS to start at age 65 your monthly benefit will be about 89% of what it would be at your FRA. That reduced benefit would not change thereafter except for Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) usually granted

annually.

- If Social Security will be a major part of your retirement income, then waiting to get a higher monthly benefit may be a prudent strategy for you. The longer you wait to claim the more your benefit will be. Your SS benefit will continue to grow until you are 70 years old, and at 70 your monthly benefit will be about 27% more than it would be at your FRA. Your maximum SS benefit will be attained at age 70 but waiting until age 70 to claim is only prudent if you anticipate a long life expectancy.

- Life expectancy is a very important factor in deciding when to claim SS. If you claim at age 70 instead of at your FRA, you will need to live until you are about 83 to breakeven moneywise. If you live even longer than that, then waiting until 70 will yield the highest monthly amount and the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. But if your anticipated life expectancy is less, claiming earlier may be a better choice.

- If you are married and expect your wife to survive you, consider that the benefit your wife can get as your widow will be based on your SS benefit when you die, thus the longer you

wait to claim the more your wife's benefit as your widow may be. If you predecease your wife, her benefit will be based on the amount you were receiving at your death if that is more than her personally earned SS benefit.

So, as you can see, deciding when to claim Social Security is a decision to be made after carefully evaluating your personal circumstances as described above. I hope this provides what you need to make an informed decision, but if you have further questions, please contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org, or at 1 (888) 750-2622.

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Diabetes' impact on the eyes

There are diseases that can also cause permanent damage to eye tissue. Diabetes is a disease that increases the risk of eye issues. Prevalence of eye problems such as blurred vision and vision loss is extremely high in diabetics. Prolonged high blood sugar from diabetes can damage the delicate blood vessels that supply the retina with oxygen and nutrients. Fluid can escape from these damaged vessels and add pressure within the retina.

Elevated pressure within the eye and eye vessels is the biggest eye problem. Damage to the retina caused by diabetes is called diabetic retinopathy. Diabetic retinopathy can be treated by laser surgery to fix damaged blood vessels, but it's always better to catch the disease in its early stages.

Eye screening

Screening for diabetic retinopathy is essential to maintaining eye health in diabetic patients, so be sure to receive screening for eye issues before

you see any symptoms. The screening test for diabetic retinopathy is a simple dilated eye exam where the pupil of the eye is dilated, and the eye is examined for signs of multiple diseases.

The National Eye Institute recommends a yearly screening for diabetics to make sure eyes stay healthy. As mentioned, eye injury is rarely reversed so when you notice blurred vision or loss, it is usually already at an advanced stage. Be sure to screen your eyes early and keep diabetes under control.

Smoking

The habit of smoking has many associated health hazards, with eye injury being one of those hazards. Smoke-related retinopathy, cataracts, and macular degeneration are a few of the health problems caused by smoking. There are many reasons to stop smoking and eye health is a major one. Taking steps like speaking with your doctor and asking for support from family, friends, and other healthcare workers can move you for-

ward in the steps to stop the smoking addiction and on to healthier eyes.

Macular degeneration

Another major disease that causes vision loss is macular degeneration. The middle of the retina is responsible for sharp vision because it has special concentrations of pigments to pick up the light we need to focus on a single object. This specialized middle area of the retina is called the macula, or more technically, the macula lutea; which means "spot" and "yellow" in Latin. Yellow pigment in the macula comes from the two pigments, lutein, and zeaxanthin.

Macular degeneration, or age-related macular degeneration (AMD), can cause vision loss or blurriness in the areas where we focus. Loss of visual focus can hinder reading, recognition of faces, and the ability to see well when we drive. Lifestyle diseases are strongly linked to AMD and studies have expressed that prevention and good nutrition are ways to avoid AMD.

Nutrition, as it relates to the eyes, might seem like a new topic to some but there are a few nutritional facts that can benefit us as we take better care of our eyes. A balanced intake of vitamin C and E, omega-3 fatty acids, with carotenoids including lutein and zeaxanthin in a healthy diet are recommended for maintaining healthy eyes. High-fat diets, with consumption of trans-fatty acids, can lead to unhealthy eyes. If you are at risk of diabetes or have diabetes it is also helpful to eat foods with a low glycemic index, or foods that don't cause rapid spikes in blood sugar.

Our eyes have been the way we are able to see memories since before we can remember, so meticulous care can go a long way for the later years. Daily care through healthy lifestyle and diet now will give us the continued privilege of clear vision in the future.

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

Patriots Soccer Team Earns Spot in National Tournament

Nearly one year ago, Patrick & Henry Community College's men's soccer team lost in penalty kicks against Georgia Military College in the Atlantic District championship game. One year later, P&H found themselves facing the same foe - once again with a chance to earn an automatic bid to the NJCAA DII Men's Soccer National Championship Tournament. On Saturday, October 28th, the Patriots defeated GMC 2-0 in regulation play and earned a spot in the national tournament.

"We are extremely excited to have the opportunity to represent Patrick & Henry on the largest stage of DII NJCAA soccer," said Patriots head coach Brennan Murphy, adding, "We are thankful for the support of the community and feel we have as good a chance as anyone to find success in Arizona."

For the first time, the Patriots not only won back-to-back championships in the region; they also earned their very first Atlantic District championship since joining the NJCAA in 2012. P&H will head to the NJCAA Tournament for the second time in program history (the team participated in 2021 after earning an at-large bid). With this year's win, their bid was secured to join the field of colleges on November 12-18th in Tucson,

Arizona.

The Patriots took the lead early on Saturday on an unassisted goal by Nico Blanc in the fifth minute. Enrique Jacobs gave his team insurance on a penalty kick in the 49th minute, earned by Zaid Santos. P&H goalie Andre Chavez had six saves for the win. With the win, Patrick & Henry heads into the tournament with a 10-4-1 overall record and a 5-1 conference record. The tournament seedings will be announced via the NJCAA Network on November 7th.

Patrick & Henry became back-to-back Region 10 champions by defeating Louisburg College 5-2 in the 2023 Region 10 Championship game. Prior to the match, P&HCC midfielder Zaid Santos was named Region 10 Division II Player of the Year. Santos had three goals and two assists this fall as a captain for the Patriots.

In addition to Santos, the Patriots had four other players named first team all-region: defender Chava Bernal, midfielder Pleh Reh, forward Enrique Jacobs, and midfielder Jaden Watson. Goalie Andre Chavez and midfielder Joao Prestes were named second team all-region. Jacobs was second in the region with 11 goals this season. He and Prestes were tied for the region lead with six assists



P&HCC's men's soccer team celebrates the October 28 Atlantic District win that qualified them for NJCAA national play.

each. Chavez was second in the district with 61 saves and a 1.53 goals against average.

P&HCC coach Brennan Murphy was named region coach of the year for a sixth straight season.

Brian Henderson, P&HCC Assistant Vice-President and Athletic Director said, "This program embodies what being a member of our PHamily is all about. They support each other on and off the field. They are exemplary students in the classroom and provide many hours of community service to the youth in our community. All of these things add up why they are the champions on the field and will be champions in life."

Patrick & Henry Community College is the first Virginia Community College school to gain an automatic bid into the NJCAA National Soccer Championships.

"This community college gave me

a chance to continue to play the sport I love while getting a quality education," said Jaden Watson, P&H soccer captain from South Africa. "Coach Murphy offered me a chance to have a home in Martinsville, where I met other brothers that became my family. I will now have the opportunity to continue to play this game I love at a 4-year university next year, an opportunity I may have not had if it weren't for Patrick & Henry Community College."

The week-long 2023 NJCAA Division II Soccer National Tournament begins November 12 at the Kino Sports Complex in Tucson, Arizona, hosted by Pima Community College.

To visit Patrick & Henry Community College Soccer team's eTeam-Sponsor page, visit eTeamSponsor | Digital Online Fundraising for Teams & Schools.

Fan favorite Ryan Blaney is celebrated Cup champion

By Holly Cain
NASCAR Wire Service

A dozen years ago, Ryan Blaney showed up at the post-NASCAR Championship Weekend Media Day at a fancy hotel in Miami's South Beach dressed in a pressed white Team Penske button down and pressed black pants. It was his "introduction" of sorts to NASCAR's big time. With only a couple starts in NASCAR's national series, the teenage Blaney smiled and was friendly, but for much of his time there, he sat gamely while reporters spoke to the other better-known competitors.

Fast forward to Sunday afternoon and the 29-year-old third-generation racer for the renowned Team Penske team was standing under a blast of confetti on the Phoenix Raceway in-field stage - fans screaming congratulations from the grandstands amid an endless stream of congratulatory handshakes as Blaney celebrated his first NASCAR Cup Series championship.

Even one of the Penske team's IndyCar drivers, Scott McLaughlin was on pit road - wearing a bright yellow Ryan Blaney fan t-shirt before the race - proud to be there for moral support and eager to be there for another big-time victory for this legendary multi-time NASCAR Championship motorsports team.

It was such an incredibly important moment for the popular young driver, whose voice broke up in emotion as he spoke to his team while driving the biggest victory lap of his 10-year NASCAR Cup Series career

and landing the organization its second consecutive championship.

"I get emotional," he acknowledged to the team on the radio, "Thank you so much. What an awesome year. Thanks for giving me a shot."

It was one of the more popular championship celebrations. Blaney is a huge fan favorite and one of the brightest talents in the sport. As he stood on stage next to the giant NASCAR Cup Series championship trophy - his trophy - the smile was huge, the vibe all good-feels.

Even his competitors, such as 2012 series champion Brad Keselowski and 2021 champ Chase Elliott, made a beeline to congratulate their friend.

It was Keselowski - who was then driving for Penske himself - that gave Blaney one of his first NASCAR opportunities - driving for Keselowski's former NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series operation. Blaney made his truck debut in August 2022 at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway finishing sixth in his first race.

Two weeks later he went to Victory Lane - winning at Iowa Speedway and sending a strong message to teams, fans and competitors that he had what it takes. It was the start to this championship ending.

Keselowski had flown in overnight to compete after being with his wife Paige for the birth of their baby on Saturday in North Carolina. He was nevertheless, the first driver to find Blaney on the championship stage and congratulate him before flying back home. It was that important to him.

