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

## Local group provides hurricane relief to areas of Grayson Co.

By Debbie Hall

Six members of the Patrick County Patriots were the first chainsaw crew to reach parts of Grayson County, which was severely impacted by Hurricane Helene. Led by group president Sammy Hughes and Logistics Officer Don Messer, the team spent Thursday clearing roads in and around Troutdale to allow emergency vehicles and power crews to reach affected areas.

Initially, Hughes said the group was told that emergency management in Grayson County tried to limit the number of volunteers on the ground. However, after coordinating local officials and local contacts, the group was welcomed to help with road clearing efforts.

“We had a skeleton crew,” Hughes said. “Our mission was to clear roads for fire and emergency vehicles.” Despite working with a small team, they managed to clear vital routes from Troutdale to Elk Creek, where flood damage had made roads impassable for emergency and utility vehicles.

The crew saw linemen from several states working in the area. They recalled seeing crews “from Maine to Texas and Oklahoma.”

Local residents had already begun clearing paths with their own equipment, but much of the area still needed attention. By the time the Patriots arrived on Thursday, the area had been without outside assistance for four days.

The devastation left by the hurricane was immense, particularly in low-lying areas. Messer described seeing vehicles turned upside down, debris lodged in bridges, and uprooted trees scattered across the landscape. The crew worked



Members of the Patrick County Patriots survey tree damage on Laurel Creek Road. (Photos by Don Messer)



This is Laurel Creek Road after a crew from Patrick County cleared trees out of the road so emergency and utility vehicles could get to affected areas.

long hours, cutting through fallen trees and clearing paths for emergency responders.

“Many of the roads were like the ones we see back home in Patrick County, narrow and winding through the mountains,” Messer said. “We had to navigate carefully, as most of the bridges on secondary roads were washed out.”

Despite the harsh conditions, the Patriots were able to make significant progress. Hughes credited their preparedness, noting the importance of safety gear and having a clear plan before heading into disaster zones. He also emphasized the need for coordination, and noted that

(See Hurricane Relief p.3)

## Adcock, Dalton, Houchins vie for mayoral post

By Taylor Boyd

Three candidates – Rebecca Adcock, Terry Dalton and James Houchins – are vying to be the next Stuart Town Mayor in the November election, and

while each have differing ideas on some aspects, they all cited transparency as a top priority.

### Adcock

Former Vice-Mayor Rebecca Adcock, currently in her third term on the Stuart Town Council, announced her bid for mayor following Mayor Ray Weiland’s decision to step down at the end of the year. Adcock, 44, believes her experience and past work make this the right time to pursue the role.



Rebecca Adcock

Adcock said one of Stuart’s biggest challenges, like many rural towns, is a lack of staff and resources to handle current operations while still working on future projects. She emphasized the need to complete the town’s four active projects, totaling nearly \$5 million, before taking on new initiatives.

“We receive community input regularly, but having a more structured approach

to understanding how residents want the town to evolve would be beneficial,” Adcock said. She supports increased public involvement in local government, noting the unique nature of serving at the local level. “We’re making decisions for our own community, not at the state or federal level. Town council is almost like a community organization.” (See Adcock p.3)

### Dalton

Terry Dalton, 56, has been a member of the Stuart Town Council since 2009, making him the longest-serving current member with 15 years of experience. While Dalton expressed that he wishes Mayor Ray Weiland would continue serving, he feels that his lengthy tenure makes him a strong candidate to succeed Weiland.



Terry Dalton

“I enjoy being on the council. It’s been a vital part of my life, seeing the town grow, businesses develop, and managing the town’s budget and staff. It’s a good organization to be part of,” Dalton said, adding that serving the community for over a decade has been a rewarding experience.

One of Stuart’s biggest challenges, Dalton said, is maintaining

the town’s momentum. “The town is financially strong, with almost \$5 million in active projects, mostly funded through grants and outside sources. The biggest challenge is to keep things going the way they have been because I feel like things have been going well,” he said.

Dalton emphasized that Stuart has managed to balance its (See Dalton p.3)

### Houchins

Jeff Houchins, 55, is vying for the role of mayor in Stuart’s upcoming November election. Currently serving his first term as a Stuart Town Council member, Houchins previously worked for the town for four years. He said his decision to run for mayor stems from his dedication to the community.



Jeff Houchins

“I just feel like it’s my opportunity to become mayor and see what I can do for the town,” Houchins said. “Everything I’m doing is for Stuart.”

Houchins views the town’s continued growth as its most significant challenge, particularly in attracting more businesses and increasing activity, especially on weekends.

“I want to see the town busier, like what Franklin County

and small towns like Mount Airy are doing,” he said. “More activities, more businesses, and more growth for Stuart.”

Houchins supports continuing popular local events, such as First Fridays, and aims to work more closely with the Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) to foster collaboration on town initiatives. He (See Houchins p.3)

## Parkway closure impacts businesses, county’s tourism efforts

By Taylor Boyd

Meadows of Dan was not a direct causality of Hurricane Helene, but the merchants there stand to lose much of their tourism business during what many consider their peak season after the Blue Ridge Parkway was recently closed due to storm damage.

“Crews continue their assessment of the damage from Hurricane Helene. To assist with recovery efforts, the National Park Service (NPS) has deployed its Eastern Incident Management Team, which brings specialized skills and resources to support the parkway with employee emergency needs, emergency stabilization of affected park resources, and damage assessments,” a post on social media stated.

Patrick County Economic Development and Tourism Director James Houchins said that he’s devastated about the closure because he knows it will have an economic impact on the county.

“The businesses that need that income that comes in time of the year, it’s really going to hurt them. I’m really hurt by the closing, but I also understand the necessity behind it,” he said.

Houchins said the NPS maintains

the entire parkway throughout North Carolina and Virginia.

“What I would just like people to understand is they’re trying to get those resources, especially in around the Asheville area and the other areas in Southwest Virginia. Those resources are going to be tapped for a while,” he said.

While it’s sad to have the parkway close due to the financial and economic impacts it will cause, Houchins said parkway staff must also perform regular maintenance. “This is only going to put them further behind on getting work and cleanup done.”

“I understand that as we see it the parkway may have areas that are open and accessible, but again they have to look at it in the larger frame and larger scope, and have to be concerned about having limited personnel in one area versus another area when the need itself is at this time more critical for those areas that were definitely hit,” Houchins said.

The effects of the shutdown are already being felt in Meadows of Dan, Houchins said. When talking with Trinity Goad, of Poor Farmers Market, Houchins said he was told the influx of tourists normally seen at this



The empty parking lot at Jane’s Country Café was empty on Sunday afternoon. “On an ordinary Sunday in October, our parking lots would be overflowing with cars, but this is the situation today (Oct. 6) at 2:45 p.m.,” Felecia Shelor said. Poor Farmers Market “had a few cars at the time, but our business is down 75 percent from what is normal for October.” (Photos by Felecia Shelor)

time of year is down.

“It’s going to affect us economically because we have on average about 10,000 visitors that would visit the Blue Ridge Parkway monthly. With the parkway being closed, the numbers will show that the devastation is going to definitely be one that we will

see now and ongoing until they are able to” reopen the entire parkway, he said.

While he doesn’t have an idea of how long it will last, Houchins said it could be two or three months before it reopens. “Again, it’s because they (See Parkway Closure p. 3)



# Adcock

(cont. from page 1)

nization rather than a political role," she said. Adcock often engages with residents during her daily errands but also advocates for scheduled public input sessions to gather feedback on town projects. She also stressed the importance of transparency, saying, "We live here, work here, and make decisions that affect our community. The information we have should be shared, especially since we're using taxpayer money."

While acknowledging that some aspects of town management, like contracts, must remain confidential, Adcock believes that general operations should be open to the public. She noted that one of Stuart's challenges is its limited resources to manage operations. "It would be great if we had more staff and could provide them with adequate training," she said, adding that municipalities need to evolve to keep up with modern

demands. Despite those challenges, Adcock praised Stuart's financial situation, highlighting the town's active projects and substantial external funding. "The mayor always brings positive comments to our council meetings," she said.

Adcock believes her decade of experience on the council makes her well-suited for the mayor's role. As the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director since 2017, she's built strong relationships with county, regional, and state officials, which she says is crucial for fostering collaboration.

In addition to her council duties, Adcock has supported community initiatives such as promoting the Stuart Farmers' Market and beautification projects, including the pocket park and town flower beds. She also attended the Small

Towns Conference this past spring to learn from other municipalities.

"I've served on several boards aimed at improving life for Patrick County and Stuart residents," Adcock said, citing her involvement with Caring Hearts Free Clinic, Park Workshop, and the Workforce Investment Board, among others. "Every day, I wake up thinking about how I can make Stuart and Patrick County better."

Adcock holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and a master's in animal science. She has served as an adjunct instructor at Patrick & Henry Community College and worked for the Martinsville YMCA. She has been married for nearly 21 years to her husband Jonathan, a veterinarian, and they share a home with several pets. In her free time, Adcock enjoys writing, reading, running, and creating art.

# Dalton

(cont. from page 1)

budget without raising taxes or increasing utility costs. "We live within our budget," he said, noting that Stuart's growth has been funded primarily through grants, such as \$1.7 million for the water treatment plant, \$1.4 million for downtown revitalization, and \$1.1 million for water resilience and reliability upgrades.

He credited Town Manager Bryce Simmons and town staff for their work in securing the necessary funds. "Everything we're doing with water and sewer projects is either funded or covered through grants," Dalton said.

Dalton encourages public involvement in town affairs and noted that the council holds monthly meetings on the third Wednesday. "Anyone from the town or county is welcome to attend and share their views. Community input is critical because, without the residents, we don't have a town," he said.

Transparency is another key issue for Dalton, who said he's pleased that Simmons provides

detailed reports at every meeting, outlining how each dollar is spent. "Nothing is hidden. Anyone at a public meeting is welcome to look at where their tax dollars are going," Dalton said.

Dalton believes Stuart excels at living within its means, securing necessary funding without raising taxes. "Even when the county raises taxes, the town adjusts its rates to ensure customers aren't paying extra. We aim to balance things out and avoid increasing costs for residents," he said.

A strong supporter of local businesses, particularly family-owned ventures, Dalton said he welcomes more business development in Stuart. "Even though I'm in the restaurant business, I welcome all new restaurants. There's enough for everyone," he said.

Dalton believes voters should consider his extensive experience. In addition to his 15 years on the town council, he served on the Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) for

six years. As a local business owner and volunteer firefighter for the past 21 years, Dalton said he understands the needs of both businesses and the community.

"My kids grew up here, I live here, and this is home. I invest in our community, even through volunteering," he said.

Dalton graduated from North Stokes High School and attended Surry Community College for business administration. He also studied youth ministry in Oklahoma for two years. He owned a fire security business for 29 years, managed a Wendy's restaurant for two years, and currently owns Stuart Family Restaurant, which he's operated for a year.

Dalton is married to his wife, Robin. Together, they have six children and five grandchildren, with a sixth on the way. In his spare time, Dalton enjoys volunteering with the fire department and riding motorcycles.

# Houchins

(cont. from page 1)

also encourages greater public participation in town meetings to enhance transparency and involve residents in decision-making.

"A little more advertisement in the newspapers when we're having our meetings and encourage them to come out and let them have a voice on what they would like to see happen in the town. Because without the residents, we wouldn't be where we are today," he said.

Getting residents to attend council meetings also improves its transparency, Houchins said.

"The town council was always open for advice we could (get) to take in. Just getting the residents more involved, that's what we need to do to become more transparent," he said.

Houchins believes Stuart is on the right track with its current events and is optimistic about the downtown revitalization project. He hopes to see more housing opportunities developed in the

town and plans to work toward that goal.

"We're already working on getting businesses involved in housing projects, and that's something I want to continue," he said. Houchins added that he would like to see both local businesses and residents more engaged in these efforts.

As a military veteran, Houchins pointed to his leadership experience as an asset. He also highlighted his deep roots in the community, emphasizing that he has lived in Stuart his entire life.

"I'm truly a Stuart town person," Houchins said. "I was born and raised here, and I don't know if any of the other candidates can say that."

A graduate of Patrick County High School, Houchins has some college education but does not hold a degree. He has been married to his wife, Tracey, for 27 years, and they have two daughters, Jennifer and Paige.

Houchins served in the U.S. National Guard for six years and has worked in various roles, including at Hall's Propane, Hutchens Petroleum, and as a Certified Nursing Assistant at RJR Hospital and Blue Ridge Nursing Home. He has owned George's Boys Car Wash, a car detailing business, for the past 15 to 20 years.

Houchins also has a long history of community involvement, coaching Stuart Elementary School's football team for 28 years and serving as a Patrick County Parks and Recreation board member for 15 years. He was also a member of the Stuart Volunteer Fire Department and the Jeb Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad for over a decade.

In his free time, Houchins enjoys fishing, watching football, being outdoors, and working on cars.

