



# THE ENTERPRISE

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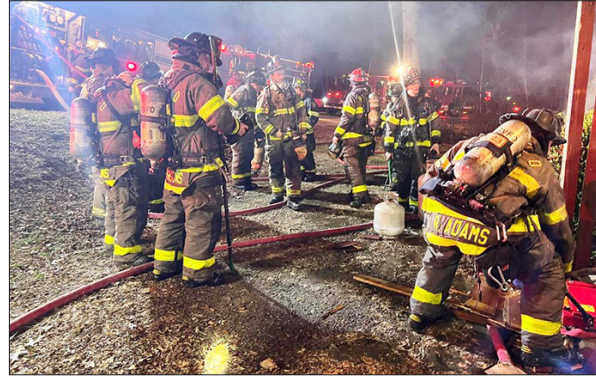
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**VOICE OF THE PEOPLE SINCE 1876 | Dedicated to serving the communities of Patrick County**

## Fire crews respond to the first blaze of the new year



Local volunteer agencies responded to a house fire in the Patrick Springs area on January 3.



Fire crews had the blaze under control in about 10 minutes.



About 400 gallons of water were used to extinguish the blaze.

**By Taylor Boyd**  
 Volunteer firefighters responded to a house fire at 783 Dogwood Road in the Patrick Springs area on Wednesday, January 3.

Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Clint Weidhaas said crews were dispatched to a working house fire at 11:07 p.m.

"Upon engine 23's arrival with a crew of five we found a single-story wood frame home with a basement with fire in two rooms of the front of the home," he said.

Weidhaas said a single female occupant was at home at the time of

the fire. She was able to get out safely. There was also a report of a dog trapped inside the home.

"Engine 23 split their crew, and two members made a fire attack while two other members simultaneously searched the residence for the missing pet. That pet was not located and was not inside the residence," he said.

The fire was brought under control within 10 minutes with the use of only one attack line, Weidhaas said. Volunteers used about 400 gallons of water to extinguish the fire.

"Two rooms of the residence sus-

tained fire damage while the remainder of the residence was damaged heavily by smoke and soot," he said.

Weidhaas believes the fire was started by an improperly used propane space heater that was sitting in the middle of the kitchen floor which was hooked to a cooking grill propane-type cylinder.

The homeowner did not have insurance on the home, he said, adding he estimated there was at least \$50,000 of damage to the home.

"Because of their (Patrick Springs's) recent aggressive training and quick response to calls we

were able to bring this fire under control quickly," he said.

Weidhaas said Patrick Springs responded with 13 people, Stuart Volunteer Fire Department was the second due fire company and arrived on the scene with an engine, a ladder truck, and a crew of seven.

Moorefield Store Volunteer Fire Department and Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department also responded with personnel and apparatus for water supply.

Jeb Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad and Station 8 provided ambulances at the scene.



Lauren Worley, center, is pictured with her parents, Chris and Mandy Worley. Lauren is recovering following a December 16 car accident.

## Lauren Worley's family says support is helping them through ordeal

**By Taylor Boyd**  
 Lauren Worley's knack for bringing people together is apparent, even as she recovers from the severe injuries she received when the vehicle she and her boyfriend, Micah Underwood, were traveling in when it was struck head-on.

Lauren's dad, Chris Worley, said the family would not have made it through the ordeal that began on December 16 without the support

of the community and their friends.

"My wife and I, and my whole family, we are lucky that we have so many friends and immediate family that's offered prayers of support, and we've had hundreds of visitors," he said.

So far Lauren has had five surgeries to treat her injuries, including a cranioplasty for her cracked frontal lobe injury, a craniectomy to

(See Lauren Worley p. 3)

## Town awarded a \$990,000 grant for downtown revitalization project

**By Taylor Boyd**  
 The Town of Stuart recently received a \$990,272 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Virginia Department of Housing.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said last year, the town also applied for a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The two grants are for the entire Downtown Stuart Revitalization project.

"Elements of the Downtown Revitalization plan identified improvements to the (Stuart) Farmers' Market, improved parking, façade improvements, and the sort of the critical project is the mega deck that's supposed to go behind the properties along Patrick Avenue. It will tie all of those properties together for community space," Simmons said.

Simmons said the mega deck also would improve access by meeting elements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and emergency access to those buildings and

properties.

He hasn't received the award letter yet, and "until we actually have the contract signed, it's hard for me to say when we can actually begin" work on the project, he said.

Simmons anticipates the award letter will be delivered sometime this week.

"I anticipate that within the next month, we will start looking for consultants to do the design," he said.

The grant application was a partnership between the town and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC).

"I couldn't have done it without them," Simmons said and added the WPPDC will be the grant manager for the project.

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith- R-Salem said the grant will bolster Stuart.

"This grant provides us a reminder that our rural town economic centers remain a vital necessity," he said in a release announcing the grant award.

## Stuart man held in spate of larcenies

A Stuart man is in custody following an investigation of multiple larcenies and vandalisms in the Virginia 8 south and Clark House Farm areas of Patrick County, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith. The incidents were reported in that area of the county between December 20-24, including breaking and entering at the Five Forks Wesleyan Church parsonage, Smith alleged.

Authorities conducted extensive surveillance and investigative work, including the execution of multiple search warrants, according to the sheriff, and one man was charged in connection with the incidents. Items seized as a result of those search warrants allegedly link a person to numerous crimes, the sheriff stated.

Logan Eugene Beville, 25, is being held without bond on a charge of possession of stolen property.

"Investigators Jason Kruse and Oscar Tejada, along with numerous patrol deputies, poured an enormous amount of effort into solving



Logan Eugene Beville

this series of crimes," Smith said in a Sunday release. "We are fortunate to have such dedicated law enforcement professionals in our county."

He added that multiple felony charges are forthcoming, and asked anyone with information about the alleged incidents to call him confidentially at (276) 692-7012.

## School bus driver retires after 50 years

**By Gabrielle Walker**  
 Born and raised in Rocky Mount, Shelia "Cookie" Lawson now lives in Woolwine, where for 50 years, she has served Woolwine Elementary School as a bus driver. Nobody knows where the name "Cookie" came from. Her sister Bonnie Smith explains that Cookie was just what her mom always called her.

"She loved to work in the yard with our dad," Smith says. "Loved getting on the tractor. She preferred helping him on the farm over housework."

Their dad raised hogs, and Cookie would help with butchering.

"We'd be standing in the snow about to freeze to death cutting up meat," Smith said. After graduating from Franklin County High School, Cookie enjoyed racing in powderpuff derbies. She went to work in Bassett, where she met her husband, Ed, who also liked to race on dirt tracks. After marriage, the couple built a house close to Fairy Stone State Park.

Lawson began working in the cafeteria at Woolwine Elementary School when her sons were young, and she was able to have them with her. She started driving a school bus for extra money, and when her



Cookie Lawson has served 50 years as a bus driver.

sons were in school, she stopped working in the cafeteria but kept driving. According to her niece, Martha Holloway, Cookie can "back that bus on a dime."

"She's a strict bus driver, but the kids like her," Holloway said. "She's very attentive to them and their parents."

"Throughout her five decades of

(See Bus Driver p. 7)

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## Free Girl Scout Membership for New Year

Girls across the Virginia Skyline Council region can kick-off the new year with a year of fun and friendships when they join Girl Scouts for FREE! Now until March 1, girls in K-12th grades can join their local Girl Scouts with a free membership.

Finding a local troop is just the beginning of an unforgettable journey for girls. Once a girl joins, she'll develop lifelong bonds with her special group of Girl Scouts, as

well as learn new skills, explore the outdoors, go on cool discovery trips, and help the local community.

Girls can also download for free an activity book to see what being a Girl Scout is all about with her new year of discovery: [www.gsvsc.org/learn-more](http://www.gsvsc.org/learn-more)

Start the new year off by finding your forever friends and the fun of girls together. Sign-up free here: [www.gsvsc.org/fun](http://www.gsvsc.org/fun) or call 540-777-5100 or email [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org).

## WPPDC Commissioners appoint Eberly to lead agency



"The West Piedmont region is on the cusp of so many great things. People on all levels are working to recruit business and industry, expand educational opportunities, improve broadband access, expand housing choices, grow the tourism industry, and support local small business and the West Piedmont PDC is proud to be a partner in these endeavors," Eberly said.

"We will continue to partner with our local governments and regional organizations to secure state and federal funding, strengthen our communities and make the most of the opportunities available," she said. "I am honored and grateful to be appointed executive director and look forward to collaborating with our partners on new projects and programs to benefit our communities. I chose to make rural Virginia my home and was so fortunate to discover the West Piedmont region and all it has to offer."

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) Board of Commissioners selected Kristina (Kristie) Eberly to serve as the next executive director at a November 30 meeting.

Eberly began her duties on December 1, following Michael Armbrister, who served as the executive director for three years.

Eberly joined the Planning District Commission in November 2020 and served as the Associate Director, Regional Programs Director and Interim Executive Director. Before joining the WPPDC, Eberly spent more than 16 years with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland as Executive Coordinator focusing on economic development, grant writing and administration and legislative activities. She also has experience as Grants Administrator for two Maryland cities, Crisfield and Pocomoke.

"The West Piedmont Board is excited that Ms. Eberly has accepted the position," stated Jim Adams, chairman of the WPPDC. "We have full confidence in her abilities to steer the WPPDC into the future and carry on the PDC's collaborative efforts with communities to help them achieve their goals."

The West Piedmont Planning District is a regional planning organization serving the counties of Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania; the cities of Danville and Martinsville; and the Town of Rocky Mount.

## First Baby of 2024 welcomed at TCRH

Twin County Regional Healthcare rang in 2024 with the year's first bundle of joy. Weighing 7 pounds and 5 ounces and measuring 21 inches, baby boy, Beson, was born to Brittany and Bruce, on Thursday, Jan. 4, at 1:05 a.m.

Dr. Carlos Blattner, OB/GYN was the attending physician and Dr. Mary Meyers was the attending pediatrician for the baby. A gift basket was presented to the mother and baby from Twin County Regional Healthcare. Additional items were donated by Curtis Bartlett Fitness Center, Schewels, Chapters Bookstore, Adam's Jewelry and Guynn's Furniture.

Brittany said, "We could not have asked for more from the staff at Twin County Regional Healthcare. The nurses helped me through every step, and I am so incredibly grateful to them. We felt safe and in the best hands and the staff really made this a good experience for our family."

"Twin County Regional Healthcare Women's Health Unit is committed to providing high-quality care close to home for new and expecting parents," said Sudandra Ratnasamy, Chief Executive Officer of Twin County Regional Healthcare "TCRH provides an outstanding

team of clinical and support staff to bring new life into this world and our community year-round."

Located at 200 Hospital Drive, Galax Virginia, the Women's Center at Twin County Regional Healthcare provides high-quality, compassionate care close to home for new and expecting parents in the region. The Center offers private rooms, dedicated medical staff, breastfeeding support, a nursery, and 24-hour pediatrician coverage. To learn more or to schedule an appointment, call 800.424.3627 or visit [www.TCRH.org](http://www.TCRH.org).

## Pets of the Week



This little black lab mix puppy will be hard to see because he will blend right in with a black background. He is sad because his litter mates have all gotten homes and he wants a home too.

Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259 for more information. 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.

This double toed Polydactyl cat is at Clove Cat Rescue waiting for a home. Call the rescue at (276) 694-3598 for more information.



New Year Baby family along with TCRH OB Team



New Year Baby Family

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# 2024

CREWS

ROBERTSON

AREY

JOHNSTON

STONE

**JAN 26 & 27**  
**MARTINSVILLE, VA**  
**FRI 12PM-5PM SAT 9AM-3PM**  
**6611 A.L. PHILPOTT HWY**

# Lauren Worley

(cont. from page 1)



Lauren Worley has endured five surgeries since the December 16 crash.

control her brain swelling, femur surgery, and on January 2, jaw surgery. All of the surgeries were successful.

"She is a miracle," Worley said. Lauren is now "out of the critical phases, and she's getting ready to start the rehab phases."

He explained that Lauren is still on her pain medications, and will not leave the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) until she is completely weaned off of them. He speculates that will be 5 to 7 days.

"At that time, once she's off," they'll "be able to let her go down to the PCU (Progressive Care Unit) or step-down unit somewhere in the hospital," he said.

Also on January 3, Lauren's physical and occupational therapists started meeting with her, and she is expected to start rehabilitation soon.

Lauren has come a long way since the night of the accident which Worley described the incident as every parent's worst nightmare.

"It was a scene out of a horror movie," he said, adding that a location app, Life 360, used by the family, led him and his wife, Mandy to the scene.

"I actually helped lift the roof of the car because when the Jaws of Life stopped working, we had to use a Sawzall to get the roof off. I helped the firefighters lift the roof off," Worley said.

The couple's other two daughters were also on the scene. Kendra Worley, his 15-year-old, was with Mandy, and Natalie, the 11-year-old, was with him, though she didn't get out of the vehicle.

"Kendra's seen everything, and she's handling it well. Both of our children have been staying with Mandy's sister, Dawn, and Mike Gregory, and they've been trying to help them lead as close to a normal life as they can, obviously," he said.

Worley said Kendra and Natalie both play basketball and go to their practices, games and such to "let them lead as normal life as possible. They are coming up and staying with me and Mandy on the weekends."

Worley said he and Mandy slept in the hospital's waiting room for the first eight days.

