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

Board discusses school calendar following Hurricane Helene



Schools Superintendent Jason Wood, chairman Rob Martin, Amy Walker, Sara Leigh Collins, and Lester Harrell received VSBA certificates.



By Taylor Boyd
The effects Hurricane Helene had on the school calendar were among the items taken up by the Patrick County School Board at its October 9 meeting.

Following the hurricane, Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the school division missed one day and had one virtual day of school.

"We have missed a total of three instructional days, which equates to 18 hours. We fall under the 990 instructional hours, not the 180 instructional days," he said.

Because of this, Wood said the recommendation for the school calendar discussion is for Patrick

County High School (PCHS) to push back its Standards of Learning (SOL) testing a full week.

"Which is still going to allow them to cover all their content to mastery and will also allow us to maintain our fall break, Veterans's Day, three-day full Thanksgiving break, and our entire Christmas break. I've sent this out to staff," he said.

Wood said if additional days are missed, the school system may have to consider making some calendar changes as PCHS completes SOL testing by December for the first semester.

Within 24 hours of the hurricane, Wood said the division reached out

to Carroll County Schools to see if they needed assistance.

"They did need some water and supplies. We made one trip up there and filled over two pallets full of water, and then later in the following week were able to send additional water up there," he said.

Wood said that the school division appreciated the support, and he's thankful to live in a community where people will reach out to neighbors to offer help.

In other matters, the board:

- *Approved the consent agenda.
- *Received Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Academy certificates.

- *Approved the 2024-2025 School-wide Plans/School Executive Summary.
- *Approved the disposal of surplus items. Wood said four school buses and two freezers will be entered into a surplus sale set to be held later this fall, more 75 iPads will be entered into a bulk sale, and Chromebooks in storage will be donated.
- *Approved the Narcan policy as presented.
- *Approved the personnel report as amended.

Vice-chairman Walter Scott, of the Smith River District, did not attend the meeting.

Apple Dumpling Fest, 5k set for Saturday

By Taylor Boyd
The 23rd annual Apple Dumpling Festival is set for Saturday, October 19 in Downtown Stuart.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include vendors, crafts, games, music, food, and more.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said music will be set up in the parking lot of Farmers Insurance, the same place as last year.

"We know there's a couple new businesses that are open in downtown this year. We fully expect that Tony's (Pizza) will serve pizza by the slice, and we hope the Star Theatre will be able to provide some additional entertainment," he said.

Simmons expects about 80 vendors to set up during the festival and noted interested vendors can apply to set up the day of the event.

"We don't ever have a set limit, it's just as we run out of space, and it's always first come first serve for your spot. Anyone that wants to do it last minute is welcome to show up and pay the vendor fee of \$30 for the day of the festival," he said.

Last year's festival attracted between 3,000 to 3,500 people, Simmons said.

Attendance "always sort of depends on the weather and what it looks like that day," he said.

Marcie Horne and Mike Pendleton will take the stage from 11-11:45 a.m., Face 2 Face, a Christian rock band, will perform from 12-12:45 p.m., and The Hutchens will finish the show by playing from 1-2:15 p.m. Sound will be by August Heat Audio.

For additional information about the festival, contact Billy Gammons or Susan Slate at (276) 694-3811, or via email at susan.slate@stuartva.org.

Apple Dumpling 5K race
The annual Apple Dumpling 5K race will be held before the festival. Hosted by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), the 5K will follow along the Mayo River Rail Trail. Proceeds from the race will go towards DRBA's trail development in Patrick County.

Registration for the race begins at 7 a.m. and costs \$30. The race will begin at 8 a.m.

Pre-registered runners will receive a guaranteed T-shirt, and all runners will receive a finisher medal, a marked course, and a chance for awards.

For more information and to register for the 5K, go to www.patrickchamber.com, or call (276) 694-6012.

Hill becomes first African American to retire from Patrick County Sheriff's Office

Patrick County Sheriff's Sgt. Winfred Hill was honored in October as he marked his retirement, nearly 30 years after beginning his career with the department.

Hill, who joined the Patrick County Sheriff's Office on Sept. 21, 1996, served for 28 years, earning praise for his professionalism, courage, and dedication. Sheriff Dan Smith highlighted Hill's impact, saying he provided exemplary service to both the citizens of Patrick County and the officers he trained and worked alongside.

During his career, Hill served as a patrol division supervisor and was a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, where he also worked as a police sniper. Since 2001, Hill



Patrick County Sheriff's Sgt. Winfred Hill holds a plaque from Sheriff Dan Smith.

Wade seeks second term in November election

By Taylor Boyd
Erica Wade is seeking her second term on the Stuart Town Council in the November election.

Wade, 34, said she's seeking re-election as she wants to be able to help continue the town's momentum and see some of its existing projects get completed. She said she believes the town's ability to see through its dreams and demands with the people it has in office is its biggest challenge.

"One of my goals is to maybe help influence additional personnel and additional grant funding to make sure that these projects can get completed. Basically, we have great options for the town, we just need the people, manpower, and paperwork to be able to all be done at the same time to get things done," she said.

Wade said funding these challenges will be budgeting.

"We've been fortunate to have a great budget for the last couple of years," she said. But with some of the planned improvements, "we may have to come through alternative sources which we need to find either through governmental agencies or additional grants," she said.

A supporter of public involvement



Erica Wade

Hoback seeks council seat

By Taylor Boyd
Dave Hoback is seeking his first elected term on the Stuart Town Council. Hoback, 66, was appointed to the council in 2021 to finish the unexpired term of John "Mac" Deekens.

"This is actually the first one I'm on the ballot for," he said, adding that being part of the council wasn't something Hoback initially aspired to do.

"I wasn't really planning to seek elected office. But when they approached me, I wanted to be able to serve the community because I was asked by the mayor and council to do so, and I had some relative experience to be able to make a contribution," he said.

Since joining the town council, Hoback said he's found it enjoyable and likes the direction Stuart is heading. He wants to continue to contribute and ensure that some planned projects are accomplished.

Hoback said he sees Stuart facing two major ongoing challenges:

"One of them is maintaining the town's water and wastewater systems. We have a rather complex system even though it's a small



Dave Hoback

(See Hoback p.3)

(See Wade p. 3)

P&HCC's Patriot Pantry Welcomes Donations as Part of United Way Day of Caring

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) has hosted Patriot Pantry, a food and hygiene shop for students, since 2016. The pantry is supported solely by donations.

P&HCC students can shop at the Pantry for food and hygiene items as well as school supplies once per month based on a points allocation system. When they visit the Pantry, they will find a wide variety of non-perishable food items including grab-and-go meals, pop-top canned food items, and traditionally popular protein bars and shakes.

This week, Patriot Pantry staff accepted a donation from ValleyStar Martinsville staff members as part of United Way of HCM's Day of Caring. The annual event partners businesses with organizations in need of project assistance. One such project for 2024 was a non-perishable food and hygiene product drive for Patriot Pantry.

"We are so grateful to United



Rebecca Conter (UWHCM workplace engagement & donor services coordinator), Val Dillard (P&HCC college success coach), Lisa Coffey (P&HCC college success program specialist), Susan Case (ValleyStar branch manager), Seberina Tatum (P&HCC Student Success Center coordinator), Briana Koger (P&HCC college success & Great Expectations coach) prepare to stock the Patriot Pantry with items donated by ValleyStar employees. Not pictured: Lori Lowe-Bonds (P&HCC college success coach).

Way for promoting a drive for the Pantry and to ValleyStar for the overwhelming support they have demonstrated for our students through their donations," said Student Success Center coordinator Seberina Tatum.

The Pantry served 102 students in the spring 2024 semester and staff members are excited to continue to support as many students as possible this fall.

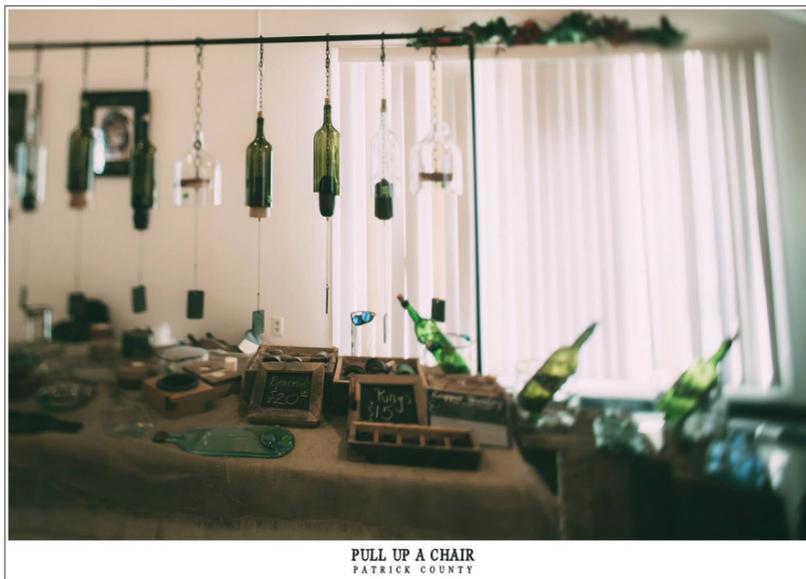
In addition to grants they have received this summer and ValleyStar's Day of Caring donation, the pantry welcomes community donations of hygiene products such as shampoo and deodorant, food within use-by date, and household supplies such as laundry detergent.

Community members who are interested in learning more about the Pantry or in making a donation are encouraged to contact Seberina Tatum or Lisa Coffey at (276) 638-8777.

Reynolds Homestead's Holiday Arts and Crafts Show set Nov. 9



PULL UP A CHAIR PATRICK COUNTY



PULL UP A CHAIR PATRICK COUNTY

Scenes from the Holiday Arts & Crafts show in 2018. (By Kim Rakes)

Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead will hold its annual holiday arts and crafts show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 9.

This longstanding tradition at the Reynolds Homestead offers artists and crafters an opportunity to set up vending space in the Community Engagement Center, interact and make connections with local buyers, and help community

members shop local for the holidays.

This year's event will feature a wide variety of items including baked goods, fused glass art, handmade jewelry and other accessories, children's books, wreaths, soaps, candles, local honey, handmade wearables, and more. In addition to the wide variety of wares available, snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase

at the event.

Vendor applications are open through October 25. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/rhhacs> or call (276) 694-7181. To find out more about the vendors participating in the show, follow the Reynolds Homestead on Facebook, and plan to attend Nov. 9 to get your holiday shopping list started locally.