# Chamber Chat, September

By Rebecca Adcock

September came and went, full of activities. The fair had great weather all week, and it was wonderful seeing everyone. The chamber had several events through September assisting Dalton & Associates Insurance in helping to celebrate their 75 years in business, celebrating all the great artists at the Rock Spring Art Show, and a ribbon cutting for Dynamis Submission Grappling in downtown Stuart.

Work behind the scenes was focused on the busy October that Patrick County is planning. We are currently seeking vendors to hand out candy for the 9th Annual Stuart Spooktacular, and our Scarecrow contest is open for businesses, organizations, churches, and individuals to participate. Programs like these encourage our community, especially the business community to stay involved and help to attract more people to our area to see the displays. Small things do add up to larger impacts.

The chamber is also requesting that any organization that is planning a Halloween-style event, trunk or treat, haunted trail, and school fall festivals, please use our google form to upload your poster so that we can help assimilate all the great events and promote. The same will be said when the holidays roll around, we will have a google form for collecting all the events so that we can promote them county-wide.

The chamber is planning to bring our Lunch with Community Leaders program back in November. We are finalizing speakers, menu, and location. Look for more information in the middle of October. Events like these can only be made possible with our partnership with Reynolds Homestead. We are also partnering to bring Patrick County Leadership. This program is a great way for locals to learn



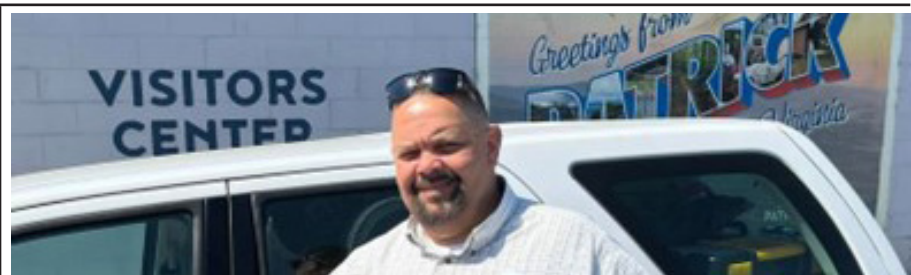
more about the county.

The end of the month hit us with the hurricane, while Patrick County and our immediate neighbors were so fortunate to have little damage, the same can not be said for our Southwest Virginia, Northeast Tennessee, and Western North Carolina communities. I encourage everyone to keep them in your prayers as they start the long road to recovery. If you feel led to donate, please do either by one of the collection sites for supplies around the county or online at the many charitable organizations that are assisting during this crisis. As a small community we all know the day to day struggles we face and how that can only be exponentially exaggerated by such a natural disaster.

For more information on all our events, please do not hesitate to reach out at [www.patrickchamber.com](http://www.patrickchamber.com) or call the office at 276-694-6012.

New members in September are: Jackie Denny Home Improvements, LLC, Plaza Fundify Solutions, Plaza Bee Supply, The Depot Station and ZenBusiness.

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



# Tourism Talks

Hello Patrick,

By now, most of you have heard about and seen the devastation our neighbors have suffered from Hurricane Helene. We were mostly spared here, although we did have several power outages. Our hearts go out to those who lost everything. Thank you for the help that you have been giving. This will be an ongoing effort as people try to make sense of it all.

Although our physical damages are minimal, we will suffer indirectly. This is one of the busiest times of the year for tourism in our county, and our businesses that rely on tourism will suffer.

The Blue Ridge Parkway is crucial to our gateway community of Meadows of Dan. Closing the Parkway during the fall travel season will cause financial loss and affect events like Pancake Days. This is not to overshadow Western North Carolina and Southwest Virginia's devastation. Still, we cannot forget its economic impact on other communities that rely on those

traveling by and to the Parkway.

A recent news release from the National Parkway Service reported that the Blue Ridge Parkway saw 16,757,635 visitors in 2023. These visitors spent \$1,390,803,000 in communities near the park, supporting 19,159 jobs in the local area and having a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$1,810,286,000. As you can see, this will affect us!

Patrick, I am asking that we, as a community, remember our local merchants and shop locally. We are a strong, vibrant community, which makes us great. So please continue praying and helping our neighbors, and let's show our support by supporting locals, too. Our community's support is crucial in these times of need.

Remember, "Come get lost and find yourself here." Praying and supporting all of us!

James Houchins  
Director of Economic Development and Tourism  
[jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us](mailto:jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us)

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# Hurricane Relief

(cont. from page 1)



Exposed culverts blocked passage of Panther Creek Road.



Undeterred, group members prepared to cut trees on portions of Panther Creek Road that were accessible.



Don Messer shared a map with several of the roads chainsaw crews from Patrick County worked to clear. (Photos by Debbie Hall)

unorganized volunteers could inadvertently hinder relief efforts.

The Patriots relied on donations from the local community to fund their equipment and safety gear, which Hughes said was crucial for their work. Local businesses, such as Woods Cold Storage, donated supplies, including fuel, oil and mix, to support the crew's efforts. Howell's Grocery donated ice and water for the crew.

Donations from the community and the group members' efforts at various events were used to help buy safety equipment, so "these guys could go into the situation safe, or as safe as we can make," Hughes said.

"We took everything we needed with us," Hughes said.

The team's commitment to the mission was evident throughout the day, as they prioritized their task over documenting the destruction.

The crew left Stuart at 6 a.m. and returned at 5 p.m. On Saturday, they reflected on the magnitude of the disaster and the resilience of the local residents.

Because Messer wasn't driving, he was in a position to make mental notes of some of the devastation. For instance, Messer recalled telephone poles along what he believes was Little Wilson Creek.

"The wires were holding up the top of the pole, and 3/4 of it was like somebody sawed it off. The water had hit it and completely undermined the telephone pole. It sheared off the top of it," he said.

The two also said that while concrete bridges may appear intact at first glance, a closer look showed that areas between the road to the

bridge were "completely washed out, anywhere from 10 to 20 feet. There's no way they're not damaged," Messer said.

Railings also "had been stripped off the top of the bridge and you can see trees and there again there was something that was amazing to me was watching the trees or looking at the trees. The root part of this tree was half the size of this room, and they were laying on top of the bridges and laying up against the bridges," he said.

Some homes were visible, "and you could see some houses ... a few houses that survived, you could tell they were severely damaged," he said. "But I didn't notice that many houses on the bank of the river. I think the reason that you didn't notice was they were all gone."

"These farmers were out there with tractors worth thousands of dollars, clearing paths for their neighbors," Hughes said, adding the area reminded him of local communities like Charity and Meadows of Dan. The residents reminded him "of our people. it reminded me of home—how people come together in times of crisis."

Hughes noted that one man in Independence repeated, "Patrick County. Patrick County. Patrick County," and then said, "I think in the late 70s we came to Patrick County on the flood." Hughes said he recalled the flood of 1979. "I was 10 years old when the flood of 79, but I can remember distinctly the magnitude of the destruction. It was 45 years later," when crews from Patrick County helped with flood damage in Grayson County. "Maybe we did a small part to pay back. We're a few counties away, but we're neighbors."

As the first chainsaw crew to enter the area, the Patrick County Patriots provided critical support before FEMA arrived. While there, group members worked as hard as possible to complete their tasks. Even still, they also recognized the importance of continued relief efforts.

"We did what we could, but there's still a lot of work to be done," Hughes said. "These people are strong, but they need all the help they can get."

"Work with local agencies because these people have done their homework, and know what it's like to get into a place. It's unreal, and it shouldn't be. I understand and I don't understand that aspect of it," Hughes said, noting reports of looting in several areas hit by the storm.

"We didn't have a problem with the looting and stuff in that area that we were in, but I know that's a problem elsewhere," he said.

Those who want to help are advised to support efforts like Jonathan Large, of the Insurance Center of Patrick, who works with a church group. To donate to the Patrick County Patriots, a nonprofit civic group, mail checks to P.O. Box 45, Stuart, Va., 24171, or see any Patriot member. All donations over \$100 are tax deductible.

# Parkway Closure

(cont. from page 1)

are going to need the resources, that were already limited. They're going to have all those resources to take care of the other aspects of the parkway" which were damaged. "You have to look at the bigger picture, and not just one cluster."

Houchins added he's already hearing discussions about the government offering low-income loans to help with financial distress. He currently has no timeframe on how long it may take for that to transpire.

"But again, we have to take care of the immediate need, and that is to make sure that those who have been physically adversely affected by" Hurricane Helene "get the help that they need. I know they're going to do as much as they can as quickly as they can," he said.

Felecia Shelor, owner of Poor Farmers' Market and Concord Corner Store, said she's concerned for small business owners in the area because an enormous part of their business is parkway travelers.

"In our case in Meadows of Dan, there's also hundreds of growers and suppliers and artists and craftspeople, so there's a lot of people whose livelihoods are going to be affected by the parkway closing down," she said.

Shelor, who added that she has a hard time expressing how she feels about the closure, believes it will force some merchants out of business, and has the potential to lead to the total collapse of small businesses in the area.

"I don't think it's going to force us out of business because we're well established. We have a lot of repeat business. Our businesses are a destination for a lot of customers, I don't think we're going to go under, but I'm concerned that others will. It's definitely going to cost jobs and hurt other people that supply us," she said.

As a business community, Shelor said she and others have been trying to get in touch with representatives to ask them to reopen the parkway through Virginia.

"There's about 200 miles of the Parkway in Virginia that wasn't affected by the storm. There's no storm destruction through Virginia. We're hoping that our leaders would have the parkway open in Virginia because of us, all of the little towns along the parkway," she said.

While they've scheduled a meeting with U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff on October 23 in Stuart, Shelor said this meeting will come too late.

"The problem is October is the very peak of our tourist season. Everybody's dependent on the October leaf season to make enough money to carry



In a social media post, Trinity Goad, of Poor Farmers Market, suggests using different routes to access Meadows of Dan. "If you have GPS, change your settings to avoid highways, if you don't like the hustle and bustle of highways, and let's go back old school. We can use a map ... to get you here. You could also message any of the locals here and they would happily give you a way to get here. Meadows of Dan depends on the tourist season for all their businesses to make it through the winter."

us all through the winter, and everybody does this," she said. "It's kind of like you're making hay. When the sun shines, we make our money in October and that carries us through the dead of the winter. If we don't make the money in October, we don't have money to carry us through the winter."

Griffith said his office has been in contact with the NPS "to impress upon them the urgency of addressing any issues preventing the Blue Ridge Parkway from opening and providing critical access to the areas it services, including Bedford and Patrick counties, particularly places like Meadows of Dan. NPS shared that their assessment crews are finishing their analysis and will provide an update once finished. I am hopeful that will be sooner than later."

"I will continue to press NPS to work quickly in order to minimize the disruption to the safety and welfare of the affected communities," Griffith added.

Shelor said merchants in the area are already feeling an impact. Usually, parking lots of Meadows of Dan businesses are full this time of year. "Now, we pull in and generally there might be three cars, so that gives you an idea of how that's impacting us," she said.

Shelor added Meadows of Dan was already impacted by the U.S. 58 expansion project through the mountain. The parkway closure "is another serious, serious blow," she said.

Leslie Shelor, owner of Poppy's, said she understands the Parkway's closure, and understands it basically comes down to manpower, and the lack of rangers that can be assigned to cover the parkway through Virginia. However, she's still upset about



it.

"It is definitely going to affect our business," Leslie Shelor said. "I know it's complicated and I know things are horrible in other places. We were so fortunate, entire towns were wiped out, we were so fortunate to be on the edge of the storm," she said.

In the early 2010s, Leslie Shelor said national parks had huge budget cuts which resulted in thousands of jobs being lost. "So, they don't really have the manpower to keep up with things. What they've probably done is move everybody out because there's so much devastation" in areas of the parkway that run through North Carolina.

"I don't know for sure, but I assume that's what's going on. Eventually they'll wind their way back up here and get everything straightened out, but who knows how long that's going to take," she said.

Leslie Shelor said she's already feeling the effects of the closure. She estimated her profits are down about 10 percent compared to what they were the same time last year.

"We'll have to see what the weekend does," she said.

However, Leslie Shelor isn't worried about being forced to close her doors.

"I've been here 20 years, we've weathered some stuff," she said with a chuckle. "I am worried about some other businesses that haven't been here as long, and particularly the food service — there's such a narrow margin of profit for them."

The NPS website posts updates about its progress at [www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/hurricane-helene.htm](http://www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/hurricane-helene.htm).



# Helene

Hurricane Helene ravaged communities in Appalachia. The storm raced through the Southeast on its way to Virginia. Our area was hit hard!

Localities in the Ninth District were a target of fierce storms, tornado watches and flash flood warnings. Two deaths were confirmed.

Over the past week, I met with so many people impacted by the storm and its aftermath. Even in areas where damage wasn't as great, downed powerlines and telephone outages are wreaking havoc on people's lives. The people of Virginia have stepped up to help their neighbors recover, and moments like this highlight the importance of communities coming together.