"Then when the brain swelling started to subside, we started, we are starting to sleep at the Ronald McDonald House a couple of blocks from the hospital," he said.

The two took a break after 18 days, briefly leaving the Roanoke hospital on Jan. 3 to visit their home and attend Kendra's game.

Worley said the family is forever indebted to the hospital, the Ronald McDonald House, all the doctors, nurses, and first responders.

"It was a blessing they were able to get her out of the car so fast and get her to the hospital so



The vehicle that Lauren Worley and her boyfriend, Micah Underwood, were traveling in is shown after the collision. (Photos from Chris Worley)



Community support was apparent, even at a recent basketball game in which Lauren's sister, Kendra Worley, played. (Photos by Pat Delaney)

fast. It saved her life," he said, adding that the trauma doctor told him that in his seven years "of being up here, he's never seen" anyone with an injury similar to Lauren's live to get to the hospital.

"They're always, unfortunately, DOA (Dead on Arrival) when they get to the hospital," Worley said. "So, she is a miracle."

While he was told that every brain injury is different, Worley said every neurotrauma doctor and nurse at Roanoke Memorial told him that young brains heal, "and young brains can mend and repair nerves and get those neurons firing, but they're all different."

"So, we don't know how long her road to recovery will be. It could be a few months, could be a year, we just don't know, it's too early to tell that," he said.

Continued prayers and community support are what the family most needs now, Worley said.

"Lauren is a miracle, and regardless of how religious you are, our faith is what got us through this as parents. The prayers have been answered. Our prayers have been answered," he said.

Like any parent, Worley said he and Mandy were begging and pleading with God the night of the accident to not take their daughter.

"She's still here, and we're going to be able to take her home one day, which it's a miracle," he said.

During the accident, Worley said Lauren was sitting with her legs crisscrossed in the seat of her car.

"All the metal from the engine that was pushed back was pushed into the seat of her car. If her legs had been in the floorboard, it would have severed her legs, and she would have bled out. She would not have made it," he said.

Worley said it's little things like this that happened that are all little miracles that allowed Lauren to make it to the hospital.

He added the first responders who responded to his daughter's accident have his utmost respect.

"Our county is so blessed to have first responders, volunteer responders, that were able to do this and save lives. It's remarkable, I can't say



To donate to the GoFundMe, go to [www.gofundme.com/f/lauren-worley-medical-expenses](http://www.gofundme.com/f/lauren-worley-medical-expenses).



Chris and Mandy Worley with a teal "Team Lauren Worley" covering.

enough about them," he said.

Worley said he and his family are so grateful for all the gifts, donations, T-shirt drives, and prayers they have received from people in the community, surrounding communities, and churches.

Worley said Grace Baptist Church Pastor Mark Elkin, his family's pastor, told him his 10 p.m. prayer request reached 41,000 people - which shows the sheer amount of people that have been praying for his daughter and following her journey.

"We know she's going to have a testimony to tell one day, me and Mandy will have a testimony on ourselves to tell, and that's okay. We're prepared to take her to anybody that wants to listen when she recovers," he said.

Worley said all he and his family want to ask for is continued prayers for Lauren's recovery process and her rehab.

"As far as gifts, you know, it's going to take a small U-Haul to get all the stuff we got out of the Ronald McDonald House back to Woolwine. We've been showered with gifts, it's just been unbelievable," he said.

Worley said Underwood suffered a broken femur and a broken wrist. He was released from the hospital after being there for five days. Though he has been resting at home, Worley said Underwood texts him, Mandy, and Kendra several times a day.

"He is a faithful, devout Christian. He is praying every day for Lauren and her road to recovery. I think he understands the severity of her injuries now, he didn't in the beginning," Worley said. "We kind of just didn't tell him while he was in the hospital how severe her injuries were just because we wanted him to try to focus on his injuries."

A GoFundMe to help pay for Lauren's medical expenses raised \$40,182 as of Jan. 9, exceeding the goal of \$25,000.

To donate, go to [www.gofundme.com/f/lauren-worley-medical-expenses](http://www.gofundme.com/f/lauren-worley-medical-expenses).

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# Some Things Never Change

If you thought 2024 would be any different than the first three years of the Biden Administration when it comes to overbearing energy regulations, you thought wrong. The Administration is still fully committed to their Green New Deal objectives, no matter the burden it places on everyday Americans.

Just a few days before the start of the new year, on December 29, the Biden Administration announced new regulations affecting multiple home and commercial appliances. The Department of Energy (DOE) said they have both finalized new energy efficiency standards on home refrigerators and freezers (which were proposed by the agency earlier this year) and have also proposed new standards for commercial fans and blowers.

As you may know, this is just the latest in new regulations on home appliances that the Biden Administration has implemented since the start of their tenure.

As I talked about in an August column, DOE has also announced new regulations for washing machines, gas stoves, dishwashers, air conditioners, electric water heaters, and light bulbs.

Talk about government overreach! Is there any appliance inside your own home the Administration won't meddle with?

In a statement by Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, she wrote that these new regulations are "a testament to the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to lowering utility costs for working families..."

But, according to DOE, when updating their refrigerator, Americans are projected to save just about \$16 per year on their utility bill.

In many cases, because of the new regulations, new appliances will be more expensive. Really? Just to save \$16 per year?

There is also the question of effectiveness. Folks in the 9th District who have updated some of their home appliances have complained to me about the effectiveness of their appliances. Like washing machines that now don't use enough water to properly do the job, thus causing some loads to be washed twice. Or dishwashers that take twice as long to finish their cycles because of new standards.

It should be noted that according to DOE, regulations on refrigerators and freezers are to be implemented in five to six years, depending on the model and configuration of your new appliance.

If this Administration and their left-wing allies in Congress are still in power then, maybe energy prices will be so outrageously high that it may seem worth having an appliance that is less productive than today's appliances.

There is also the manufacturing side. For example, when the Administration announced its new regulations on gas stoves,



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

18 energy and consumer advocacy organizations sent a letter to DOE saying the new regulation would negatively impact consumer choice and is therefore "arbitrary and capricious" while also having little effect on climate change.

Whatever the cost impact on manufacturers is, due to the new regulations announced on December 29, you can bet it will be passed on to the consumer, which drives prices higher.

Additionally, when announcing the proposed new standards for commercial fans and blowers, the agency said the proposed regulations are the first-ever federal regulations for these appliances.

Why did they decide to regulate commercial fans and blowers for the first time?

Because they are following the direction of California, which has established standards for general fans.

While this move is unfortunate, it's not surprising. It seems the Administration and many on the left, including in Virginia, are taking direction from California more and more these days (example: California banning the sale of new gas-powered cars and mandating the sale of new electric cars by 2035).

As O.H. Skinner, the Alliance For Consumers' executive director, rightfully put it, "...this administration isn't just tweaking regulations. They're doing things that effectively ban whole categories of things that exist on the market."

Meaning, it's not just a difference in price Americans will have to deal with, but also, choice. And that choice will be whatever the Biden Administration's government decides is right.

It's time to stop with the overbearing green agenda being pushed by the left, without consideration of the consequences.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I was proud to vote in favor of H.R. 6192, the Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act at a December meeting. It would modify DOE's energy efficient mandate to make sure that consumers actually save money on their utility bills in a reasonable timeframe. I will fight for policies that will protect the average American family's interests. When creating new laws and regulations, we must weigh choices and costs on a similar footing with legitimate environmental concerns.

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 <https://morgangriffith.house.gov/>.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### College Football In Disarray

As a Penn Stater, class of 1963, I was disappointed with the loss to Mississippi in the Peach Bowl, and I was irate with the key Penn State football players who sat out the game. Four of them signed up for the NFL draft and one entered the transfer portal.

These players enjoyed full scholarships during their years at Penn State and were held in high regard as potential graduates.

The current transfer portal system has created the "Wild West" of college football. Players can transfer during the election period, and conceivably transfer schools four times during their college years. This adds tremendous instability to football programs and adversely impacts student-athletes' education.

The four Penn State football players who sat out the bowl game for fear of being injured and losing out on NFL contracts let down the school, the alumni, and themselves, but most of all they let down their teammates, so called "brothers", who relied on them to be there. The dropouts deserted the team. Note: I watched almost all of the bowl games, and there were no injuries that would have impacted future contracts.

College football players should be required to finish the season, including bowl games. Their football scholarships for a given year should stipulate playing in bowl games.

Donald Moskowitz,  
Londonderry, NH

### Empowerment of Iran

(Wall Street Journal, AP News, Washington Post, The Economist, NY Post, MSNBC)

In the wake of the devastating terrorist attack in Israel on Oct. 7, a magnifying glass is now being held up against the Biden administration's destructive and now deadly concessions to Iran. Iran, has spent years calling America the "Great Satan" and telling the world it will wipe Israel off the map.

Iran Funds Hamas: Hamas has made no attempt to hide Iran's involvement in the financing and planning of the attacks. Outlets such as The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal ran articles to confirm Iran's involvement. Yet Secretary of State Antony Blinken maintained President Joe Biden's stance that there was "no direct evidence" that Iran was involved until almost two weeks later.

Biden Stalls Israeli-Saudi Peace Talks: The delay in this recognition is not an accident. The Biden administration has been enabling the Iranian regime since the inauguration, and they are hoping no one will remember. The discovery of Iranian spies in the Department of Defense was cause enough to sound the alarm on this administration. Then came the reports that Biden had thrown a wrench into the Saudi-Israeli negotiations by insisting on concessions to Palestinians, which had not been a part of the discussions. Why would the Biden administration seek to block the progress of the most important alliance for the Western world?

Biden Lifts Oil Sanctions on Iran: The Biden administration has facilitated the release of close to \$20 billion in additional funds to Iran held

in abeyance. But the far bigger and more important issue is that Iran has earned more than \$80 billion in oil exports under Biden's sanctions rollback.

Biden Drains U.S. Reserves: While Iran's oil exports are at five-year highs, Biden has been draining our own Strategic Petroleum Reserves since the lead-up to the midterm elections in 2022. But as inflation continued to soar during his tenure, Biden was quietly releasing supply from the strategic reserves' salt caverns into the domestic market to stop prices gas prices from climbing further. With the strategic reserves already at multi-decade lows and prices too high to replenish, the White House ran out of options. So, Biden went begging for oil because they want to win the 2024 election.

U.S. and Saudi Oil Production Stalls: Saudi Arabia, left in the dirt by this administration, announced they would extend their production cut through the year's end of 2023.

While Biden has allowed Iran to uncap its oil production we have kneecapped our own production. Biden has ended all leases in Alaska and signed the lowest number of offshore oil and gas leases in history. These disastrous policies have stripped our country of its most vital resource while funneling money directly into terrorist hands. Biden has auctioned off our economic security and safety.

The Democrats are borrowing against our future. And that future will be here to collect payment sooner than you think.

Pray for our country.  
William Salser,  
Stuart

# Ararat Ruritan Club installs new officers



Pictured are (left to right, back row) Kevin Smith, treasurer; Mike Noonkester, president; Claude Smith, (3yr) board of directors. Front row, front Donna Fariss (2yr) board of directors; Cathi Clement, secretary; Mary Slate, (1yr) board of directors; Tom Perillo, vice president. (Photo by Mary Dellenback Hill)

## 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.

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## Patrick Pioneers

Dr. Arthur Marion Gates, Sr.  
By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, we looked at John Wesley Gates and Iwanowna Ayres Gates, popular merchants in the Ararat community. Gates' son, Francis Marion Gates helped his father run the store for over fifty years, where they were dealers in groceries, dry goods, boots, shoes, hats, tinware, glassware, and tableware.

Francis Marion Gates married Miss Alice Victoria Scott on the 15th of May 1887. Alice was the daughter of Wolford Scott and Eliza Jane Gilham of the Meadows of Dan area. Francis Marion and Alice Scott Gates had four children, Davis Herman, born in 1888; Nellie, born in 1890; Arthur Marion, born in 1891; and Garrett Hobart Gates, born in 1893. For the rest of this column, we will focus on the life of the son, Arthur Marion Gates, who served his mountain community as a doctor for nearly four decades.

Arthur Marion Gates was born on the 19th of December 1891 in Ararat, Virginia. Gates graduated from Woodlawn High School in Woodlawn, Virginia and then earned his bachelor's degree from Roanoke College in Salem. Dr. Gates received his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia at Richmond in 1919.

On the third of October 1919, Dr. Gates married Miss Maybelle Alline Lowry of Chesterfield County, Virginia; the young couple had met in college where she was training as a graduate nurse. Dr. Gates practiced medicine for a year under the direction of Dr. S. A. Conduff of Mount Airy before going out on his own.

On New Year's eve 1920, Dr. Gates and Maybelle's first child, Arthur Marion Gates, Jr. was born. Their son, Stuart Lowry, was born in April of 1922, followed by Lucille Virginia in March of 1924, Phyllis Maude in February of 1928, and Horace Lowell in 1931.

In addition to bringing more than five thou-



Francis Marion Gates family.

sand babies (including a set of triplets) into the world over the thirty-seven years Dr. Gates practiced medicine, he served as the official coroner for Patrick County.

For the entire time Dr. Gates practiced medicine in the Hollow, he also operated a telephone company with lines ranging throughout the mountain for more than 160 miles. A losing business, he kept the telephone service in operation because he felt the service was needed for many of his patients and neighbors.

Dr. Gates was also the owner of Radio Station WYVE out of Wytheville, Virginia, which was managed by his oldest son, Arthur, Jr. for many years. Dr. Gates and his family attended Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church and were active in Blue Ridge School activities.