"Ryan's earned this every step of the way and I'm glad I got to be a small part of Ryan's career from the beginning," Keselowski said. "He's earned what he's got and it's so good to see that."

Of Elliott, Blaney said, "To have him come up on stage was special. He's been an amazing friend to me and a great competitor and it's cool to have that championship we can share now."

Blaney, one of the most even-keeled competitors in the sport, drove a rather aggressive race Sunday. Because he had too. He started outside the top-10 on the grid, led only two laps on the day and was often door-to-door on track - twice actually bumping other cars to show his impatience. And in the end, got to hold the big trophy.

The race winner Chastain smiled when asked about their battle royale, conceding he knew Blaney was at times frustrated with him, but that he was not going to just give the race trophy away.

"I know he's mad and I don't care," Chastain said, adding, "I'm here to race him. I'm not going to wreck him."

"It's nothing other than wanting to win and hold track position," Chastain emphasized. "He could run second and win the championship. And he ultimately did it."

There is no doubting Blaney's persistence and path. He earned two (Talladega, Ala. and Martinsville, Va.) of his three season victories in the Playoffs. He had a pair of runner-up finishes (Homestead-Miami

and Phoenix) and the Martinsville win just in the last three races to close out his championship season.

And he's been able to succeed while also being a fan favorite and one of the well-respected "good guys" in the sport. His rally toward the trophy was intentional and inspiring.

"It's somewhat of an up-and-down year, but you're going to have those moments," Blaney told the crowd. "Through the summer we just worked really hard to try to get back where we needed to be. Kind of set a deadline for the Playoffs and we met that deadline."

"Just super proud of the effort by everybody at Team Penske who put tons and tons of hours into hard work. No one really got down. They just put their heads down and they decided to really put in a lot of work, and it showed up, especially these Playoffs, especially the last five weeks."

"So cool to have all their hard work pay off, so they should be proud."

That pride is something Blaney can count on.

"I think his limits are the sky, to be honest with you," Penske said of his driver, noting that he reminds him of another accomplished Penske racer. "He gets in that class with [four-time Indy 500 winner Rick] Mears. He's a soft-spoken guy, really, but when he gets behind the wheel, like Joey [Logano], when he puts his hat on, don't get in his way. I think he showed that today."

"He's only better and better. He's got the confidence. He's a leader. He's a winner and a champion."

PC Cross Country Competes in Regionals

By Ashlee Mullis

The Patrick County High School Cross Country team competed in the 2C Regional Championship at Green Hill Park in Salem, VA, on November 1. The Boys Team came away as the 2C Regional Runner Up. Three boys earned All Regional Honors at the meet.

Noah Hiatt finished 5th overall, Fisher Martin finished 6th place, and

Hunter Martin finished 8th place. They will compete in the VHSL Class 2 State Boys Cross Country Meet on Saturday, November 11.

Sadie Martin earned All Regional Honors in the Girls Meet with a 6th place finish and will compete in the VHSL Class 2 State Girls Cross Country meet on Saturday, November 11 at Green Hill Park in Salem, VA.



Greely Terry (left to right), Hunter Martin, Noah Hiatt, Fisher Martin, Xavier Torres, Brett Foley, Moy Cisneros, and William Overby.

Cougars beat James River 43-0

By Staff Reports

The Patrick County High Cougar football team closed out their regular season with a 43-0 win at James River.

The win gives them the 6th seed in the Region 2C playoffs.

The Cougars opened the scoring on one of Jermaine Penn's two TDs on the night, and they never looked back. Jermaine Penn would finish the game with 114 yards rushing on 13 carries.

The Cougars would pick up 324 yards on the ground, and another 86 in the air. Stephen Spencer rushed for 77 yards. Aden Penn picked up 73 yards and a touchdown and Jay Howard had two touchdowns and 44 yards.

Quarterback Easton Harris went 3-5 for 86 yards including a 62-yard touchdown pass to Jaiden Wilson.

On the other side of the ball, the Cougar defense was solid all night, forcing four James River turnovers and holding them to just 113 yards of total offense. Jay Howard and Trevor Joyce recovered fumbles, while Stephen Spencer and Easton Harris picked off James River passes.

Matthew Allen had 3 tackles and 2 tackles for loss. Spencer had 2 tackles, 1 tackle for loss, 1 sack, and 1 interception.

Leading the way on defense was Trevor Joyce, who besides his fumble recovery, added five tackles, two for a loss. Stephen Spencer, Seth Geiger, Joshua Jimrusti and Logan Rakes each added a quarterback sack.

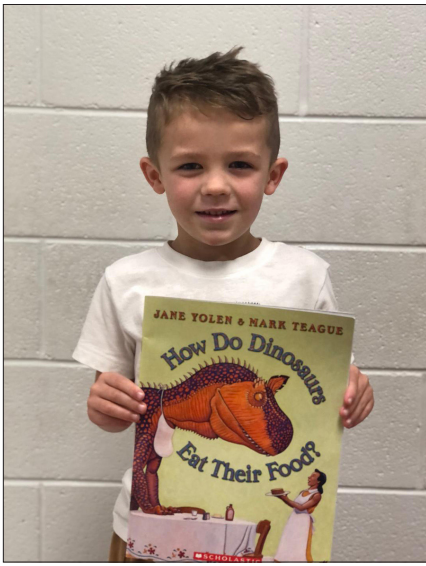
Next up for the Cougars is the opening game of the regional playoffs at Glenvar, 7p.m. on November 10th.

THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

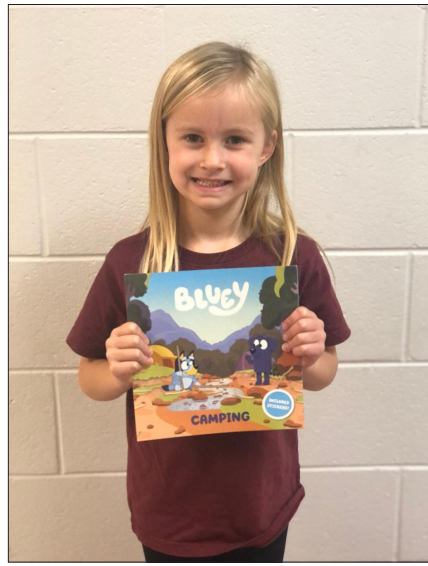
Woolwine Warriors earn reading awards

Woolwine Warrior Readers at Woolwine Elementary School announced the names of the top readers among those who participated in the Warrior Reading program during the first quarter.

Each student who reached their grade level goal received a free snack and a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut. In addition, students who read the most books in each grade level also received a free book. Congratulations everyone! We hope you will keep reading! The top readers are pictured:



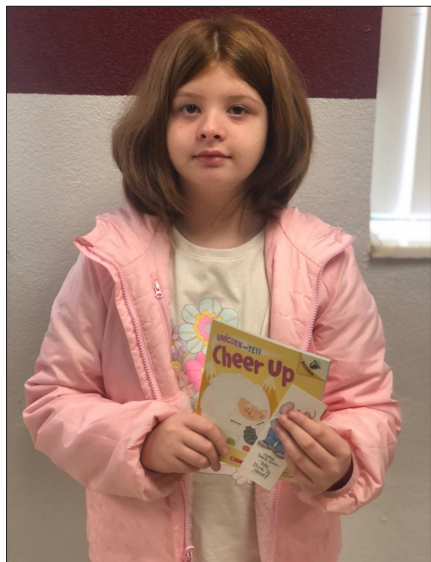
Pre-K—Miles Foley



Kindergarten—Hattie Griffin



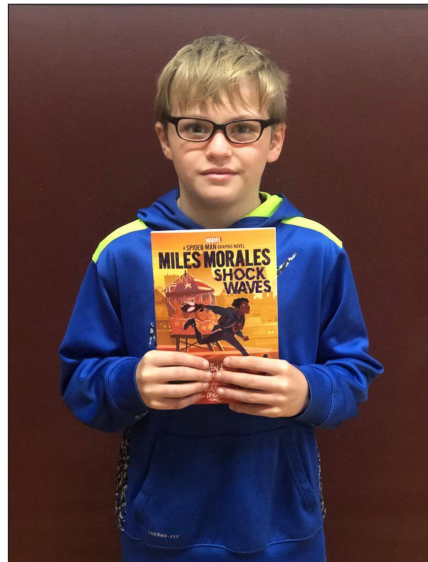
First Grade—Ely Griffin



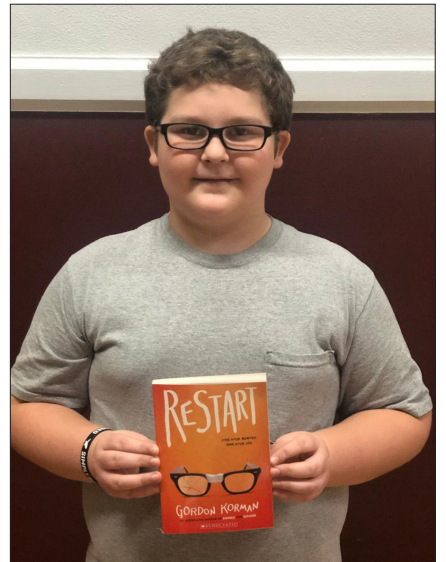
Second Grade—Lillian King



Third Grade—Maelynn Jones



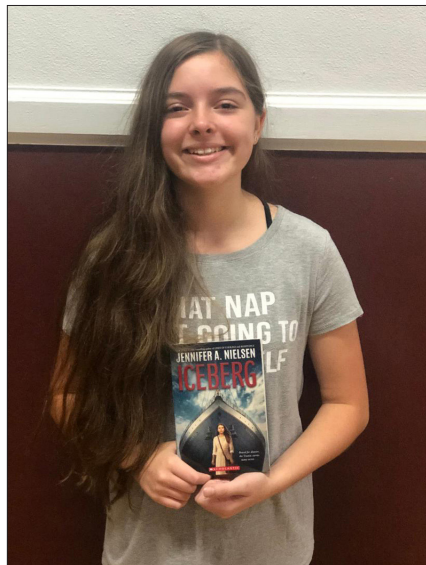
Fourth Grade—Joel Shaffer



Fifth Grade—Blake Belcher



Sixth Grade—Lacie Bullins



Seventh Grade—Paisley Shuff

Audrey 2 takes first place in Monsters on Main

The monsters have retired this year, and returned to their lairs, as the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of its Monsters on Main Street competition.