I made several visits the weekend of September 28-29 to inspect and survey the damage inflicted by Helene. I met with Governor Youngkin and others on parts of that tour.

We went to Damascus in Washington County to thank our first responders and to get a firsthand look at the damage there. Houses were not only flooded but displaced. Looking at some damage it was unbelievable how cars were somehow smashed underneath houses.

A large part of the asphalt from the Damascus main street was lifted up and deposited 20-30 feet, with yellow lines intact, into someone's yard.

After Damascus, Josh Hess, my district director, and I were each driving to Independence. Josh is ok, but his car got stuck in a sinkhole. Luckily, with the help of several bystanders and a tractor, they got his vehicle out.

I did not know of his predicament because most of the cell service in Southwest Virginia was not functioning. For hours, I did not know what happened or where Josh was. This was very typical in Southwest Virginia.

When I got to Independence, I was advised that 42 roads in Grayson County were closed. I had witnessed closures on US 58 and US 21. Outside of Independence, 80-85% of the road had collapsed.

The following day, Governor Youngkin returned. I met him in Independence, where we got a briefing, saw some damage, then went to Fries and saw where three large trees - including their root-balls and other debris - struck the low-water bridge, displacing it from its moorings.

Accordingly, Fries now only has one way in and out.

A tornado was confirmed in Bedford County. Montgomery County is on a boil notice.

Later that week I visited Bland, Smyth, Wythe, Montgomery, and Tazewell Counties and got a tour of the damage on Claytor Lake. At a couple of these stops, media were



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

present. But I went to many places where press did not follow, because it was important to me to be anywhere that people are hurting.

Rainfall exceeded 12 inches in some areas and with the water from North Carolina flowing north in the New, it created an historic flood crest on the New River, from Grayson to Giles at the West Virginia border.

Further, many communities lost power for days.

Governor Youngkin is to be commended. He was quick to make a state of emergency declaration for the Commonwealth of Virginia. I received a phone call from him on Wednesday before Helene hit on Friday. He was pre-positioning emergency resources and swift water teams from across the state.

As of Monday, September 30, more than 70 rescues took place.

Governor Youngkin submitted a request to President Biden for a Federal Emergency Declaration. I wrote in support of Governor Youngkin's request, along with Virginia's two U.S. Senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine.

President Biden approved Virginia's request, allowing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide direct federal support for life-saving activities and other emergency protective measures. Such measures include evacuation, sheltering and search and rescue.

Subsequently, the two U.S. Senators and I have supported Governor Youngkin's request for an expedited Major Disaster Declaration designation, which was approved by Biden on October 2.

As we move forward, FEMA efforts to help will vary across the board, from individual assistance, agricultural and farm damage and business relief to road repair and cleanup.

My heart breaks for our communities who must face significant hardships in the weeks and months to follow.

It is important that any and all damages are documented and reported to the appropriate local emergency response officials. Such documentation allows our local officials to provide data on the damages and influence the amount of aid that comes to the region.

The Governor is continuing to work hard and assist. But I and our two Senators will make sure we do everything possible to contribute to federal response and recovery efforts.

# We Must Help Our Own

**Dr. Glenn Mollette**

Hurricane Helene hit our Southeastern, United States like a blanket of bombs that just kept wreaking catastrophic destruction throughout its path from Florida all the way to Virginia. It's likely to become the deadliest storm in American history by the time all the bodies are recovered.

The television images are horrific. Houses, cars, bridges, and families were washed away by the rapidly rising streams. Many thousands were caught off guard as the storm swept away everything they had.

Every part of America is subject to horrific destruction from nature out of control. People in the mountains seldom worry much about tornadoes. Actually, hurricanes are not a typical concern but an overload of rain is always a concern. The water rolls down the mountain and can quickly turn a stream into a raging river. A small creek can become a tidal wave rolling down a holler, washing out houses, roads and bridges and taking lives. A quick four inches of rain in almost any Appalachian community creates worry and often panic. A rapid downpour of ten or more inches of rain almost always means disaster and 15 -30 inches of rain like they received in different parts of Northwest, North Carolina became a weather monster of the ugliest kind in this area's history.

These people need our help, our donations, and our prayers. I don't know what you can do but whatever you do will surely be greatly appreciated. There are many charities asking for help. Do your own

research and follow your heart. Whether you are able to give \$5 or \$1 million dollars, there is no doubt it is greatly needed. If you can go and help, then God bless you for your efforts and action.

FEMA says it's not broke and the recent rumor they spent all their money on illegal immigrants is not true. They have also reported the \$750 cap to be given to the hurting families is not true either. Time will tell what FEMA will do. Let's wait, watch and see what kind of care they render to so many who are displaced, hungry and emotionally lost.

One thing we do know that is true is that our country has given over \$60 billion to Ukraine to help them fight Russia. We give Israel \$3.8 billion every year. We have approximately 40,000 of our military close by Israel now. How much is this costing? We handed over billions of dollars in military equipment and a state-of-the-art airport to the Taliban in Afghanistan. We have given billions to countries all over the world and continue to do so every year. Surely our government will come up with a few billion to help our own country. It will take Asheville, NC and the surrounding areas four to five years to rebuild and even then, it will not be the same. It will never be the same. However, as Americans, surely, we must hit a pause button on all this foreign aid and help our own.

Glenn Mollette is read in all fifty states. Find books by Glenn Mollette at Amazon.com Learn more about his books, columns and music at GlennMollette.Com. Email him at gmollette@aol.com

# EDITORIAL

Kudos to the candidates vying to become the next mayor of Stuart. Rebecca Adcock, Terry Dalton, and Jeff Houchins. Each, unprompted, emphasized the importance of transparency and public input in their roles, underscoring the value of these principles to the town's overall governance. They also acknowledged that these qualities are vital to the town's overall success.

And they should know. Adcock, Dalton, and Houchins are all current members of the Stuart Town Council. Their respective records show a consistent dedication to transparency, whether in dealing with the media, other government officials, or residents. Their actions demonstrate a clear commitment to openness.

Each has actively encouraged input from the community, with some even going the extra mile to seek out residents' ideas.

This commitment is shared by

fellow council members Dave Hockback and Erica Cipko Wade, as well as Town Attorney Chris Corbett. Town Manager Bryce Simmons also has been consistently transparent, openly sharing information—whether positive or negative—and fostering a culture where department heads are accessible and trusted to do their jobs.

It's great to see a local government that invests in hiring competent individuals, and then empowers them to perform their duties effectively. This approach benefits everyone.

While such practices are standard in most forms of government, they are often taken for granted. So, to the candidates, council members, staff, and support team: thank you. Your professionalism, dedication, and commitment to transparency and efforts to engage residents are greatly appreciated.

## Letters to the Editor

### YOU DO THE HIRING

The election of the President of the United States is a hiring process. Voting amounts to hiring. If you were hiring someone to work for your business or in your home, wouldn't you be wise to think about who the ideal employee should be based on what you expect the person to do? In the case of hiring a President, the United States Constitution defines the duties.

The President must be the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, the prime mover of foreign policy, and the CEO of the Executive branch. Last, but not least, the President must be a leader. Please note that nowhere in the Constitution are there requirements about the President's personality. He or she does not have to have charisma or be the person with whom you would most like to have dinner.

As Commander-in-Chief, the President will determine if we, our sons and daughters, or our fellow citizens have to serve in battle. Therefore, the President may determine whether you live or die. Knowing what it's like to be shot at is a plus for any candidate.

As the prime mover in foreign affairs, the President will determine whether we spend our limited tax dollars to support allies, influence the elections of other countries, and determine ultimately, if we, as a country, defend the honor that our founding documents preach. Spending money we don't have to support foreign wars will determine if we have inflation, which always accompanies short skir-

mishes or endless wars.

As the CEO of the Executive Branch, the prime duty is to enforce the laws as written by Congress, whether or not the President likes them personally. This requires having the character to execute the will of the people (true democracy). Being mindful of the preciousness of tax dollars, a good CEO will hire based upon competency, not social goals based on race or gender. Poor performance should also have real consequences, including dismissal.

The President will determine if we have continuous inflation and debt by signing bills that demand spending that exceeds collected taxes. The President will determine if laws are executed at the lowest costs, in the least time, and with the minimum intrusiveness into the lives of citizens. A good CEO has actually run broad, encompassing operations (preferably worldwide). Most importantly, the CEO has had to earn and retain customers, rather than having been paid by tax dollars most of his or her life. Having run a business is plus.

A good leader is willing to do whatever is asked of the staff. Being willing to take a bullet and rebound quickly may be the epitome of this trait.

We need voters who are willing to fill the job description of president as defined by the Constitution. The times call for us to behave as adults and vote for policies over personalities. And remember: perfection is not an option.

Joe Cadrin,  
Stuart

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**PUBLISHER**  
Michael Showell

**EDITOR**  
Debbie Hall

**ADVERTISING**  
Wendi Craig  
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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## Patrick Pioneers

John Wesley Hooker and Margaret Derency Akers Hooker-Part III  
By Beverly Belcher Woody

For the past two weeks, we have been looking at John Wesley and Margaret Akers Hooker and their first five children (and their children). This week, we will look at children six through eight, John Abram; Robert Lee; and Samuel Hairston Hooker.

John Abram Hooker was born to the couple on the 29th of April 1867. On the 27th of May 1888, John Abram married Miss Mary Bishop Houchins. Mary was the daughter of Isaac Columbus Houchins and Jathina Tucker Adams Houchins of the Elamsville district of Patrick County. John Abram's older sister, Mary Ellen Hooker had married Mary Bishop Houchins brother, James Tyler Houchins, eleven years earlier. Around the turn of the 20th century, John Abram and Mary moved to Philadelphia and lived in a boarding house with several of their siblings and spouses. John worked for the post office several years before returning to Virginia to become a dairy farmer in Prince William County. John and Mary had three sons and a daughter.

John Wesley and Margaret's seventh child was Robert Lee Hooker, born on the 17th of April 1869. Robert Lee married Miss Martha Virginia Gravely of Leatherwood in Henry County on the 1st of April 1893. Martha was the daughter of Thomas Marshall Gravely and Georgia Stultz Gravely. Robert and Martha moved to Buchanan in Botetourt County where Robert owned a timber company and he and Martha raised seven daughters.

Samuel Hairston Hooker was born on the 4th of April 1871 to John Wesley and Margaret. Samuel married Miss Nancy Lucinda Agee on the 2nd of March 1893. Nancy was the daughter of John Tazewell Agee and Ruth Lillian Nolen of Floyd County. Samuel and Nancy's first child, John Clyde Hooker, Sr. was born on the 11th of May 1895. John Clyde worked at Bassett Furniture as a bookkeeper before marrying Miss Maggie Mabel Bassett on the 28th of February 1920. Maggie was the daughter of Charles Columbus Bassett and Roxie Ann Hundley Bassett. In 1925, four-year-old John Clyde Hooker, Jr. pulled the cord on the steam whistle signaling the first day of work at the brand-new company of Hooker-Bassett Furniture.



Samuel Hairston and Nancy Lucinda Agee Hooker

Samuel and Nancy's second child, Lilly Margaret married Hugh Chaplin Marshall, who was the head cashier at First National Bank of Stuart. Hugh was featured in an earlier Patrick Pioneers story. He tragically died of a diving accident in the Mayo River in downtown Stuart when he was only 23 years old. Lilly and Hugh had one daughter.

Samuel Arthur was born to Samuel and Nancy on the 23rd of January 1901 in the Elamsville/Bufalo Ridge area. S. Arthur worked as sales manager for Hooker Furniture in addition to opening several companies of his own, including Southern Box & Plywood, Inc. S. Arthur married Margarita Scott in Manhattan, New York in 1928 and they had one son and two daughters.

Alfred Frank was born the 30th of May 1904, the fourth child of Samuel and Nancy Agee Hooker. Just like Arthur, Alfred helped his brother John Clyde get the Hooker Furniture Company off the ground in 1925. Alfred married Margie Field of High Point, North Carolina in 1926 and they had two sons and one daughter.

Ralph Agee Hooker, born on the 28th of February 1909, was the only child of Samuel and Nancy Agee Hooker that was not born at the old homeplace in Elamsville/Bufalo Ridge. Ralph was born in Bassett, where his parents had moved to run a general merchandise store. Ralph attended school in Axton, then Greenbrier Military Academy before serving in WWII. After the war, he drove a truck for a while before founding Hooker Window Company which he



### CAN YOU REMEMBER?

This was Bassett Bank building in 1911. The signs on the windows, left to right, read: C. C. Bassett Furniture Co. Undertaker. Post Office. S. H. Hooker, General Merchandise. Bank of Bassett. The women in the picture are Miss

Bert Stanley and Mrs. S. H. Hooker, both deceased. Mrs. Hooker was the mother of Arthur, Frank, Clyde, and Ralph Hooker, and Mrs. Ben Turner, all of Martinsville.