Tragedy struck on the 4th of July of 1955; the following is an excerpt for Dr. Gates obituary:

"Dr. Arthur Marion Gates, 63, prominent Patrick County, Virginia physician and civic leader, died at 8pm Monday, July 4th, at his home in Ararat, Virginia. Dr. Gates death was sudden and was a great shock to the people of the community, which he served for so many years. Funeral services for Dr. Gates will be held today at 2pm at the Blue Ridge Presby-



Dr Arthur Marion Gates. (Photos courtesy of Shelby Inscore Puckett.)

terian Church by Reverend Granville Guynn and Reverend Glenn Williams. His young son, Corporal Horace Gates, was in Germany at the time of the father's death and will be unable to attend the funeral."

"The doctor suffered an attack in his office two weeks ago, but the need for his services was so great that he continued his work. He was attending to a patient at his home Monday when he was stricken by a heart attack. Dr. Gates served the citizens of his mountain community for more than 37 years. He was known to have traveled 48 hours at a time without rest, attending to his patients for a 25-mile radius of Ararat, Virginia. His services often were extended beyond Hillsville, Virginia and Dobson, North Carolina. His death is a great loss to the community as he was the only active "country doctor" who served this area."

Maybelle outlived two of her children, Stuart Lowry and Horace Lowell, passing away at the age of eighty-three in 1980.

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 - Will My Friend's Fiancée be Entitled to a Survivor Benefit?**

**Dear Rusty:** I have a very good friend who has cancer and will begin chemotherapy this week. He is 71 years old and is currently receiving Social Security benefits. He has been living with his fiancée for a little more than 2 years, but they have been a couple for about 15 years and will be married in the next few weeks. She is 60 years old.

I am naturally concerned about his, and her, future so my questions are:

- What, if anything, should he and his wife do to ensure that she gets his Social Security benefits?

- What benefits will she be entitled to, and how soon will she be able to begin receiving them after his death?

*Signed: A Friend with Questions*

**Dear Friend:** You are kind to be concerned about your friend and his fiancée. Here's what you need to know:

Social Security goes by state rules when it comes to what is often referred to as "common law marriage." That means that whether your friend's fiancée will receive any benefits as a surviving spouse in a "common law" relationship depends on whether they live in a state which recognizes common law marriage. Most

states do not, but state laws have changed over the years and many states which once recognized such unions as "marriage" no longer do. Although they may have "been a couple" for 15 years, if your friend and his fiancée have been living together for only two it is likely only the last two years will count for Social Security benefit purposes. So, whether your friend's fiancée will get anything when your friend dies depends on where they live - unless they get married, in which case the rules are different.

In order for a married widow(er) to receive surviving spouse benefits, the couple must have been married for at least 9 months. If they marry and your friend lives longer than 9 months thereafter, then his wife will be entitled to a surviving spouse benefit from her husband. The amount of his wife's benefit will be based upon the amount your friend is receiving at his death, adjusted for her age when she claims her surviving spouse benefit.

A surviving spouse can claim benefits from the deceased as early as age 60, but those benefits will be reduced for claiming before full retirement age (FRA). Taken at age 60, the wife's benefit would be 71.5% of your friend's SS benefit at his death. The wife need not claim the survivor benefit immediately; she could opt to delay claiming in order to get a higher percentage of the husband's amount. Survivor benefits reach maximum - 100% of the deceased's benefit amount - at the recipient's FRA.

So, if your friend and his fiancée now live in a

state which currently recognizes common law marriage (CO, IA, KS, MT, NH, SC, TX, UT, RI, or in the District of Columbia), then your friend's partner will be considered his "wife" and entitled to survivor benefits as normal (the fiancée would need to prove they cohabitate in a marriage-like relationship to claim benefits).

If they do not live in one of those states, but they get married and the marriage lasts for at least 9 months, then the wife will be entitled to normal benefits as a surviving spouse (as described above).

But if the couple do not live in one of the above states which recognize "common law" relationships, or if their soon-to-occur marriage doesn't last at least 9 months, or if they do not get married, I'm afraid your friend's partner will not be entitled to any survivor benefits from your friend.

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

# It's Official: Processed Food is Bad For Your Heart

A recent study confirmed what we knew all along is true: that the increased consumption of ultra-processed foods correlates directly to bad cardiovascular health.

Researchers at the US Centers for Disease Control in November 2019 released their findings after analyzing data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which collected data between 2011 and 2016 from 13,446 adults, 20 years of age and older, who completed a 24-hour dietary recall and answered questions about their cardiovascular health.

Researchers found that for every 5% increase in consumption of ultra-processed foods, there was a corresponding decrease in cardiovascular health. Subjects who consumed less than 40% or of their calories from ultra-processed foods had double the chance of having "ideal" heart health compared to people who ate 70% or more of their

calories from ultra-processed foods.

Ultra-processed foods are defined as foods that are made of processed and extracted ingredients such as: fats, sugars, hydrogenated fats, artificial flavors, colors, emulsifiers, modified starch and other compounds. Examples include packaged snacks, packaged ramen, packaged pastas/rice meals, canned and powdered soups, cakes, cookies, white bread, processed meats, chicken nuggets, most breakfast cereals, and most "convenience" or "fast" food restaurants including many sit-down restaurants that claim fresh food, but are really serving pre-cooked, pre-packaged dishes that are microwaved minutes before being put on a nice plate for serving.

"Ideal" cardiovascular health is defined by the American Heart Association's Life's Simple 7 as measures of healthy blood pressure, cholesterol and blood glucose levels, avoidance of tobacco products, good nutrition, healthy body weight

and adequate physical activity. Over time, just the simple step of avoiding processed food improves your heart health to ideal levels.

So, in the new year, resolve to stay away from sugar-sweetened beverages, cakes, cookies, chocolates and other quick food and resolve to eat more whole foods like fruits and vegetables. Instead of a bowl of chips, replace with a bowl of carrots. Instead of cookies and cakes, replace them with bananas, apples, oranges and plums. Instead of a microwaveable dinner or a fast-food restaurant, bake a potato, steam some vegetables, eat a salad. Learn to make a hearty soup. Cook up beans or lentils. Make dessert fresh fruit or a fresh fruit smoothie. Determine to eat fresh, whole foods and your heart will thank you!

(Submitted by Betty Perry. Used by permission from [www.lifeandhealth.org](http://www.lifeandhealth.org) Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

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# Lady Cougars win "gritty" game against Radford



Allanah Mitchell puts up a shot between two Bobcat players.



Lady Cougar defenders surround the ball.



The Lady Cougar defense was solid all night.



Kendra Worley battling for the loose ball.



Lily Hazelwood pushes the ball downcourt.



Kimora Wimrush goes past two Bobcats for the basket.

**By Pat Delaney**

Tony Mosley, head coach of the Lady Cougars basketball team, summed up the hard fought 53-42 win against Radford on January 5 in three words: "That was gritty."

The game was hard fought throughout, with both teams playing aggressive, physical defense, and battling over every rebound or loose ball. There were times during the game where the Lady Cougars struggled, but their effort and determination never wavered.

In a game that was close through much of the first three quarters, it was that effort that ultimately carried them to the victory.

For much of the first half, it was a back-and-forth game contest. Both teams played a tight defense, which didn't allow either team to string together any sizable runs. The Lady Cougars held a narrow lead through much of the second quarter and finished with a 4-0 run to take a 30-23 lead into the break.

The third quarter started slowly for Patrick County. Against the Bobcat defense, the Lady Cougars struggled to get the ball into the paint, while turnovers and missed free throws helped Radford go on a 15-3 run. With 1:07 to go in the quarter, Radford led 38-33.

Following a timeout, the Lady Cougar defense, which had been solid all night, shut down the Bobcats. The Patrick County full court pressure created turnovers that turned into points. The Lady Cougars outscored the Bobcats 10-0 in the last minute of the quarter, capped off by a three-pointer by Kendra Worley that got the Cougar faithful to their feet.

"That last minute of the third quarter, we went on a run and that's exactly what we needed. It was like a booster shot for us," said Coach Mosley, whose team went into the fourth quarter leading 43-38 and never gave up the momentum.

The Lady Cougars started the fourth where

they left off in the third, playing a smothering defense that rarely gave the Bobcats an uncontested shot. Midway through the fourth, the lead had grown to ten points at 51-41, and would not shrink. Patrick County played a smart, final few minutes, controlling the ball and giving Radford precious few chances on offense. The Bobcats would score just four points in the final quarter, with the Lady Cougars taking the hard fought win, 53-42.

On the night, Kendra Worley's 15 points and 4 rebounds led the Lady Cougars. Kimora Wimrush had 8 points, while Allanah Mitchell added 7 points. Patrick County was solid on the boards all night, with Lily Hazelwood pulling down a team-leading 12 rebounds. Aniya Penn chipped in 7 rebounds along with 5 assists.

"I'm proud of our effort," Coach Mosley said of his team following the game. "Hopefully we can continue to build on these tough wins and stay mentally tough."

## Sports Briefs

**By Ashlee Mullis**

**Varsity Girls Get Easy Win**

The Varsity Lady Cougars sailed to an easy 47-5 victory when they hosted Glenvar, Wednesday, January 3. Aniya Penn had 10 points, 2 rebounds, and 5 steals in the win. Lilly Hazelwood had 9 points, 5 rebounds, and 1 assist. Kendra Worley had 8 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 steals. Kimora Wimrush had 8 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, and 1 block.

**JV Girls Get Win Over Glenvar**

The JV Lady Cougars got a 35-18 win against Glenvar, Wednesday, January 3. Gracen Conner led the Cougar offense with 13 points, 5

steals, 2 assists, and 1 rebound.

Chloe Hubbard had 4 steals, 6 rebounds, and 4 points. Aubreigh Large had 4 rebounds, 2 steals, and 1 point. Martina Hubbard had 4 steals, 1 assist, and 4 points. Lauren Hazelwood led the team in steals with 8 steals and had 2 rebounds and 2 points.

"I am very proud of how my ladies share the ball and work together as a team. We recently lost a player to an injury, and we pulled up a middle school player. The ladies are adjusting and working hard in practice. I am really proud of them," said Coach Grace Helms.

**JV Lady Cougars Beat Radford**

The JV Lady Cougars got a big 35-30 win over Radford, Friday, January 5. The Cougars got behind after the tip off but came back to have an 11-6 lead at the end of the 1st. The PC defense stepped up in the 2nd, allowing only 2 Radford points.

Chloe Hubbard had 5 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 block, and 9 points. Gracen Conner had 5 steals, 3 assists,

8 points, and 2 rebounds. Meredith Wood had 2 rebounds, 1 steal, and 4 points. Lacey Sutphin had 4 points, 1 steal and 1 rebound. Lauren Hazelwood had 7 steals, 3 points, 2 rebounds, and 1 assist.

Coach Grace Helms said, "I am so proud of these ladies for putting in the work. We get better each game. I am loving coaching them."

## PCHS Sports Schedule

Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of 12-18:

- 1/12 5:30p Girls Basketball vs Carroll County  
7pm Boys Basketball vs Carroll County  
TBA Wrestling Tournament (site TBA)
- 1/13 TBA Wrestling Tournament (site TBA)
- 1/16 7pm Boys Basketball at James River
- 1/17 7pm Girls Basketball vs James River  
TBA Wrestling Quad (site TBA)

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# Bus Driver

(cont. from page 1)



Cookie Lawson has served 50 years as a bus driver.

Cookie Lawson and her husband, Ed.

service, Mrs. Lawson has not only transported our students safely to and from school but has also become an enduring figure in the lives of many," Woolwine Elementary Principal Jeannie King Hubbard said. "Her warm smile, genuine kindness, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of our students have made her a cherished member of our school family."

Lawson's character shines both on and off the bus. Outside of work, she remains involved in the community. She loves her church, Christian Faith Baptist Church in Ferrum. She's part of the choir, cans food, and works out in the yard.

"She's a very Christian woman," Holloway said. "She tries to help take care of her neighbors."

Lawson made fried apple pies for years for the nursing home and others. If she found out someone was in need, she would try to find a way to help them with food and clothes, but she's always tried to do it discreetly without bringing attention to herself. Her husband, Ed, worked with the fire department for 45 years, and Cookie helped plan monthly games with small prizes for the community. She also never meets a stranger.

"We'd be at the hospital waiting on somebody, and she would, you know, be talking to all the people asking who they were, and we'd say she was being nosy!" Smith said. "She'd do anything for anybody." She helped tend to their mom when

she had cancer, and "she cleaned and cooked for Dad until he passed away. I don't know what I'd do without her. She's just a kind person, and you can count on her."

After fifty years, Lawson has decided that it's time to retire. She's watched two, and in some cases, three generations of children pass through Woolwine Elementary School.

"Mrs. Lawson was my bus driver when I was a student at WES many years ago, and I always knew she loved and cared for me, and that carried over into my life as an adult," King Hubbard said. "Although this is Cookie's last school year driving a bus, her impact will continue to be felt."

She added "here are 50 words for 50 years that describe our incredible bus driver, Mrs. Lawson: Dedicated, reliable, caring, cheerful, patient, punctual, friendly, compassionate, safety-focused, dependable, experienced, beloved, supportive, trustworthy, positive, nurturing, community-oriented, understanding, respected, diligent, kind-hearted, committed, personable, warm, reliable, skilled, accommodating, cheerful, amiable, considerate, dependable, punctual, trustworthy, patient, supportive, beloved, diligent, safety-conscious, friendly, experienced, caring, professional, reassuring, positive, cooperative, seasoned, outstanding, reliable, remarkable, dedicated, loyal, and valued."