Winning by one vote is Audrey 2, the plant from outer space that landed in one of the Uptown Stuart flower beds. This creature was created by the Patrick County Master Gardeners.

Second place is mixing up a great batch of homemade biscuits with her Buttermilk Brew at the local Hardee's.

The third place monster is either eating or reading books at the Patrick

County Library. The library's Book Monster gobbled up enough votes to round out the top three.

The chamber thanks all the businesses, organizations and individuals who participated and created a monster to help decorate the Town of Stuart.

They also hope everyone enjoyed seeing the monsters lurking around town. While waiting for the Monsters to return next fall, the chamber has been told that Leprechauns will be invading Stuart in time for St. Patrick's Day.



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
◆◆◆ HOORAY!

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P&HCC Named NACCE Entrepreneurial College of the Year



Chip Weismiller (NACE Philanthropic Advisor), Stuart Weismiller (NACCE Philanthropic Advisor), Beth Kerly (NACCE Senior Director of Marketing & Communications), and Dr. Rebecca Corbin (NACCE President and CEO) present the Entrepreneurial College of the Year to Dr. Greg Hodges (P&HCC President) and Matthew Ratliff (P&HCC Coordinator of Community Development Programs) at NACCE's annual conference on October 31.

Patrick & Henry Community College has been named National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) Entrepreneurial College of the Year for its StartUP and Grow program, offered in partnership with MHC Chamber of Commerce. The award was presented at NACCE's annual conference, held in Nashville.

"This recognition is a testament to P&HCC's dedication to fostering entrepreneurship and driving positive change in the local community," said Corbin. "P&HCC has demonstrated an unwavering commitment and leadership as a member of NACCE's inaugural Entrepreneurial College of the Future (ECoF) program, yielding impressive results."

"This award speaks to our dedication to small business development in the communities served by our college," said P&HCC President Greg Hodges, adding, "it is our great honor to support the members of our community in solidifying their financially stable futures through careers they love."

Since the start of the program, P&HCC has graduated 314 entrepreneurs, culminating in the creation of 74 new businesses and 270 new jobs with over \$500,000 in cash and in-kind prizes awarded. The college has also expanded its Entrepreneurial Boot Camps with the Martinsville and Henry County Chamber of Commerce and established "MHC Grow," a four-week program designed for fledgling entrepreneurs. Both programs are free to all participants and provide small business owners with the knowledge and skills to succeed.

"Patrick & Henry Community College's selection as NACCE's 2023 Entrepreneurial College of the Year attests to the leadership of President J. Gregory Hodges,

Ph.D., who has continued to expand the college's entrepreneurial programs," Corbin said, adding, "A notable achievement is that over half of the program participants in the program are women, and in a community comprised of 20 percent people of color, almost half of the participants are minorities. This has contributed to a surge in women and minority-owned small businesses in the region."

P&HCC offers its Entrepreneurial Boot Camps entirely free of charge to all participants through its partnership with the MHC Chamber of Commerce. This inclusive approach has made entrepreneurship education accessible to a broader spectrum of the community. The economic renaissance experienced in the local community is a testament to the college's dedication to expanding regional entrepreneurship.

"We are so pleased to partner with P&HCC to encourage entrepreneurship in our community. The StartUP and Grow programs have been critical in the economic revival of our community and I'm very pleased to have this important work recognized on the national level," said MHC Chamber President Brenell Thomas.

The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) is a 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to promoting entrepreneurship through community colleges by providing resources and support to build and sustain high-impact entrepreneurship programs. The association represents 340+ community and technical colleges, universities and HBCU's, including over 2,000 faculty, staff, administrators, and presidents who serve more than three million students. For more information, visit nacce.com.

June Mae Kelly



Mrs. June Mae Kelly, age 64 of Meadows of Dan, passed away Friday, November 3, 2023, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born in Portsmouth, VA on June 3, 1959, to the late Horace Arles Quesinberry and LaDean Sobocinski Quesinberry. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by a sister, Melissa Thurston. June had been a teacher at Meadows of Dan Elementary School for over 10 years. She was a devout Christian and devoted her life to the Lord. She was a member of the Meadows of Dan Women's

Club and the Master Gardeners Club. She was an avid reader who enjoyed gardening and doing crafts. Surviving is her daughter, Candace Kelly of Meadows of Dan; one granddaughter, Lily Kelly; her husband, Danny Miller of Meadows of Dan; one brother, Horace Arles Quesin-

berry, Jr. of Meadows of Dan; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Frances and Andrew Conroy of Suffolk, Laura Vick of Portsmouth; three nephews, Eric Conroy, Brandon Quesinberry, Trent Vick, Jr; and one niece, Nicole Vick.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Scott Flippin officiating. Burial will be private. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.


Pendleton wins quilt



Brenda Pendleton won the Lords Acre Sale, a quilt raffle at Mary Horner Walker Memorial Presbyterian Church in Claudville on Saturday, Oct. 14.

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OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

PATRICK PULPITS

Jesus' Unfailing Word

By Alan Dean,
Retired Seventh-day Adventist
pastor

In Matthew 24:35, Jesus says "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." When Jesus spoke this bold statement, who could have guessed that it would be a true prediction? Though the common people liked Jesus, He still had limited power or influence in the political or religious realm of His day. In fact, as He uttered these words, there were plots to murder Him.

Yet Jesus still predicted that the words He had spoken during His three and a half year ministry would endure for eternity. In spite of strong, evil attempts to do away with God's Word, it is still the best-selling book year after year. But this was not always the case through the last 2000 years.

During the long period of the Dark Ages, the Word of God was literally hidden from the masses of people. The church elite wanted complete control over the religious thought of the day. But their instruction was far from the gospel truth. Works was their key to salvation.

But even so, there were small groups of determined Christians such as the Waldenses who not only preserved the Word of God, but copied and spread parts of it throughout northern Italy and into Europe. Having the Bible and sharing it was a risky work and many paid for it with their lives.

But Jesus had promised "Lo, I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Jesus will remember their faithfulness on judgment day.

An amazing recovery of God's Word was made during the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther translated the Bible into German from the Greek and Hebrew. The people were hungry to read and learn the truth of the gospel from just the Bible. Many of these common people became more knowledgeable of Scripture than the prelates who opposed the reformers.

Movable printing type was invented shortly before Luther's time and providentially made copying and spreading the Bible available everywhere. This has continued ever since in hundreds of languages.

Yet Satan didn't quit opposing the Word of God. His next tactic was to get people not to read the Bible. Only 200 years after Luther the Bible faced new dangers. Critics and skeptics arose to deny its divine origin, pointing out supposed discrepancies. Others have attacked the Lord of the Word (Jesus) as being a mere man with some good religious principles. And those who follow Jesus in simple faith are criticized for being narrow-minded and old-fashioned.

However, the Bible still stands true and will continue to uplift people and bring them the way of salvation until Jesus comes again. May we study it diligently to guide us in the troubled times ahead.

Our Country Needs More Nurses and Caregivers

Our country is currently facing a dire staffing shortage when it comes to nurses and caregivers. The Virginia Mercury recently reported that according to a survey of 170 Virginia nursing homes from this fall, 44 percent of homes have been forced to pause new admissions at least once

since June 1 because they have been unable to find enough nurses and caregivers to care for residents. More than 90 percent of nursing homes surveyed said they have had to ask employees to work overtime or take extra shifts due to the lack of staff.

Not only is this problem nationwide, unfortunately it's not a new one. Since the late 1980s, due to staffing shortages, regulators have put in place requirements to ensure nursing homes have "sufficient nursing staff" and that there is a registered nurse (RN) on site for a minimum of eight hours a day.

The problem was then exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nursing homes nationwide lost about 245,000 employees during the pandemic. As of April, the sector has only regained 55,000 of those workers.

It takes a special person to care for our sick and elderly. The job is not only physically demanding, but also mentally taxing. This has led to high turnover rates for nursing staff (52% in one year).

Our country must find new ways to alleviate this problem as soon as possible, as it is only expected to get worse due to our ageing population.

On September 1st, the Biden Administration released a proposed rule that will have the unintended consequence of making our nursing shortage worse. Nursing homes would have to ensure a registered nurse is on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

While the intent of this rule has merit, we must face the reality we live in - our country does not have enough nurses and caregivers. This minimum staffing standard would not only significantly raise costs for residents but would also lead to the closure of nursing homes that can't meet the new staffing requirements. This is particularly true in rural areas where there is an even greater shortage of nurses and caregivers.

During a recent Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing, we discussed this crisis and the pro-

posed CMS rule.

During the hearing, I spoke to witnesses about one possible alternative option. When I was in the Virginia House of Delegates, I drafted a law that waived zoning requirements for residents that wanted to erect temporary family health care structures on their property or the property of a family member. This structure would allow families to keep their loved ones in need of assistance close by, instead of seeking out a full-time care facility. This allows the individual in need of care to stay close to family. In this scenario, family will take care of some basic needs, thus health care workers can be brought in for periods of time as needed. This should have the benefit of lowering costs and hopefully lead to a lower burnout rate for our nurses.

This could have been beneficial for a family in Blacksburg who testified on the bill. The parents attempted to bring their sick son home multiple times, but because they didn't have a medically sterile room, their son kept getting infections. In order to properly care for their son, both parents quit their jobs to be with him at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville during the last months of his life. Had the parents had the option to build a medically outfitted tiny home, their son could have stayed in Blacksburg close to family and friends.

Will this solve our nursing shortage? No. Is this a perfect solution? No. Will it work for every family? No. But we have to start thinking outside the box if we are going to solve this problem. I am working on a federal level to get partial reimbursement for the cost of these temporary structures.

If you have any ideas on how to help alleviate our nurse staffing shortage or other ways to help care for the elderly and those with significant medical needs, I'd like to hear from you.

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.