Wray, Adcock to present at Farmers Market Conference



Rebecca Adcock, executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and long-time Stuart Farmers' Market promoter, along with Sarah Wray, Community Engagement, Partnership, and Program Manager at Virginia Tech's Reynolds Homestead were selected to present at 2024 Mid-Atlantic Farmers' Market Conference, held from November 13-15. The 3-day event is presented by Virginia State University and the Virginia Farmers' Market Association, will be held in Richmond, Virginia, and will bring together farmers, market managers, agriculture policymakers, and community partners to share their passion for farms, food access, small business, healthy communities, and farmers' markets. There will be targeted workshops, dynamic speakers, and fun-filled social networking.

This year's theme focuses on providing attendees with real tools they can walk away with and immediately implement in their markets

or businesses. In alignment with that theme, Rebecca and Sarah will present "Growing Community: Tips and tools for growing your community market with placemaking." The Stuart Farmers' Market is a multi-award winning market that embodies community through weekly Friday partnerships, the creation of the Rise & Shine youth market, and the ever-popular holiday-themed Mistletoe Market. The market has been a great place for groups like Reynolds Homestead to hold outdoor classes, One Family Productions to host the First Friday Concert Series, and for local artists to display their work. By using the market as a community gathering spot, markets can build a sense of connection and cooperation between local businesses, vendors, and residents. This presentation will share successful strategies and give practical tips on how other markets can create a similar en-

vironment to boost community involvement and support local economies.

To learn more about other session offerings, or to register to attend the conference please visit <https://vafma.org/conference-info/>.

Pets of the Week



The two pictured, along with a brother just like the tan, were owner surrenders and are already neutered so they can go home with you now. The black and white guy with the big ears is such a cutie. Please stop by and meet these guys. They want a new home.

Visit the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) in person to meet available pets, or call (276) 694-6259. 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 or (276) 694-2378 for more information.

Road closes to through traffic Oct. 21

Beginning Monday, October 21, Virginia 631(Doe Run Road) will be closed to through traffic from Virginia 823 (Spring Branch Road) to Virginia 675 (Friends Mission Road) to replace

pipes.

Weather permitting, the road will be opened to traffic on Friday, November 1.

Directional signs will be used to help travelers.

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Hoback

(cont. from page 1)

50 years ago, and it'll be a challenge 50 years from now," he said.

Hoback also sees the continuous promotion and encouragement of commercial, retail, and industrial development within town limits, "because we're in a situation where the taxpayers of the community pay county taxes and then they have to pay the town taxes on top of that. So, we always have to be cognizant of the fact of not making that burden any greater than it's just necessary, and the way to continue to limit that burden is by encouraging and seeing the implementation of new development," he said.

To fund these challenges, Hoback believes the town should continue with its plan of seeking grant funding.

"I think I'm correct in saying that almost all the improvements in the infrastructure system have been funded by either state or federal grants. We're in a very favorable position right now where Mayor (Ray) Weiland stated at the last meeting that we currently have \$5 million of grants within the pipeline," he said.

That, Hoback said, is impressive, especially considering the town's \$2.1 million budget.

"Basically, we have two and a half times grant money in the pipeline than the annual town budget, and that's really the only feasible way that we can pursue the projects that we have ongoing and will need to pursue in the future," he said.

Hoback supports public involvement in local government. He noted Stuart started a committee of town citizens and interested stakeholders to provide input regarding the downtown re-

talization project.

"I think always where there is an issue of public concern, that we should be having community meetings as well as legally required public hearings to solicit public input," he said.

Having worked in local and regional government for over 25 years, Hoback said he always considered it important to observe the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) laws.

"It's the public's money, it's the public's business. With the exception of those things that are included within the Code of Virginia that exempt matters from public discussion," Hoback said he supports transparency "very much. Both at the council level as well as the staff level. Everyone should go over and above to be open and transparent about the business of government," he said.

On occasion, the information sought is not contained in a document, may not exist, or can't be readily provided without extensive research. Hoback said those situations create a more complex issue, making the FOIA guidelines frustrating when an information request is made.

Hoback believes the town excels at having efficient operations with the staff doing a good job at administration.

"We are staying within budget, we are limiting the burden on the taxpayers, and we have been phenomenal in soliciting and receiving both federal and state grant monies," he said.

Hoback said he thinks the town needs to more aggressively pursue its quality-of-life projects.

"Some of the comments that I hear from cit-

izens, probably more than anything else, are issues having to do with property maintenance, and blight, inoperable vehicles," he said. "It's not as if we aren't doing anything in that area, the staff is doing what they can, but at some point down the road, I think we're going to need a dedicated staff person, a code enforcement type of person, to be able to be able to have the time to dedicate to some of those issues."

Hoback said people should vote for him in part because of his experience in the local government arena and the perspectives he can bring to the table

"I hope my service in the current term to date has been helpful to the council, and if people are kind enough to support me, then I look forward to continuing in that role," he said.

Hoback worked as a Special Projects Director for Patrick County for three years before he served as County Administrator for 16 years.

After leaving that position, he worked as a Human Resources Director at Roto Metrics in Meadows of Dan for 11 years and then served as the Executive Director of the West Piedmont Planning Commission before he retired in 2021.

Hoback received a B.S. in political science from Radford University and an M.A. in Public Administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Hoback has been married to his wife, Deborah, since 1989. The couple have two children, Hayley and Aaron, and one grandson named Roman. In his free time, Hoback enjoys walking, reading, and watching football.

Wade

(cont. from page 1)

of transparency between the town and its residents.

"I think transparency would solve many issues on every board, from the small non-profits all the way up through government. It definitely needs to be maintained with the town council," she said.

Stuart excels at creating its own brand with the energy and people it currently has, she said.

"I think that we are on a solo trajectory to make the Town of Stuart a place that people want to

visit frequently and/or move to," she said.

Besides funding for infrastructure projects like sewer projects, Wade doesn't believe the town lacks anything. Having served on the council for the last four years, Wade said she's gained the knowledge and insight of the town's working.

"Working for the town attorney (Chris Corbett) is also helpful to make sure that things are followed through with property," she added.

A Patrick County native, Wade is a graduate

of Patrick County High School (PCHS). She also received a B.S. in Science from Longwood University.

Wade started her career at Hall's Plants in Ararat and has worked in Corbett's office for the last 13 years. She's also been with the Stuart Volunteer Fire Department for the last 12 years.

Wade is married to her husband, Robbie Wade, and the couple have a daughter, Evelyn. In her spare time, Wade enjoys camping, being a mom, and being outside.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*James Daniel Biggs, 33, of Henry County Jail, was charged Sept. 28 with two counts probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*John Albert Nester, 53, of Patrick Springs, was charged Oct. 4 with three counts of bail/pretrial violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Roxanna Denise Vaden, 31, of Walnut Cove, N.C., was charged Oct. 4 with indecent exposure. Senior Trooper J.N. Mabe was the arresting officer.

*Steven Ray Duncan, 33, of Walnut Cove, N.C., was charged Oct. 4 with indecent exposure. Senior Trooper J.N. Mabe was the arresting officer.

*Roxanna Denise Vaden, 31, of Walnut Cove, N.C., was charged Oct. 5 with shoplift. Senior Deputy C. Merriman made the arrest for Henry County.

Steven Ray Duncan, 33, of Walnut Cove, N.C., was charged Oct. 5 with two counts shoplift. Senior Deputy C. Merriman made the arrest for Henry County.

*Misty Dawn Hull, 49, of Ararat, was charged Oct. 9 with assault. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Delano Antuane Pettigrew, 36, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Oct. 9 with probation violation. Sgt. W.L. Higgs was the arresting officer.

*Crystal Kathleen Luckado, 34, of Patrick Springs, was charged Oct. 9 with fail to appear. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

*Lori Beth Tate, 41, of Critz, was charged Oct. 9 with probation violation. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Dewey Hampton Hughes, 43, address unavailable, was charged Oct. 9 with five counts probation violation. Vinton PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Darian Rayburn Tatum, 50, of Critz, was charged Oct. 9 with one count each drive motor vehicle with revoked/suspended license and disregard law enforcement command. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Vernon Leon Henry Charles III, 40, of Stuart, was charged Oct. 10 with fail to appear. Deputy J.L. Fain was the arresting officer.

7 More Localities Added to Disaster Declaration

Carroll County as well as Bedford, Bland, Pittsylvania, Russell, Wise Counties and the City of Radford have been added to the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) declaration following Hurricane Helene, bringing the total number of eligible Virginia communities to 16. DUA provides temporary financial assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been impacted by the hurricane in the following communities Bedford, Bland, Carroll, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe Counties, as well as the Cities of Galax and Radford.

On October 1, President Joe Biden, at the request of Gov. Glenn Youngkin, approved a major disaster declaration for Virginia in response to the storm. This declaration allows the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) to offer unemployment assistance to residents affected by the hurricane in these communities.

Eligible individuals, including business owners, seasonal workers, and self-employed individuals who lost jobs or had work hours reduced due to the hurricane, may qualify for DUA. The VEC will accept applications through December 2, 2024, for those residing, working, or scheduled to work in the affected areas when the disaster occurred.

DUA will cover losses from September 25, 2024, and benefits may be paid through April 5, 2025, depending on ongoing unemployment or self-employment disruptions caused by the disaster.

To be eligible for DUA, you can't be eligible for regular unemployment benefits in any state. When you apply, you must be able to work, ready and willing to accept work, and have the time and means to work, unless you suffered injuries directly linked to the disaster.

DUA is a federal unemployment program that provides temporary payments for people who, as a direct result of Hurricane Helene:

- *No longer have the job that provided their primary source of income.
- *Are unable to reach their place of employment.
- *Cannot work because of an injury caused by the storm.
- *Were unable to begin employment or self-employment due to the storm.
- *You became the primary support of your family because of the death of the head of the household because of

the disaster.

*Unemployment is a direct result of the major disaster if the unemployment resulted from:

- *The physical damage or destruction of the place of employment.
- *The physical inaccessibility of the place of employment due to its closure by the federal, state, or local government in immediate response to the disaster.

Lack of work, or loss of revenues, if, prior to the disaster, the employer or self-employed business received at least a majority of its revenue or income from an entity in the major disaster area that was damaged or destroyed in the disaster or an entity in the major disaster area closed by the federal, state, or local government.