## AITC announces new scholarship opportunity for students

The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom introduced the Doug Stoughton Memorial Scholarship opportunity for graduating high school seniors and current college students pursuing a future in agriculture or education.

Scholarship winners will receive \$1,000 to further their studies at a 2- or 4-year college or university. The scholarship was created in honor of the late Doug Stoughton, a past Virginia Farm Bureau Federation special programs director who had a passion for furthering youth education in agriculture, and who left a lasting impression on both AITC and VFBB.

"Doug was very instrumental in advocating for AITC and agricultural literacy," said Tammy Maxey, AITC executive director. "This scholarship allows us to honor his legacy and the impact he had, while providing an opportunity for students pursuing a career in agriculture or education."

Interested students can apply on-

line at [form.jotform.com/VaAITC/AITCScholarship](http://form.jotform.com/VaAITC/AITCScholarship). Applicants are required to submit a high school transcript and two letters of recommendation.

Additionally, applicants will need to submit personal statements describing their extracurricular activities and community service, leadership experience, interest in agriculture and education, and how the scholarship will benefit them.

Applications are due March 31 and can be emailed to [aitc@vafb.com](mailto:aitc@vafb.com). Scholarship winners will be notified by May 31.

For more information about this scholarship and other AITC initiatives, visit [virginia.agclassroom.org](http://virginia.agclassroom.org).

The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that promotes a greater understanding and appreciation of agriculture through education and outreach activities. To learn more and support, visit [virginia.agclassroom.org](http://virginia.agclassroom.org).

# OBITUARIES

## Arzelle Rogers Anthony

Arzelle Rogers Anthony, 76, of Ridgeway, VA was born in Stuart, VA passed away on January 6, 2024 at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Murray Anthony.

Survived by one son, Byron Anthony (Jami) of Hayes, VA, two brothers, Ricky Rogers (Penny) of Stuart, VA, Stan Rogers of Ridgeway, VA, the extended Anthony family and Sarah Amos, caregiver, friend and the daughter Arzelle never had.

She worked as a homemaker for her loving family and was a member of First Baptist Church of Ridgeway, VA. Throughout her life, she was a member of many organizations and groups including the Ridgeway Jaycettes and



ry County, and Patrick County. Her positive, bubbly personality will be missed by everyone she came in contact with.

A funeral will be held at Critz Baptist Church on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 11:00 am with Reverend Randy Roberts officiating. Burial will follow at the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Critz Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly request that donations be made to Ridgeway District Volunteer Fire Dept RR 641 Ridgeway, VA 24148.

Norris Funeral Services in Stuart is serving the Anthony family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneral.com](http://www.norrisfuneral.com).

the Wednesday Club. She enjoyed square dancing and riding the motorcycle with Murray. They enjoyed traveling to many different places over the years. She enjoyed reading, gardening and canning. Anyone who knew her, knew how much she loved to cook. She was an avid supporter of the local performing arts group in Martinsville, Hen-

## Ruby Mae Hatcher Puckett

Mrs. Ruby Mae Hatcher Puckett, age 81 of Stuart, passed away December 31, 2023 at Northern Regional Hospital in Mount Airy, North Carolina. She was born in Montgomery County on August 3, 1942 to the late Moir J. and Mildred Hughes Hatcher. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Puckett was preceded in death by her husband, James Warren "Bill" Puckett; a sister, Mary Alice Plasters; and a son-in-law, Gary Roberson. She was a Godly woman who was a member of New Hope Church of the Brethren where she loved singing in the choir. She loved everyone. She enjoyed



Adley Mae Francis and James Braxton Francis; two sisters-in-law, Ann Pendleton and Bernice Puckett, both of Stuart; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Mrs. Puckett will be held Friday, January 5, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. at New Hope Church of the Brethren with Pastor Rick Randall officiating. Burial will follow in the John Puckett Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is handling the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

dressing every day as if she was going to church, taking pride in herself and everything around her. She loved being called Nannie by her grandson and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Puckett is survived by her daughter, Linda Roberson of Stuart; a grandson, Chad J. Francis (Amyjoe); two great-grandchildren,

## Jeannie Ilene Thomas

Ms. Jeannie Ilene Thomas, age 79 of Woolwine passed away Sunday, December 31, 2023 at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born in Martinsville on October 4, 1944 to the late Ilene Wood Thomas and Alvis W. Thomas. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by the love of her life, Harlowe Bowling. She graduated from Woolwine High School in 1962 and then from Averette College in 1964. She was a member of Woolwine Methodist Church where she served as pianist for 40 plus years, and also served at Sycamore Baptist Church, as well as many other church functions. She worked several years as Book-



keeper/Office Manager for Clark and Corbett, attorneys at law.

Ms. Thomas is survived by one sister, Jennifer Nowlin (Frankie); an aunt, Crystal Wood, cousin, Beverly Morrison (Sam) and several other cousins; special friends, Gerald and Janet Hylton. Jeannie will be missed by many.

Funeral services for Ms. Thomas will be held Friday, January

5, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Woolwine Methodist Church with Pastor Sandy Wright officiating. Burial will follow in Woolwine Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Smith River Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 122, Woolwine, Virginia 24185, Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 138, Woolwine, Virginia 24185 or to Woolwine Methodist Church, c/o Betty Perry, 10205 Woolwine Hwy., Woolwine, Virginia 24185. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is handling the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

## Mary Marshall Shook

Mrs. Mary Marshall Shook, age 91 of Stuart, passed away Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at the Blue Ridge Therapy Connection in Stuart. She was born in Patrick County on April 6, 1932, to the late Edward Marshall and Clara Cockram Marshall. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Hubert Shook; one son, Roger Dale Shook; two sisters, Beulah Handy, Ina Rakes; and one brother, Willie Marshall. Mrs. Shook was a member of True Gospel Baptist Church. She was a giving and loving person



Roanoke, Roger Dale "R.D." Shook, Jr. and wife, Kelly of Roanoke; two great grandchildren, Justin Shook, Donovan Johnson; one great great grandchild, Ella Shook; one sister, Katherine Boyd of Stuart; and five nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 30, 2023, at 3:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent to [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

who loved spending time with her family, who were her pride and joy.

Surviving are two grandchildren, Victoria Campbell and husband, Rodney of

**Parker James Martin**

Parker James Martin, born on Friday, December 23, 1988, in Martinsville, Virginia, brought joy into the lives of his family from the very beginning. He was welcomed home on a Christmas day by his best friend and big brother, Austin. Parker grew up on Moore Mountain in Moravian Falls, North Carolina with the outdoors as his playground. Countless days were filled with adventures in the woods and by the creek, where he demonstrated compassion for orphaned birds, strays, and wildlife.



many. Finding joy in the outdoors, he also dedicated a part of his life to working as a farmer.

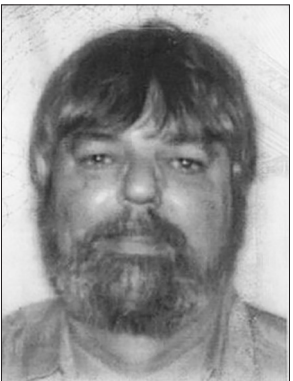
Above all, Parker was known for his unwavering loyalty and commitment to those he loved. A man of his word, he never broke a promise. His most profound relationship was with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, having accepted Christ into his life as a young man and subsequently being baptized into the Baptist faith. Parker's deep faith was a guiding force in his life. He found solace in Christ's love, and the unwavering love and commitment of his family.

On December 18, 2023, Parker passed into eternity, leaving behind a legacy that spanned 12,778 days. Left to cherish his memory are his grieving parents, Heather Martin Leatherman and her husband Bri-

an of Moravian Falls, as well as his father Roger Martin (Monica) from Walnut Cove, NC. Parker leaves behind his devoted brothers, Austin Martin (Sarah) and Spencer Leatherman, both from Moravian Falls, NC, and his sisters, Morgan Martin from Hickory, NC, and Jordan Leatherman-Martin (Garrett) and Alexandria Leatherman from the family home. Parker is also survived by his grandparents: Wade and Junellyn Fortner of Moravian Falls, NC; Tommy Inman of Stuart, VA; and Carson Martin of Patrick Springs, VA. In addition, his favorite uncle, Heath Inman, and son, Louis, along with 'Uncle Parkie's' beloved little nieces, Aina and Rena June Martin, all of Moravian Falls, join the circle of those mourning the loss of this remarkable young man. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 6th, 2023, at 3:00 pm at Reins Sturdivant Funeral Home in North Wilkesboro, NC. The family will be available for visitation from 1:45 to 2:45. Service will be officiated by Pastor Sherrill Welborn. Flowers for Parker will be accepted.

**Dana Edwin "Eddie" Lawson**

Dana Edwin "Eddie" Lawson, 67, of Patrick County, VA, passed away on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at Sovah Health-Martinsville. He was born on July 16, 1956, to the late James Edwin Turner and Opal Lawson Turner. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Sandra Sigmon Lawson; and sister, Samata "Bea" Bevins Joyce.



his brother, Steve Lawson; two stepbrothers, James Rakes and John Rakes; nephew, Samuel Blake Weiss; fur baby, Abby Gail; special friends, Angie and

Morgan; and a host of cousins and friends.

A memorial service will be held at Goodwill Baptist Church, 19 Anthony Dr, Patrick Springs, VA 24133, on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 11:00 AM, with Pastor David Bishop officiating.

Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.bassettfuneralservice.com](http://www.bassettfuneralservice.com). Bassett Funeral Service is serving the Lawson family.

**Lillie Mae Smith Belton**

Mrs. Lillie Mae Smith Belton, age 81 of Stuart, passed away Friday, December 29, 2023, at Northern Regional Hospital in Mt. Airy, NC. She was born on October 20, 1942, to the late William Brockley Smith and Ruby Mae Corns Smith. Lillie was a member of Peters Creek Baptist Church. She loved to cook and bake and loved to share with her friends and fami-

ly. She loved rescuing animals and spending time with her family and friends.

Surviving is a daughter, Allison Belton of Winston-Salem, NC; one brother and sister-in-law, Glenn and Jaunita "Nita" Smith of Mayodan, NC; niece and nephew, Sherri Kallam and husband, Tracy, Bryan Smith; special furbaby, Codi; and special grand furbabies, Sophie and Layla.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Peters Creek Baptist Church with Pastors Terry Ragsdale and Keith Vernon officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Clover Cat Rescue, P.O. Box 829, Stuart, VA 24171, or to the Forsyth Humane Society, 4881 Country Club Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27104. Online condolences may be sent to [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Connie Diane Snow Frazier**

Connie Diane Snow Frazier, 77, of Laurel Fork, Virginia passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home surrounded by family on January 5, 2024.

Connie was born January 4, 1947 to the late Clarence Calvin and Ada Lala Kirby Snow. In addition to her parents, Connie was preceded in death by her siblings, Coy Snow, Bertha Kirby, Evelyn Hodge, Gladese Kirby, and Julie Maxine Stanley.

She is survived by her loving husband of 46 years, JB Frazier; son, Patrick



Frazier; daughter, Virginia Goad Quesenberry (Anthony); grand-daughters, Laken Craighead (Joey) and Amber Powell (Jordan); great-grandchildren, Emerson Craighead, Sawyer Craighead, Bristol Craighead, Sterling

Powell, Finleigh Powell, and Charlotte Powell; brothers, Gene Snow and Leland Snow.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at Vaughan-Guynn-McGrady Chapel in Hillsville, Virginia with Rev. Kenneth Poston officiating. The family will receive friends an hour prior to the service. A guestbook is available online by visiting [www.vaughanguynnandmcgrady.com](http://www.vaughanguynnandmcgrady.com). Vaughan-Guynn-McGrady Chapel is serving the family.

**Wilbur Dale "Willie" Holt**

Mr. Wilbur Dale "Willie" Holt, age 63 of Stuart, passed away at his home January 2, 2024. He was born in Mount Airy, North Carolina to the late Edgar "Edd" and Delcie Holt. In addition to his parents, Mr. Holt was preceded in death by a sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Dean Shelton; niece, Patty Stanley; nephew, Jimmy "Dean" Holt; and beloved dog, Loco. Willie was of the Baptist faith. He enjoyed talking to people, four wheeling, watching NASCAR races, being a Dale Earnhardt fan, gardening, and watching his Tarheels. Anyone who knew Willie knew he loved his homeplace, The Holt Farm and all their family cookouts.



Mr. Holt is survived by his wife of 32 years, Rhonda Payne Holt of the home; two sisters, Patsy Baliles (Benny) of Stuart, Linda Fain (Randall) of Ararat; four brothers, Paul Holt (Janet), Jimmy Holt (Nancy), James Holt, Walter Holt all of Stuart; and nieces and nephews, Mike, Lisa, Scott, Samantha, Jamie, Ashley, Chris, Matthew, Benjie, and

Laura Ann.