Morgan Griffith
Representative

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Phinehas (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What harlot's household was saved in the Jericho siege by displaying a scarlet thread in the window? Milcah, Rahab, Rachel, Jezebel
3. Who answered the Lord about from where he came, "From walking up and down in it (the earth)"? Moses, Abraham, Satan, Aaron
4. From Genesis 25, who was the first woman to inquire of the Lord?

Eve, Adonijah, Rebekah, Ruth
5. Whose death caused Jesus to weep in John 11:35? Jehu, Lazarus, Simeon, Elijah
6. Whose wife urged him to curse God and die? Job, Boaz, Samson, Dan
ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Rahab, 3) Satan, 4) Rebekah, 5) Lazarus, 6) Job
Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.
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www.stuartbaptist.org office@stuartbaptist.org

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(actually in Patrick Springs)
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GOLDEN STATE GIRLS

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|---|---|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
| ACROSS | 49 Continuously | 90 Gore — (rainwear fabric) | DOWN | 37 Pappies | 79 Test versions of smartphone programs, e.g. |
| 1 Requested | 50 Cruel emperor | 91 Herb in pesto | 1 Get a lock on | 39 Boatloads | 81 Oil, in slang |
| 6 Mass helpers | 51 Troop's group | 92 Farm female | 2 Milan's La — | 42 Piece of tile art | 82 High-speed |
| 15 Foil maker | 52 Partners | 93 FedEx competitor | 3 Gold purity unit | 43 Zoo dweller | 83 A Great Lake |
| 20 Empathetic declaration | 53 Scenes in a 1985 film | 94 1996-2002 "Saturday Night Live" cast member | 4 St. Pat's land | 44 Eyeball part | 84 Great Lake |
| 21 Steak lover, e.g. | 54 Title sorority in a 1985 film | 95 "Saturday Night Live" cast member | 5 Bargain buy | 45 India's Gandhi | 85 Military post |
| 22 Lounges idly | 56 Turkish cap | 97 Agra apparel | 6 Home | 46 Be wobbly | 86 Scans again |
| 23 Italian developer of an educational method | 57 French friends | 98 Vietnamese New Year | 7 Advances, as money | 47 Fog or steam | 87 Artisans' club |
| 25 Third month | 58 Smitherens | 99 Band's job | 8 Vietnamese New Year | 48 Lounge around | 88 Invited one |
| 26 "Two Years Before the Mast" star | 59 Onetime rival of Steffi Graf | 100 Guarantee | 9 Several | 49 Fishnet stuff | 89 Actress |
| 27 Film director Craven | 65 Swimmer Thorpe | 101 The, to Henri | 10 Lay away | 50 Oven brand | 90 "Duck —" (Warner Bros. short) |
| 28 Family-style Chinese dish | 66 Farm female | 102 "Velvet Fog" vocalist | 11 Deep-voiced singer | 51 "Good" or "bad" dietary intake | 91 Rails in ballet |
| 29 Body design, in brief | 67 Disfigure | 103 Comedian with the 1990 HBO special "Cats, Cops and Stuff" | 12 Siouan tribesperson | 52 "Good" or "bad" dietary intake | 92 Invited one |
| 30 The new girl on "New Girl" | 68 Calculus, e.g. | 104 Actor Falk | 13 "— out!" | 53 Bundle of joy | 93 Page |
| 32 French painter of "The Horse Fair" | 69 Made in the manner of | 105 Resistant to alternating current | 14 — Lankan | 60 Cry upon arriving | 94 "Duck —" (Warner Bros. short) |
| 36 Commotion | 70 American Red Cross founder | 106 Hunter constellation | 15 Kind of nut | 61 Leading to something | 95 Zellweger of the screen |
| 38 The "N" of USNA: Abbr. | 71 Therefore | 107 RBIs, e.g. | 16 Averse | 62 Dog or cat | 96 Body part often pulled by an athlete |
| 40 "— never believe me!" | 72 Fix, as a pet | 108 Engulfed by fire | 17 Criticized petulantly | 63 Go by | 97 "— buying it" |
| 41 Rap's "Dr." | 73 Frigid | 109 It can precede eight first names in this puzzle to form the names of California cities | 18 "No question" | 64 Gives assent | 98 "Hero" |
| 42 She played Abby Parker on HBO's "The Deuce" | 74 House pests | | 19 Some hardwoods | 65 Speed-of-sound ratio | 99 actress Davis |
| 48 Cut with a light beam | 75 Spirited | | 24 Part of MLB | 66 Green stuff | 100 Emailed junk |
| | 76 Flub up | | 28 Boxer Oscar de la — | 67 Paddy crop | 101 General — chicken |
| | 77 Sense by touch | | 31 Curs' sounds | 71 Like a tinny recording | 102 Other, in Oviedo |
| | 78 Zeus' wife | | 33 Add while mixing | 72 City of ancient Egypt | 103 More, in a music score |
| | 84 Singer Della | | 34 Throat-clearing noise | 73 Plants-to-be | 104 Band blaster |
| | 85 Fencing sword | | 35 Flock of quail | 74 Tobacco plug | 105 News svc. |
| | 87 She played Miss Ellie Ewing on "Dallas" | | 36 Dancer de Mille | 78 Get set for surgery | 106 Vocalist Yokoyama |

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LEGAL
The Town of Stuart will hold a Planning Commission Meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Stuart Town Office, located at 100 Patrick Avenue. The Stuart Planning Commission will discuss the Comprehensive Plan, zoning within the Town, and compliance with Town Ordinances. Those that are interested in providing comment to the Planning Commission, but are unable to attend, please contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager by phone at (276) 694-3811 or by email at bryce.simmons@stuartva.org.

LEGAL
Trustee's Sale
1069 Shortcut Drive, Woolwine, Virginia 24185 (Parcel ID: 4918-47 and 4918-47-A)
Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 25, 2008, in the original principal amount of \$43,269.76 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Patrick, Virginia in Instrument No. 080000696, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on **November 29, 2023, at 2:15 p.m.**, in front of the building housing the **Patrick County Circuit Court**, 101 West Blue Ridge street, Stuart, VA 24171, the property designated as TRACT I: PORTION OF MAP NO. 4918 - () --47- BEGINNING at a 3/4" rebar set on the northeast line of Virginia Secondary Route #716, Shortcut Drive, corner to Michael J. Moss and Martha Cyr-Moss; thence leaving said road with a line of Moss, N. 57° 03' 29" E., crossing Woods Road and an existing branch, 242.06 feet to a 3/4" rebar set, corner to George E. Nolen & Judy P. Nolen; thence with a line of Nolen, S. 43° 25' 01" E. 228.64 feet to a 3" pipe found, corner to Brenda N. Harris; thence with a line of Harris, the following calls: S. 42° 14' 36" W. 106.28 feet to a 1/2" rebar set at turn in fence; thence S. 32° 17' 55" W. 34.39 feet to a 1/2" rebar set at turn in fence; thence S. 27° 29' 10" W. 141.06 feet to a pipe found; thence S. 33° 56' 53" W. 28.23 feet to an axle found on the east line of Virginia Secondary Route #716, Shortcut Drive; thence with the east line of said road, the following calls: N. 23° 19' 24" W. 66.85 feet to a point; thence N. 27° 09' 36" W. 56.72 feet to a point; thence N. 30° 37' 35" W. 63.15 feet to a point; thence N. 35° 53' 41" W. 66.29 feet to a point; thence N. 41° 15' 35" W. 60.95 feet to a point; thence N. 45° 57' 38" W. 36.28 feet to the point of the BEGINNING, containing 1.595 Acre, as shown as Tract "1", by Survey dated January 26, 2007, and revised April 10, 2007. TRACT II: PORTION OF MAP NO. 4918 - () --47-A. BEGINNING at an axle found on the west line of an existing branch with a line of Nolen & Judy P. Nolen; thence crossing said branch with a line of Nolen, S. 43° 25' 01" E. 169.58 feet to a nail set in fallen tree, corner to Michael J. Moss and Martha Cyr-Moss; thence with a line of Moss, N. 56° 02' 56" W., crossing said branch and Woods Road, 181.30 feet to a 3/4" pipe found, corner to George E. Nolen and Judy P. Nolen; thence with a line of Nolen, N. 57° 03' 29" E. 40.32 feet to the BEGINNING, containing 0.077 Acre, as shown as Tract "2" by Survey dated January 26, 2007, and revised April 10, 2007. Inclusive of Mobile Home with VIN: CLM088518TN. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$6,500.00 will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or NFPDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 232619-01, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.
Cheryl Decker
Legal Assistant
Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C.
580 E. Main Street, Suite 600
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*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

2023 Post Race Apple Dumpling Festival 5K

By Rebecca Adcock

The Apple Dumpling Festival 5K on Saturday, October 21 in Stuart was a great success. This annual event occurs before the Apple Dumpling Festival and is organized by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and the Dan River Basin Association. This event is a great way to kick off the day's festivities. A total of 81 runners enjoyed the crisp morning temperature as they ran or walked their way along the Mayo River Rail Trail.

Overall winners:

First male was Fisher Martin in a time of 17:51, second place was Noah Harris (17:52), and third place was Declan Conner (18:26).

First female was Sadie Martin in a time of 21:80, second place was Rebekah Hicks (22:37), and third

place was Eilliana Montgomery (23:51).

Overall male masters, RJ Scott in a time of 20:19 and female masters was Nancy Clayton (27:07).

Runners participated from across the region as well as several local runners including the Stuart Elementary School Run Club participants. This event is a fundraiser for the Dan River Basin Association for trail development in Patrick County. Funds raised will be used to install signage on the new natural trails on the Rotary Club of Stuart property.

Thank you to all our sponsors who helped make this event possible. Full race results are available at www.runroanoke.com.

(Adcock is the executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.)

Bassett and Brown named to P&HCC Board



Tyler Bassett



Matthew Brown

Patrick & Henry Community College's Foundation Board of Directors welcomed two new members at its fall meeting. Tyler Bassett and Matthew Brown, both of Martinsville, join the board's members and will serve three-year terms.

Bassett serves as Bassett Furniture's IT Director of Customer Experience, where he oversees the development and implementation of technology solutions to enhance the customer journey. Outside of work, Tyler remains involved in the Park Scholarship Program at NC State where he serves on the selection committee. Locally, he has served on the Henry County Broadband Planning Team, as well as the selection team for county information technology positions. He and his wife, Kelsey, have two sons.