Apply for benefits online at uidirect.vec.virginia.gov/CSS/CSSLogon.htm which can also be found on VEC's website www.vec.virginia.gov or call VEC's Customer Contact Center at 1-866-832-2363. You will first have to complete the UI form to determine eligibility for UI benefits or DUA benefits.

To complete your application, you will need to provide your Social Security Number (SSN), and the name, address, and dates of employment of all your employers for the past two years, including out-of-state employers.

You will need to provide all supporting evidence no more than 21 days after the application has been filed. The documents you need to provide might vary depending on your circumstances and previous employers but could include proof of identity, your most recent federal income tax form, and other documents proving that you were working or self-employed when the disaster occurred. If you need to submit proof of income for the past year, you can submit those documents after the 21 days deadline but no later than the end of the disaster assistance period. Delays in submitting your documents can impact your benefits and overall processing times.

Visit VEC's website for more information about DUA and other programs you may qualify for. You can also contact us at 1-866-832-2363. To learn about all the federal assistance programs, you and your family might qualify for, we recommend contacting FEMA's helpline at 1-800-621-3362.

Reemployment services are available at Virginia Works offices around the state.

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You Have a Right to Know

Some work in DC does not get the attention of national and local media outlets.

At the beginning of 118th Congress, I was asked to serve on the House Administration Committee and specifically the Subcommittee on Oversight because of my legal background.

In the 117th Congress, the U.S. House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack was established. Then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi initially offered Republicans five seats on the Select Committee. But, when then-Leader McCarthy appointed the five, including Congressmen Jim Jordan and Jim Banks, she said no.

Ultimately, she installed two Republicans, who did not have the support of the Republican caucus to serve.

During the tenure of this overly partisan Select Committee, Democrats pushed a narrative they favored to cast President Trump in the worst light.

On December 22, 2022, the Select Committee published their now-questionable final report.

The Oversight Subcommittee was tasked to get all the facts from January 6, to review the Select Committee's actions and findings, and to learn what went wrong on January 6, 2021.

One objective of the Subcommittee is to get all the facts out on why the National Guard was not made available until the late afternoon on January 6, 2021.

Under the law, January 6 is the date that Congress is responsible to receive and determine the validity of the electoral college vote every four years.

Our Oversight Subcommittee held a hearing with former United States Capitol Police (USCP) Chief Steven Sund, who oversaw USCP on January 6.

The January 6 Select Committee never asked Chief Sund to publicly testify before their committee. Why?

Also earlier this year, Oversight had four DC National Guard whistleblowers appear in a hearing. The whistleblowers disputed evidence submitted to the Select Committee.

The Select Committee never asked these witnesses to publicly testify either. Why?

One of the witnesses believed that while he went to the Select Committee as a confidential informant, someone connected with the Committee publicly leaked his name.

Worse than that, all four witnesses said General Walker, who at the time was the commander of the DC National Guard, didn't get permission until 5:08 pm to send the National Guard to the Capitol.

Interestingly, on January 3, Pres-



Morgan Griffith

Representative

ident Trump directed military figures, including Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley and Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller, to ensure a "sufficient National Guard or Soldiers" presence for January 6.

However, due to "optics" concerns, Miller did not press ahead. "There is absolutely no way I was putting U.S. military forces at the Capitol, period," Miller told the inspector general during his March 2021 interview. This in spite of Trump's request!

As the situation on January 6 turned ugly, Miller finally realized he had to send an order to deploy the National Guard. He sent the order to Secretary of the Army, Ryan McCarthy, at 3:04 pm.

Secretary McCarthy didn't transmit the order to the National Guard until 5:08 pm.

The four National Guard whistleblowers either told or were willing to tell the Select Committee this information.

But it does not appear in their final report. Why?

Additionally, another whistleblower outside of the National Guard testified to the Department of Defense Inspector General. Their testimony confirmed Secretary McCarthy didn't give orders to the Guard until 5:08 pm. That is two hours after Miller relented at 3:04 pm.

The Select Committee report made it appear it was a National Guard failure. But as we get more evidence, it appears concerns over "optics" caused a failure to issue the order in advance of January 6.

These facts do not appear in the Select Committee report. Why?

Bad things happened on January 6. Some criminal acts occurred, and I do not condone those crimes. But the job of the Select Committee and our job as an Oversight Subcommittee are not to only follow the facts we hope are true, but to uncover all the facts.

The Select Committee did not do that. Why?

As a member of that Oversight Subcommittee, I will follow the facts wherever they lead.

This much is clear: 1) President Trump wanted the National Guard there. He wanted a safe event. 2) People in his Administration didn't follow his instruction. And 3) Secretary McCarthy didn't timely follow orders.

I anticipate more information to come to light in the following weeks and months, and perhaps there is some explanation that has yet to come to my attention.

But these are the conclusions I reach at this moment in time, and you have a right to know.

Letters to the Editor

The score in District 9

It takes a lot of money to mount a political campaign, most of it supplied by donors. While the role of funding in a political campaign is often galling, it's also useful in revealing the candidates' priorities.

At last count, the score in the District 9 contest is incumbent Morgan Griffith \$734,655 vs. challenger Karen Baker \$92,295. The figures below come from the Federal Elections Commission. They might not be wholly accurate: Morgan's last report is dated in late May, Baker's at the end of September.

There is another caveat: an incumbent makes far more moneyed contacts than most challengers. Morgan has been in a Representative since 2011, serving in all of those 13 years on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, several associated subcommittees, plus the 2024 Committee on House Administration and Joint Committee on Printing.

The biggest purses opened to his campaign is the National Community Pharmacists Association: \$20,250. The American Academy of Dermatology and Charter Communications (aka Spectrum) each contributed \$20,000. Morgan's donor list continues downward from \$17,550 to \$10,000: the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Dominion Energy, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Professional Compounding Centers of America, Internet and Television Association, Altria Group and British American Tobacco, Hall Render (lawyers to the health care industry); National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Southern Co (utility), National Auto Dealers Association, Celanese, Farm Credit Council and American Academy of Neurology. The House Freedom Fund and the Majority Committee PAC are also contributors.

Baker's donors are less numerous, more indicative of her per-

sonal focus. Like Griffith, she is a lawyer.

But after graduating law school in 1983, Griffith opened a private practice specializing in traffic violations, then joined Albo & Oblon in 2008. His political career started in 1994 in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Baker graduated from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University in 1973 and launched a 30-year career in administrative law rather than political law-making. She began as a trial lawyer for the Equal Opportunity Commission, moved through other EOC assignments, and ended with 17 years an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration. Though farming also became part of her life, Baker earned a nursing degree in 2011 and worked in a small rural hospital in cardiac and intensive care units.

It all adds up to a lifetime rich in experience but not in finance. Baker's donors reflect that. Her largest donor by far (\$5,000 - less than a quarter of Griffith's top donor) is the Common Ground PAC, "focused on promoting economic opportunity, not partisan politics." (Note: the PAC's honorary chairman is Senator Tim Kaine.)

Then comes \$3,300 each from Well Pets veterinarian clinics; Josephine Porter Institute, focused on organic agriculture; Watterson Solutions environmental services and emergency response; and n-doc. Wall Residences, a Floyd-based provider of residential support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and the United Mine Workers of America have each kicked in \$2,500. There are also myriad small donations below reporting guidelines.

Bottom line: money can't buy everything. Experience counts.

Judy Ferring,
Stuart

Biden-Harris Border Policies - Vol 2

(Fox, Daily Signal, The Federalist, Newsmax, Congressional Budget Office, New York Post, New York Times)

Vol 1 was about the effects of the Biden-Harris administration's border policy on crime and jobs. In Vol 2, I want to look at the effect on public housing and public services and how that affects every day Americans.

Public Housing: The New York Times reported on a Honduran family of six that entered the U.S. illegally and headed to San Francisco because they said it was a "sanctuary city."

After leaving Honduras, the family stopped in Mexico. An immigration nonprofit then paid for them to fly to San Francisco." That nonprofit used your tax dollars to do so and added significant overhead costs to the bill.

After spending 10 months in a homeless shelter at taxpayer expense, the family "won the housing lottery" by getting a taxpayer-subsidized apartment for \$800 a month. In San Francisco, the average rent for a 740 square foot apartment is \$3,323. There were 10,000 applications for the apartment they got, in a lottery where the city lumped citizens, legal residents, and illegal aliens together.

Public Services: The city of Springfield, Ohio, has been in the news because of a recent mass arrival of Haitians. What happens when you add 20,000 illegals to a poor postindustrial town whose population has declined by a third since the 1970s. The school system got 2 out of 5 stars in the state's report card for Ohio's 707 school districts. The public school system

had to hire two dozen Haitian-Creole interpreters. In 2024 the number of Haitian patients seen by the local community health clinic rose from 115 to 1,500. Motor vehicle theft went up 51.5%, and shoplifting 112.8% which requires more police, prosecutors, and jails paid for with tax dollars.

Local Needs: The Washington Post describes how the town of Norfolk, Massachusetts, (population 11,000) converted a former prison in the town to a shelter for more than 400 illegals from Haiti. The shelter issue in Norfolk has split the town, even in the country's most left leaning state. A local woman told the town's board that her disabled son had lost his health insurance at a time when the new arrivals are qualifying for free care. Residents are concerned about the "already overcrowded school system," housing prices, and taxes.

America Last: A study by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), calculates that the illegal aliens who have entered the U.S. since Jan. 2021 will cost taxpayers an additional \$20.4 billion a year. FAIR calculates that each illegal alien costs \$9,232 a year to support.

Biden's open border Is fueling the deadliest drug epidemic in U.S. History. There are more than 300 daily overdose deaths linked to fentanyl. It is estimated that the cartels have smuggled enough fentanyl over Bidens open border to kill more than 1/4th of the world's total population.

Pray for our country.
William Salser,
Stuart

Marriage Licenses issued in September

According to records in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, the following marriage licenses were issued in September:

Austin Beavers- Olivia Cassell
Gary Hunt- Kristy Goad
Ivan Byers- Elizabeth Baliles
Ronald Boyd - Connie Webb

Daniel Shepherd - Kayla Redd
Kevin Anderson - Sabrina Olivo
Billy Stegall - Teresa Stegall
Laurie Taylor- Burnard Miley
Michael Martin- Connie Denham
Charlie Lawson - Amber Sharpe
Robert Lester - Paige Morrell
Jared Bishop - Carrigan Morrison

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Patrick Pioneers

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

For the past three weeks, we have been looking at John Wesley Hooker, his wife Margaret Derency Akers Hooker, their first eight children, and their offspring. This week, we will learn about children nine and ten, James Murray Hooker and Isaac Tilden Hooker.