S. H. Hooker General Merchandise (photo from Martinsville Bulletin shared by Katherine Hooker Boaz)



John Abram Hooker (Photos courtesy of Katherine Hooker Boaz)



Robert Lee Hooker

ran for forty years. Ralph married Miss Dorothy Wilson Lester of Martinsville, and they had two children.

Samuel H. and Nancy Agee Hooker have a special place in my heart because when my great grandmother and her two brothers became wards of the state in the late 1890's, the Hooker family took in my 2x great uncle Albert Wood. Albert lived on the farm in Elamsville/Bufalo Ridge until the Hooker family moved to Bassett to run the general store. In 1915, Samuel and Nancy purchased the historic Patrick Henry Farm in the Carlisle area of Henry County, where they spent the rest of their lives. Samuel

was also a director and vice-president of his son's furniture company and was one of the organizers of Schaefer's Varnish Company in Louisville, Kentucky. Samuel was a member of Smith River Church of the Brethren. Next week, we will continue learning more about the Hooker family, beginning with child number nine, James Murray Hooker. I would not be able to share these stories and photos without the contributions of Katherine Hooker Boaz, to whom I am very grateful. 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 Wife's Survivor Benefit Less if she Claimed Her Social Security Early?

Dear Rusty: I claimed Social Security at 70. My wife claimed her own SS at 62, and her earnings were significantly lower than mine. I understand my wife will be eligible to claim my benefit if I pass before she does, but will Social Security reduce that benefit because she didn't wait until age 65 to claim hers? Signed: Concerned Husband

Dear Concerned: Your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse will be based on two things:

- Her age when she claims her survivor benefit,
- The amount you were receiving at your death.

If she has reached her own Full Retirement Age (FRA) when she claims her surviving spouse benefit, she will get 100% of the amount you were re-

ceiving when you died (instead of her own smaller SS retirement amount). However, if she claims her survivor benefit at any time before her full retirement age, it will be reduced for claiming the survivor benefit early.

Thus, when your wife claimed her own Social Security retirement benefit (in her case, age 62) doesn't matter and doesn't affect her potential surviving spouse benefit - what matters is her age when she claims her survivor benefit. If she claims before reaching her own FRA, her survivor benefit will be reduced according to the number of months before her FRA that the survivor benefit is claimed. That reduction would be about 4.75% for each year earlier than her FRA she claims it. But if she claims her surviving spouse benefit at or after she reaches her full retirement age, she will get the amount you were receiving at your death, instead of her own smaller age 62 Social Security retirement benefit amount. FYI, your wife's full retirement age is

somewhere between 66 and 67, depending on the year she was born (born in 1960 or later, her FRA is age 67).

And, just for clarity, your wife's payment as your surviving spouse will consist of her own SS retirement benefit plus an auxiliary amount to bring her monthly payment up to what she is entitled to as your surviving spouse.

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## The Key Vitamin That Prevents Dementia - Part 1

There are so many supplements on the market today for cognitive health. Slowing the effects of aging on the brain is a goal for many people who take supplements as they age. There are a lot of supplement "cocktails" out there promising to do just that. But there is a key vitamin in all of them that seems to play a significant role in warding off cognitive decline.

Traditionally recognized for its role in bone health and calcium homeostasis, vitamin D is now being studied for its role in maintaining cognitive health, particularly in the context of dementia. Dementia, characterized by a decline in cognitive function severe enough to interfere with daily life, includes conditions like Alzheimer's disease. With no definitive cure currently available, prevention and risk reduction strategies are critical. Emerging research highlights the potential of vitamin D as a protective agent against cognitive decline and dementia.

A study published in 2023 by the University of Calgary's Hotchkiss Brain Institute and the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom looked at the relationship of vitamin D supplementation and dementia in over 12,388 people. They found that those who supplemented with vitamin D had 40% fewer dementia diagnoses than those who didn't

supplement with vitamin D.

Sources of Vitamin D

Vitamin D, often called the "sunshine vitamin," is synthesized in the skin upon exposure to sunlight. Stepping out into the sunlight 10-30 minutes a day three days a week is sufficient for most people to get their dose of vitamin D. It can also be obtained from dietary sources such as fatty fish, fortified dairy products, and supplements. For people with a strict plant-based diet, getting vitamin D from natural sources may be harder. The good news is that there are a lot of fortified foods with vitamin D. Cereals, plant-based milks, orange juice, and tofu are usually fortified with vitamin D. And of course, supplements in pill or capsule form are found everywhere.

Recent Research on Vitamin D and Dementia

Several recent studies have explored the relationship between vitamin D levels and the risk of developing dementia:

1. Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies (2023): A comprehensive meta-analysis published in the journal Neurology in early 2023 reviewed data from multiple observational studies involving thousands of participants. The analysis found that individuals with low levels of vitamin D had a significantly higher risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's

disease compared to those with sufficient levels.

2. Prospective Cohort Study (2022): A large-scale prospective cohort study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Neurology in 2022 followed over 6,000 older adults for several years. The researchers measured baseline vitamin D levels and monitored participants for cognitive decline and dementia onset. The study concluded that sufficient vitamin D levels were associated with a reduced risk of cognitive decline and dementia, suggesting a potential protective effect.

3. Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs): While observational studies provide valuable insights, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) are the gold standard for establishing causality. Several RCTs have examined the effect of vitamin D supplementation on cognitive function. For instance, a 2023 RCT published in The Lancet involved over 2,000 participants aged 70 and older. The study found that those who received vitamin D supplements showed less cognitive decline over three years compared to those who received a placebo.

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



## Cougars Score Win at Glenvar

**By Ashlee Mullis**  
The Varsity Volleyball Team won in 4 sets tonight at Glenvar. Set scores were 26-25, 20-25, 25-19, and 25-15. Lilly Hazelwood had 12 kills, 3 blocks, and 8 digs. Jayden Callahan had 12 kills, 11 digs, 3 aces, and 2 blocks. Camille Gonzalez had 32 assists, 6 kills, 2 blocks, and 11 digs. Journey Moore had 25 digs, and Madison Scott had 6 aces. Sydney Tatum had 7 kills and



Sidney Tatum goes up for the block.

6 blocks. The Lady Cougars are 9-4 overall. They will be in action again at home against Radford in their Dig Pink Game.

## Lady Cougars win, hit milestones



Camille Gonzalez (left) and Journey Moore hold up posters congratulating them on their milestones.



Journey Moore with one of her 26 digs on the night.



Camille Gonzalez sets up a teammate for one of her 32 assists in the game.



Lilly Hazelwood hits one past the North Stokes blocker.

### PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of Oct. 14-18	10/16 6pm Cross County Meet at Carroll County
	10/17 7pm Volleyball at Carroll County
10/15 7pm Volleyball vs Alleghany	10/18 7pm Football at Radford

## PCHS Cougars fall to Buffalos



Easton Harris rushes for a big gain.



Connor Goad brings down the Buffalo runner.



Seth Geiger recovers the Buffalo fumble.



Noah Jessup fights for yards on a kickoff return.

**By Pat Delaney**  
The Patrick County High School Cougars traveled to Floyd County for a Three Rivers District matchup on October 4. Floyd County scored 29 points in a nine-minute stretch late in the first half, which proved decisive in the 36-0 loss for the Cougars.

Floyd County received the opening kickoff and fumbled on their first play from scrimmage. After recovering the fumble, they lost a fumble two plays later, giving the Cougars the ball deep in Buffalo territory. The Cougars would turn the ball back over to the Buffalos on downs. Conditions for the game were challenging for both teams. The wet field and ball contributed to several fumbles on both sides.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Cougars threatened with the ball near the goal line. A scrum formed when a Cougar runner was stopped at the line of scrimmage. As the runner fought for yards, the Buffalos stripped the ball loose and recovered it, ending the Cougar scoring threat.

The Buffalos drove over ninety yards for the touchdown to take the 7-0 lead with 9:30 to go in the half. They would tack on three more touchdowns before halftime, including a two-point conversion for a 29-0.

"They scored 29 points in nine minutes in the second quarter, and that really hurt us," said Cougar head coach David Morrison. "For nine minutes, we were just shell-shocked, and we gave them so many

opportunities, and we could never recover. Moving forward, that's something we've got to understand. If you take those nine minutes away, it's a 7-0 ball game."

The Cougar offense, behind two long runs by Easton Harris, moved into Buffalo territory on the opening drive of the second half before a fumble gave the ball back to Floyd County, ending the drive.

The Buffalos added a touchdown late in the third quarter to increase the lead to 36-0 and would hold off the Cougars for the win.

Turnovers hurt the Cougars, occurring twice deep in the Floyd County side of the field. "Conditions aren't ideal, but there's no excuse for that," said Morrison. "You better hold on to the ball."

Outside of the turnovers, the Cougars played well for much of the game. "We played much better defensively, and we continue to play well," said Morrison. "We're struggling in pieces. Here and there, we give up big chunk plays, offensively we stall out and these are things we've got to work on and come back to being consistent every single snap."

On the night, Easton Harris led the Cougars with 34 yards on the ground. Defensively, Paul Pascalle had 8 tackles. Jackson Callahan, Glenn Stovall, Jayden Corns each added 7 tackles. Josh Jimrusti and Seth Geiger each had a fumble recovery.

The Cougars are now 3-4 for the season and will next play on the road at Glenvar on October 11.

## Varsity Golf Places Second in Tournament

**By Ashlee Mullis**  
The Varsity Golf Team traveled to the Olde Mill Golf Club, Wednesday, October 2, to compete in the Sub-Region Tournament. Floyd County came out on top with a score of 298. Patrick County shot a 356 to place 2nd in the tournament. Dan River shot a 369, Chatham shot a 378, and Gretna shot a 396. Parker Roop led the Cougars with a score of 87. Chance Corns finished with an 88, Kendra Worley shot a 90, and Riley Belcher shot a 91.

"It was a great job today advancing to region play on a tough and wet course. I'm looking forward to past season play," said Coach Philip Steagall.



Parker Roop tees off at Olde Mill

**By Pat Delaney**

It was a big night for the Patrick County High Lady Cougars volleyball team, coming away with a 3-0 win on September 30 at North Stokes, upping their record to 8-4.

Highlighting the night were milestones reached by two Lady Cougars. In the second set, Junior Camille Gonzalez reached 500 assists for her career. On the night, she had 32 assists.

In the third set, Junior Journey Moore collected her 1,000th dig. Moore had 26 digs along with 6 aces in the game. Moore became just the second Lady Cougar to reach 1,000 digs.

The match started a little slow for the Lady Cougars, trailing in the early going 8-9. They responded with a 9-1 run, taking the lead at 17-10 before closing out the set 25-17.

North Stokes battled back from a 6-1 deficit, tying the set at 14-14. It would remain close, with neither team able to gain more than a two point lead with the

momentum swinging back and forth. Facing set point at 22-24, the Lady Cougars took the next four points for the 26-24 set win.

The Lady Cougars seemed in control in the third set, cruising to a 24-18 lead and match point. North Stokes would win the next five points before the Lady Cougars finished out the match with a 25-23 third set win.

For much of the match, the Lady Cougars had to contend with the solid defense played by North Stokes. "They played some really good defense and kept balls up that I didn't think would stay up. That was pretty exciting," said Lady Cougar head coach Heidi Moore.

"I thought we did really well. A good game," said Moore. "It was nice to come in, especially after being off for a few days, and be able to play pretty well."

In the victory, Jayden Callahan had 12 kills and 10 digs, and Eliza Clifton had 9 kills and 11 digs.

Sidney Tatum and Chloe Hubbard each chipped in 6 kills.

## Local college anglers compete in New York

Representing Patrick County and Henry County respectively with the Patrick & Henry Community College Bass Fishing Team were David Bryant, Zach Heath, Nash Thompson, Gavin McGhee and Shelby Rigney at the Abu Garcia College Fishing tournament on the St. Lawrence River in Massena, New York. They were among a full field of close to 70 teams from throughout the United States that competed in the tournament. After taking off under calm and overcast conditions, the young anglers enjoyed a great day on the St. Lawrence River and are thankful for the opportunity. The team reeled in a combined total of 36 pounds, 7 ounces.

The University of Alabama duo of Cooper Gilroy and Hayden O'Barr won the MLF Abu Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI event hosted by the Town of Massena, New York on the St. Lawrence River presented by Simms with a five-bass limit weighing 25 pounds, 1 ounce.

The 2024 MLF Abu Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI season features college teams from across the country competing in nine regular-season tournaments. The top 12% of teams from each regular-season tournament advance to the 2025 Abu

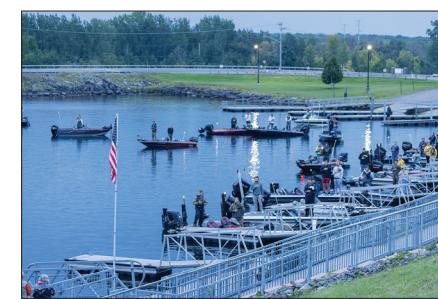


Photo by Jody White

Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI National Championship. The 2025 Abu Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI National Championship will take place on Wheeler Lake in Decatur, Alabama, April 9-11, and is hosted by Decatur Morgan County Tourism.