Brown is the pastor of St. Paul High Street Baptist Church in Martinsville. He is extensively involved in the work of Smith River Baptist

Association, Virginia Baptist State Convention, and National Baptist Convention, USA Inc. Additionally, Rev. Brown serves on the local boards of Martinsville-Henry County Ministerial Association, Grace Network, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge, and Smart Beginnings Martinsville-Henry. He is also a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He and his wife, India, have a daughter.

"We are thrilled to welcome both Matthew and Tyler to our board of directors," stated Tiffani Underwood, Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the P&HCC Foundation. "They both bring a great deal of knowledge, passion, and enthusiasm and we are grateful to working together to create new partnerships and resources that will positively impact our students, our college, and our community."

Ferrum College Announces a \$10,000 Reduction in Tuition for Fall 2024

Ferrum College president Dr. Mirta Martin hosted a press conference and all campus meeting last week to announce a \$10,000 reduction in undergraduate tuition for Fall 2024. Following the launch of the Panther Promise of free tuition to qualifying Virginia students in April, the reduction is a natural next step in the College's commitment to accessible and affordable higher education.

In her remarks at the press conference, Martin said "Today, we are here to yet again affirm our identity as the College of Opportunity by announcing a \$10,000 reduction in our tuition rates for fall 2024."

"Additionally, we are excited to offer a \$500 institutional Persistence Grant to all returning Juniors and Seniors in recognition of their commitment to continuing their academic journey at Ferrum College," she continued.

"Not only will 99% of Ferrum College students continue to receive institutional aid, the Panther Promise, the Ferrum Promise and the Battler's Promise will con-

tinue to be offered to qualifying students in the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond.

"We know this decrease in tuition will expand opportunities to incoming and returning students seeking an excellent education in an inclusive, value-based environment where every individual is a cherished member of our Ferrum family," Martin said.

"Ladies and Gentlemen... Ferrum College is alive and well and open for business and ready to welcome home the next generation of leaders. Come join us!"

Ferrum College will welcome the first members of the Class of 2028, the first freshmen to benefit from the \$10,000 tuition reduction, this Saturday, November 4th at the fall Black and Gold Open House. The College reminds all students and their families that the FASFA form will be available beginning December 1 and is the first step in applying for financial aid for Fall 2024. For more information about Cost and Aid at Ferrum College, visit: <https://www.ferrum.edu/admission/aid-affordability/>.

Master Gardeners present plant sale proceeds to Alzheimer's group



Master Gardener Sylvia Cummings presents a check for \$761 to Sally Smith and Glenda Cobbler, local Alzheimer's group volunteers. Glenda is also a Master Gardener. The check represented the total proceeds from the Master Gardener's native plant sale. It was presented to the Alzheimer's group to support the hard work they do for the those suffering from Alzheimer's and their families.

Clark discussed his latest book in Critz



Retired circuit judge and bestselling author Martin Clark was featured during the College For Older Adults, presented by The Landmark Center at VT Reynolds Homestead. Clark discussed his new novel, The Plinko Bounce, plus presented a general overview of fiction writing and the publishing industry and tips for students who might be writers themselves. Pictured (left to right) are Susan Critz, Janice Woods, Kathy Shelton, Martin Clark, Sara Colm, Joanne Hill; back, Janice Pendleton, Rebecca Flippen, Mary Dellenback Hill, Linda Wilson, Susan Rea.

(Photo by Mary Dellenback Hill, Representative of Dan River District, Patrick County Tourism.)

Gene Haas Foundation awards \$18,000 grant

The Gene Haas Foundation (GHF) awarded an \$18,000 grant to Patrick & Henry Community College to support scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded to students who are currently enrolled or will be enrolling in a CNC Technology training or CNC machining-based engineering program and to support student participation in SkillsUSA's CNC competitions.

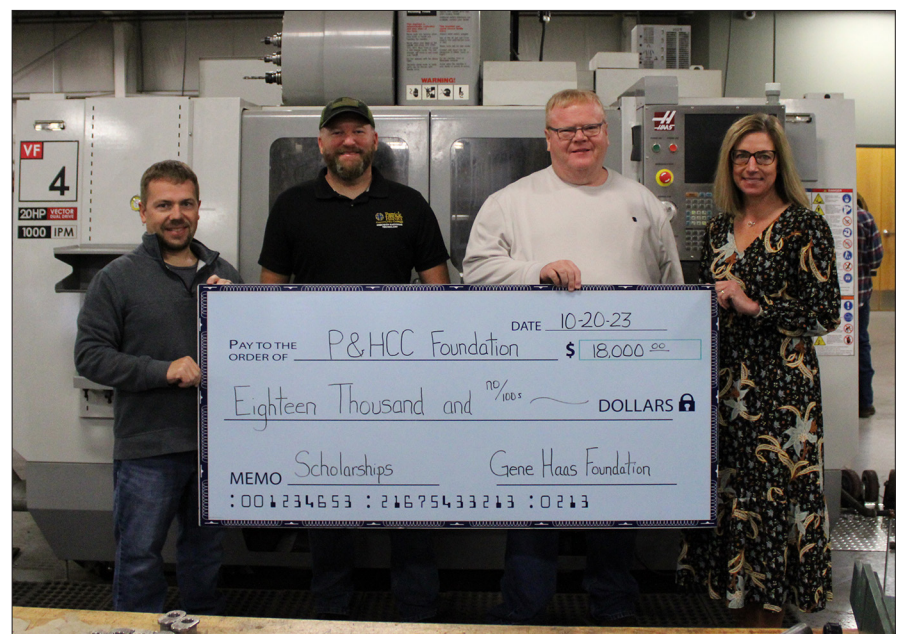
P&HCC offers multiple training programs that teach CNC machine technology and/or engineering. P&HCC's programs are designed to prepare graduates for immediate employment within advanced manufacturing including careers in motorsports, engineering technologies, advanced technology and industrial positions, and other manufacturing related positions. P&HCC is proud to prepare students for work in a high-demand, high wage field to meet the growing needs of employer partners.

"The Gene Haas Grant gives students an opportunity to excel in the Precision Machine Program by providing scholarships to students to assist them in completing our programs ultimately earning them Career Studies Certificates in Machin-

ing Technician (manual machining) and CNC Operator/Programmer. These skill sets are vital to support our region in the national mission to bring manufacturing back to the US from overseas. These manufacturing jobs are in high demand, pay well, and are constantly evolving to meet the needs of local and regional manufacturers. I am very thankful to the Gene Haas Foundation for supporting our students here at P&HCC," said Precision Machining instructor Justin Durden.

GHF's primary goal is to build skills in the machining industry by providing scholarships for CNC machine technology students also to provide students with the experience of collaboration with a team by competing in a competition that highlights design, engineering and manufacturing with CNC machined parts as a primary component.

Motorsports instructor Talmage Thomas said, "Gene Haas Foundation provides financial assistance for students so that they can apply to repair cars and have gas money for transportation. The grant's support for buying basic tools needed to pursue careers in motorsports manufacturing is critical for our students."



Instructors Denver Smith, Justin Durden, and Talmage Thomas receive a big check presented by Tiffani Underwood, P&HCC Foundation Executive Director.

Meetings

Thursday, Nov. 9
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the new Patrick County Public Schools Administration building.

Tuesday, Nov. 14
The Town of Stuart will hold a Planning Commission meeting at 5 p.m. in the Stuart Town Office to discuss the comprehensive plan, zoning within the town, and compliance with Town Ordinances.

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.

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board Budget & Finance Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. in Room 124 in the Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board Academic & Student Affairs Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. in Room 145 in the Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall, Frith Economic Development Center. This is a public meeting, but the committee will not receive public comment.

Wednesday, Dec. 6
The Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) will meet at 7 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building.

Events

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. En-

tertainment 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.

Ross Harbour Church will hold a Fall Supper and Sale. Supper is from 4-6 p.m. for dine in or take out. Call ins are welcome at (276) 930-1661. There will be chicken or ham plates with adult plates being \$10 and child plates being \$5. The sale starts at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Friday, Nov. 17
The Woolwine Methodist Church food truck will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) will hold an Advancedlevel Microsoft Office 265: Excel class from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$60. Pre-registration is required by going to ph.augusoft.net, or calling (276) 656-0260.

Saturday, Nov. 18
The Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will have a cash giveaway at 7 p.m. The grand prize is \$2,500 with additional prizes of \$100 each, and two prizes of \$200 each. Cash raffle

tickets are \$20 each. Contact a fire department member to purchase a ticket at (276) 930-2117.

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.

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.

Simms among 2023 Alumni Award Recipients

Ferrum College presented this year's three annual alumni awards to Beth Simms '09, Young Alumni; Nancy Swartz Beach '75, Distinguished Alumni and Scott Showalter '73, Beckham Medallion. The 2023 Award recipients were recognized in a ceremony where members of the Class of 1973 were also inducted into the Golden Panthers during the Homecoming Weekend festivities Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in the Blue Ridge Mountain Room located in Franklin Hall.

The alumni awards are part of a tradition begun with recognition of several College founders and leaders from the 1920s. Winners

are nominated by alumni, faculty or staff, vetted by the Nominations Committee of the Alumni Board of Directors, and approved by the president. Mr. Glynn Loope '86, Alumni Board of Directors president, presented the awards in Saturday's ceremony on behalf of the College.

Ferrum College president Dr. Mirta Martin greeted the Golden Panthers, the awardees and their guests. "What a joy to gather and recognize these three members of the Ferrum College family who embody the very best of who we are and who live out our motto 'Not Self, But Others.'"

"We are proud to honor Ms. Simms, a young alumna who has

already had a tremendous impact on her hometown community as well as the college, and Dr. Beach, who aided countless students in their pursuit of higher education and, in doing so, served her alma mater in providing access for all learners in our academic community," Martin said.