James Murray Hooker was born to John Wesley and Margaret on the 29th of October 1873 in Buffalo Ridge/Elamsville area of Patrick County. In 1890, James Murray went to Williamsburg where he attended the College of William & Mary and earned his bachelor's degree. J. Murray then headed to Lexington, Virginia where he earned his law degree from Washington & Lee University. Upon graduation from W & L, he came home to Stuart to set up his law practice.

Shortly after returning to Stuart to practice law, he was asked to fill the recently vacated office of Commonwealth's Attorney for Patrick County. In 1905, J. Murray married Miss Annie Dillard, the daughter of John Redd Dillard, a long-time physician in the Spencer community and his wife, Ann Adele Lee Dillard, a schoolteacher.

In 1907, J. Murray and Annie's first child, Margaret Adele, was born, followed by John Dillard in 1909, and Annie Murray Hooker in 1914. J. Murray was elected to represent the people of Patrick County as Commonwealth's Attorney for two more terms.

When the death of Rorrer James left the Fifth District House seat open in Virginia, J. Murray was elected to fill it in a special election in 1921. He was reelected for one more term before returning home to Stuart to practice law. Later on, his son John Dillard Hooker practiced law with his Dad before be-



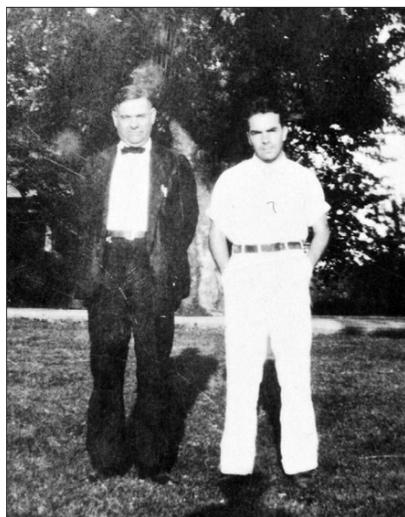
James Murray Hooker (Photos from Katherine Hooker Boaz)

coming a Judge.

Judge John Dillard Hooker will always hold a fondness in my heart because the only time I had to go before him in a courtroom was to give me my "official" driver's license when I was sixteen years old. I remember the lecture on driving tips he gave us new motorists very clearly including "Don't ever give a turn signal, unless you really are turning. I have saw more wrecks from people giving their turn signal, (then not turning) than I have anything else."

J. Murray Hooker had served as Chairman of the State Democratic Convention for five consecutive terms (fifteen years) when he took ill at the National Democratic Convention in Chicago in 1940. He returned home to Stuart, but when his condition worsened, he was taken to the hospital in Roanoke, where he died from a heart attack on August 6th, 1940.

The tenth child of John Wesley and Margaret Akers Hooker was Isaac Tilden Hooker, born on the 22nd of March 1876. The name Tilden caught my eye because it is not a name you hear that often. My great-grandfather's name is



James Murray Hooker and John Dillard Hooker

William Tilden Underwood, and he was also born in 1876, the same year as Isaac Tilden Hooker. I would bet the bank they were both named for Samuel Tilden, Democratic candidate for the office of president in 1876.

Isaac headed for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania around the turn of the 20th century, along with several of his siblings and their spouses. Isaac found work as a machinist, then later became a contractor for the mail delivery service.

On the 4th of March 1908, Isaac married Miss Emma Zook Detweiler of Mifflin, Pennsylvania. One year later, when Isaac's niece, Ruth Elizabeth Turner Terry died in Philadelphia at the age of twenty-seven, Isaac and Emma adopted Ruth and John Chapman Terry's two children: six-year-old Eugene McKinley Terry, and four-year-old Pauline Martin Terry.

By 1920, Isaac, Emma; Eugene; and Pauline came home to Virginia where Isaac joined the Smith River Church of the Brethren. Several years later, Isaac built a home on Melrose Avenue in Roanoke, and in March of 1926, Isaac Tilden Hooker became the pastor of Hol-



Isaac Tilden Hooker

lins Road Church of the Brethren, a congregation of approximately 100 members. When Reverend Isaac Tilden Hooker retired at the age of 75, the church had grown to the 397 members with a large Sunday School of 200 attendees.

In addition to serving as the pastor of the Hollins church, Isaac was a manager for an express company, then later the vice-president of Johnson-Carper Furniture in Roanoke. When his beloved wife Emma passed away in 1941, Isaac married widow Estelle Sharpe Williams in 1943. In 1958, Isaac passed away from lymphoma at the age of eighty-two.

Next week, we will conclude the Hooker family series by looking at the last three children born to John Wesley Hooker and Margaret Derency Akers 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 - About Retroactive Social Security Benefits

Dear Rusty: Both my wife and I are 67 1/2, i.e., past our full retirement age of 66 years and 6 months. Neither of us have yet filed for SS retirement benefits. My wife is entitled to about \$1,000/month based on her work history, and I plan to wait until age 70 to file. I was entitled to \$3,700 at my full retirement age date and am eligible to receive \$4,800 at age 70. Thus, my wife's spousal benefit, which she can get when I start taking my SS, is another \$850 (a total of \$1,850), which is 50% of my full retirement age amount. We just recently became aware that my wife should have claimed her own smaller benefit earlier and taken her higher spousal benefit later when I claim. But has she lost Social Security benefits because she waited until now to claim? Signed: *Trying Hard to Understand*

Dear Trying: Yes, I am afraid your wife has lost some of her SS retirement benefit by waiting too long to claim. In your specific circumstances (where your wife is eligible for a higher monthly

amount as your spouse) it is important to know that her spousal benefit amount reached maximum when she attained her full retirement age (FRA) of age 66 and 6 months. Even though she cannot collect as your spouse until you later claim, her eventual spousal amount does not increase because she is now past her FRA. Thus, waiting the extra year after her FRA did not enhance her spousal benefit amount, meaning she could have been collecting her own smaller SS retirement benefit starting at her FRA. The good news, however, is not all those past benefits are lost.

Once someone has passed their full retirement age, it is possible to claim up to six months of retroactive benefits. Full retirement age is the cutoff point because your wife cannot get retroactive benefits before her FRA but, since she is about a year past, she can claim her full six months of retroactive benefits. Thus, she will lose only about six months of her SS retirement benefit by claiming her benefits to start at age 67 (vs. now at 67 1/2), which at least mitigates the loss. And instead of her FRA amount of \$1000, her initial SS retirement benefit will be about 3% higher because she is claiming past her FRA. But, nevertheless, your wife's eventu-

al spousal amount (when you claim) will still be limited to 50% of your full retirement age entitlement.

The important thing to keep in mind is that retroactive benefits can only be claimed after someone has reached their full retirement age, and only up to six months of retroactive benefits can normally be claimed. So, in your wife's case, her eventual spousal benefit from you will still be limited to 50% of your FRA amount even though she waited for a year past her own FRA to claim. But she can claim six months of retroactive SS retirement benefits now to soften the financial blow.

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

The Key Vitamin That Prevents Dementia - Part 2

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.

Mechanisms of Action

Several mechanisms influence how Vitamin D helps brain health and reduce dementia risk:

Neuroprotection: Vitamin D has been shown to have neuroprotective properties. It supports the clearance of amyloid-beta plaques, a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease, and reduces neuroinflammation, which is implicated in the progression of dementia.

Vascular Health: Adequate vitamin D levels are associated with better cardiovascular health, which in turn supports brain health. Vascular problems can contribute to cognitive decline, and by promoting cardiovascular health, vitamin D may indirectly protect against dementia.

Neurotransmitter Regulation: Vitamin D

plays a role in regulating the production of neurotransmitters, which are crucial for cognitive function and memory.

Practical Implications and Recommendations

Given the potential benefits of vitamin D for brain health, maintaining adequate vitamin D levels could be a viable strategy for reducing the risk of dementia. Here are some practical recommendations:

Sun Exposure: Regular, moderate sun exposure can help maintain healthy vitamin D levels. Aim for 10-30 minutes of sunlight exposure several times a week, depending on your skin type and geographical location.

Diet: Incorporate vitamin D-rich foods into your diet, such as fatty fish (salmon, mackerel), fortified dairy products, and egg yolks. It's difficult to find good sources of vitamin D if you are vegan. Mushrooms cultivated in sunlight can be a great source. As mentioned earlier, vegans can get their vitamin D from food through supplements found in orange juice, vegan "milks", soy products, and from cereals.

Supplements: For those at risk of vitamin D deficiency, supplements may be necessary. Many over-the-counter vitamin D pills work great. Consult with a healthcare provider to determine the appropriate dosage.

Conclusion

The emerging body of research underscores the potential role of vitamin D in reducing the risk of dementia. While more research, particularly long-term RCTs, is needed to establish definitive recommendations, current evidence suggests that maintaining adequate vitamin D levels could be a promising strategy for supporting cognitive health and preventing dementia. As with any health intervention, it's essential to approach vitamin D supplementation under the guidance of a healthcare professional.

By prioritizing vitamin D through sun exposure, diet, and supplements when necessary, we may be able to take a proactive step in preserving cognitive function and reducing the burden of dementia in the aging population.

(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)

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Radford beats Patrick County in four sets



Lilly Hazelwood with a dig in of a Radford serve.



Jayden Callahan finished the match with 8 kills.



Lauren Hazelwood passes the ball to her team mate.

By Pat Delaney
The Lady Cougars volleyball team hosted Three Rivers District rival Radford on October 8. When the match was over, it was Radford that would return home with a 3-1 win, 25-21, 18-25, 16-25, 22-25.

Patrick County got off to a fast start taking an early 5-1 lead in the first set. Behind good hitting and excellent play at the net, the Lady Cougars would never trail in the set. Radford closed the gap to just two points, but the Lady Cougars would close out the set 25-21.

The second set stayed close early. With the match tied at six apiece, Radford grabbed momentum, going on a 7-2 run and taking the lead 8-15. Radford would add a 5-0 run later in the set to take a nine point lead at 13-22 and would hold off the Lady Cougars and win the set 18-25.

Radford carried over their momentum into the third set, forcing a Lady Cougar time out at 5-11. Radford's serving kept the Lady Cougars off balance throughout the third and would take the set 16-25.