Proud sponsors of the 2024 MLF Abu Garcia College Fishing Presented by YETI include: 7Brew, Abu Garcia, B&W Trailer Hitchers, Berkley, BUBBA, E3, Epic Baits, Fishing Clash, General Tire, GSM Outdoors, Lew's, Mercury, Mossy Oak, Onyx, Phoenix, Polaris, Power-Pole, Strike King, Suzuki, Tackle Warehouse, T-H Marine, Toyota and YETI.

For complete details, visit MajorLeagueFishing.com. For regular College Fishing updates, photos, tournament news and more, follow MLF5's social media outlets at Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

## Sports Briefs

**By Ashlee Mullis**  
**JV Volleyball Gets Win at North Stokes**

The JV Volleyball Team traveled to North Stokes, Monday, September 30, winning in two sets

25-10 and 25-12. Brooke Barner had 7 kills, and Ava Hiatt had 4 kills. Emmy Corns had 2 digs and 3 aces. Maddy Martin had 2 digs and 4 aces. Mariah Scott had 13 assists.



# Crossing the Lines

News snippets from outside the town/county lines...

## Pres. Biden approves Virginia's request for expedited declaration

As groups, individuals and businesses in Henry County and Martinsville are working to get help to areas of North Carolina and Virginia that were ravaged by the remnants of Hurricane Helene, Gov. Glenn Youngkin on Wednesday announced that President Biden granted Virginia's request for an expedited Federal Major Disaster Declaration due to impacts from the storm.



Gov. Glenn Youngkin assessed storm damage caused by Hurricane Helene in Damascus, Virginia on September 28.

"This is the most significant disaster in the Commonwealth since 2011," Youngkin said. "Due to the severity and magnitude of the damages, we are thankful that Virginia was able to get this expedited disaster declaration so that we can continue this long process of recovery. This will allow us to get resources to our impacted communities and Virginians as fast as possible. We will continue to work to add jurisdictions as additional assessments occur in impacted areas."

dition to the federal emergency declaration that was approved on September 29, will provide additional support to individuals and local governments impacted in Virginia.

Youngkin thanked "local responders, volunteers, federal partners, and the Virginia Emergency Support Team who have been working day and night to assist with ongoing response and recovery operations. Thank you to Senator (Mark) Warner, Senator (Tim) Kaine and Congressman Morgan Griffith for your support during this recovery effort. Together, we will make it through."

tisan group to write a letter to Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-NY, and others highlighting the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene and the urgent need to pass an appropriations package to support the millions of Americans affected by the storm.

"The devastation from Hurricane Helene across the southeastern United States is simply inconceivable," the letter stated. "Because of a lack of cell service, we anticipate even greater tragedy to unfold in the days and weeks ahead as communications and power are restored and we can understand the full scope of this disaster."



Opening night of the 4th annual Henry County Fair. Roger Adams, director of the county's Parks and Recreation Department, is pictured in the center.

## Fair deemed a success, despite weather

Despite the devastation caused by hurricane Helene in many areas over the weekend, organizers determined the 4th annual Henry County Fair must go on, with record attendance on Saturday, September 28 more than enough to determine it was a success.

While the wristband sales have yet to be counted, Henry County Parks & Recreation Director Roger Adams said Saturday was busy all day long, with thousands coming through the fair-ground gates.

"We had lines most of the afternoon to purchase ride tickets. There were lines past our gate admission ticket booths, and we've never had that happen before," he said.

Adams said he was surprised the fair was as successful as it was considering the onslaught of rain. But, on "Saturday when we woke up and it was a clear sky, we knew we'd have a good local turnout. We probably didn't have as many people coming from out of town because of the weather, especially Fri-

day night," he said. Even then, Adams said the fair weathered numerous tornado warnings and had a good crowd for Jordan Feliz's performance for Spirit FM night. Some people traveled hours to see Feliz perform, with one family traveling five hours one way.

"I'm sure we would have had a lot more" local people and people from further away Friday "if it wasn't for the weather. Typically, for Spirit FM Night, we have a decent amount of folks come from an hour, or a couple of hours away for that night," Adams said.

On "Thursday, Jack & David Reid could not take the stage to perform, so we were only open for a short period of time," he said.

Opening night Wednesday started off good, but Adams said Key West, a Jimmy Buffett tribute band, were about three-quarters of the way through their set before the rain started, causing them to cut their set short.

## Candidates field tough questions at forum

Charles Roark of Star News hosted a candidate forum at Mount Sinai Church, with questions about pressing local issues and audience concerns posed to each of the five candidates vying for three seats on Martinsville City Council.

In terms of the municipal building's water leakage problems, Roark asked candidates whether the building should be repaired, remodeled, or replaced entirely. "Anything can be fixed, but at the end of the day, it's a question of is the fix gonna cost more than starting from scratch," said Julian Mei.

He added that if a new building were constructed, he would like to see it designed similarly to the New College Institute (NCI), which boasts many windows.

LaNita Herlem expressed a preference for considering remodeling first, while Rayshaun Gravely emphasized keeping options open while being mindful of costs. "Of course, don't spend any unnecessary money," he said.

John Wilson questioned how the city would fund any remodeling efforts. "Before you make any decision whatsoever, you need to assess and evaluate." Kathy Lawson acknowledged the extent of the water damage and called for further investigation.

"The city manager told me that we have been like a 20-year-old house that hadn't had any repairs," said Roark, to which Lawson responded that she was unaware of the building's major issues.

Lawson suggested low-interest bonds as a potential funding source.

The candidates also faced questions about the city's water infrastructure and ongoing lawsuits. This led Herlem to express her support for veterans. "I do hope to be a voice for the veterans because I don't think they have a very loud one," she said.

Of high electricity costs, Wilson noted, "Our electric system, or company, doesn't make a profit." He acknowledged the city's power purchase agreements, explaining that the city is subject to open market prices.

"We have to pay whatever the open market price is. I don't like my power bill any more than you do," Wilson said, stressing the need to explore options to lower costs.

"When our federal government deregulated electricity, they did a travesty



Left to right, John Wilson, Kathy Lawson, LaNita Herlem, Julian Mei and Rayshaun Gravely are pictured.

to every person sitting in this room," Lawson said, adding federal deregulation of the market turned energy into a commodity traded like stock. She explained that the city has attempted various methods to bring down costs but faces challenges like uncontrollable transmission fees. Lawson proposed a program to help high-usage residents reduce their bills and said she hopes to move forward with initiatives to assist those burdened by utility costs.

Herlem said energy conservation should start at home, and shared personal strategies to lower her bill. "I keep my thermostat high in the summer and low in the winter to try to manage costs," she said. Unfortunately, we live in a world where energy is just expensive right now."

Gravely emphasized the need to improve residential energy efficiency, citing recent upgrades in the West End.

"Why don't we establish an energy efficiency committee on day one in office?" suggested Mei, and advocated for specialists to serve on the committee and help residents lower their utility bills.

The candidates were also asked about homelessness in Martinsville and how they would address it.

Mei stated that simply placing people in shelters doesn't address the root causes, such as mental illness and addiction. "The crossover with mental illness and addiction is harrowing," he said.

Lawson praised the now fully funded warming center, located in the Salvation Army, and highlighted Henry County's support for funding and the addition of a paid employee to ensure it remains open. "We're very thankful Henry County came on board with funding this fiscal year," she said. The shelter also assists individuals in finding housing and employment.

## Maintenance issues prompt closure

The Bassett Historical Center will be closed to the public from Monday, October 7 - Friday, October 18 due to maintenance issues.

Currently, the center plans to re-

open at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 21. It will provide updates if it is able to reopen at an earlier date.

Call the center for more information, if needed.

## PRCJ Training Academy graduates 18



The September 2024 Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy graduating class.

The Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy celebrated 18 graduates on September 27. These graduates will be serving a variety of agencies, including those in Martinsville and Henry County.

"Today marks a momentous occasion as we celebrate the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of this group of men and women," said Martinsville Police Chief Robert "Rob" Fincher. Fincher congratulated the class and gave a short speech to instill confidence in the new recruits.

"They have learned to enforce the law, uphold justice, safeguard the innocent, and foster trust with the communities they serve. In today's world, their role has never been more critical. They will face diverse and complex challenges as guardians of peace and justice. However, I am confident with their training that they will be able to confront these challenges with competence and compassion," said Fincher, who was happy with the office's growth and the opportunities it offers to its officers.

"Today, as you stand on the thresh-

old of your career in law enforcement, reflect on the journey that has brought you here. Do not forget your why and the principles that will guide you moving forward, and do not listen to the naysayer," said field services coordinator Kathryn Bowen-Dotten. She encouraged the recruits not to forget to laugh and thanked their families for standing behind them.

Graduates serving Martinsville Police Department are Christina Frick, Dakota Harmon, Joel Hernandez, Matthew Huxley, Khalil Morris, and Ryan O'Hara. "I have no openings, we are completely filled," said Fincher who was thrilled with the awards his newest recruits earned during the ceremony.

Graduates serving the Henry County Sheriff's Office are William Bryant, Blake Hankins, and Jasweda Hunt.

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis said the three are assigned to road patrol. "We are proud to have them. They are a true blessing to our community."

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**BEETLEJUICE 2**

1-3-5-7-9PM

**SPEAK NO EVIL**

1-3-5-7-9PM

**THE WILD ROBOT**

1-3-5-7-9PM

**NEVER LET ME GO**

1-4-7-9:15PM

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**Herbert Lee Hylton**

Mr. Herbert Lee Hylton, age 73 of Woolwine, passed away Friday, October 4, 2024, at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center. He was born in Patrick County on September 8, 1951, to the late George Herman Hylton and Bertha Hatcher Hylton. In addition to his parents, Mr. Hylton was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Helen Lawson Hylton; one brother, Gilbert Hylton, and a niece, Angela Hylton Hall. Herbert was almost always called Papa or Papa Herbie. He had many special people in his life, he loved Cricket Morrison as one of his own grandchildren. He enjoyed his daily talks with Brad Hylton, Thomas Turner, and Kevin



Strothers. Papa Herbie has left an incredible mark in his 73 years of life and will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Mr. Hylton is survived by one daughter, Brenda Hylton (Jeff) of Woolwine; four grandchildren, Brandon Hylton (Erin) of Woolwine, and Kandis Hylton of Woolwine; Montana Inman (Garrett) of Patrick

Springs, and Cassie Inman (Michael) of Vinton; a God-granddaughter, Autumn Lawson of Bassett; three great-grandchildren, Paisley Hylton, Memphis Hylton, and Levi Inman-Rich; one brother, Wilbert Hylton (Glenda) of Woolwine, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Jamie Stokes officiating. Burial will follow in Hylton Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends Tuesday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Clarence Hampton Bowman**

Clarence Hampton Bowman, 78, passed away at Hospice of Davidson County on October 1, 2024, with loved ones at his side, including JoAnn, his beloved wife of 41 years. Mr. Bowman was born September 1, 1946, in Patrick County, Virginia, where he lived until he joined the United States Army. As a young man, Mr. Bowman was stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska, where he proudly served his country as a vehicle repairman. After his term of service ended, Mr. Bowman returned to Virginia and began his career as a long-haul, cross-country truck driver.

On December 2, 1982, while in Pico Rivera, California, for work, Clarence met his future wife, JoAnn. It was love at first sight, and Clarence proposed in January 1983. After they married, Clarence and JoAnn drove as a team for many years, earning awards for safety and professional service as they traveled across the country together, until Clarence retired in 2005.

In addition to his career, Mr. Bowman felt called to serve the Lord as a Primitive Baptist Elder. Mr. Bowman was a devoted Christian and servant leader. Over many years, Mr. Bowman humbly served in this role for the congregations of the associations that he served. Prior to his

death, Mr. Bowman pastored his home church of Big Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Westfield, NC, and also served as an Elder for the first weekend service at Buffalo Primitive Baptist Church in Sandy Ridge, NC.

In addition to being a devoted husband to JoAnn and an Elder of his associations, Mr. Bowman was a beloved and honored father, stepfather, grandfather and great-grandfather. Clarence, or Clay as he was known to friends and family, was a kind and thoughtful man with a generous spirit and a devoted friend and mentor to many people during his life. During his final days, many people reached out to his family to share the different ways Clarence impacted their lives and helped them to build their relationship with God. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Mr. Bowman is survived by his wife, JoAnn of Lexington; children Raymond Bowman (Becca) of Eagle River, AK, Barbara Bowman of Fayetteville, NC, Elaine Bartee (Robbie) of Dry Fork, VA and Carmela Warfield (Jason) of Anchorage, AK; stepchildren Armando Jimenez (Keely) of Tyro, NC, Marta Parker of Salisbury, NC and Teal Cardon (Je-

rome) of DeSoto, TX; fifteen grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; and so many friends.