The Young Alumni award is given to a young alumnus/ae who has demonstrated professional and personal success since graduating from Ferrum College within the last 15 years. This year's recipient was Beth Simms, a 2009 Ferrum College graduate who currently serves as Vice President of the Alumni Board of Directors and was recently named County Administrator for Patrick County, Virginia. During her acceptance speech, Simms recalled moments from her Ferrum journey

and how much the College means to her. She also had a call-to-action for the audience. "I'm challenging each of you to bring people to Ferrum College. You don't understand the uniqueness, the specialness of this place online or in print. So, if you have an opportunity, please bring somebody here and let them experience Ferrum College," Simms said.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is awarded to an alumnus/ae who has a record of exceptional career achievement and service to their community, church or other organizations; was active in college life; and remains involved and supportive of Ferrum College as alumni. Nancy S. Beach '75 returned to her alma mater as an educator and director of academic accessibility for over 30 years and retired in 2023.

THE ENTERPRISE

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NOTICE

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

Super Crossword

Answers

A	S	K	E	D	A	L	T	A	R	B	O	Y	S	A	L	C	O	A
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From L to R: Ferrum College president Dr. Mirta Martin, Beth Simms '09, Scott Showalter '73, Nancy Beach, '75 and Glynn Loope '86 at the 2023 Alumni Awards on October 21.

Land Transfers in September

Following are land transfers as recorded in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's office in September:

Cheryl H. Baker to John L. Pflaumer and other, 5.869 acres, Smith River District.
 Allan Michael Lee Bell to Gary Randal Hunt and other, 25.5 acres, Mayo River District.
 Paul R. Beseler, Jr. to Janet M. Nickerson, 33.649 acres, Smith River District.
 David A. Burt and other to Renee Lynn Lawson and other, 0.502 and 0.11 acres, Mayo River District.
 Jason Gabriel Carlson and other to Stephen Lee Edwards and other, 4.703 and 45.297 acres, Mayo River District.
 Eddie D. Church and wife to Zachary Lesech, tracts, Mayo River District.
 Brenda C. Coe to Zongli Xu and other, 0.4322 and 0.464 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Timothy Gene Craig and other to Hope Knight Tillman, 2.489 acres, district not listed.
 Toby F. Deal and other to James W. Austreng and other, 9.1085 acres, Mayo River District.
 Travis D. Dulaney and other to Gregory Scott Jones, 2.323 and 2.353 acres, Smith River District.
 Christina L. Eldrenkamp to Keith Strickland and wife, 3.303 and 3.143 and 0.75 acres, district not listed.
 Janet R. Epperson to A&B Enterprises 1 LLC, 1.02 acres, Dan River District.

Equity Trustees LLC to Mortgage Assets Management LLC, 1.65 acres, Mayo River District.
 Eric Brent Fain and other to Tyler Brown

and wife, 8 and 150.75 and 4 and 6 acres, Peters Creek District.

Randall F. Planner to S. Clayton Farlow and other, 2.000 acres, Dan River District.
 Sarah Jane Scales Fulk and other to Donnie Gaye Puckett, 4.211 acres, Dan River District.
 Leon Burton Howell and other to Commonwealth of Virginia, parcel, district not listed.
 Kenneth Allen Hudson, Jr., to Gareth I. Jones and other, 0.401 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Thomas Walter Hutchens to Kenneth J. Foltz, 1.563 acres, Mayo River District.
 Jes B Rich Acquisitions LLC to Patriot Land Group LLC, 2.0978 and 2.228 and 2.708 and 2.091 and 2.166 and 2.941 and 3.897 and 2.124 and 0.713 acres, Dan River District.
 Jimmy Roosevelt Jones to Curtis W. Bowman, 3.00 acres, Mayo River District.
 KTM Interests LLC to Eric Phillips, 2.8506 and 3.2338 acres, Smith River District.
 Clyde Lawson to Smith River Properties LLC, 10.04 acres, Smith River District.
 Roger D. Mabe to Richard Cyr Robichaud and wife, .26 acres, Peters Creek District.
 Milton Douglas Mann to Willow Place SC LLC, 32.870 acres, Patrick and Floyd counties.
 Douglas B. McGlothlin, Jr. to Gary Lytton and wife, 3.832 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Christine Hylton Morrison and other to Christian Heater and other, 1.045 acres, Mayo River District.
 Gary W. Nester to Sheila Lambert Diggs, 1.000 acres, Mayo River District.
 Robert Christopher Ogburn to Billy Seidl and other, 3.623 acres, Peters Creek District.
 Patriot Land Group LLC to William Walton Whitmore, 2.228 and 2.708 and 2.091 acres, Dan River District.

Greg Landry Payne and other to Hunter Drake Whitney, 21.9592 acres, Mayo River District.
 Peter M. Pearl TR to Julian B. Nolen, 1.52 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Randall Poole and other to Doug N. Wilkerson and other, lot, Dan River District.
 Gary L. Rogers to Christina D. Hutchens, 0.488 acres, Mayo River District.
 Ernie B. Shepherd to Johnny Odell and other, 1.0 acres, Smith River District.
 Christopher Stephen Smith to Jamy Kazanoff, 4.8878 acres, district not listed.
 Judy Carol Conner Smith to Harris Land and Timber Company, 61.331 and 0.5 acres, Peters Creek District.
 Tyler R. Snow to Jason Vannoy and other, 1.011 acres, Mayo River District.
 Troy L. Stantliff, Jr. to Debra J. Albanese, 2.00 acres, Blue Ridge District.
 Royal B. Stone to Brian Kent Southard, 14.25 and 45.17 acres, Smith River District.
 Denise Taylor and other to Bradley C. Turner, 4.6 and 8 acres, Smith River District.
 Samuel Evan Thomas and other to Gary Wayne Long and other, 14.3301 acres, Mayo River District.
 Ray Wilson Tillery, Jr. to Lars Dunaway and others, 12.4758 acres, Smith River District.
 Phyllis H. Trent to Harry Scott Martin and wife, lot, Mayo River District.
 Phyllis H. Trent to Jarvis Thaxter Glenn, 12.157 acres, Mayo River District.
 Triple W. LLC to Wayne E. Barker, 4.213 acres, Mayo River District.
 Lindsey F. Williams and other to Robert G. Thompson and other, lot, Blue Ridge District.
 Frankie Jean Young to Donnie Gaye Puckett, 3.254 acres, Dan River District.

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Spencer donates memoir to P&HCC

Patrick & Henry Community College nursing alum and Patrick County native Ron Spencer has donated a copy of his memoir, Half Penny,

You Can Make It If It's All You've Got to P&HCC's library and partnered with his sister, Karen Spencer, and wife, Stephanie Stone Spencer, to make a donation to P&HCC's Patriot Pantry.

Spencer's memoir centers on four generations of his family, revealing their colorful past. This motivational and entertaining memoir, filled with vignettes, is Spencer's effort to be the "memory" for many in his family. The open and easy-to-read book is a life story which many people will relate to as some situational descriptions were likely a part of their own upbringing in the same marginalized community. The themes of self-reliance, self-determination and hard work are scattered throughout to capture, retain and inform the reader of growth tracks and steps to take to achieve their goals.

"As the son of a coal miner and a domestic worker, I am grateful for all their parenting



P&HCC librarian Marcia Seaton-Martin and P&HCC president Dr. Greg Hodges accept a copy of Half Penny from Ron Spencer, Stephanie Stone Spencer, and Karen Spencer.

decisions while working with limited resources. I am appreciative that we don't have to dwell on the past; however, the instructions from that time are still especially relevant today," said Spencer. "From the 'force-multipliers', the instructors, administrators and support staff at P&HCC who intentionally guided us through to matriculation, we learned the importance of paying it forward.

Other important lessons we learned were to be consistent, bring good energy, manage stress and provide encouragement for others; just as my dedicated instructors had done for us. Most importantly, we learned that education is the gift that keeps on giving so rarely did any of us ever miss a day of classes. Dr. Greg Hodges and staff are indeed accountable to make sure the door stays open so others can enter behind us

to make their own 'Razz-Ma-Tazz' with the same high-quality education in a richly diverse environment," Spencer added.

Donations to P&HCC's Patriot Pantry support food insecure students as they work toward their goals. Donations can be made online by clicking Donate on P&HCC's website (www.patrickhenry.edu).

Spencer's Half Penny is available for purchase on Amazon.com.

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WGU Supports Virginia teachers with scholarships in honor of American Education Week

Virginia schools are still struggling through a lasting teacher shortage. This November, current teachers and aspiring educators can obtain their degrees and certifications online with a big discount through Western Governors University (WGU).

WGU's School of Education will mark American Education Week (Nov. 13-17, 2023) by renewing its WGU Loves Teachers and Become a Teacher scholarship programs for current and future education professionals who wish to pursue bachelor's or master's degree programs in the Teachers College. Each WGU Loves Teachers and Become a Teacher scholarship is valued up to \$4,000 and aims to help boost the educator pipeline and increase teacher diversity in Virginia.

As Virginia educators are leaving the field at an increased rate to

pursue other career opportunities, the number of unfilled positions continues steadily to climb. The Virginia Department of Education's 2021-2022 Staffing and Vacancy Report listed approximately 2,814 unfilled teacher positions. Records from the 2022-2023 school year showed an increase to 3,573 unfilled teaching jobs. The report for 2022-2023 Critical Teaching Shortage Areas ranked elementary education, PreK-6, as the No. 1 need in Virginia.

"WGU is proud to support teacher recruitment, training and retention," said Rebecca Watts, Ph.D., regional vice president of WGU. "In just 20 years since its founding, WGU's Teachers College is now in the top 1% for granting degrees to Black and Latino educators at both the graduate and undergraduate levels and is second in the nation

for awarding combined graduate and undergraduate degrees and credentials to students of color."

Overall, WGU has about 4,700 students and 9,000 graduates in Virginia, with 1,700 graduates from the Teachers College. WGU Teachers College is committed to keeping costs low, reducing the need for student borrowing, and resulting in average graduate debt that is about half that of the national average. The college provides a broad portfolio of dozens of degree pathways in a student-centered, competency-based model with flexible scheduling so that students can study when they have time available in their schedule. The six-month, flat-rate term allows students to progress through courses as soon as they demonstrate skills mastery, enabling them to complete as many courses as they can at no extra cost.