"They're a good serving team," said Lady Cougar head coach Heidi Moore. "They were very good at picking out where they were going to

serve the ball to keep us uncomfortable

The Lady Cougars came out strong in the fourth set, taking the first four points before Radford tied the set at 6 apiece. The two teams would trade points, remaining tied at 11-11 before the Lady Cougars forced a Radford time out at 14-11. Coming out of the timeout, Radford chipped away at the Lady Cougar lead, closing the gap at 18-17. Radford tied the match following a long delay while the officials decided on the correct call of the point. Following the stoppage of play, Radford would finish the match on a 7-4 run, taking the set 22-25.

On the night, Moore said "we struggled more on passing and we went away from our gameplan, but I believe that's my fault, because I said make sure that we use other hitters, because when we used our middles, we were unstoppable. We took too long to switch back."

Overall, Moore thought there was much to like in her team's performance. "We did a lot of good things. We clean it up, we can compete."

Lilly Hazelwood led the Lady Cougars with 9 kills, 6 blocks and 4 aces. Jayden Callahan added 8 kills, and 3 blocks and Eliza Clifton had 7 kills, 14 digs and 8 assists.



Camille Gonzalez (left) and Journey Moore with commemorative volleyballs for their recent career milestones.

Journey Moore had 14 digs and 5 assists while Camille Gonzalez had 14 assists and 3 kills.

PCHS Sports Schedule			
The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of Oct. 21-25:			
10/22	7pm Volleyball vs James River	10/23	TBA Cross Country Meet at Blacksburg High School
			7pm Volleyball vs Martinsville
		10/25	7pm Football vs Alleghany

PC Boys and Girls Track Win at Meet



Sadie Martin, Annalee Jones, Eliana Montgomery, Melissa Barker, Lexus Owens, Mackenzie Williams, Callie Wood, Fisher Martin, Noah Hiatt, Xavier Torres.

By Ashlee Mullis

The PCHS Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams finished first overall at their meet at Martinsville High School on Wednesday, October 9. The girls' team was led by Sadie Martin who finished first overall with a time of 20:36. Callie Wood finished 3rd overall. Mackenzie Williams finished 8th overall, and Melissa Barker finished 10th overall.

The boys' team was led by Noah Hiatt who finished first overall, followed by Fisher Martin in second place. Greely Terry finished fourth, William Overby seventh, Brett Foley eighth, and Xavier Torres ninth. The teams will compete next Wednesday, October 16 at Carroll County.



Sadie Martin and Noah Hiatt

Glenvar tops Cougars

By Pat Delaney

The Patrick County High Cougars fell to the Glenvar Highlanders 49-7 on October 11 at Glenvar.

The Highlanders got off to a fast start, taking a 27-0 lead into the second quarter. They added a touchdown in the second quarter and two more in the third, for a 49-0 lead.

Glenn Stovall picked off a Glenvar pass and returned it 42 yards for the Cougar touchdown. Stovall also had a fumble recovery and two

tackles.

Calvin Lancaster led the way defensively with 4 tackles.

Offensively, Jayden Corns led the Cougars with 35 yards on the ground. Quarterback Avonne Kidd added 14 yards passing and 16 yards rushing.

The Cougars will travel to Radford on Friday, October 18 and will next play at home on October 25 against Alleghany.

Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis

PCHS Varsity Volleyball defeats Floyd

The PCHS Varsity Volleyball Team won in straight sets, Thursday, October 10, against Floyd with set scores 25-20, 25-20, and 25-22. Jayden Callahan had 8 kills. Lilly Hazelwood had 6 kills and 4 blocks.

Eliza Clifton had 6 kills, 7 assists, and 5 digs.

Journey Moore had 13 digs and 2 aces, and Camille Gonzalez had 13 assists and 2 kills. The Lady Cougars are now 10-5 on the season.

JV Volleyball Wins Two

The JV Lady Cougars defeated Radford 2-0, Tuesday, October 8, 25-15 and 25-20

Kendra Penn had 5 kills, 4 digs, and 3 aces. Meredith Wood had 4 kills. Mariah Scott had 12 assists, and Jenna Woods had 11 digs and

4 assists. On Thursday, October 10, the Cougars defeated Floyd 2-0 with set scores of 25-13 and 25-19. Brooklyn Barner had 8 kills, and Sheyan Lester had 3 kills. Penn had 3 kills and 5 digs. Woods had 8 digs, and Scott had 10 assists and 5 aces.

Varsity Golf Finishes Season



By Ashlee Mullis

The Varsity Golf Team competed in the Region 2C Tournament, Monday, October 7, at the Great Oaks Country Club. The Cougars shot 371 to finish 5th out of 12 schools in

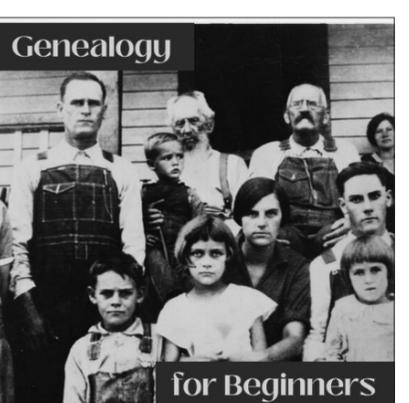
the region. Floyd finished 1st with a score of 310. Chance Corns and Parker Roop finished with a score of 91. Kendra Worley finished with a 92, and Carter Gregory finished with a 96.

Genealogy Workshop for Beginners set

Surry Community College will host a hands-on Genealogy Workshop for Beginners on Friday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon. This event will be held in the Carlos Surratt Genealogy room on the second floor of the SCC Library in Dobson. The workshop is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required.

Designed for those who are new to genealogical research, the workshop will provide a basic overview of the many resources available through Surry Community College, as well as those available in the community and online. Participants will also learn how to use these resources and how to determine the best way to research their own family history.

Due to the hands-on nature of the workshop, space is limited to 10 participants. For more information or to register, please con-



Surry Community College will host a Genealogy Workshop for Beginners on Friday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon in the SCC Library. This workshop is open to the public at no cost. Pre-registration is required. Contact Sebrina Mabe, Library and Archives Services Assistant, at (336) 386-3459 or mabesc@surry.edu.

tact Sebrina Mabe, Library and Archives Services Assistant, at (336) 386-3459 or mabesc@surry.edu.

Crossing the Lines

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

Relief efforts for Western North Carolina continue after Hurricane Helene

Relief efforts are still underway to assist areas of western North Carolina devastated by Hurricane Helene, as local communities rally to transport much-needed supplies. Reports continue to detail the extensive damage caused by high winds and flooding, particularly around Asheville and surrounding areas.



Damage from Hurricane Helene is evident along the roads to Crumpler, N.C. (Photos by Ray Reynolds)

A local private pilot and his wife, a nurse, who have chosen to remain anonymous, shared their firsthand experiences of the destruction.

"I've flown supplies into Asheville, Morganton, Avery County, and Jackson," said the pilot. His wife worked in Barnesville and Pensacola at a mobile hospital. "Some roads were completely destroyed, with only one way in and out. People crawled for days to reach medical help," she said.

The nurse described the harrowing conditions she encountered, including treating a woman whose life was saved when barbed wire caught her hand as floodwaters swept her away. "She treated that woman every day, cleaning her wounds. Since surgery wasn't possible, they had to wait for the metal pieces to fester and come out on their own."

The pilot also recounted the story of a man who lost his wife in the floodwaters. "They were holding onto the banister, but he couldn't hold onto her, and she was swept away. He stayed stuck near her body for two days until help arrived," he said.

Temperatures in the area are expected to drop to 40 degrees soon, and shelters are limited, leaving many vulnerable to the cold. In response, local residents have built a makeshift bridge to aid the delivery of supplies. "It took two days just to

cut a path from the house we stayed in to the nearest road," said the pilot.

In addition to physical recovery, there are numerous accounts of community members stepping in to assist with repairs. One local resident used an excavator to clear cars trapped by a mudslide. Many young men, some in their teens, were cutting down trees to help restore access to roads. "Their eyes were brown and black from debris. My wife cleaned their eyes, and then more of them came back after hearing about it," the pilot said. The nurse helped provide safety glasses for the boys after discovering their old ones were no longer usable.

The natural disaster has also affected wildlife in the region, with many dead animals spotted, including deer. The pilot mentioned that displaced yellow jackets, unable to find their nests, were stinging people in their mouths. One woman with cerebral palsy was stung in the throat and tongue, leading to a life-threatening allergic reaction. "She needed to be flown out, but she refused to leave her son and went home with medication instead," the nurse said.

School board reviews cybersecurity policy, approves new buses



The Henry County School Board at a recent meeting.

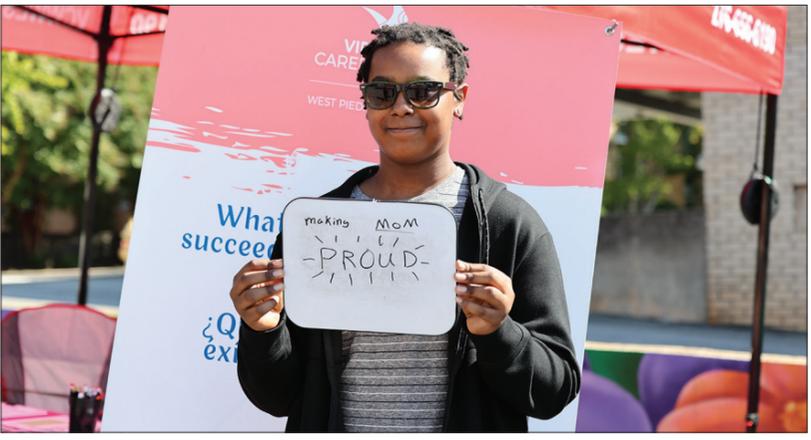
The Henry County School Board met on October 8 to discuss key issues, including cybersecurity measures for the school system. The board also approved the purchase of five new school buses and adopted revisions to various school board policies.

Elizabeth Fulcher, Director of Technology, presented the board with an overview of the top cybersecurity threats facing the district, including phishing, ransomware, and social engineering. She emphasized that cyberattacks are becoming more fre-

quent, often leading to system shutdowns or even holding data hostage for ransom.

"Social engineering is especially dangerous because it preys on human psychology," Fulcher explained. "Attackers may impersonate someone, deceive, or manipulate emotions to gain access to sensitive information."