Funeral Services for Mr. Holt will be held Monday, January 8, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Stuart with Pastor Tommy Nichols officiating. Burial will follow in the Aarons Corner Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Monday afternoon. In lieu of flowers or food the family requests memorial donations be made to Aarons Corner Church Cemetery Fund, 1543 Aarons Corner Church Road, Lawsonville, NC 27022. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Erin Tamara Russell Slate**

Mrs. Erin Tamara Russell Slate, age 41, of Stuart, Virginia departed this earthly life and gained her angel wings on Friday, January 5, 2024, at UNC Medical Center of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She was born in Maryland on January 17, 1982, to Thomas Bruce Russell and the late Mary Janice Talley Russell. Erin was preceded in death by her mother, Mary Janice Talley Russell. Erin will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend. She loved her children so much and was so very proud of each one of them. She loved animals, especially dogs. She was very strong-willed and strong in her faith. Erin attended Mayo Mountain Church. Erin loved God, her family, and always had a welcoming spirit to everyone she met. Erin will be dearly missed



by all who knew and loved her.

Left to cherish the special memories of Erin Slate are her husband, Mitchell Steve Slate of the home; five children, Carly Rein McKenzie of Norton, Virginia, Lillian Dasia McKenzie of Stuart, Virginia, Elijah Hunter Russell of Wise, Virginia, Noah Gabriel Russell of Wise, Virginia, Steven Isaiah Slate of Stuart, Virginia; three brothers, Patrick Largen Russell of Stuart, Virginia, Brian McGale Russell of Salem, Virginia, Collin Joshua Russell of Stu-

art, Virginia; her father and step-mother, Thomas Bruce Russell (Barbara) of Stuart, Virginia; and several nieces, nephews, and many dear friends.

A funeral service for Mrs. Erin Slate will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 4:00 P.M. at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Stuart with Reverend David Heath officiating. The burial will be private. The family will receive friends two hours prior to the service on Thursday afternoon at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Erin Russell Slate Memorial Fund, c/o Moody Funeral Home, P.O. Box 307, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Slate family, and online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

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**OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON**



# PATRICK PULPITS

## The Answer is God Will

By Evonne Wimbush

Fresh Harvest Christian Church (D.O.C.)

My dad transitioned in August of 2023. Dad was a rock, a man of great wisdom and faith. We spent time together saying nothing but saying so much. We laughed and joked and even in his silence, he taught. I had to get into my mid-forties to finally hear the valuable lessons given in his silence and shown by his actions. Dad was a pastor, a man truly after God's heart.

I do not believe I will ever forget the call I received early on Sunday morning, August 20th, and the calm and loving voice that shared the words, "Evonne, your dad just passed." I have no doubt the short walk from my house to his was the longest I ever took. I still feel the disbelief I had as I entered the home and went to Dad's bedroom. Even though I had already been told he was gone, I called his name, "Daddy. Daddy." My words fell on ears that could no longer hear. The combination of his silence and the cold I felt as I touched his shoulder confirmed my dad had left this earthly place.

Over the course of days, a myriad of thoughts crossed my mind. Who would take care of me now? What about the family dinners? Who would be my covering? Who would sit at the head of my table? What about our side-porch conversations? My dad was gone. Beneath my tears and the sense of loneliness, I didn't think of the faith that we as a family had or the knowledge that God was in control and that He knew...knows best. A ponder moment ... Is this what it would feel like to be separated from God?

It is written in Isaiah 59:2 (KJV), "But your iniquities have separat-

ed between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Verse 9 of the same chapter, "Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness." I don't know about you, but I cannot see a thing in the dark! All kinds of things could happen - falling, animal attacks, walking around aimlessly, becoming disoriented and confused. Verse 10, "We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noon day as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men."

To be separated from God is to be forever shut off from the light for He is the light (1 John 1:5). Second Thessalonians 1:8-9 (MSG), "Those who refuse to know God and refuse to obey the Message will pay for what they've done. Eternal exile from the presence of the Master and his splendid power is their sentence." I can only imagine the degree of pain at being separated from God is to the nth power in comparison to my being separated from my earthly dad. I would neither want to experience it nor want anyone else to experience it.

My assurance and comfort come from knowing that God cannot make a mistake and His Word will not return void. Everything He promised He will do. He is my Jehovah-Rapha, my Jehovah-Shalom, my Jehovah-Nissi, my Strength, my Everything; He is that He is. He has already sent the Comforter who dwells in me. God promised He will never leave me nor forsake me; He will be with me always. To answer my questions, God will. As He will do for me, He will certainly do for you.

## Correction



This photo is being published again due to incorrect/incomplete information that was provided to The Enterprise. Pictured are kitchen workers Kathleen Loveland and Ed Segraves (talking with Diane Davis Dawson) and cooking are Claude Smith, Cathi Clement, Kevin Smith and Tom Perriello at a Pancake Breakfast in Ararat in December.

## Medeus selected Physician of the Year

Recently, employees of Twin County Regional Healthcare (TCRH) created the Physician of the Year award to honor members of the medical staff for their hard work and dedication. Hospital employees nominate physicians who exemplify the hospital's five core values:

- Champion patient care
- Do the right thing
- Embrace individuality
- Act with kindness
- Make a difference together

The recipient of the 2023 Physician of the Year award is Dr. Christy Medeus. Dr. Medeus earned her medical degree at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, Lewisburg, West Virginia.

Dr. Medeus is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Global Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She plans to graduate in May.

Dr. Medeus serves as the medical director of the hospitalist program at Twin County Regional Healthcare. As medical director, she collaborates with administration and interdisciplinary groups to improve the quality of care, supervises medical practitioners who provide direct patient care, and



Dr. Christy Medeus

manages patient care including diagnosis and treatment.

Sudandra Ratnasamy, CEO of Twin County Regional Healthcare stated, "I am proud to have Dr. Medeus as our 2023 Physician of the Year. Dr. Medeus is such a compassionate and caring physician, and we are fortunate to have her with us. On behalf of the board of trustees, medical staff, and employees, we congratulate her for her accomplishments and for being this year's 2023 Physician of the Year".

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Song of Solomon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who did Zachariah not believe on telling him his wife would conceive? Jesus, Luke, Gabriel, Mark
3. From Numbers 27, who became Moses' successor as leader of Israel? Aaron, Abraham, Elisha, Joshua
4. How many times is the phrase "holy ground" mentioned in the Bible (KJV)? 2, 24, 37, 64
5. From Mark 11, who did

Jesus cast out of the Temple? Armies of Satan, Harlots, Money changers, Lepers

6. What king saw the "handwriting on the wall"? Darius, Belshazzar, Daniel, Solomon

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Gabriel, 3) Joshua, 4) 2 (Ex 3:5, Acts 7:3), 5) Money changers, 6) Belshazzar

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).

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## Super Crossword

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| <b>ACROSS</b> | 1 Highest roll of a single die | 4 Peak in Thessaly | 8 Freaks out | 15 Subjective paper piece | 19 Never dying | 21 Kind of chery named for its shape | 22 — sci. (coll. major) | 23 Scaled-down symphony group [1994] | 25 Mallorca, por ejemplo | 26 "King" primate | 27 Writer Ferber | 28 Anti-bias job agcy. | 29 Gown fabric | 30 Program interacting with a remote server [1993] | 34 Bygone times | 38 Nurtured | 39 Kids' song with French lyrics | 40 — to go (gung-ho) | 41 "It's ch-chilly!" | 42 Whimpered like a baby | 44 Place to disclose sins [2010] | 48 Coinage for something with no name | 53 Beginning on | 54 "To — much is given ..." | 55 Nantes' river | 57 Sets of points on graphs | 58 Shallowest Great Lake | 60 Waltz or tango [1997] | 63 Itinerant band member, say | 66 State after wedlock | 68 Having more seepage | 69 Panels that may reverse decisions [2008] | 71 Melody | 72 Jungle roarer | 73 Ouzo | 74 Exact flavorer | 76 Brand of rodent killer | 80 Horse-man of myth | 83 Greeting act conveying confidence [1991] | 86 First-rate | 88 Flub it up | 89 Actress Shire | 90 Plant snugly | 94 — -cone | 95 Junk email sender | 97 Samoan peak famous for trapping clouds [1995] | 101 Italian port | 102 Exactly | 103 Money won in a game of dreidel | 104 Claudius I's successor | 108 Getting the job done | 109 What the first word of each of seven answers in this puzzle is, when preceded by "The" | 113 Stun with a charge | 114 Canceled by crossing off | 115 Revising, as text | 116 Bishops' jurisdictions | 117 Prescription amounts | 118 Berlin article | 119 Meadow | <b>DOWN</b> | 1 Ailing | 2 Texter's "If you ask me" | 3 Mutant Marvel superhero | 4 Celestial ball | 5 Like a cold, hard gaze | 6 Manhattan eatery since 1927 | 7 Isolated | 8 Ad — committee | 9 Hatchet part | 10 Ram or ewe | 11 "The Fox and the Crow" storyteller | 12 Tabby's scratcher | 13 Bobby of hockey | 14 Venus Williams' org. | 15 Sedative drug | 16 Sticky little sheet | 17 "Mama" Cass | 18 Actress Wiest | 20 Texter's "Yikes!" | 24 Bolted to escape | 29 Riyadh native | 30 Sugar source | 31 Shore flier | 32 "Not yet sure what my answer is" | 33 Director Joel or Ethan | 34 Killer whale | 35 Neighbor of Myanmar | 36 Early James Bond foe | 37 Not similar | 41 Dust jacket write-up | 42 Demi and Dudley | 43 Departs | 45 Cupcake flourish | 46 That lady | 47 Less spicy | 49 Honey-coated Easter entree | 50 Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati" | 51 Cicero's "Lo!" | 52 Cake layer | 56 ICU workers | 59 Actor Stephen | 60 Iran's former name | 61 Ball-shaped | 62 Put on, as an outfit | 63 After-bath powder | 64 Andy Taylor's boy | 65 Sitting atop | 66 Suffix with ball | 67 Innocent types | 70 President before Donald | 71 Shallow pan | 74 Swarms | 75 Huge conflict | 77 Sedate | 78 Steinbeck migrant | 79 Close | 81 In — (more than sleeping) | 82 Arm bone | 84 Eatery list | 85 Baseballer Musial | 87 Is really mad | 90 Grain fungi | 91 "Watch Me (Whip—)" (2015 hit) | 92 "Apollo 13" actor Gary | 93 Bills worth 100 bucks | 94 "You got that right!" | 95 Meat in a sub | 96 Coal-mining guys | 98 MMA fighter Rousey | 99 Armageddon nation | 100 Little laugh | 104 Silent "yes" | 105 Like villains | 106 Russo of film | 107 Gymnast Korbut | 109 Ely May Clampett's pa | 110 Good Grips kitchen brand | 111 "— a trap!" | 112 Ark.-to-ill. dir. |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------|------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|--|------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|----------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------|------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|

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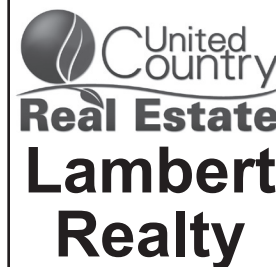
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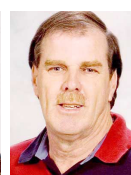
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# Land Transfers in October

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

Ryan C. Amos to Jason Eston Pendleton, 1.9097 acres, Peters Creek District.  
 Walter Augustine and wife to William Woodrow Bridwell and wife, 4.9475 acres, Blue Ridge District.  
 Jodie N. Baker to Christopher Scott Cobler and wife, 1.232 acres, Mayo River District.  
 Henry F. Bergdolt and wife to Ronald George and wife, 6.33 acres, Mayo River District.  
 Christopher Neil Brackins to Phillip Craig Grigsby and other, lots, Blue Ridge District.  
 Kirsten Elizabeth Brown to Anthony Gene Goins, 14.77 acres, Dan River District.  
 Martha J. Brown to Singh Brothers Investments LLC, 0.7651 acres, Peters Creek District.  
 Elizabeth S. Cain to Roscoe Henderson Cain, 2.00 acres, Dan River District.  
 Voyce M. Cheatwood Jr., and wife to Paul Anthony Lacey and wife, 26.023 acres and 63.684 acres, Dan River District.  
 Doris Mills Collins to Dorothy Wickert Barrett Revocable Trust, 158.17 acres, Dan River District.  
 DLH Family Properties LLP to Joseph R. Dowd Jr., TR, 0.52 acres, Blue Ridge District.  
 Travis D. Dulaney and other to Frank E. Price and other, 10.174 acres, Smith River District.  
 Randolph Ferguson to Donnie Nowlin and wife, 1.114 acres, Mayo River District.  
 William E. Gallop to Christina K. Gallop, ET VIR, 4.1013 acres, Mayo River District.  
 Sandra Flippin Giroux and other to Nicolas Blake Draughn and wife, 4.764 acres, Mayo River District.  
 Emily R. Goad to Leigh Ann Poindexter, 1.115