Mr. Bowman was preceded in death by his father, Hampton Bowman; mother, Mattie Bowman; mother-in-law, Georgia Hartness; brothers Charles (Hoss) Bowman and Wayne (Skip) Bowman; and stepson, Rick Estrada.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, October 12 at 1:00pm at Davidson Funeral Home at 301 N. Main Street in Lexington, followed by a chapel service led by Elder Rodney Marshall and Elder Dan Abbott. A graveside service with full military honors will be held on Saturday, October 12 at Forest Hill Memorial Park in Lexington. Mr. Bowman's grandsons Markus Bartee, Jordan Redd, Jake Parker, Chance Bartee, Jason Warfield II, and John Warfield will serve as pallbearers.

For those that prefer, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mr. Bowman's home church located in Westfield, NC, sent via USPS mail to: Big Creek Primitive Baptist Church, c/o JoAnn Bowman, Treasurer, 2086 Greensboro St. Ext., Lexington, NC 27295

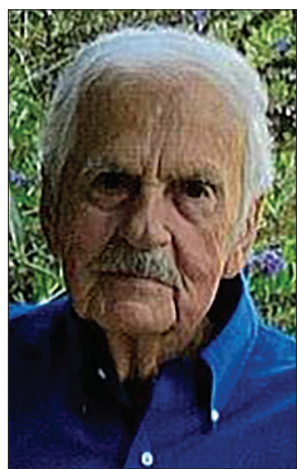
Condolences may be made at [www.davidsonfuneralhome.net](http://www.davidsonfuneralhome.net)

**Hubert Oscar Lyon**

On the evening of October 3, 2024, Mr. Hubert Oscar Lyon entered his heavenly home. He was born on February 21, 1931, to the late James Elma Lyon and Lillian Pratt Lyon. He was preceded in death by his twin infant sons; brothers, Sherman Lyon, Alvin Lyon, and Dallas Lyon, and sisters, Elva Lyon, and Wavie Lyon Stephens.

Throughout his life, Hubert was known as being a humble and hard-working man who desired to serve God. He was a long-time member at Smith River Church of the Brethren, where he served as deacon, treasurer, and sang in the choir. Hubert's love and dedication for his family was seen through his roles of being a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He enjoyed the beauty of nature, and being outside working on his farm and riding his horses. He also enjoyed hobbies such as wood carving, riding his 4-wheeler and playing his harmonica. In 1994 after a long career, he retired from Liberty Fabrics.

Hubert will be greatly missed by all those that knew and loved him. Left behind to cherish his memory is his lov-



ing wife of 73 years, Evadell Rorrer Lyon; sons and daughter-in-law, David Lyon of Woolwine, VA, Timothy Lyon (Christina) of Youngsville, NC; daughter and son-in-law, Amy Mangrum (Bobby) of Woolwine VA; grandchildren, Audrey Mangrum Jones (Tony), James Mangrum (Courtney), Kayla Lyon Bailey (Jonas), Rachel Lyon and Drew Lyon; and great-grandchildren, Alyssa Jones, Noah

Jones, Ian Jones, Evelyn Mangrum, future Mangrum great-grandson, Addison Bailey, Luke Bailey, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Mr. Lyon will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Stuart, VA with the Reverend David Shumate officiating. Family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Burial will follow in the Lyon Family Cemetery in Woolwine, VA. Flowers will be accepted, or memorial donations may be made to Smith River Church of the Brethren c/o Marvin Gunter, 595 S. Mayo Drive, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Letters to the Editor**

**Fiber cable project**

Spectrum and their subcontractors have been here in Ararat for the past several weeks installing fiber cable. It has been my experience that their workers do not care about my property. No one told me they would be coming on my property. The workers that came out here first were clearing out under the power line. They tore up the sides of my driveway with their equipment. It will have to be fixed before I will be able to mow it again. They cut down trees and piled the trees and limbs on top of my forsythias. I have three evergreens they cut off near the ground. I have ten forsythias that they cut off or broke off. They threw most of the limbs and trees into the creek. They used a blower on the yard but that didn't do anything for the limbs left in the yard.

The workers putting in the lines parked in my yard. I don't know who told them that was okay. I found several pieces of metal trash that most likely fell off of the trucks or the workers dropped and didn't bother to pick up. I have noticed a lot of trash along the road where

they have stopped to work.

When I wanted to get a supervisor's contact information one of the geniuses was like, so you don't want fiber cable. As if they are doing me a favor by putting it in and I should let them tear up whatever to install it.

I called AEP about the tree issues because I thought that was who was doing it. I think they contacted GTS, Gibson Technical Services. The same workers that came out and made the mess came out and got most of the limbs out of the creek and chipped them up. They still left a big mess in the yard.

They came out several times to fix the original mess they made. It will take me a while to get it back to what it was. I am really not impressed with Spectrum or their subcontractor GTS, Gibson Technical Services. Currently Spectrum's \$30 deal becomes \$60 in two years. With the way they have treated me to this point I think I will pass. Hopefully your luck with them will be better than mine.

Willy Young,  
Ararat

**Dear editor,**

A recent letter to this newspaper described a "dystopian world" that would arrive should Kamala Harris win the upcoming election. This is a harsh but silly diagnosis of what might occur if a very intelligent, reasonable, and competent former U.S. senator and attorney general of the largest state in the union becomes our next president. For one thing, even if Harris wanted to do all the things she is accused of wanting to do, a president is NOT a dictator who can do anything she or he wants to do - contrary to what former President Trump says he "will do" on "day one" of a second term. The U.S. Congress would have to approve most of the items on any president's agenda. In fact, many moderate Democrats serve in that body along with some Republicans who have respect for tradition and democracy such that radical change is difficult to achieve in most cases.

Now, if you want a really messed up, crazy "dystopia" in the United States, you may very well see one if Donald Trump is elected and his cronies' Project 2025 agenda is adopted, and what's up with someone who has been convicted of 34 felonies and has several dozen more charges pending against him being "your man"?

In the days when the GOP did not suffer from unbridled devotion to the greatest grifter/con man in the history of the planet and when they had individuals of great integrity like Dwight D. Eisenhower, John McCain, and John Warner, among others, their voters would never tolerate a convicted felon as a candidate for any office.

Nor would they support anyone who admitted to groping women and bragged about it, much less a person who suggests "suspending" the Constitution. That would include a guy who has already refused to accept the consequences of what virtually every court and state election authority declared was a "free and fair" election in 2020.

Perhaps, you think the current Department of Justice has been "picking on" that "poor little billionaire" Donald Trump, but it seems they have been going "a little dystopian" too after, somehow, several prominent Democrats(!) including a US Senator, the Mayor of New York City, and no less than the current president's own son have been charged or indicted for numerous crimes too. Funny thing, so many people that were close to a morally (and often financially) bankrupt former president were pardoned for their documented crimes.

As for a "weaponized" justice system, even if it has been biased (yet to be proven) in pursuing certain people, indictments are handed down by grand juries, and it's still up to "a jury of one's peers" to convict anyone accused of a crime. It's called the "rule of law," I believe, and that applies to everyone - that is, everyone who doesn't receive a "get out of jail free" card from a totally "unbiased" US Supreme Court - but how's the fishing on your buddy's big yacht, Clarence? (Sources: US Constitution, Mother Jones Magazine, Time Magazine, Roanoke Times)

John Reynolds,  
Critz

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# PATRICK PULPITS

## Salvation by Grace Alone

**Pastor Wayne Moore**  
High Point Baptist Church

Church councils have been crucial in addressing important doctrines. Some of the earliest church councils clarified doctrines concerning the deity and humanity of Christ, the nature of the Holy Spirit, and the nature of Christ's will.

The first church council clarified the doctrine of salvation. It took place in AD 49 and is the only church council in history to be recorded in the inspired Word of God. It is preserved in

Acts 15 and is known as The Jerusalem Council.

The Jerusalem Council was called to settle the conflict over what was required for Gentiles to be saved. The disagreement arose after Barnabas and Paul returned from their first missionary journey with exciting news of God's work among the Gentiles.

Acts 14:27 states, "Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." It didn't take long for someone to rain on their parade. Acts 15:1 records, "And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.'"

Acts 15:5 further describes who these men were and what they were teaching. "But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, 'It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.'" The doctrine of the pharisaic believers contradicted what Paul and Barnabas taught. Paul and Barnabas tried to convince them of their error but to no avail. Therefore, it was "determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question." (Acts 15:2)

The first person to speak at the council was the Apostle Peter. (Acts 15:7-11) He reminded the church how God had chosen him ten years earlier to share the gospel with the Gentiles. (Acts 10-11) His point was that God made no distinction between the Jews and Gentiles by giving the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles in the same way He did to the Jews. (Acts 2) Then he turned it around and said, "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they." (Acts 15:11)

Peter's statement was radical. Instead of saying that the Gentiles were saved in the same manner as the Jews, he said the Jews were saved in the same manner as the Gentiles. Of course, Peter's point was that it does not matter which group is placed first, the means of salvation is the same: "through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ." People are not saved by being Jew-

ish, Gentile, or anything else. People are saved only by God's grace.

After Peter's speech, Barnabas and Paul shared "how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles" (Acts 15:12). Then, James, the earthly brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem Church, spoke (Acts 15:13-21). He commended Peter's speech and revealed how it aligned with the Old Testament prophets. He could have used any number of prophecies but chose to quote

Amos 9:11-12. His point was that God intended to save Gentiles all along. Therefore, he concluded that Gentiles did not have to be burdened with Jewish customs to be saved.

James followed up with an admonition for the Gentiles to abstain from certain practices that were offensive to the Jews. This had nothing to do with being saved but was a matter of mutual respect. James defended the Gentiles from unreasonable Jewish demands. He also expected the Gentiles to show respect for Jewish customs. The decision and actions of the Jerusalem Council proved to be fruitful. When Paul revisited the churches he planted on his first missionary journey, he "delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem." (Acts 16:4)

The results were that "the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily." (Acts 16:5). Clarifying doctrine and showing mutual respect creates fertile ground for growing in Christ.

Paul later wrote letters to other churches. His doctrine on salvation remained the same. To the Ephesians he wrote, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9, NKJV) To the Romans he wrote, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'" (Romans 10:9-13, NKJV)

A helpful way to remember what is required to be saved is this: Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. If you are unsure that your sins are forgiven, it may be because you are trying to earn your salvation. Reread the passages above from Ephesians and Romans. Follow the instructions and trust the Lord to keep His promise.

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Jeremiah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In a vision that convinced Peter to share the gospel, what where the creatures let down to earth in? Great sheet, Cloud, Well, Wind
3. Who was instructed to eat bread while he lay for 390 days on his side? Moses, Ezekiel, Methuselah, Samson
4. From Matthew 5, what did Jesus tell His disciples they were the salt of? His glory, Mankind. The earth. Conversion
5. Who survived the bite of a viper as described in Acts 28? Paul, Matthew, John the Baptist, Stephen
6. From Genesis 35, who died in giving birth to Benjamin? Anna, Leah, Martha, Rachel

sation

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Great sheet, 3) Ezekiel, 4) The earth, 5) Paul, 6) Rachel

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

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## Super Crossword

"TENETS, ANYONE?"