Fulcher outlined preventive steps that help protect students, staff, and parents from cyber threats. Key strategies include using strong passwords, enabling multi-factor authentication, and regularly updating software.



A student displays their career goal. (Contributed)

MCPS Hosts Career Discovery Event for Eighth Graders

Martinsville City Public Schools (MCPS) recently hosted the inaugural MCPS CTE Discovery Career Quest, an event aimed at introducing eighth graders to local businesses and career opportunities in Martinsville. The event provided students with a chance to interact with local professionals and learn about the wide variety of careers available in the area.

"It's the first time we've ever done this," said Callie Hietala, community and outreach coordinator. "Our eighth-grade students were able to walk from school to the Uptown area, where they could explore different businesses and speak directly with employees."

At each stop, students were given information on the education and training required for various careers. "Some of the students got to walk

around and talk to the employees, learning firsthand about potential career paths," Hietala added.

Shauna Hines, coordinator of STEAM, CTE, and Fine Arts, emphasized the importance of early exposure to local opportunities. "Before you know it, these students will be seniors. We want them to know there are viable career options in Martinsville. If they aren't going away to college or aren't sure what they want to do, there are businesses and careers right here. You can make a successful life here," she said.

Hines also noted the importance of students establishing early connections with local businesses to boost their chances for internships. "If we don't show them these opportunities now, and no one else does, they may never know they exist," she said.

Study for Amphitheater Approved as Council Hears Game Room Proposal



Martinsville City Council approved funding for a feasibility study on a new amphitheater.

Martinsville City Council met on October 8 to discuss plans for a potential amphitheater and hear a proposal for a casino in the city. The brief meeting featured two main presentations, with one moving forward to a vote during the regular session.

The Harvest Foundation committed to a \$25,000 matching grant for a feasibility study to determine the appropriate size for an outdoor amphitheater. The venue would be Martinsville's only entertainment space since the Rives Theatre burned down.

"Honestly, right now, we don't have an indoor venue either," Council Member Tammy Pearson said. The discussion covered the potential for both free and ticketed events, with Roanoke's amphitheater cited as an example.

"Sometimes it's free, sometimes it's not," said Council Member Kathy Lawson. The study will also assess

what is needed to make the project sustainable.

In addition to the amphitheater discussion, Mark Henderson, representing American Amusement, pitched a casino project to the council. Henderson described a vision for a "skilled game room" that would partner with the city and generate revenue.

"Our recommendation is for the city of Martinsville to enter a partnership," Henderson said. The game room would offer a 50% tax directly to the city, and Henderson emphasized the potential for increased tourism and business revenue.

"We want to make this a money generator that can give back to the community," Henderson added. He noted that many residents already travel to nearby counties to gamble and argued that a casino in Martinsville would provide a safer, local option.

Lighthouse offers new hope for mental health crisis in community



The Lighthouse, a new crisis intervention center, is now open at 287 Commonwealth Blvd. in Martinsville.

Piedmont Community Services (PCS) unveiled its latest mental health service in Martinsville and Henry County on October 1—The

Lighthouse, a crisis intervention center aimed at providing immediate support to individuals in mental health crises. The center will work

closely with law enforcement to offer a brighter future for residents in need.

"For the past 50-plus years, Piedmont has strived to uphold our agency motto. Our agency model is promoting compassionate solu-

tions," said Greg Preston, PCS executive director. Preston is collaborating with local government officials on the next phase of the project, which includes plans to establish a crisis stabilization unit for adults.

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\$5 tickets

HOLLYWOOD CINEMA beside WALMART
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Letters to the Editor

Blood donations up

Oh my gosh, Patrick County! The Red Cross workers were hopping this month.

There were 32 equivalent units of blood collected. That many units donated haven't been donated in several months. Our goal was 25 equivalent units. Thank Patrick County.

And thanks to the dedicated volunteers who take time out of their day to assist all donors and to make your donation a positive experience. Volunteers who worked this month were Patty Brunner, Deborah Boswell, Denise Clark, Bill Hines,

It's not the same party

The Democratic Party of today is not the same party of twenty or thirty years ago. It's not the party for which you, your parents, or your grandparents voted. The Democratic Party of the past loved America as much as other political parties, but differed in its approach to solving problems. JFK, RFK, and other Democrats worked for the good of all citizens.

The current Democratic Party seems to hate America. It criticizes America at every opportunity while presenting a utopian vision of the future where everyone is equal in everything--a vision that can only be achieved by bringing everyone down to the lowest level. The vision is unrealistic and is common to all visions presented by Communists. It's based on fantasy, lies, and a complete ignorance of human nature.

The current party divides people into classes based upon race, gender, representation by quota and other arbitrary criteria. It cancels anyone whose opinion differs. True democracy is messy. The party of years ago could present arguments logically. The current party either doesn't present an argument at all, or cloaks every issue in emotion while negating facts. Emotional arguments vary depending upon who is currently in control of the party and which group is targeted as the

Betty Holt, Harriette Moore, Lucy Moore, Ann Sheppard, and Jack Vestal.

The Red Cross encourages donors to make an appointment by calling 1-800-REDCROSS (733-2767) or online by going to www.redcross-blood.org and searching 24171.

The next blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the John D. Hooker Building. Please note the "winter hours" of donation beginning in November.

Gene Stirewalt,
Stuart

"oppressed," whether or not they really are. The party often lies; lying is just another tool in the Marxist revolution to "fundamentally change" America.

The current party brags about defending democracy while mocking the true definition of the word. Party bosses choose who will run for President. They say that requiring a valid, federal ID to vote is "racist" while at the same time requiring such identification to attend the Democratic National Convention. With Communists controlling the party, consistent logic is replaced by consistent hypocrisy and propaganda. JFK and RFK would never have dishonored themselves with such behavior; they fought Communism.

If you have always voted for the Democratic Party, have an honest conversation with yourself. You don't have to be a Republican to NOT vote for the Democratic Party (I am not a Republican). Think for yourself, vote for honorable values, and reject the Democratic Party of today. Your freedom is at stake in this election. And remember: no country, no party, nor candidate is perfect. You are living in the real world where perfection is not an option. Utopias do not exist, and they never will.

Joe Cadrin,
Stuart

Romey Alexander "Rose" Clement

Mr. Romey Alexander "Rose" Clement, age 96 of Ararat, VA, passed away Thursday October 10, 2024, at the Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson. He was born on April 28, 1928, in the town The Hollow in Patrick County, VA, to the late Adam Smith Clement and Sallie Eunice Matthews Clement. Rose retired from Pike Electric after many years of service beginning in 1955. He was an avid fisherman and lifelong farmer. Left to cherish his memory are his devoted wife, Barbara "Bobbie" Bowman Clement of the home; children, Wanda Isaacs of Ararat, Virginia, Joy Clement of Mount Airy, North Carolina, Bill Clement and Rhoda of Claudville, Virginia; grandchildren, Amy and David Rautio, Clifford Isaacs and fiancé Amy Boice, Matthew Clement, and Katherine and



Scott Rewerts; four great-grandchildren, Claire Issacs, Eden Issacs, Adam Rautio and Alice Rewerts; a sister, Lottie Bowman; two brothers and sister-in-law, Johnny and Mildred Clement, and Hennis Clement; and by a host of nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Mr. Clement was preceded in death by two sisters and brothers-in-law, Lucy Smith and Wilburn, Alpha Rorrer Slate and first husband Jimmie Rorrer, second husband, Walter Slate; and by two brothers, Nelson Clement and Willis

Clement; brother-in-law, Temple Bowman; sister-in-law, Juanita Clement. Funeral services will be held on Monday, October 14, 2024, at 11:00am in the Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Mount Airy with the Rev. Buford Jessup officiating. Burial will follow in the Clement Family Cemetery in Ararat, VA. The family will receive friends from 10:00am until the time of the service. The family will receive friends following the burial at The Fellowship Church reception hall 5101 Ararat Highway, Ararat, Virginia 24053. Flowers will be accepted, or donations may be made to the Clement Family Cemetery c/o Sandra Clement or charity of the donor's choice. Moody Funeral Services in Mount Airy is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Jacob William Hoyle

Jacob William Hoyle, age 90, unexpectedly went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

Jacob was born on January 26, 1934 to the late Laura Belle and Rufus Elgin Hoyle from Bassett, VA. He was preceded in death by his loving and devoted wife of 69 years, Lillie Sue Hoyle and a brother, Charles R. Hoyle.

Jacob proudly served his country in the United States Air Force from March 1953 to March 1957. Jake Hoyle Plumbing, Heating, Electrical Wiring & Gas Fitter provided infamous dedication to families of Patrick & Henry Counties for over 60 years. He also held the



position of Superintendent of Maintenance of the Patrick County School System for 20 years.

To cherish his life and memory, Jacob leaves behind his loyal and faithful daughter, Brenda H. Roberson and her husband, Doug of Hampton, VA. He also leaves behind 2 granddaughters, Casey Gail Kern and Riley Sue Roberson; 1 great granddaughter,

Bailey Linda Kern all of Hampton, VA.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at Mayo Baptist Church, 85 Penn Store Road, Spencer, VA 24165 from 12:00 to 2:00 PM with a funeral service to follow at 2:00 PM. Interment will follow in the Church Cemetery with Military Rites to be performed by the Martinsville-Henry County, Veterans Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Mayo Baptist Church or the American Heart Association.

Online condolences at www.collinsmckeeestonebassett.com. Collins Funeral Home is respectfully serving the Hoyle family.

Community Watch meets



Pictured from left to right are Otto Hiatt, Deputy Eric Sain, Waymond Dawson, Jules Easter, Dispatcher Karen Campbell, and Diane Dawson. (Photo by Mary Dellenback Hill, Secretary, Willis Gap Community Center.)

By Mary Dellenback Hill

The Willis Gap Community Watch met on Thursday, October 10 at 144 The Hollow Road, Ararat. Patrick County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Sain opened the meeting with a background on how the dispatchers work with him and handle the calls that come in while he is on duty. There was a question-and-answer period. He then introduced the guest speaker, Dispatcher Karen Campbell from the 911 Call Center, Patrick County Sheriff's Office.

Campbell spoke about her job and how intense and rewarding it is. There are all kinds of call-ins. Some are not pertinent to an emergency. Sometimes, the person is rude and loud, using vulgar language, and is not always coherent. She assesses and deals with the situation, either handling it or calling for appropriate help from the deputy sheriff. The deputy and she stay in contact with each other (computers and cell phones) until the situation is resolved.