and 0.809 acres, Blue Ridge District.  
 Joseph S. Hall and wife to Douglas A. Barbour and wife, 2.20 acres, Dan River District.  
 Joseph S. Hall Jr., and wife to James Daniel May and wife, 6.50 acres, Dan River District.  
 Lony H. Hall to Dewey Nolen Kendrick Jr., 1.000 acres, Smith River District.  
 Richard E. Hambry to Rickey D. Morrison, 0.127 acres, Smith River District.  
 Lorrie A. Hodges to Douglas Todd Talley and wife, 46/100 and 1/10 acres, Mayo River District.  
 Hopkins LLC to Charles D. Green and other, 2.613 acres, Smith River District.  
 Bobby L. Johnson and other to Critz LLC, 0.239 and 0.370 acres, Mayo River District.  
 Steven Jerome Kraft and wife to David Kyle Smith and other, 3 acres, Smith River District.  
 Kim Interest LLC to Raymond E. Davis III and wife, 2.6472 and 2.0446 and 2.025 acres, Smith River District.  
 Sharon Talley Lewellyn to Gary Wayne Krigbaum and other, 3.149 acres, Blue Ridge District.  
 James W. Loveland and wife to Russell S. Brown and other, 1.89 and 5.31 acres, Dan River District.  
 Joey Dale Mabe and wife to Dorothy M. Hart, ET VIR, 7.936 acres, Peters Creek District.  
 Kevin M. McTighe to Robert S. Coleman and wife, 5.857 and 4.983 acres, Smith River District.  
 My Simple Land LLC to Backwoods Land LLC, 12.218 and 23.631 acres, Mayo River District.  
 Christopher Myers to Dustin Chick and other, lots, Blue Ridge District.  
 James A. Myers, TR to Brent D. Adams and others, 9.00 and 2.6 and 6.142 and 5.00 and 5.00

acres, Dan River District.  
 Christopher L. Nichols and wife to Thomas L. Kincaid II and wife, Villa No 9, Blue Ridge District.  
 Renny Paige and other to Christopher Nathan Root, 7.476 acres, Smith River District.  
 William Michael Payne to JKB Investments, 31.778 acres, Dan River District.  
 Von Keith Perrin Sr. to Robert Lopez, 2.819 acres, Dan River District.  
 Carleene H. Pilson to Ricky Florence and wife, 0.2533388 and 1.80 acres, Smith River District.  
 David J. Pluska and other to James Griffith Landis, 26.642 acres, Smith River District.  
 Sidney J. Rabon III to Jose Martinez, lot, Dan River District.  
 Amber Dawn Siesling to Sally B. Kadle, 6.000 acres, Smith River District.  
 Harry Scott Smith to Donald Travis Weddel and wife, 0.634 acres, Mayo River District.  
 Dennis T. Taylor and wife to Timberview LLC, tracts, Peters Creek District.  
 Jeannie I Thomas and others to Jenny Hawkins Fish, ET VIR, 1-3/4 and 3-1/4 and 1/16 acres, Smith River District.  
 Thomas G. Tinklenberg and wife to Elyse Hockett, 10 acres, district not listed.  
 Triple W LLC to Michael Stevens, lots, Mayo River District.  
 Charlie Monroe Turner to Michael Wayne Parrish, 0.770 acres, Blue Ridge District.  
 Timothy Lee White and wife to Brason Properties LLC, 19.0861 and 2.000 and 17.447 acres, district not listed.  
 Riley G. Williams and wife to Teresa Craig, lot, Mayo River District.  
 Justin L. Willis to Marty L. Rountree and wife, 8.8089 acres, Blue Ridge District.

## Outstanding Citizenship Award Presented by Ruritans



Kevin Reynolds (right), the club's president, presented the 2023 Outstanding Citizenship Award to Tom Steele.

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club presented its 2023 Outstanding Citizenship Award to Tom Steele. Tom has been an active member of the club since he joined in 2020. He is very supportive of our communities in Patrick Springs/Critz areas to serve the people, improve the communities and help the students in our schools. Tom's career has been one of service to others. He was in education, serving high school and college students. He was a teacher and coach before becoming a college counselor. He was also a Boy Scout leader, inspiring boys to become leaders in their own community as adults. The club is very proud and honored to present this award to Tom.

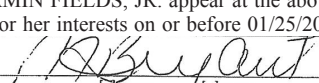
## LEGAL

**Notice - Committees**  
 We need you! Interested in serving Patrick County on a board, commission, committee, or authority? Openings are available on the Department of Social Services Board (Peters Creek District) and Planning Commission (Peter's Creek District & Blue Ridge District).  
 For more information, please contact Ms. Amy Walker, Board Clerk - awalker@co.patrick.va.us or 276-693-2006 or you can visit the website - www.co.patrick.va.us to complete the Citizen Interest Form.

## LEGAL

**Meeting Notice**  
**Patrick County Public Service Authority**  
**Quarterly Business Meeting**  
 The Patrick County Public Service Authority will hold a Quarterly Business Meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd Floor Court Room of the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building.  
 Petitions and requests from the public shall be submitted in writing to the PSA located in the Patrick County Administration Building at 106 Rucker Street, Suite 218, Stuart, VA not less than five (5) business days prior to the scheduled meeting and placed on the official meeting agenda in order to be considered.

## LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. JJ004870-07-00  
 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
 VA. CODE §8.01-316  
 PATRICK J & DR - JUVENILE  
 Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court  
 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* CUNNINGHAM-FIELDS, ISAAC C  
 The object of this suit is to:  
 TERMINATE THE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS OF BENJAMIN FIELDS, JR. "RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES" MEAN ALL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REMAINING WITH THE PARENT AFTER THE TRANSFER OF LEGAL CUSTODY OR GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE RIGHT OF VISITATION, CONSENT TO ADOPTION, THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPPORT.  
 It is ORDERED that BENJAMIN FIELDS, JR. appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before 01/25/2024 at 2:30 p.m.  
 12/20/2023  
  
 [ ] JUDGE

## Red Bank club donates to others



The Red Bank Ruritan Club made donations to (l-r) Billy Aldrich, Blue Ridge Rescue; James Goins, CCDF, Roger Gammons, President Red Bank Ruritans; David Lawson, Ararat Fire Dept.; Mike Fulk, Ararat Rescue Squad. (Contributed)

## Several people join club



Several new members recently joined the Red Bank Ruritan Club, including (left to right) Roger Gammons, club president; Pat Shouse, Mike Fulk, Jane Fulk, Glenna Morse, Tommy Morse, and Merlin Scales, a National Director. (Contributed)

## Student Briefs

**Rose named to WCU Chancellor's List**  
 Lincoln Rose, of Stuart, was named to the Western Carolina University Fall 2023 Chancellor's List.

Rose was among more than 1,600 students to achieve this honor. To qualify for the Chancellor's List, students must earn a GPA of 3.8 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours.

**Local students earn honors at SCC**  
 Surry Community College noted several local students were named to the President's and Dean's lists in the Fall Semester of 2023.

John Dellenback, of Ararat, was named to the President's List.

Students qualifying for the President's List must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours of college level coursework and maintain a 3.8 grade point average for the semester with no final grade lower than a "C." Students on the President's List receive a congratulatory letter.

Joel Gutierrez-Vargas, Sydney Alexandria Presa, and Rachel Michelle Russo, all of Ararat, were named to the Dean's List.

The Dean's List honors those students who achieve significant academic status in their classes. Students qualifying for the Dean's List must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours of college level coursework and maintain a 3.5 grade point average for the semester with no final grade lower than a "C." Students on the Dean's List will also receive a congratulatory letter.

**Three named to SNHU Fall 2023 President's List**

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) announced that three local students were named to the President's List for the Fall Semester, which runs from September to December.

Marie Foltz and Pamela Paquette, both of Patrick Springs, and Emily Keith, of Stuart, were among the full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

**Meetings:**

**Tuesday, Jan. 16**  
The Patrick County Planning Commission will have a sub-committee work session meeting at 4 p.m. followed by a regular business meeting at 6 p.m. Both meetings will be in the Community Room, Patrick & Henry Community College, Stuart Site.

**Wednesday, Jan. 17**  
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the Town Office.

**Wednesday, Jan. 24**  
The Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) will meet at 6 p.m. in the second-floor court conference room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

**Monday, Feb. 12**  
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**  
The Economic Development Authority of Patrick County will have a Special Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

**Events**

**Thursday, Jan. 11**  
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its next monthly meeting at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Mary Jo and Charlie Leake. A variety of soups, crackers, and beverages will be provided to all attendees. Attendees are requested to bring sandwiches and desserts to share with the group.

The Patrick County Recreation Department

is offering a free Tai Chi Flow for Seniors program on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. in the Hooker Building, Rotary Field, Stuart. No experience needed, just wear comfortable clothing and sneakers to try this gentle, standing exercise for twelve weeks to improve your balance, coordination, and core strength. There is no registration for the program. Classes start on Thursday, January 11. Call the Park Office at (276) 694-3917 for more information.

**Saturday, Jan. 13**  
The Patrick County Democratic Committee Reorganizational meeting will be from 10:45-11:45 a.m. at the Patrick County Library meeting room.

**Tuesday, Jan. 16**  
The Patrick County Planning Commission will have a sub-committee work session at 4 p.m. followed by a regular business meeting at 6 p.m. in the Community Room of the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Stuart site.

**Thursday, Jan. 18**  
The Patrick County Republican Committee will meet at 6 p.m., 212 Wood Brothers Dr, the Motorsports Hall of Fame Auditorium at the end of PHCC. Senate Candidate Eddie Garcia is the special guest.

**Friday, Jan. 19**  
The Community food truck will be at the Fairy Stone VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 10**  
The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club will hold a Poor Man's Supper at the Patrick Springs Park building from 4-7 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$8, and it includes pinto beans, potatoes, corn bread, dessert, and drink. Funds raised will be used for community service projects.

**Ongoing**

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

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

The Patrick County Library will hold the LEGO Club with Ms. Sam on Mondays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. This program is mainly 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 Ararat Ruritan Club will hold Rook games every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m.

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

Introduction to Zen Meditation and Zen Buddhism at the Blue Ridge Regional Library Stuart site, 1:30-2:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays.

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. 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.

# Gray named to WPPDC's marketing team

Amanda Gray joined the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) in September as Tourism and Marketing Specialist.

"We are thrilled to welcome Amanda to our team," said Kristie Eberly, the agency's newly named executive director.

Gray "comes with significant experience in her field, which will greatly enhance the WPPDC's ability to continue to collaborate with our localities on projects and programs. We are confident she will be a valuable asset to the organization and look forward to seeing her positive impact on our communities," Eberly said.

Gray previously was the Marketing Director for Mulberry Creek Skilled Nursing & Assisted Living in Martinsville.

A graduate of Emory & Henry College where she double majored in Mass Communications and Sports Management. She's been in the marketing field for more than 13 years throughout the West Piedmont region in sports tourism and healthcare. Gray served on the Ridgeway Town Council where she helped implement the Summer Sunset Series.

"I greatly enjoyed working with key leaders in the Ridgeway community to host events for our town residents to enjoy with their loved ones," Gray said. "I am eager to work closely with all the localities in our re-



gion to ensure the success of my main projects – Life in SOVA, Grown in SOVA, and the development of the Outdoor Recreation Initiative."

Gray enjoys traveling throughout the region with her son, Bennett, participating in all the area has to offer such as Fairy Stone State Park, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, and the Smith River Sports Complex.

The West Piedmont Planning District is a regional planning organization serving the counties of Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania; the cities of Danville and Martinsville; and the Town of Rocky Mount. The WPPDC seeks to carry out its mission by facilitating regional thinking and dialogue among the district's local government, K-12 and higher educational institutions, economic development organizations, workforce development, and other key stakeholders. Learn more at westpiedmontpd.org.

# Manufacturing is the leading industry for initial claims

The manufacturing industry led the number of initial unemployment insurance claims, according to the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement (DWDA). The number of claims edged up in the latest filing week to 2,070 but remained slightly below typical pre-pandemic volumes experienced in 2019.

For the filing week ending December 30, seasonally unadjusted initial claims for unemployment insurance in Virginia were 2,070, which was an increase of 51 claimants from the previous week. Continued weeks claimed totaled 12,357, which was little changed from the previous week but an increase of thirty percent from the 9,545 continued claims from the comparable week last year. An industry was reported for ninety-three percent of continued claims. Of those, over half (58 percent) of continued claims were from administrative and support and waste management (1,767), professional, scientific, and technical services (1,665), manufacturing (1,178), health care and social assistance (1,052), and construction (986). Eligibility for benefits is determined on a weekly basis, and so not all weekly claims filed result in a benefit payment. This is because the initial claims numbers represent claim applications; claims are then reviewed for eligibility and legitimacy.

In the week ending December 30, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 202,000, a decrease of 18,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 2,000 from 218,000 to 220,000. The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 268,020 in the week ending December 30, a decrease of 6,820 (or -2.5 percent) from the previous week. There were 278,487 initial claims in the comparable week in 2022.

Looking at preliminary data, most U.S. states reported decreases on a seasonally unadjusted basis. California's preliminary weekly change (-7,572) was the largest decrease. Texas's preliminary weekly change (-6,080) was the second largest decrease. Missouri's preliminary weekly change (-2,551) was the third largest decrease. Florida's preliminary weekly change (-1,583) was the fourth largest decrease. Virginia had the 20th largest increase (+57).

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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# Farmers and lawmakers connect at series of regional legislative meetings

While farmers are busy tending to their land and livestock, state lawmakers soon will be busy debating and voting on policies that impact those agricultural activities. As more than 50 freshmen legislators adjust to their leadership roles—many in newly mapped districts—farmers wonder how they can all get on the same page.

Following November's general election, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's governmental relations and field services staff facilitated in-person connections between farmers and lawmakers through a series of 20 regional legislative meetings. These casual sessions are held annually and allow farmers to establish relationships and create ongoing dialogue with legislators regarding farming issues most important to the organization's 33,000 grassroots members.