Scholarships will be awarded based on a candidate's academic record, financial need, readiness for online study at WGU, as well as his or her current competency and other considerations.

Prospective and enrolling WGU students may apply for the WGU Loves Teachers and the Become a Teacher scholarship by visiting wgu.edu/aew.

WGU's Teachers College programs have been continuously accredited since 2006. They are currently accredited by both the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP), a prestigious combination of accreditations. To learn more about WGU's Teachers College and its academic programs, visit wgu.edu/online-teaching-degrees.

Diabetes Day Nutrition Event Slated for November 14

The Southern Area Agency on Aging is hosting a World Diabetes Day Breakfast at The Landmark Center in Stuart on Tuesday, November 14 at 8:30 am.

Featured speaker for the free event is Samantha Turner, a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) who is passionate about helping others improve their health by giving them the resources and ability to make more nutritious food choices.

Turner is a native of southwest Virginia and grew up on southern cuisine. She notes that "although I will not turn down a breakfast of biscuits and tomato gravy made by my great-grandpa," she enjoys eating more nutritious foods and helping people

find balance in their nutrition. "Managing a chronic condition does not mean having to give up foods you love," Turner said.

The event will be held in the living room of The Landmark Center and will begin with a breakfast buffet for attendees. Turner will then speak to everyone about managing diabetes better through nutrition habits and help them understand why eating consistent carbs is important.

There is no charge to attend the event, but seating is limited, and interested attendees are asked to register by calling 276-694-3050 or emailing Lisa Martin at lmartin@thelandmarkctr.com.



Dietitian Samantha Turner, MPH, RDN will speak at The Landmark Center on Diabetes and Nutrition November 14.



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Noel P. Kornett D.D.S. Retirement Announcement

Dear colleagues, patients and friends,

I am writing to announce my upcoming retirement from active Dental practice after 42 years of dedicated service, it is time to embark on a new chapter of life.

It has been a fulfilling journey working with such talented and inspiring staff members throughout my career. I am grateful for the opportunities we have had to contribute to the health and well being of this community.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all my colleagues for their support, guidance, and friendship over the years. Your collaboration and teamwork have made every day at work enjoyable and fulfilling. I will cherish the memories we have created together.

To my patients, thank you for your trust and confidence in my abilities. It has been a privilege to serve you and contribute to your dental health. I am grateful for the relationships we have built and the experiences we have shared.

As I transition into retirement, I look forward to spending more time with my loved ones, pursuing personal interests, and taking care of some health issues. While I will miss the daily interactions and challenges of the workplace, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

The office will close to patient visits on Thursday December 21. Records will be made available at your request or the request of your chosen Dental office.

Once again, thank you for being a part of my professional journey. I am grateful for the memories and experiences that will stay with me forever.

Wishing you all continued health, success and happiness.

Best regards,
Dr. Noel P. Kornett

Crash takes down caution traffic signal



One person was injured in a crash at the intersection of U.S. 58 and Spring Road. The caution traffic signals were torn down, temporarily blocking U.S. 58.



U.S. 58 was blocked for about 35 minutes.

By Taylor Boyd
A wreck at the intersection of U.S. 58 and Spring Road temporarily halted traffic on Monday, October 30.

Clint Weidhaas, Captain of the Stuart Volunteer Fire Department, said the accident occurred between an older model pickup and a Ford F350 flat-bed truck around 2:30 p.m.

They "struck each other at the intersection of Spring Road and 58. After the impact between both vehicles, the Ford F350 went off the road striking a utility pole holding up the VDOT (Vir-

ginia Department of Transportation) caution traffic signals, bringing them down (and) completely blocking 58," he said.

Weidhaas estimates the road was blocked for about 35 minutes. As of November 1, the caution signal was still down.

"There was a 67-year-old male patient out of the smaller pick up that was injured. Company 23 and Patrick County Station 8 removed the subject from the vehicle, and he was transported" to the emergency room

in Mount Airy, "but he was in stable condition," Weidhaas said.

Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department responded with four personnel, Stuart Volunteer Fire Department responded with one engine and three personnel, and Station 8 had two personnel on scene.

VDOT and the Patrick County Sheriff's Office helped provide traffic control following the accident.

"We were on scene for a good hour and a half. One lane had to be shut down for about an hour and a half,

that was the right eastbound lane, but we got the rest of the road opened up after 35 minutes," Weidhaas said.

Crews from the fire department had to physically remove and drag the traffic signal devices out of the road.

"We actually had to physically drag wire and everything, it was a mess," he said. It took "a couple of minutes because they're pretty heavy, and it took three of us to drag the whole ensemble out of the roadway."

The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

The Churchmen to headline PCMA's Veteran's Day show

By Taylor Boyd
The Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) will hold its Veteran Appreciation Day show on Saturday, November 11.

Sponsored by Pilot Mountain, Inc., the event will be held at the Stuart Rotary Building. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the music will start at 6 p.m.

PCMA President Denny Alley said The Churchmen will serve as the show's headline act.

"They're out of Henry County. Jay Adams is the banjo player, and he plays the guitar with them. He has another group," he said.

Alley said The Churchmen perform bluegrass and gospel music. The group has been recording and touring since 1989.

The Churchmen appeared on the "Gospel Music Showcase" with Guy Penrod on Daystar network.



The Churchmen will headline the Patrick County Music Association's (PCMA) November 11 Veteran Appreciation Show.

Jordan T. Morrison & the Foot Hill Boys, New River Line, and None of the Above will also take the stage.

Alley said a couple of the groups' members are from Patrick County. "The Morrison boy is from Wool-

wine. They're opening the show. The rest of them have local ties. No farther than Mount Airy," N.C., he said.

The December 9 show will be Sammy Shelor's Banjorama with the Lonesome River Band, and Nu-Blu

will headline the year's final show. More than a dozen other players will take the stage throughout the night.

Sponsored by Hopkins Lumber and Patrick County Tourism, Alley said it will be "a free show for everybody, the biggest show of the year."

Alley added he estimates about 150 people attended the October 21 Opry Show.

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

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

For more information or to watch past music performances, visit Facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation.

Large-scale farms are mostly family endeavors

Cold. Uncaring. Corporate-owned giants fueled by greed and profits. Those are sometimes the stereotypes invoked when someone hears the words "factory farm."

"There is no real definition for the term 'factory farm,'" explained Hannah Thompson-Weeman, CEO of the Animal Agriculture Alliance. "It's just kind of a pejorative term used to refer to large-scale modern commercial agriculture. It's capitalizing on the fact that a lot of people aren't directly connected to agriculture."

The reality is that farming and food production are still a family endeavor, as 98% of U.S. farms are family owned. Additionally, family farms accounted for 83% of total production in 2021, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

While the agricultural landscape has modernized over time, with farms getting larger to feed growing populations, 89% of U.S. farms are small family farms, according to the USDA.

Additionally, the term "factory farm" usually invokes images of crowded cattle yards, but this is an oversimplification of one part of animal agriculture: the feedlot.

Cattle farming encompasses various stages, with feedlots being the final step before processing, explained Margaret Ann Smith, owner of Southlex Cattle Company and a sixth-generation farmer. In addition to running her own livestock operation, Smith works on her family's multigenerational farm, Smith Farms of Rockbridge County, which

has been raising crops and livestock for over 150 years.

While most cattle eventually go to a feedlot to be fed grain for finishing and weight gain, they spend most of their lives grazing on pasture, Smith explained.

"Seventy-five percent of their life is on a grass-based diet. Only a small portion of their life is spent in a feedlot," she said.

Smith noted that feedlots follow science-backed practices, are managed under strict regulations, have third-party auditing, and employ specialized staff like veterinarians and nutritionists who look after the livestock—ensuring they're healthy and stress-free.

"When you see cattle bunched up, that's just what they do—it's their

herd instinct," Smith said. "Even though they may have a huge amount of room in a feedlot, they instinctively want to go stand on top of each other."

Farms come in many sizes, and the families behind them play a vital role in feeding consumers and providing a range of high-quality products—all while employing innovations and best practices to remain good stewards of their animals and the environment.

"There are so many different options available to you because of the amount of diverse production we have in our agriculture community," Thompson-Weeman said. "There are people at the heart of this who are making the best decisions they can for their animals, for their land and ultimately for consumers. It's their livelihood."

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Launch of Virginia's Insurance Marketplace Connects Virginians to Affordable Health Insurance

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) announced the November 1 launch of Virginia's Insurance Marketplace, which replaces HealthCare.gov as the Commonwealth's official health benefit exchange. Virginia residents can enroll now in health insurance for 2024 on Virginia's Insurance Marketplace during the Open Enrollment Period, which ends January 15, 2024.

Virginia's Insurance Marketplace was created by Virginia, for Virginians. The Health Benefit Exchange, a division of the SCC, operates Virginia's Insurance Marketplace.

"We work every day to better understand the unique needs of individuals and families in our state, and we have created a marketplace that connects them to high-quality, affordable health care coverage they can depend on," said Keven Patchett, director of Virginia's Insurance Mar-

ketplace.

The goal of Virginia's Insurance Marketplace is to increase access to affordable and reliable health coverage for Virginians.

"We have had the privilege of working closely with state agencies, health insurance carriers, insurance agents, navigators and our technology vendor, GetInsured, to make this transition a reality for Virginia," said Patchett. "We look forward to continuing these relationships as we work together to improve access to coverage for Virginians, reduce the number of uninsured, and support the continuity of coverage for those experiencing coverage transitions."

"Transitioning to a state-based exchange is no small feat," said Chini Krishnan, CEO of GetInsured. "Transitioning from the federal marketplace will put the Commonwealth in a strong position for the upcoming

Open Enrollment Period and beyond, allowing the state more flexibility to provide the best access to affordable coverage for Virginians."

Individual and family plans are available to eligible Virginians, including those who are unemployed, are self-employed, or have jobs that don't provide affordable insurance options. Residents who have lost Medicaid or FAMIS coverage are also encouraged to shop for affordable insurance on the Marketplace.

The Marketplace is the only place where Virginians can apply for financial assistance to help lower their monthly insurance costs. Nearly 9 out of 10 customers qualify for financial assistance.