Campbell emphasized the crucial role of a 911 emergency dispatcher in an emergency. People often turn to them for help from the sheriff, police, fire department, or emergency medical technicians. As a dispatcher, you gather all relevant information, including the caller's name, situation details, and address. You then assess the location of emergency medical teams, deputy sheriffs, and police officers and dispatch the appropriate team. If qualified, you may even provide

medical information to the caller until help arrives. Your job is to stay on the line, keep the caller calm, and gather vital information until the situation is resolved. She shared that two women were assisted in giving birth this year, underscoring the life-saving role of a 911 dispatcher.

A 911 dispatcher works in a very stressful environment; an improper response or delay increases the risk and health of the caller. It is best to remember that callers are often frightened or excited and cannot give you the proper information. In some situations, the caller may become angry or abusive, and you must be able to control the situation. As a 911 dispatcher, you use telephones and computers to communicate with emergency response teams through two-way radios. Sitting for long periods and monitoring a computer screen could cause eye strain and back pain. Although dispatchers generally work a 40-hour week, they are often subjected to rotating shifts and alternative work schedules.

Sain was adamant about his trust in his 911 dispatchers. He has been known to intervene when speaking to callers, telling them they must be calm and courteous to the dispatcher trying to help them.

Refreshments at the meeting included chips, dip, cookies, drinks, and Campbell's home-baked spice cake.

The next Meeting will be on Thursday, January 9.

Note of Thanks

The family of Hubert Oscar Lyon would like to thank everyone for your love and support after his passing. Your prayers and acts of kindness have been so helpful during our time of sorrow. Special thanks to the Smith River Church of the Brethren choir and Jimmy Handy for the

beautiful music, the church congregation, as well as the staff of Moody Funeral Services for their gracious and caring support. We would also like to extend our deepest appreciation to Reverend David Shumate for his acts of compassion and comforting words during this difficult time.

Congressional staff to visit

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff will visit the City of Martinsville and Patrick County on October 23:

*In Martinsville, 10 - 11:30 a.m., City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 55 W. Church St., Martinsville.

*In Patrick County, 12:30 - 2 p.m., Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions.

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HELP WANTED

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!

JOB OPENING

The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for a part-time Tourism Department Administrative Assistant. The successful candidate must have been attention to detail, a high level of organizational skills, and be able to handle complex responsibilities. Duties include, but are not limited to, managing, creating and updating project records with accuracy and validity of information; optimizing digital marketing platforms; performing grant research and application processing; organizing and scheduling festival volunteers and attending festival events; and managing tourism inventory. Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, as well as excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills, is required. A high school diploma or GED is required. Applicants must be willing to submit to a background check and drug screen. This is a part-time position with no benefits. Hourly wage is \$15. Hours will typically be scheduled between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; however, weekend work may be required. Hours are limited to 29 or less per workweek. The County of Patrick employment application is available at <https://www.co.patrick.va.us/Job.aspx>. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application to be considered for the position. The position will remain open until filled. The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

YARD SALE

Yard Sale, six-person, maybe more Mini Flea Market Thursday-Saturday, October 17-19, 8a.m. to 4p.m. each day. 661 Collinstown Road, Stuart, Virginia (Dry Pond area)



AUCTIONS

Bankruptcy Real Estate Auction! November 14 at 11AM Live & Online. 7.4± acres of Industrial Zoned Real Estate with 11,200 SF Office/Warehouse Space will be offered in two tracts! Agents will be onsite for property previews on 10/26 & 11/9 from Noon to 3PM. 3321 Shenandoah Ave NW, Roanoke, VA 24017. See Woltz.com for more information or call Woltz & Associates, Inc.,

Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers. (VA #321), 800-551-3588. 5% Buyers' Premium.

Real Estate Auction – Nov. 7 at 11 AM Live & Online. 3,377± Acres Offered in 21 Tracts. Discover an extraordinary opportunity to own a piece of West Virginia's stunning natural landscape, where the beauty of the Appalachian Mountains meets the tranquility of untouched wilderness. These three unique properties, spanning Monroe and Greenbrier counties, offer unparalleled outdoor recreation, breathtaking vistas, and the chance to build your dream retreat. Auction Held at WVSOM at 400 Lee St, Lewisburg,



WV 24901. Previews: 10/19, 10/20, 11/2 & 11/3 from 10AM to 3PM. Meet agents at Barn Store Gas Station Parking lot – 8075 Sweet Springs Valley Rd, Gap Mills, WV 24941. Visit Woltz.com for details or call Woltz & Associates, Inc., Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers. Jim Woltz, Broker (WVAL #1000), 800-551-3588. 5% Buyer's Premium.

Online Absolute Bankruptcy Auction! Trucks, Trailers, Boats, Environmental Cleanup Tools and Accessories, and more will be offered through online auction starting 10/29 and closing 11/12 at Noon (Soft Close). Auction representative will be onsite for previews on 10/19 and 10/26 from Noon to 3PM. Property located at 1757 Healys Road, Locust Hill, VA 23092. See Woltz.com for inventory list and more information. Call Woltz & Associates, Inc., Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers. (VA #321), 800-551-3588. 10% Buyer's Premium.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 579 ARARAT HIGHWAY, ARARAT, VA 24053
In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$93,000.00, with an annual interest rate of 4.000000% dated March 8, 2007, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Patrick as Deed Instrument Number 0700654, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Patrick, at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Patrick located on the corner of Blue Ridge and Main Streets, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia on November 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM, the property with improvements to wit:
PINECREST SUB LOT 9
DB284/739 I#070000653
Tax Map No. 3908-35
THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: USDA. Reference Number 24-297175.
PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 (703) 449-5800.

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.



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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 Mortgagee, 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.

Meetings

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

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 available at their facility for genealogy research. There is 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

The Providence United Methodist Church's men's group will hold a community breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. The menu includes bacon, sausage, eggs, apples, gravy, and biscuits. Donations will help fund local projects.

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's 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

The Patrick County Patriots will sponsor a Trunk or Treat event at Woolwine I.C. DeHart Park from 5-7 p.m.

High Point Baptist Church, 2381 Big A School Road, Stuart, will offer free vegetable beef soup and vegetable chicken soup from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Take out also is available. Music will be provided by the Wayside Singers.

A Trunk or Treat event will be held at Ross Harbour United Methodist Church from 4-6 p.m. in the lower parking lot.

Halloween at "Scary (Fairy) Stone" State Park, Trunk or Treat, 5 to 7 p.m. at Shelters 3 & 4. Fright Night ranger led hike beginning at the upper beach parking lot. Hikes are held at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Preregister at the park office.

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 or email veterans-dayparade2024@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Nov. 13

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.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

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.

Ongoing

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

The Coffee Break Café hosts live music on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring an instru-

ment, or just come and listen.

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at 7 p.m. on 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 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. Interested 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.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Products in Great Value brand among those potentially affected

BrucePac, a Durant, Okla. establishment, is recalling approximately 9,986,245 pounds of ready-to-eat (RTE) meat and poultry products that may be adulterated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today.

The ready-to-eat meat and poultry items were produced from June 19, 2024, to October 8, 2024. These products were shipped to other establishments and distributors nationwide then distributed to restaurants and institutions. Information regarding product labels and the list of products will be provided when available.

The products subject to recall bear establishment numbers "51205 or P-51205" inside or under the USDA mark of inspection.

The problem was discovered after FSIS performed routine product testing of finished product containing RTE poultry products produced by BrucePac and confirmed those products positive for *Listeria monocytogenes*. Subsequent FSIS investigation identified BrucePac RTE chicken as the source of the *Listeria monocytogenes*.

There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about an illness should contact a healthcare provider.

Consumption of food contaminated with *L. monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, a serious infection that primarily affects older adults, persons with weakened immune systems, and pregnant women and their newborns. Less commonly, people outside these risk groups are affected.

Listeriosis can cause fever, muscle aches, head-



ache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance and convulsions sometimes preceded by diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms. An invasive infection spreads beyond the gastrointestinal tract. In pregnant women, the infection can cause miscarriages, stillbirths, premature delivery or life-threatening infection of the newborn. In addition, serious and sometimes fatal infections in older adults and people with weakened immune systems. Listeriosis is treated with antibiotics. People in the higher-risk categories who experience flu-like symptoms within two months after eating contaminated food should seek medical care and tell the health care provider about eating the contaminated food.

FSIS is concerned that some products may be available for use in restaurants, institutions, and other establishments. These other establishments may have used affected meat and poultry in RTE products that may be on store shelves or in consum-

ers' refrigerators or freezers. Restaurants, institutions, and other establishments are urged not to serve or use these products. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

When available, the retail distribution list(s) will be posted on the FSIS website at www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls.

Consumers with questions regarding the recall can contact Jeff Golongco, VP Business Development at BrucePac, at 503-874-3000, or those with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or send a question via email to MPHotline@usda.gov. For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, the online Electronic Consumer Complaint Monitoring System can be accessed 24 hours a day at <https://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda.gov/eCCF/>.

Parks, natural area preserves closed due to hurricane

Nine Virginia State Parks and four natural area preserves are closed or partially closed following significant damage caused by Hurricane Helene. These closures will allow for thorough assessments and necessary repairs to the affected areas. All dates are subject to change.

Virginia State Parks

- *Grayson Highlands: Closed through Oct. 14.
- *Hungry Mother: Closed through Oct. 14.
- *Natural Tunnel: Closed. Will reopen on Oct. 3.
- *New River Trail: Closed until further notice. All campgrounds are closed through Feb. 28, 2025.
- *Seven Bends: The park (both access points) is closed until further notice.
- *Claytor Lake: All boat ramps inside the marina and other public boat ramps on the lake are closed due to excessive debris. Swimming and launching kayaks and other small watercraft are not allowed.

*Clinch River: Riverside Trail at the Sugar Hill Unit and the day-use cartop boat launches at Artrip, Carbo and Old Castlewood in Russell County are closed until further notice.

*James River: The Green Hill picnic area, Branch Pond Road and Branch Pond Campground are closed until Oct. 4.

*Powhatan: River Launch Rd., Launch A and the primitive/canoe-in campground are closed until further notice. All trails are closed to bikes and horses until further notice.