Farmers from Amelia, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico and Powhatan counties gathered in Chesterfield Dec. 12 to meet with Del. Mark Earley, R-Midlothian; Sen. Ghazala F. Hashmi, D-Richmond; Del. David Owen, R-Henrico; and Sen. Glen Sturtevant, R-Midlothian. Farmers briefed them on pressing issues like funding for agricultural best management practices, crop protectant regulations, the large animal veterinarian shortage, and the encroachment of solar facilities on workable agricultural lands.

With a daughter working in the animal agriculture sector, Powhatan County hay producer Betty Walters is concerned about the shortage of large animal veterinar-

ians in rural Virginia. School debt vastly outpaces earnings for farm vets.

"Virginia is one of the largest ag-producing states, and a lot of that is beef cattle," she said. "Do you need to get a vet out in the middle of the night, on a weekend, or a Sunday morning? There might not be someone available to help."

She said tuition relief might be a good start, and more training opportunities for vet techs may bridge the gap. Farm Bureau has requested state funding to address the shortage, and has asked for a stakeholder workgroup to study solutions.

Jonathan Lyle, a Goochland County produce grower and forestland owner, said the idea of solar energy collection is appealing. But he thinks panels should be installed away from prime farm soils and forestland, and instead be placed on brownfields like reclaimed lands, rooftops and urban structures.

As a conservationist, he applauded carbon-reduction efforts, "but I don't think we have to do this at the expense of agriculture," Lyle said. "We're not saying don't do it all. But let us be stewards of the land and have a seat at the table."

Hashmi, who sits on the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee, said she will introduce a bill this upcoming session to encourage installation of solar panels on parking decks.

"It's a good alternative," she said, adding that Chesterfield's new Lego plant will have solar-paneled parking decks that harness energy to help power the facility.



# Family Preservation Project helps keep VA families together

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

Virginia legal advocates are partnering on a program to keep families together.

The Family Preservation Project is a collaboration between the Virginia Poverty Law Center and the Virginia Legal Aid Justice Center. The goal is to create a better approach to family separation cases with improvements to the whole system.

An Annie E. Casey Foundation report found neglect is a growing reason Virginia kids are placed in foster care.

Valerie L'Herrou, deputy director of the Center for Family Advocacy at the Virginia Poverty Law Center, said sometimes, it is a different story.

"Something like an eviction, or some other legal matter, can precipitate children going into foster care when their families have done nothing wrong," L'Herrou pointed out.

The two organizations say they are bringing a holistic approach to legal work, providing wraparound legal services for evictions and family separation, along with parent advocates who've been through the system guid-

ing others through separations.

Virginia's Promoting Safe and Stable Families program also helps connect families and children to necessary services to get through a crisis.

One sticking point L'Herrou and others want to change is the price attorneys are paid for taking on family separation cases. The flat rate of \$120 per case has turned into a deterrent for those who charge much higher rates for hourly services. She said this creates a lack of proper legal representation for families.

"Attorneys are just not accepting the cases because basically, they can't afford to," L'Herrou acknowledged. "Even when they do, they're not doing anything -- they're not putting any time into it -- because in their minds simply, showing up to court is enough. So, one of the recommendations is to raise that \$120 flat fee to \$445."

For the first time in 20 years, the Virginia State Bar Association will be advocating at the Virginia General Assembly on the matter, seeking methods to improve the quality of legal services for certain child dependency cases. The association's request will go before the state Supreme Court for approval.

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The columnists' views appearing on this page do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of *The Enterprise*.

# New office to focus on providing resources to students, schools

Helping schools address the unprecedented rise in mental health and behavioral challenges facing Virginia students post-pandemic, the Virginia Department of Education has created the Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness to help focus resources and attention to our students who are struggling with these evolving challenges.

Sharpening the focus on the "Right Help, Right Now" resources available to Virginia students, the office will assist schools with teams of professionals focused on three key areas:

### \*Behavioral Health & Instructional Support

Focusing on issues regarding behavioral and mental health including school counseling, school discipline, the causes and impact of chronic absenteeism, and the effects on children and teens who rely on social media

### \*School Health & Wellness

Centering on issues such as opioid and drug use abatement, emphasizing the dangers of fentanyl and its spreading use amongst children and teens, and overdose prevention

### \*Student Services

Dedicated to remov-

ing many of the wrap-around barriers to success facing children today, including working with military families and students in foster care, as well as equipping students for post-secondary access and success

The office will also develop the Virginia Behavioral Health Comprehensive Framework, designed to assist in improving student outcomes through increased behavioral supports spanning between schools and communities.

"Our students and our schools are facing different issues than they faced before the pandemic," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons. "We have redesigned several positions across the department to create the Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness. This office will bring a multifaceted approach to better equip educators, staff and parents in supporting our students and responding when a crisis occurs."

Joseph Wharff, a professional educational administrator with over 20 years of leadership in school services and school counseling with Henrico County Public Schools and VDOE, will serve as Director of the new office. The new office and its director will work directly with Coons.

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# Sale of Champions raises nearly \$94,000 for scholarships and youth programming

The Sept. 30 State Fair of Virginia Youth Livestock Sale of Champions raised \$93,725 in support of the fair's long-standing commitment to youth.

The 2023 State Fair welcomed youth exhibiting market cattle, swine, goats and sheep for the opportunity to compete for scholarships and premiums at the annual Sale of Champions.

The sale celebrates the hard work of Virginia 4-H and FFA participants, and auction proceeds benefit the State Fair Youth Scholarship Fund and the fair's continued support of youth across the commonwealth.

"The Youth Livestock Show and Sale of Champions benefits so many worthy students, and we are thrilled that the community continues to show up and support this fundraising event," said Marlene Jolliffe, the fair's executive director. "The livestock shows and the Sale of Champions embody part of the State Fair Youth Development Board's mission—to connect farmers, teachers, leaders and businesses in offering encouragement and recognition to Virginia's youth as they participate in competitions and educational programs. And we are so grateful to our committees, volunteers, The Meadow Event Park staff and Virginia Cooperative Extension, who all play a part in this annual effort."

The fair offers youth more than \$100,000 each year in scholarship funds through 4-H, FFA and vocational competitions and specific equine, fine arts and horticulture competitions. Sale of Champions proceeds support competition premiums and scholarships.

The Sale of Champions featured the auction of grand champion and reserve champion market animals from this year's 4-H and FFA youth livestock shows. Exhibitors received 25% of their respective animals' purchase prices—75% as a cash premium and 25% in scholarship funds. The following are this year's winners:

\*Grand Champion Market Beef, exhibited by

Emma Jo Donnelly of Clarke County and purchased for \$17,150 by Blair Construction, BMB Steel, Brandt, Cargill Protein, CFC Farm & Home Center, Chaz Schultz Realty LLC, Clearbrook Feed & Supply, Corteva/DuPont Pioneer, Custom Construction Management, D Scott Herndon Inc., Dwight Houff, Frank Graves, Knight Cattle, Performance Food Group, Sunnyside Farm, Virginia Club Calf Producers, Virginia Grain Producers Association, Virginia Seed Co., and Virginia Soybean Association.

\*Reserve Champion Market Beef, exhibited by Rylee Stratton of Appomattox County and purchased for \$13,750 by Daltons on the Sycamore, ETS, Everett Farms Inc., Fords Foods, Glenmary Farms LLC, Gregory Poole Lift Systems, Ironsides Animal Health, James River Equipment, K&R Concessions, Lakewood Tack Shop, Lynwood Broadus, Marshall Farms, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Pinson Novelties, Pryoville Farm, Virginia Farm Bureau, Virginia Soybean Association and Wightman Crop Insurance.

\*Grand Champion Market Hog, exhibited by Jordan Kelly of Clarke County and purchased for \$17,000 by BMB Steel, McGuire Woods LLP and Smithfield Foods.

Grand Champion Market Lamb, exhibited by Brynleigh Shook of Southampton County and purchased for \$11,000 by Charter Next Gen, Dee Brothers, Foxfire Feed, Land of Promise Farms and Smithfield Foods.

\*Reserve Champion Market Lamb, exhibited by Josephine Caldwell of Rockbridge County and purchased for \$5,600 by Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau, CFC Farm & Home Center, First Bank & Trust Co., Frank Graves, Houff Corp., Ironsides Animal Health, Keith Simmons and family, and Wilmer and Peggy Stoneman.

Grand Champion Market Goat, exhibited by Anna Somerindyke of Virginia Beach and purchased for \$6,750 by Blackwater Creeds Foundation Inc., Kevin and Heather Newton, Land of Promise Farms, Nutrien, S&R Meat Goods,

Virginia Beach 4-H Livestock Club Inc., Virginia Beach Farm Bureau and Weller & Associates Inc.

\*Reserve Champion Market Goat, exhibited by Ella Warns of Rockingham County and purchased for \$4,500 by CFC Farm & Home Center, Charter Next Gen, First Bank & Trust Co., Fun Time Foods, Gore Trailer Sales, Griffs Catering, Hog Wild Bar-B-Que, Houff Corp., John Broadus, Pelican Joe's Donuts, Polar Bear Homemade Ice Cream and Two Kings Concessions.

\*Additional donations were made by Dick and Julia Rose, Glenn Martin, Hog Slat Inc., Land of Promise Farms, Sunnyside Farm, Tom Nixon and the Virginia Pork Council.

The 2024 State Fair of Virginia will run from Sept. 27 through Oct. 6. Information is available at StateFairVa.org.

## Veterans honored by Patrick Springs club



Veterans attending the Patrick Springs Ruritan Club's meeting were honored. Pictured kneeling is Victor Guembes, standing (left to right) Wilbur Walker, Billy Corns and Phillip Plasters.

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club honored the veterans that attended their monthly meeting, and presented each veteran with a plaque that stated, "Thank you for your service."

A meal was served to the veterans and a member of the club read a poem entitled, A Prayer for all Veterans.

O God, great and almighty creator, we thank and praise you for the freedom we enjoy in our country and pray that our liberties will continue to be protected.

Thank you for America's heroes, that have fought for our freedom and who have faithfully served our country. We honor all of our veterans, for their sacrifices and for their courage and integrity.

As we celebrate these freedoms, we ask your blessing on those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our country. Bless their families and comfort them with the thankful prayers of a grateful nation.

We thank you for our veterans, past and present. Through the efforts of these individuals, help us continue to promote justice in all nations.

Amen

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## Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR APPROVAL TO CONTINUE RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, THE EE-RAC, AND FOR APPROVAL OF NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO §§ 56-585.1 A 5 c AND 56-596.2 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2023-00169

- Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") requests a total annual revenue requirement of \$32.9 million for its EE-RAC. According to APCo, this amount would increase the bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by approximately \$1.29 effective September 1, 2024.
- A Hearing Examiner appointed by the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on May 21, 2024, at 10 a.m., for the receipt of public witness testimony.
- An evidentiary hearing will also be held on May 21, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive the testimony and evidence of the Company, any respondents, and Staff.
- Further information about this case is available on the Commission website at: [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

On November 30, 2023, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company"), pursuant to §§ 56-585.1 A 5 c and 56-596.2 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and the Final Order of the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") in Case No. PUR-2021-00236, filed with the Commission a petition ("Petition") for approval: (i) of the continued implementation of its rate adjustment clause ("EE-RAC") to recover the costs of its portfolio of energy efficiency ("EE") programs; (ii) of two new EE programs; and, (iii) to continue and enhance existing programs. Pursuant to Code § 56-585.1, the Commission must issue a final order regarding the Petition within eight months of filing.

Specifically, the Company proposes to recover a total annual revenue requirement for the EE-RAC of approximately \$32.9 million for the rate year of September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025 ("Rate Year"). The proposed annual revenue requirement consists of two components: (i) a projected factor of approximately \$27.8 million in costs related to the EE Portfolio during the Rate Year, and (ii) a true-up factor of approximately \$5.1 million designed to return (or recover) any over- or under recovery of costs associated with the EE Portfolio from prior periods. APCo represents that it calculated the margin on EE program expenses based on a return on common equity of 9.2%, and that the Company anticipates the margin to change to 9.5% to be applied prospectively in accordance with the Commission's Final Order in Case No. PUR-2023-00002.

APCo states that the implementation of the proposed EE-RAC effective September 1, 2024, would increase the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by approximately \$1.29. APCo states that the Company intends to submit its next EE-RAC petition two years from now, and asks the Commission to order the Company make this filing on or before November 30, 2025. Therefore, the Company proposes that the rates set in this proceeding would be in effect for approximately two years.

The two new EE programs APCo proposes to implement are the Residential School Kits Program and the Residential Multifamily In-Unit Program. The Company states that its Residential School Kits Program will provide energy education and take-home kits to students throughout APCo's service territory. The Company states that its Residential Multifamily In-Unit Program will provide a range of products and services that result in lower energy usage; including the direct installation of energy-saving measures and materials in individual units of multifamily buildings with five or more units, and will identify and assist residents in completing additional energy savings opportunities.

There are three existing programs previously approved by the Commission, comprising the Residential Low Income Single Family Program, the Residential Low Income Multifamily Program, and the Home Performance Program, that the Company seeks to extend by establishing a new five-year cycle to start in 2025. Further, APCo proposes to make changes to enhance programs previously approved by the Commission, including the Energy Efficiency Kits Program, the Efficient Products Program, the Business Energy Solutions Program, and the Small Business Direct Install Program.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on APCo's Petition. On May 21, 2024, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned will hold the telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before May 14, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Hearing Examiner to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filing out a form on the Commission's website at [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting); (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to [SCCInfo@sec.virginia.gov](mailto:SCCInfo@sec.virginia.gov); or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting](http://sec.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting).