- |   |                               |  |   |                                     |                        |
|---|-------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                             | 51 Holy Mlle.                 | 106 Subway entry gate                      | 10 Pippi Longstocking creator             | 48 Tach readings, informally        | 81 Tesla vehicle, e.g. |
| 1 Fitting name for a herding dog          | 53 Togetherness               | 108 Like most sandals                      | 11 Travel destination, generically        | 82 Elec. or gas                     |                        |
| 5 Tense, with "up"                        | 60 Samms and Stone of film    | 112 Tiny charged thing                     | 12 Very old: Abbr.                        | 83 Goller                           |                        |
| 10 "This Is 40" director Judd             | 61 Luau cocktail              | 113 Riddle's answer                        | 13 "TiK —" (Kesha hit)                    | 84 Ballesteros                      |                        |
| 16 That guy                               | 62 Lipton drinks              | 118 Tabloid paper                          | 14 Raw rock                               | 85 Threaten like a tiger            |                        |
| 19 "... I could — horse!"                 | 63 High peak                  | 119 Singer                                 | 15 Very friendly                          | 86 Result of a hit to the eye       |                        |
| 20 Actress Christensen                    | 66 Patriotic org. since 1889  | 120 French capital, in a Cole Porter title | 16 Greeting on a Sunday holiday           | 87 Part of DOS: Abbr.               |                        |
| 21 Mexican state                          | 67 Symbols                    | 121 Word that's pluralizable               | 17 Slanting type                          | 88 Summer, in Savoy                 |                        |
| 22 —Z (totally)                           | 68 Scholastic meas.           | 122 Zine staffers                          | 18 Demure                                 | 89 Swing wildly, as arms            |                        |
| 23 Start of a riddle                      | 71 Seeded loaf                | 124 African antelope                       | 19 Composer Antonio featured in "Amadeus" | 90 Rising ground                    |                        |
| 26 Cushion                                | 72 Vault                      | 125 Onetime JFK jets                       | 20 Actress Christensen                    | 91 In flames                        |                        |
| 27 Composer Antonio featured in "Amadeus" | 74 "Invisible" singer         |  | 21 Mexican state                          | 92 Put more film in                 |                        |
| 28 Severe                                 | 76 Press into folds           |  | 22 —Z (totally)                           | 93 Of the universe                  |                        |
| 29 Sap source                             | 77 Riddle, part 4             |  | 23 Start of a riddle                      | 94 Former NBA star Metta Sandiford— |                        |
| 31 Actors Ken and Lena                    | 84 Eritrean capital           |  | 26 Cushion                                | 95 Male tennis players              |                        |
| 33 Sparkly decoration                     | 85 Spanish bear               |  | 27 Composer Antonio featured in "Amadeus" | 96 Was too syrupy                   |                        |
| 37 "By the way" comments                  | 86 Videotapes, e.g.           |  | 28 Severe                                 | 97 "— 3 Lives"                      |                        |
| 38 Riddle, part 2                         | 88 Hi-fi setup                |  | 29 Sap source                             | 98 Auto-racing posts                |                        |
| 43 Ending for pent- or prop-              | 90 King of Egypt in the 1950s |  | 31 Actors Ken and Lena                    | 99 Ticked pink                      |                        |
| 44 City in central Sicily                 | 92 Trellis-climbing plant     |  | 33 Sparkly decoration                     | 100 Appraisal, for short            |                        |
| 45 Brand of cough drops                   | 93 End of the riddle          |  | 37 "By the way" comments                  | 101 "I" problems                    |                        |
| 46 Like Diet Coke                         | 99 End of the riddle          |  | 38 Riddle, part 2                         | 102 Indecent stuff                  |                        |
|   | 101 Successor of Claudius I   |  | 43 Ending for pent- or prop-              | 103 — serif font                    |                        |
|   | 102 Tijuana wives             |  | 44 City in central Sicily                 | 104 Seville cheer                   |                        |
|   | 103 Poet Sachs                |  | 45 Brand of cough drops                   | 105 Very big tub                    |                        |
|   | 104 Throw forcefully          |  | 46 Like Diet Coke                         | 106 Chicago-to-Toronto dir.         |                        |
|   |                               |  |   | 107 Noted period                    |                        |

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# CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

## CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON

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**For Sale** 8x12 utility building, \$1200. Dry Walnut wood, \$4 a board-foot. Call 276-692-8776.

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**Help wanted:** Truck Driver – Full time Wilderness - Stuart, VA Wilderness is seeking a reliable and experienced Truck Driver to join our team. The ideal candidate will be responsible for transporting goods safely and efficiently while adhering to all safety regulations and company policies. Valid CDL and experience references required, as well as a clean driving record with no major violations. Please apply in person at 14747 Jeb Stuart Hwy or call to inquire 276-694-4432. We look forward to hearing from you!



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## LEGAL

BWW# VA-370681-1  
TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 60 YAHWEH LANE, PATRICK SPRINGS, VA 24133. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 6, 2009, in the original principal amount of \$78,876.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 090000364. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on November 15, 2024, at 3:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF PATRICK, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND BEING DESCRIBED AS ALL THOSE TWO CERTAIN LOTS OR PARCELS OF LAND SITUATED ON THE SOUTH-EAST MARGIN OF ACCESS ROADWAY OFF STATE ROAD 721, MAYO RIVER DISTRICT, PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS PARCELS "B", CONTAINING 1.0805 ACRES, AND PARCEL "B-1" CONTAINING 0.6918 ACRE, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY FOR PAUL J. DONLEY AND RUTH M. DONLEY, BY LARRY G. RAKES, LLS, DATED FEBRUARY 18, 1991, REVISED MAY 24, 1996, AND RECORDED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE FOR PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN PLAT CABINET 1, SLIDE 117K. REFERENCE TO SAID PLAT IS MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND HEREBY CONVEYED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-370681-1.

## LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. CL24000303-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104  
PATRICK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
101 WEST BLUE RIDGE STREET/PO BOX 148, STUART, VA 24171  
CHELSIE LYNN DALTON v. BRANDEN NEIL HUBBARD  
The object of this suit is to:  
PROVIDE PROPER SERVICE TO DEFENDANT WITH UNKNOWN ADDRESS  
It is ORDERED that BRANDEN NEIL HUBBARD appear at the above-named court and protect her interests on or before OCTOBER 28, 2024  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

## LEGAL

**Meeting Notice**  
**Patrick County Public Service Authority**  
**Quarterly Business Meeting**  
The Patrick County Public Service Authority Board of Directors will hold a Quarterly Business Meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 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 to address the Board shall be submitted in writing to the PSA located in the Patrick County Administration Building at 106 Rucker Street, Suite 218, Stuart, VA. Petitions and requests to address the Board shall be submitted no less than five (5) business days prior to the scheduled meeting and placed on the official meeting agenda in order to be considered. Persons wanting to address the Authority's Board not having submitted a pre-request to do so may only be heard after a majority of Directors agree. The Directors encourage public attendance at all meetings.



## Meetings

### Wednesday, October 9

The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the School Board Office.

### Tuesday, Oct. 15

The Patrick County Planning Commission will have a regular business meeting at 6 p.m., in the Community Room, Patrick & Henry Community College (Stuart site).

### Wednesday, Oct. 16

The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

### Monday, Oct. 21

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Office.

## Events

### Sunday, Oct. 6 - Wednesday, Oct. 9

Sycamore Baptist Church will hold a fall revival at 7 p.m. Brother Wayne Poplin will be preaching and there will be special music each night.

### Through Oct. 14

The Patrick County Parks and Recreation Department is conducting sign-ups for the grades 4 - 5 boys and girls basketball season. Games will begin in November following the football season and will conclude prior to Christmas break. The deadline for sign-ups is Monday, October 21. Forms are available at any elementary school or at the recreation department. For questions, call the recreation department at (276) 694-3917.

### Wednesday, Oct. 16

The Patrick County Food Bank will hold distribution at the Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m., at Ararat starting at 8:30 a.m., and at Meadows of Dan starting at 5:30 p.m.

### Thursday, Oct. 17

The Carroll County Genealogy Club will hold its monthly business meeting at 5 p.m. in the club's library on the left side of the Historical Courthouse in Hillsville. Following a brief business meeting the club will host a special presentation by Emily Bowman, branch manager of the Carroll County Public Library, about the records and books at their facility available for genealogy research. Plenty of parking in the back or on Main Street. Call (276) 266-8016 or email to carroll.va.genealogy@gmail.com, or visit social media.

### Friday, Oct. 18

The community food truck will be at Fairystone VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

### Saturday, Oct. 19

Fall Food Frolic Bingo, Francisco Community Building, 7100 NC 89 West, Westfield, N.C. Doors open at 6 p.m. Games begin at 7 p.m. A \$20 donation includes 20 game tickets (3 per card) and four door prize tickets. Prizes are food related items. Coverall - \$3 for one card or \$5 for two cards. Door prizes after each game. Hot dogs, drinks and desserts will be available for purchase. All proceeds go toward the Francisco Ladies' Auxiliary.

Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department Country Breakfast, 6:30-10 a.m. Dine-in prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. All to go plates are \$10. Call (276) 930-2113 to place an order. Sponsored by the Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary, 6687 Fairystone Park Highway (Virginia 57 west), Stuart.

### Saturday, Oct. 26

A Trunk or Treat event will be held at Woolwine I.C. DeHart Park from 5-7 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Patrick County Patriots.

### Saturday, Nov. 9

Veteran's Parade - line up starts at 12 p.m., and the parade begins at 1 p.m. The grand marshals are Leonard & Delano Wood. A ceremony will follow the parade at Rotary Field. For parade applications or details, contact the local Ruritan organizations, email veteransdayparade2024@gmail.com, or call (276) 694-6895.

## 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 Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month at the Alzheimer's office at 109 Buena Vista Ave in Stuart. New members or volunteers are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

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

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

The Ararat Ruritan Club holds Rook games 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. Interest-

ed veterans are welcome to attend.

Free Community Meal, every 4th Wednesday, 5 p.m., Raven Rock Wesleyan Church, 1912 Raven Rock Road, Ararat. Take out or dine in. Call Scott or Nann Phillips at (276) 773-6004 or email pastor@ravenrockchurch.org.

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.

The Carroll County Genealogy Club is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food. The music and dancing are 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food, music and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m.

Connect Health+ Wellness offers free confidential Medicaid/FAMIS application and renewal assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Medicaid renewals have resumed. Medicaid members need to keep their mailing address and contact information up to date. Connect Health+ Wellness' specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate can provide more information. Call or text Ann Walker, (276) 732-0509, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

\*Brenda Williams Floyd, 56, of Claudville, was charged Sept. 27 with trespass. Sgt. L.K. Carroll Jr. was the arresting officer.

\*Jordan Anthony Capps, 23, of Patrick Springs, was charged Sept. 27 with grand larceny of firearm. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

\*Sheena Rene Nolen, 38, of Patrick Springs, was charged Sept. 27 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

\*Chase Holland, 18, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Sept. 28 with destroy/injuring vehicle/aircraft/boat, etc. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

\*Jesse Strothers, 18, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Sept. 28 with destroy/injuring vehicle/aircraft/boat, etc. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

\*Ryan James Barnes, 35, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 27 with fail to appear. Accomack County made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Christopher Wayne Bowman, 36, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 30 with grand larceny. Deputy L. White was the arresting officer.

\*Kerry Rene Powell, 43, of Stuart, was charged Oct. 1 with revoked license. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

\*Christopher Thomas Morehead, 39, of Stuart, was charged Oct. 2 with one count each assault and violate a provision protective order. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

\*Kimberly Dawn Wood, 30, of Ararat, was charged Oct. 3 with five counts obtain money by false pretense. Sgt. L.K. Carroll Jr. was the arresting officer.

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Kelsey Fain  
REALTOR



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# WHEO



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# RISE Summit 2024 set for October 19

Calling all entrepreneurs, innovators, and visionaries! Southern Virginia's entrepreneurial community is set to converge at the inaugural Regional Innovation Summit for Entrepreneurs (RISE Summit) on Saturday, October 19. This exciting event promises a powerhouse lineup of inspiring speakers, hands-on skill-building workshops, and invaluable networking opportunities—all designed to connect existing businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs with resources to start, grow, or scale in Southern Virginia.

The summit will showcase speakers who live and work in Southern Virginia and understand the unique challenges and opportunities impacting the regional economy. For RISE Collaborative, the Southern Virginia region stretches along U.S. 58 to Patrick and Henry, Pittsylvania, Halifax, Mecklenburg and Brunswick counties, and the cities of Martinsville and Danville. The region also extends north to Farmville, Prince Edward, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Cumberland, Nottoway, Amelia, and Buckingham counties.

"The RISE Summit is more than just another event—it's where real connections are made and where your ideas can gain the momentum they need," said Natalie Hodge Davis, CEO of Rudy's Girl Media and Entrepreneur co-chairman of the summit. "What makes this summit unique is the intentional gathering of

growth-minded entrepreneurs and potential new founders from across Southern Virginia. As an entrepreneur, I know how valuable it is to invest in these in-person gatherings. The relationships and insights you'll gain here are worth every minute and dollar spent."

Taking place in the resurgent city of Danville, the summit will be held at the Institute for Advanced Learning & Research from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Doors open at 8 a.m. for breakfast and networking, and the program begins at 9 a.m.

The event is laser-focused on equipping Southern Virginia's entrepreneurs with the essential knowledge, skills, and resources to supercharge their business ventures. Attendees will dive into critical topics like unlocking capital through microloans, grants, and contracts; mastering business essentials in marketing, finance, and accounting; crucial steps to bring your startup idea to life; and exploring A.I. and emerging technology. The format will include full group sessions and breakout sessions, with featured speakers, panels, and workshops to support entrepreneurs at each stage of business, from ideation to starting, growing, and scaling.

"In our rural region, starting and growing a business comes with distinct challenges and opportunities," said Lauren Mathena of the SOVA Innovation Hub. "The RISE Summit bridges that gap, offering tailored

resources and insights for new and existing business owners, while highlighting the economic growth trends transforming our region."