Every health plan offered on the Marketplace covers the 10 essential health benefits required by law, which include doctor visits, hospitalization, prescription services and

more.

To get started, Virginians can visit Marketplace.Virginia.gov to browse and compare health insurance plans. For additional help — either online or in person — Virginians can access the following resources:

The Marketplace Help Center can connect Virginians to someone either in person or on the phone. Free translation services are also available.

The FAQ page answers some of the most common questions about the Marketplace.

For Virginians to receive coverage during 2024 through the Marketplace, they must enroll in a health plan at Marketplace.Virginia.gov by January 15, 2024. After January 15, Virginians experiencing a Qualifying Life Event (such as having a baby or losing health insurance coverage) may be eligible to enroll during a Special Enrollment Period.

Virginia agency in charge of medical cannabis program can't provide sales data

By Nicole Staab
Capital News Service

No agency tasked with management of the state's medical cannabis program can cite sales data, but the Cannabis Control Authority said it plans to start tracking revenue in 2024.

Medical marijuana became legal in 2020 and the first dispensary opened in Bristol that year. There are now over 20 dispensaries across the state.

The state Board of Pharmacy, which falls under the Virginia Department of Health Professions, currently oversees the medical cannabis program. The CCA will take on its regulatory role in January.

Capital News Service asked the VDHP for sales figures, but it recommended checking with the CCA.

But the CCA could not provide the sales data either, though CNS asked multiple times because numerous sources pointed to them.

The authority is limited to access of the medical cannabis program data because they're not the current regulator, according to chief officer Jeremy Preiss.

The BOP has no statutory authority to collect the financial data, according to spokesperson Diane Powers. It tracks the number of times a product is dispensed through the Prescription Monitoring Program. There were 1.7 million dispensations of medical cannabis through September this year. Overall, there has been a "rapid rise" in cannabis dispensations, according to the agency.

CNS asked the BOP about the average price of items dispensed, but were told the agency "has no regulatory authority to set or monitor prices," and to contact the CCA.

The VDHP does track revenue gen-

erated from fees charged to processors, providers and patients who paid registration and participation fees. A patient no longer needs to pay to register as of last year, which helps explain lower revenue last fiscal year.

Licensure fees must cover all the expenses associated with the program, according to Powers.

The total revenue from the last three fiscal years:

FY 2021 - \$1,837,745.00
FY 2022 - \$2,581,997.30
FY 2023 - \$620,709.91

The total expenditures from the last three fiscal years:

FY 2021 - \$583,902.03
FY 2022 - \$1,109,530.53
FY 2023 - \$1,269,195.45

The program's expenses included shared services, finance, enforcement, human resources and information technology.

The Maryland Cannabis Administration tracks and reports the monthly revenue and expenditures, the number of patients and total dispensary sales, and presents the information to the public.

The Washington D.C. Alcohol Beverage and Cannabis Administration tracks the same information, as well as the number of Virginia patients who make purchases.

The CCA would only respond to written questions.

"The CCA is committed to building systems and processes that will enable us to track sales and report data once we assume regulatory oversight in 2024," Preiss stated. "We plan to share collected sales data publicly as soon as we have the capability to do so."

Virginia's medical cannabis program was projected to earn approximate-

ly \$50 million by 2024, according to MJBIZ — a publication covering cannabis business news since 2011.

Pharmaceutical processors are permitted facilities that grow cannabis plants and dispense medical products to patients. The companies that provide medical cannabis in the state have all reported increased earnings and growth in the state, according to recent reports filed to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

CNS contacted the state's cannabis processors: Green Thumb, which owns Dharma Pharmaceuticals; Columbia Care, which also owns Green Leaf Medical; and Jushi, which owns Dalitso. Only Dalitso responded, but would not provide sales data. The spokesperson said to contact the Board of Pharmacy.

Columbia Care listed the state as a top market and reported that revenue grew more than 25%.

Del. Dawn Adams, D-Richmond, supported legislation to decriminalize cannabis and create recreational and medical markets in Virginia. As a nurse practitioner, she operates a business that certifies medical cannabis patients.

Adams would like to see the CCA present a comprehensive revenue and expenditure audit from the inception of the medical cannabis program through December, she said.

The program and state have generated and provided millions of dollars, according to Adams.

"The question is, where are those funds and what are they funding currently?" she said. "And what is the remainder of those funds and how will those be appropriated to the CCA?"

State lawmakers carved almost \$6 million of funding from the CCA in September.

The CCA is now budgeted \$5.3 million for its operations, which is \$2.9 million less than it was given last year. The authority was originally created in anticipation of the recreational cannabis market that lawmakers voted down, so some of its scope has changed.

"The budget is not really necessarily problematic, I think they have the funds to do what they need to do right now," Adams said about the CCA.

Some of the budget cuts would have originally funded zero and low interest loans for licensees participating in an adult-use retail market, according to Preiss, but lawmakers never passed a recreational market.

The CCA has an 18-member team preparing to take control of the medical program, and plans to hire a few more people. To prepare for a smooth transition, the agency has developed the regulations and guidance documents to administer the medical cannabis program.

In addition to its upcoming regulatory role, the agency releases publications and social media posts about how to engage with cannabis legally and safely. It also has a campaign to promote safe driving.

Another top priority is to get a licensed pharmaceutical processor into Health Service Area 1, Preiss stated. The Northwest region of the state has been without a medical cannabis market due to a lawsuit that was resolved earlier this year.

The CCA will invest in new technology such as Seed-to-Sale software to help "enhance the security of the medical cannabis program." It can identify contaminated products to ease removal and is intended to enhance consumer protection and public health, Preiss stated. The software also detects if cannabis is diverted out of the program or illicit cannabis enters the program.

The CCA, as part of its policy work, advises the General Assembly on "various aspects of cannabis" when a bill is being drafted or after introduction, according to Preiss. The agency has started the dialogues for potential legislation in 2024, and is near completion with a requested study due on Nov. 30 about possible medical cannabis program expansion.

"This is not easy work, and we are fortunate to have a sharp, long-time state government executive leading these efforts," Preiss stated.

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

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Spooktacular 2023 – A Frightful Success



A huge banner welcomed attendees to Spooktacular 2023. (Photos by Pat Delaney)



Rebecca Adcock, executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, poses with an alien visitor.



Members of Mercy Church used a Rubik's Cube, an MTV logo and Pac Man and Ms. Pac Man to pull their retro 1980s look together.



Crowds of eager trick or treaters and costumed creatures of all ages were drawn to the Patrick County Young Professional's 2023 Spooktacular.



THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

Meet Our Providers

Joseph C. Campbell, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Campbell is originally from the town of Buena Vista, Virginia. He attended college at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va. and Medical School at the University of Virginia Medical School in Charlottesville, Virginia. He did his residency in Orthopedic Surgery at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda Maryland. He was a staff Orthopedic Surgeon at Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, NC 1997-1999. Orthopedic areas includes General Orthopedic Surgery. Special Orthopedic Interests include Sports Medicine, Arthroscopic Surgery, Foot and Ankle surgery. Dr. Campbell is a board certified Orthopedic Surgeon.

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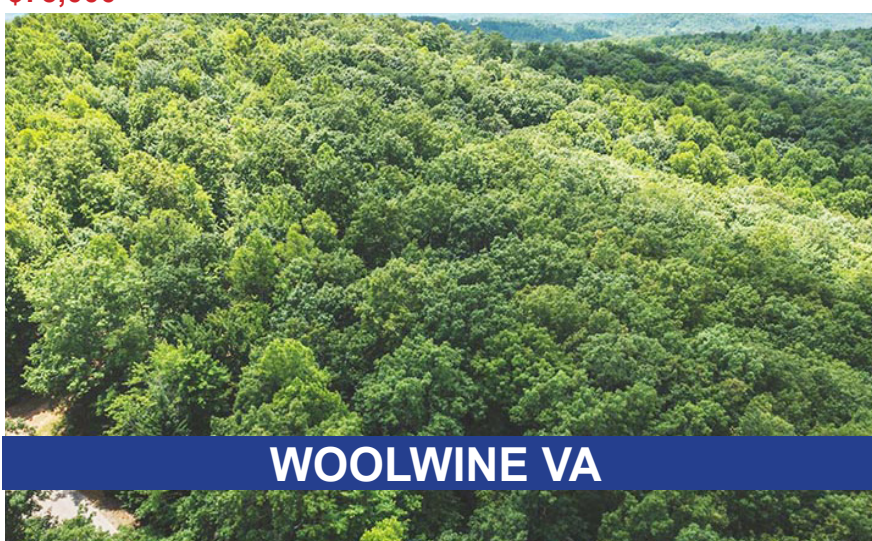
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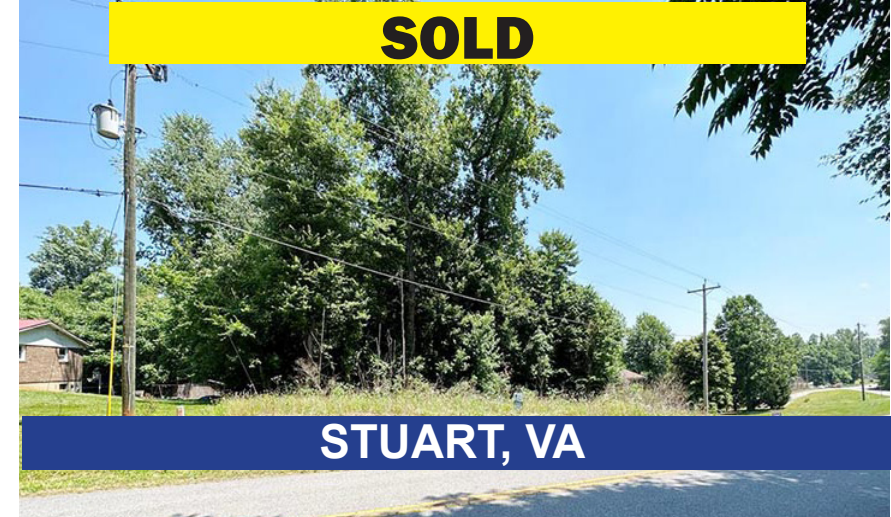
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MEADOWS OF DAN, VA

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.

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