Beginning at 10 a.m. on May 21, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On May 21, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

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

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

On or before May 14, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition electronically by following the instructions on the Commission's website: [sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](http://sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00169.

On or before February 27, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: [sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be sent to counsel for the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, Counsel, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00169.

On or before March 26, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at [sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://sec.virginia.gov/clk/efiling), any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be sent to the Company, and all other respondents simultaneously with its filing. In all filings, the respondent shall comply with the Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, Filing and service, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, Prepared testimony and exhibits. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00169.

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

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

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

# Exhibit of original art to open January 14

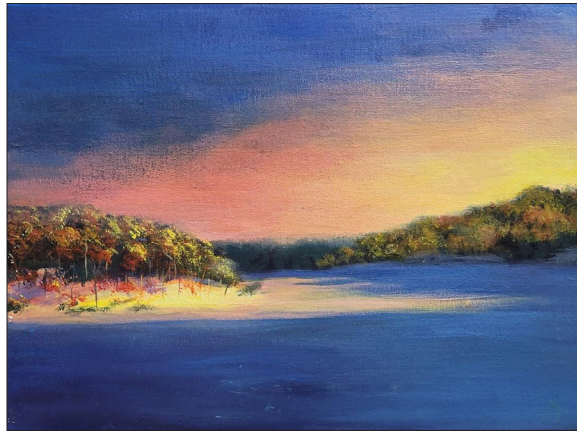


An exhibit of original art, "Artist Craig Richards' Student Works Show," will open in the Apple Gallery. The official gallery reception will be Sunday, January 14, from 2-3:30 pm. at The Arts Place of Stokes 500 Main Street Danbury, NC.

Craig Richards has been teaching painting for nearly 20 years. He has been guiding students in drawing, oils, acrylics and watercolors both in studio and in Plein Air. He was the President of Muddy River Art Association, The President of Triad Outdoor Painters and presently teaches at The Arts Place of Stokes, The Sawtooth School of Visual Arts, and Forsyth Technical Community College. His work can be viewed at [artistcraigrichards.com](http://artistcraigrichards.com) and his teachings can be watched on his YouTube Channel at [@artistcraigrichards5952](https://www.youtube.com/@artistcraigrichards5952).

This show includes 40 paintings by 16 student artists. The students range from beginners to professionals. Richards shared that "All works are thoroughly delightful."

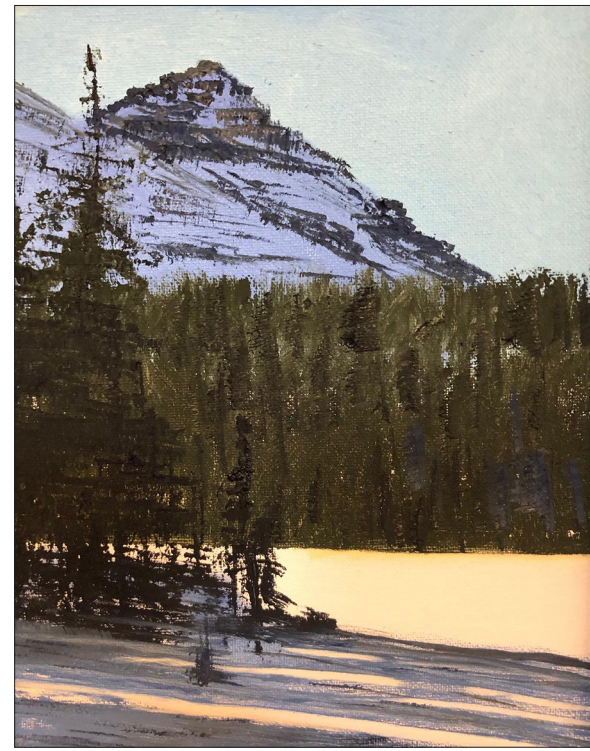
Artist Lisa Richter was creative from a very early age. Her mom would find her haven fallen asleep while creating "artistic adventures" with crayons. Always loving to paint, she began to spend more time painting with acrylics and watercolors after retiring from teaching. She is able to paint while also spending time with her husband and family. Richter shared that "Painting allows me the oppor-



tunity to relax and bring attention to God's beautiful earthly creations of landscapes and florals."

Artist, Elizaveta Egorova, graduated with a PhD degree in Electrical Engineering from Michigan Technological University in 2019. She started a new hobby in the arts in 2021. Since childhood she shared that she always loved contemplating paintings.

Artist Deborah Fredette received her first set of paints as a Christmas gift from her brother when she was about 12 years old. He designed and built a paint box and table-top easel and filled it with the necessities to begin the craft. Deb took all the art classes she could in high school and college, but due to a recession during her college years, she opted to follow a career path that was considered safer than art and set her art aside during her working and parenting years. Some years before retirement, her eldest daughter gave Deborah her second paint set. She told her mom that she remembered how she had said she would love to get back to art after retirement. Deb's first introduction back into painting was with a Bob Ross instructor. He gave her the courage and confidence to pick up the brush again. She then studied under several different local artists, including Craig Richards. She continues to



attend various workshops, takes advantage of on-line classes, closely observing the current masters' methods and techniques, and has tried her hand at several different styles of painting. While her preferred medium is oil, Deb has recently found the joy of watercolor and hopes to develop those skills. Today, as a retired professional, she enjoys painting landscapes and portraits (adults, children and animals) in an effort to help someone find their "happy place."

Artist Kim Lance has always been attracted to art. As a Marriage and Family Therapist as well as a Play Therapist, he encourages clients to use their art to express themselves. For many years he has been a photographer. He shared that he loves (See Art Exhibit p. 16)

## Awards presented at recent meeting

The Red Bank Ruritan Club presented several awards at a recent meeting. Those receiving awards were:



President's Award - presented to Fred Stevens, pictured with Lottie Gammons, president. (Contributed photos)



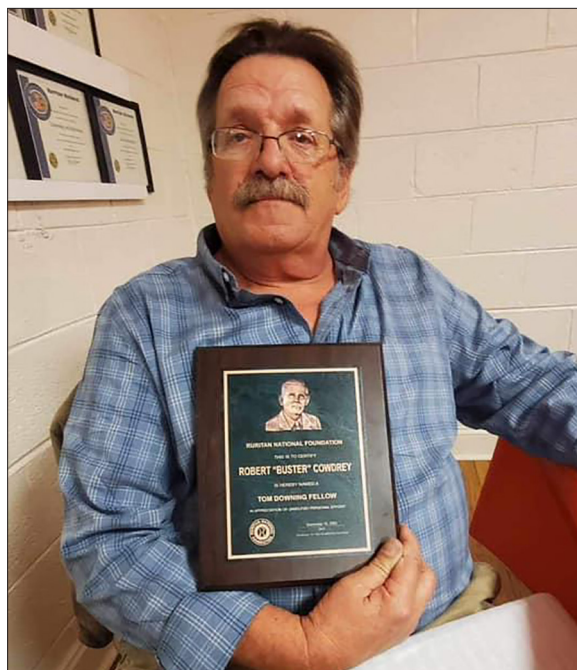
Ruritan of the Year - presented to Rachel White by Lottie Gammons.



President's Award - presented to Jerry Felts by Lottie Gammons.



Community Service Award - presented to Phillip Adams by Lottie Gammons.



Tom Downing Award - presented to Robert (Buster) Cowdrey.



Community Service Award - presented to David Clement by Lottie Gammons.

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# Art Exhibit

(cont. from page 11)

shooting landscapes and wildlife. A few years ago, he decided to take an acrylic painting class. He has taken two more acrylic painting classes this year.

Artist Susan Pilbeam is a retired professor of Respiratory Care and a published author who didn't begin painting until much later in life, not realizing how enjoyable it can be and without knowing she had a modest talent for it. Her first efforts were in oil paint and two of those paintings are now part of the student show. One is from a trip she and her husband, Bob, took to the coast of California, where they visited Mendocino. The other was painted with a view of the marshy coast adjacent to the St. Johns River that flows north into Jacksonville. She now also works in watercolor, her favorite, and acrylics.

Artist Anna Humprey after a career in accounting in hotel syndication and PR in the D.C. market, retired to Winston Salem 3 years ago. She then began taking watercolor classes and Acrylic painting. She is active in Muddy River Art Association, Mountain Fiber Arts, and various civic groups. She is a fiber artist and loves to paint.

Artist Theresa Marie Auricchio holds a BFA in Painting from Syracuse University. She has worked professionally as an art director, illustrator, and painter with corporate and private clients in the US and Europe. Life got in the way and her practice fell by the wayside for a few decades. Theresa returned

to painting in 2021 as an outlet for the stresses of caring for a parent with dementia. Working in small formats made it feasible to sit with and engage her mother (who was also an artist but losing her sight). As Theresa worked on these paintings, she shared the stories associated with them. Most reflect travels and personalities encountered along the way. This offered positive stimulation, entertainment, and the opportunity to participate in the creative process. Others liked the results and encouraged Theresa to share her art as well. She was able to brush up on her skills with the support of Craig Richards, and this led to testing the waters with group art shows. Theresa also fulfilled several commissions in 2023, the most recent one has traveled to Greece.

Artist Kitty Ray Brown shared that her French Impressionist style of landscape painting began when the Stokes County Arts Council offered a painting class with Artist Craig Richards. "Craig has been guiding my artistic painting journey since 2015." Most of Brown's working career was spent as a jewelry store owner and designer, working with diamonds, precious metals, and colored gemstones. As an adolescent, she began capturing images on film with a Brownie camera. At the present, Brown said, "my goal is to have an artist brush or a camera in my hand every day." Using photo images from beautiful Stokes County, she creates images on can-

vas and rocks with oil paint. Presently, Brown is the Board Secretary for the Stokes County Arts Council where she is surrounded by other artists on their creative journey. She signs her work...K-Ray

Artist Shan Woolard is originally from Asheville, NC. When she's not practicing painting, she works at Wake Forest University. She enjoys traveling, cooking, reading fiction novels, watching critically acclaimed television shows and movies, and trying to walk 10,000 steps a day.

"I understand there is a risk to paintings when hanging in a public space." - Shan Woolard

Artist Cynthia Sun is a Taiwanese artist and world traveler whose sense of adventure and curiosity radiates from her work. She is currently based in Winston-Salem, NC and works predominantly with oils under the guidance of artist, Craig Richards.

Artist Jeremy Ulrey is an American artist who hails from the great state of Arizona. Having lived all over the USA and in a few different countries, his diverse experiences are the inspiration for his work. Jeremy is currently based in Winston-Salem, NC and works predominantly with oils under the tutelage of artist, Craig Richards.

Artist Rob Manaraze, said, "My art journey began with an inspired high school art teacher who poured into eager students, for which I am eternally grateful. I then formally studied at The Art Institute of Philadelphia. Upon graduation I began a t-shirt screen printing business, and created designs, graphics, logos, and whatever was in the mind of my customers. I love all things "art" and enjoy the process of creating."

Artist Teresa Everhart described herself as "A genuine seeker, I am always striving to fulfill my aspirations of wanting you, the viewer, to enjoy and feel the emotion during the creation of each piece. Sometimes you may see a struggle, which is part of the journey. Honestly, a piece of my soul goes into creating every work of art. Revealing how you see nature and your fellow man is baring your soul for review...Love it or critique it... But... Please enjoy the journey with me! A big thank you to Craig for leading the way...."

Artist Edie Moore studied painting when he was young and was active as a painter for a number of years. He said that he put his painting aside when he went to graduate school and became a licensed counselor. Now, a couple of decades later, he is learning to paint landscapes with acrylics, and enjoying expressing himself through painting.

This exhibit in the Apple Gallery will be on display through February 15. The Stokes County Arts Council is open to the public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. For additional information about the exhibit, contact the Stokes County Arts Council at (336) 593-8159 or visit [www.stokesarts.org](http://www.stokesarts.org).

PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY						2024
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS DAY					Family Movie 11:00 Haunted Mansion	
8	9	10	11	12	13	
Yoga 10:00 Registration required Senior Chair Exercise 1:30 LEGO Club 4:00	Storytime 10:30 Winter	Book Bingo 10:30 Yoga 1:15 Registration required	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15 Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00		Board Game Day	
15	16	17	18	19	20	
CLOSED FOR MLK DAY	Books & Bakes 5:00	Retired Teacher's Book Club 11:00 Yoga 1:15 Registration required	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15 Open Art Studio 1:00		Youth Art Program 10:30 Snow globes	
22	23	24	25	26	27	
Yoga 10:00 Registration required Senior Chair Exercise 1:30 LEGO Club 4:00	Storytime 10:30 With the Master Gardeners: Cotton Intro to Zen 1:30	Yoga 1:15 Registration required	Senior Chair Exercise 10:15			
29	30	31				
Yoga 10:00 Registration required Senior Chair Exercise 1:30 LEGO Club 4:00	Storytime 10:30 Red	Yoga 1:15 Registration required	Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352.			



Dr. Ruberte Thiele initially pursued a career as a biomedical engineer in the medical device industry and academia. Interested in directly impacting patients' quality of life, he applied to medical school with the singular goal of becoming an orthopedic surgeon. After completing additional training in robotics and navigation for partial and total joint replacement as well as revision arthroplasty, returns to the area eager to help patients get back to doing what makes them happy. When not attending one of his kid's swim meets or soccer games, he enjoys outdoor activities like biking and hiking as well as recreational basketball.

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