The RISE Summit is presented by RISE Collaborative, a regional initiative to enhance entrepreneurial opportunities for all people in Southern Virginia, which is hosted by the SOVA Innovation Hub, a non-profit organization with a mission to drive economic transformation through digital skills and entrepreneurship. The RISE Summit event sponsors and partners include SOVA Innovation Hub, RetirePath-VASM, Hitachi Energy South Boston, Letterpress Communications, Longwood SBDC, GO Virginia Region 3, Crater APEX Accelerator, Rudy's Girl Media, City of Danville Office of Economic Development & Tourism, Southside Tech Services, Community Investment Collaborative (CIC), Institute for Advanced Learning & Research (IALR), Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC), and the Virginia Department of Small Business & Supplier Diversity (SBSD).

Tickets are on sale now for \$65 per person. A limited number of student tickets are available. A limited number of scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance. To learn more and purchase a ticket, visit <https://sovarise.com/summit-2024>.

# Williams Family Reunion Held



Fifty-four members of the Dudley S. and Bertha M. Williams family met for their 25th annual reunion on Saturday, August 24 at the home of Nancy W. Hubbard. Included were the six surviving first generation siblings: Opal, Sadie, Nancy, Clyde, Barbara and Nash.

After fellowship and a delicious, covered dish meal, Stanley Roberson welcomed everyone. He recognized many family members who had received different achievements, graduations, promotions, new babies and more.

There were many discussions among everyone, just enjoying the interaction and catching up with all the changes in their lives. Their ages ranged from eight months to 94 years of age.

As always, especially when the first generation gets together, many good memories and funny stories were shared. Nash related the story of one of the teenage sisters who had a new potential boyfriend to visit. The family had just finished making a big copper kettle of apple butter, emptied it, set it at the bottom of a rock wall, and filled it up with water to soak. The new boy walked over to the edge of the wall, didn't see that it was actually

a wall, and just stepped right over the edge and down into the kettle of water. No one could remember which sister it was or who the boy was, but they didn't think he ever came back.

The crowd enjoyed watching Phillip Hubbard

(second generation! How old is he anyway?) ride his Segway, although he didn't show the tricks he has learned to do with it.

Many thanks to Nancy for hosting this special event. Everyone is looking forward to the "Cousins' reunion" next year.

# Pets of the Week



Odie is an 8 month old Catahoula mix male. This boy is sweet but shy and confused.

This female beagle was found on Pole Bridge Road. She has a collar and tag that show her name is Ruby and her last name is Shelton.

Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter in person to meet available pets, or visit its Facebook page. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination.

The Patrick Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) provides financial assistance for Patrick residents to have their dogs spayed and neutered. Contact the groups at [paws@swva.net](mailto:paws@swva.net) or (276) 694-2378 for more information.

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- Classic Lasagna(Lunch) .....\$10.99**
- Chicken & Shrimp Alfredo .....\$14.99**

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### 10% DISCOUNT FOR VETERANS

# THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Patrick County Alzheimer's Stuart and Vesta Meadows of Dan Group and the Stuart Ruritans we are thanking each of you that came Saturday October 5 to our walk for Dementia and Mental Health.

We had the groovy Color Walk, walks all afternoon. Music performed all afternoon, a meal of Barbecue and hot dogs prepared by Tony Dixon. Baked beans prepared by Buddy Peyton, Cakes prepared by Brenda Hill, Peggy Thompson and Farmer's Foods chips. Delicious meal good music by 3 Local groups, games, just an afternoon of good times to celebrate and show what our two groups Patrick County Alzheimer's and the Stuart Ruritan's can accomplish when we all unite together for a good cause. Jimmy Willard furnished a truck to help our neighbors with all kinds of supplies! We had a beautiful day of fun, exercising for a good cause, enjoyed good food, the games and music all afternoon. *Thank each of you that came out and helped make this event our "20th Year Celebration" a success!*

There is no way that we can *Thank* everyone in this area for all that you do to make our groups successful in helping our neighbors! *Thank you for making this 20th year a success!*

25th Annual

# Apple Dumpling Festival

Downtown Stuart, VA

## Saturday, October 19

### 10am - 4pm

### Music • Crafts • Games

**Music By:**

11:00 - 11:45 am ..... Marcie Home and Mike Pendleton  
 12:00 - 12:45 pm ..... Face 2 Face - Christian Rock Band  
 1:00 - 2:15 pm ..... Hutchens

**Sound By: August Heat Audio**

**Apple Dumpling 5-K**  
 Early registration through Oct 5 - \$25.00  
 Oct 6 through Day of Festival - \$30.00

Contact Patrick County Chamber of Commerce-  
 276-694-6012 • [director@patrickchamber.com](mailto:director@patrickchamber.com)

Registration at 7:00 am Race at 8:00 am  
 Outdoor Entertainment

For additional info. contact: Billy Gammons or Susan Slate @ 276-694-3811 or [susan.slate@stuartva.org](mailto:susan.slate@stuartva.org)



# Expo attracts students from multiple school districts

Students from schools in Patrick and Henry counties, and Martinsville, participated in the 11th Career ChoICE Youth Expo West, held on Sept. 25 at the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex. The event connected 3,600 middle and high schoolers to employers and potential occupations at 66 hands-on activity stations.

As they moved from station to station, students engaged directly with employers and educational providers. They explored the backs of ambulances, tried out a fighter pilot video game at the U.S. Army booth and received 3D-printed giveaways while learning about careers in additive manufacturing. These hands-on activities allowed students to see career opportunities and imagine themselves in future roles.

Other schools to participate in the West event were Pittsylvania and Halifax counties and the City of Danville.

The East version of the event was scheduled to be held on Oct. 9 at Hampden-Sydney College.



# The county's bumble bees need life support now; new research points the way

By Judy Ferring

Bees that were buzzing around the nation's wildflowers more than a century ago are now helping researchers understand how deeply their ranks have diminished over the years, how it happened and – most importantly – what Patrick County gardeners and farmers can do about it now.

The research is being conducted at the E.S. George Reserve, a 1,300-acre reserve, about 25 miles from the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus. The Reserve is administered by the University's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. The researchers analyzed bee samples taken as early as 1921.

Three things make this research



uniquely valuable. First, it proves the value of advanced computer analysis in the field of ecology.

Second, the long-term trends in bee populations, placed parallel to trends in their natural habitats, point to enhanced conservation approaches. That includes the current shifting of planting zones southward into lower numbers. Patrick County garden-



ers and farmers aiming to maximize long-term attraction of bumble bees might consider pushing that envelope, selecting perennials that are recommended for zone 7b and lower. That would tend to maximize the return-on-investment for new plants, and stabilize the bumble bee environment over the long term.

Third, and perhaps most important, it spotlights the importance of implementing conservation measures as quickly as possible. Already, the researchers have found, the populations of 64% of North America's more common bee species have declined by nearly a third (30%).

The lost bees

Most of them are bumble bees, the dawn-to-dusk, March-to-October pollinating workhorses in gardens and fields.

The Xerces Society, an international nonprofit focused on the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats, estimates that more than a quarter of North America's 46 bumble bee species – all ground nesters – face some degree of extinction risk. More than 90 percent of bumble bees lead solitary – rather than social – lives, in which each female constructs and provisions her own nest, without the assistance of others. Most are not aggressive; in fact, many are stingless.

Rather than categorizing their subjects by their social habits, the University of Michigan researchers use a more critical factor – their pollen collection strategies:

- oligolectic bees (those that collect pollen from a few types of plants and nest in the ground – i.e., bumble bees)
- kleptoparasitic bees (they steal food

from other bees)

polylectic bees (those that collect pollen from various plants and nest in cavities). Think honey bees, although these highly valued pollinators aren't really native at all.

Now consider that 46 bumble bee species means at 46 different sets of adaptations for collecting pollen and nectar. There are a lot of factors in these adaptation sets but tongue length has been considered especially significant. Most bumble bees are long-tongued but some – Virginia's brown belted bumble bee for instance – have shorter tongues than others. It all relates to the depth of the flowers the bees visit.

Subhead: Keep them at home

Lupines are especially popular with some bumble bee species; lamb's ear, with another. The easiest solution: incorporate a variety of flowers, paying special attention to cover that March-to-October calendar.

For early- to mid-spring, look at rattlesnake master, veronica, thyme, Lewisia and fruit trees. Consider aubrieta as well. Even though it (like the honey bee) is not a true native, it has proven useful and non-invasive.

For late summer and fall, look at asters, goldenrod, Agastache and echinacea.

For all those in-between months, look at flowers with deep blossoms. There's a lot to choose from, including honeysuckle, iris, roses, sage and snapdragon.

That may be the most important of the Michigan researchers' conclusions. Bumble bees are more likely to remain in locations that meet their needs.

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## Southwest Virginia hosts 2024 Pesticide Collection Program sites

Farmers, pesticide dealers, pest control firms, certified applicators, homeowners and golf course operators are encouraged to participate in the 2024 Virginia Pesticide Collection Program. The program collects unwanted, outdated or banned pesticides, at no cost to eligible participants, and disposes of them in a safe manner.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Office of Pesticide Services, with participation from Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, oversees the program, which has collected and destroyed more than 1.8 million pounds of outdated and unwanted pesticides since

its inception. The program is funded through pesticide product registration fees collected by VDACS.

The following is a list of the 2024 collection sites and dates. All locations are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Oct. 15 - Rockingham Cooperative-Troutville Ag Supply, 79 Mountain View Rd., Troutville, Va.

Oct. 17 - Southern States, 885 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Va.

Oct. 22 - Duffield Fire Department, 1326 Industrial Park Rd., Duffield, Va.

Oct. 29 - Grover King VFW Post 1115, 701 W. Stuart Dr., Hillsville, Va.

Oct. 30 - Supergro of Virginia, 701 Lee Hwy., Marion, Va.

In administering the Pesticide Collec-

tion Program, VDACS divides Virginia into five regions. Each year, the department conducts a collection in a different region. Once all five regions have been served, the program starts another cycle. Click here for the list of future collection localities.

Participants must transport their unwanted pesticides to the collection sites. If participants cannot safely containerize the unwanted pesticides for transport, VDACS may arrange assistance on a case-by-case basis. Only pesticides will be accepted. Pesticide contaminated material (for example, pesticide contaminated fertilizer) will not be accepted as part of the collection program. In addition, the program does NOT accept

motor oil, paint, fuel, fertilizer, or other chemicals.

Participants are encouraged to complete a pesticide collection registration form prior to the scheduled collection date and return the completed form to marlene.larios@vdacs.virginia.gov or mail to Office of Pesticide Services, VDACS, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218. The form is available at [www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/pesticide-disposal-registration.pdf](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/pesticide-disposal-registration.pdf) or by contacting the program at (804) 371-6561.

Participants should direct questions to their local Virginia Cooperative Extension agent or to the VDACS Office of Pesticide Services at [marlene.larios@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:marlene.larios@vdacs.virginia.gov).

## Patrick County Community Health Fair Slated for Friday, October 11 at Rotary

The Patrick County Long Term Care Committee announced that the annual Community Health Fair will be held on Friday, October 11 at Rotary in Stuart. The fair, which has been held for over 35 years, features vendors, food and entertainment, and is free to the public to attend.

Beginning at 9:00 participants will be able to enjoy a light breakfast of muffins and coffee while browsing the vendor tables. The fair will last until 2 p.m., with a free lunch served at noon for the first 100 attendees. The Land-

mark Center will be providing chicken and dumplings and Brunswick stew for vendors and attendees.

In addition, a Lunch and Learn by the Patrick County Sheriff's Department will begin at 12:15, and this year will address Current Scams and How to Protect Yourself. Hackers and others looking to cheat unsuspecting web users are continually updating their methods and means, and a sheriff's office representative will be there to discuss some of these newest scams and what to do if you suspect you have been a victim of a

scammer.

Each vendor attending will be giving away a goody basket of great prizes, and drawings will be held throughout

the event. Winners must be present to claim their baskets.

No registration is necessary and everyone is welcome.

OCTOBER		PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY						2024			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Storytime 10:30 Smells	Walking Club 9:00 Yoga 1:15*	Medicare 101 12:00 Yoga 5:15*	Sit & Stitch 11:00	Family Movie 11:00 Inside Out 2						
Yoga 10:00*	Storytime 10:30 Firetrucks	Walking Club 9:00 Book Bingo 10:30 Yoga 1:15*	Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00	CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING DAY	Board Game Day						
Chair Exercise 1:30 LEGO Club 4:00	Storytime 10:30 Pumpkins	Walking Club 9:00 Retired Teacher's Book Club 11:00 Yoga 1:15*	Open Art Studio 1:00 It's Just A Bit of Hocus Pocus* 2:30	Sit & Stitch 11:00	Find us at the Apple Dumping Festival						
Yoga 10:00*	Storytime 10:30 Spiders with the Master Gardener's	Walking Club 9:00 Yoga 1:15*	Yoga 5:15*								
Chair Exercise 1:30 LEGO Club 4:00	Storytime 10:30 Halloween Costumes welcome	Walking Club 9:00 Yoga 1:15*	Yoga 5:15*	Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. *Registration is required.							

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