Natural Area Preserves

- *The Channels: Closed.
- *Pinnacle: Closed.
- *Buffalo Mountain: Closed through Oct. 14.
- *Cleveland Barrens: Closed beyond Tank Hollow Falls.

For guest safety as well as the safety of DCR staff

and emergency response workers, visitors should not attempt to access any parks, preserves or areas that are closed.

Virginia State Parks will contact guests with overnight reservations impacted by these closures. Visitors with questions about trail conditions, special events and educational programs should check the park's webpage for more information at virginiastateparks.gov/find-a-park.

To learn more, please go to dcr.virginia.gov/closures.

Initial unemployment claims decrease

The 2,371 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending September 28, 2024, are 16.9 percent lower than last week's 2,852 claims and 35.6 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (1,748), according to Virginia Works. Nearly 82 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (62 percent) were Manufacturing (296); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (263); Health Care and Social Assistance (222); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (206); and Retail Trade (164).

Continued weeks claims (15,395) were 3.5 percent higher than last week (14,880) and were 22.2 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,595). Nearly 93 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

(2,412); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,004); Manufacturing (1,598); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,449); and Retail Trade (1,213).

A person who has already filed an initial claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.

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23rd 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

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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

Dellenback-Hill's travels



Two couples from Hampton, VA. The man on the left is wearing Virginia Is For Lovers T-shirt.



Pictured, left to right, are Tom Perillo, Patrick Hall, Claude Smith, Ray Smith, and Mike Noonkester are all members of the Ararat Ruritan Club. This is the second Pick Up/Clean this year by Ararat Ruritans. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill, Representative Dan River District Tourism, Patrick County.)



One of the employees (Lyla) smiled as she arranged the cut flowers. They are for sale, and cost \$1 each.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION OF APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO REVISE ITS NET METERING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO § 56-594 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2024-00161

On August 30, 2024, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") a petition ("Petition"), pursuant to § 56-594 E of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and the Commission's order in Case No. PUR-2024-00047 ("Net Metering Order"), for approval of proposed revisions to its net energy metering ("net metering") program. The Net Metering Order required APCo's Petition to address, analyze, and provide prefiled testimony and data to support certain items identified therein as they relate to net metering, consistent with the requirements of Code § 56-594 E. This included, in part, a proposed rate structure related to net metering to govern compensation related to all eligible customer-generators, eligible agricultural customer-generators, and small agricultural generators, except low-income utility customers, that interconnect after the effective date established in the Commission's final order in the net metering proceeding. The Company asserts that its Petition and supporting direct testimony address each of the required net metering considerations laid out in the statute and in the Commission's Net Metering Order. Pursuant to Code § 56-594 E, the Commission must issue a final order regarding the Petition no later than 12 months after this proceeding commences.

In its Petition, APCo proposes to close its current Rider Net Metering Service ("Rider N.M.S.") to all new customer-generators as of the rate effective date set in this case and introduce a new net metering credit compensation structure, designated Rider N.M.S. II. Under proposed Rider N.M.S. II, APCo proposes to charge customer-generators for all metered energy the Company provides during each monthly billing period at standard tariff rates and to credit customer-generators for all the metered energy the Company receives at an avoided cost approved by the Commission. The Company represents that only customer-generators whose electric generating facility receives a Certificate of Completion after Rider N.M.S. II would become effective will be subject to this proposed rate structure, while existing Rider N.M.S. customer-generators and those who submit applications and receive a Certificate of Completion before Rider N.M.S. II takes effect will be grandfathered under the current Rider N.M.S. for up to 25 years. APCo states that under the proposed Rider N.M.S. II, all metered energy delivered to the Company's distribution system via the meter installed at a customer-generator's premise will be credited to the customer-generator's monthly bill at the Company's avoided cost rate, summarized in the table below:

Rider NMS II Avoided Cost Component Rates (\$/kWh)						
Customer	Voltage Level	Energy	Capacity	Transmission	Ancillary Service	Total Energy Credit
Residential	Secondary	\$0.0372	\$0.0037	\$0.0068	\$0.00150	\$0.0492
Commercial, Industrial	Secondary	\$0.0372	\$0.0038	\$0.0074	\$0.00150	\$0.0501
Commercial, Industrial	Primary	\$0.0357	\$0.0038	\$0.0071	\$0.00144	\$0.0480
Commercial, Industrial	Sub-Transmission	\$0.0353	\$0.0038	\$0.0071	\$0.00142	\$0.0476
Commercial, Industrial	Transmission	\$0.0348	\$0.0037	\$0.0070	\$0.00140	\$0.0469

The Company represents that the changes proposed in Rider N.M.S. II will appropriately credit net metering customer-generators for the energy they deliver to the grid at the avoided cost to non-participating customers, while ensuring they are paying for the distribution, transmission, and capacity facilities and other services that they rely on when they are not self-generating in full or using the Company's infrastructure to export excess energy.

The Company states that using its economic modeling and analytics software, it has concluded that the economic impacts of net metering within APCo's service territory vary. The Company represents that the current net metering rate structure, in place under Rider N.M.S., credits customer-generators with "full retail rate" netting, which compensates customer-generators for energy delivered to the grid at a rate that exceeds the value provided to the grid by their renewable energy systems. APCo states that it is proposing a cost-based compensation structure which the Company asserts would render the need for a net metering cap unnecessary. The Company states that if the full retail rate compensation is maintained as it currently is, there will be inequitable cross-subsidization. APCo asserts that if the full retail rate compensation is maintained, then the Commission should consider reducing the current six percent cap on net metering.

The Company requests that the Commission approve its proposed revisions to its net metering program and Rider N.M.S. and the Company's proposed Rider N.M.S. II.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Petition and supporting documents, and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Petition and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on APCo's Petition. On May 20, 2025, at 10 a.m., the Commission will hold the telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before May 13, 2025, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

On May 20, 2025, at 10 a.m. or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff.

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

Electronic copies of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Petition and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before May 13, 2025, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00161.

On or before February 11, 2025, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent shall send a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00161.

On or before March 11, 2025, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be sent to the Company, Staff, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00161.

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

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

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY



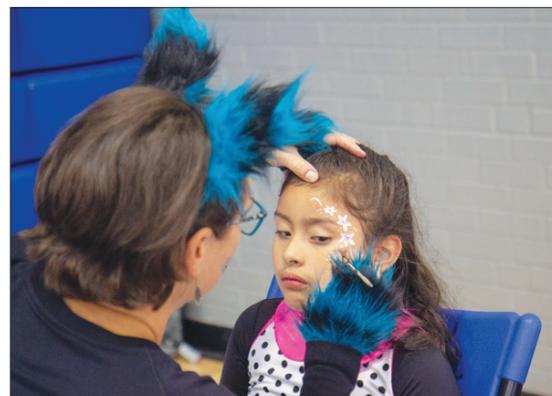
Ashley Marie Worley's family visited Doe Run Sunflower Maze on Saturday.



Mary Dellenback Hill purchased fresh popcorn, four cut sunflowers, four Golden Delicious apples, two peanut butter delights, and two fried apple pies. (By employee Lyla.)

After dropping off some Dan River District brochures on Oct. 12, Mary Dellenback Hill visited Boyd's Restaurant in Ararat, with two sons and one great-grandson. She then dropped off pick-up sticks at Ararat Ruritan Club for pickup/cleanup, and some new fall editions of the Patrick County Magazine to the Doe Run Sunflower Maze at 214 Marigold Lane in Ararat. Dellenback Hill said that was "one of the highlights of my Saturday morning."

Surry Community College Hosts Spooktacular October 24



Children enjoy face painting by Maria Luisa Saldarriaga during Surry Community College's Spooktacular Halloween event. SCC is again hosting Spooktacular on Thursday, Oct. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. This family-friendly event will have food, games, music, and more.

The Student Government Association (SGA) at Surry Community College is hosting an annual Halloween "Spooktacular" event on Thursday, October 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. This event will be held on the Dobson Campus in the Knights Grill Courtyard.

Student organizations at SCC are coming together to plan and sponsor different family-friendly activities. There will be food, games, music, and face painting. The Chill Mobile will also be present for purchase as well.

Tickets to play different games will be on sale with 20 tickets available for \$5. All proceeds will support the SCC Angel Tree project.

For more information, contact Brittany King, Student Services Coordinator, at kingbr@surry.edu or (336) 386-3656.

Preparing to make apple butter in Woolwine



A large group of community volunteers at the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department peeled and cut apples for the annual apple butter making fundraiser. The homemade apple butter is made before the annual Woolwine Octoberfest, which was held Saturday. Sales were brisk throughout the day. (Contributed)

Latest data reinforces critical importance of smoke alarms

According to the latest “Smoke Alarms in the U.S.” report from the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), working smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (60 percent), while the majority of civilian home fire deaths continues to occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working alarms. These statistics—coupled with newly released findings from a comprehensive U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) survey—reinforce the critical importance of Fire Prevention Week™, October 6–12, and this year’s theme, “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!”™

“Smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a home fire, but they have to be working in order to protect people,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign drives home just how important it is to install, test, and maintain smoke alarms to ensure they’re working properly.”

A newly published survey by CPSC, which was conducted in coordination with the Fire Protection Research Foundation (the research affiliate of NFPA) and the National Institute for Safety and Technology (NIST), assesses the prevalence,

functionality, and public perception of smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in U.S. households. According to the findings, nearly all U.S. households (99 percent) report having at least one smoke alarm, which reflects a significant increase from 88 percent in 1994. However, more than half of households (61 percent) test their smoke alarms less frequently than recommended (at least once a month). A third (33 percent) say they never test their smoke alarms.

In addition, the survey showed that many households have inaccurate perceptions about the age, functionality, and maintenance requirements of their smoke alarms. Nearly one in five households (16 percent) believed all alarms would be working but had at least one functionality issue when tested, including dead batteries. Additionally, only half (51 percent) of households were always accurate about the age of their alarms.

“People tend to be overconfident about their risk to fire, which often leads to a sense of complacency that compromises safety,” said Carli. “This year’s Fire Prevention Week

campaign works to better educate people about their true risk to fire and the steps needed to make sure they’re adequately protected in the event of one.”

Essential fire safety messages for this year’s Fire Prevention Week theme, “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!” include the following:

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.

Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or don’t respond when tested.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme, “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!” visit fpw.org. Additional Fire Prevention Week resources for children, caregivers, and educators can be found at sparky.org and sparkyschoolhouse.org.



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