



THE ENTERPRISE

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

‘Private’ communications show cracks in county government

By Debbie Hall

Communication between the county and the public has been dubious at best in the last several months, and apparently that extends to some members of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, as noted in texts and emails obtained by The Enterprise. Some members are being berated, chastised and even threatened in private for their public stances, while others seek to ‘monitor’ public discussions.

“Jane your little stunt has really hurt the county in so many ways. It blew the budget and at best our EMS (Emergency Medical Services) will go back to the way it was if not worse. Your going behind backs and conspiring against us and pulling these surprise stunts at meetings is not the way to fix things. A lot of fallout of EMS is happing (sic) and I’ll make sure you get the credit you deserve.”

That text was sent on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from Doug Perry, board chairman, to Jane Fulk, who was appointed to the Dan River District seat. Fulk was among board mem-




Doug Perry, chairman of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

bers to raise concerns publicly at an Oct. 21 meeting during discussions of a new county employee to fill a top EMS position, the distance from the county that person lived, if a county vehicle was assigned for the commute and decreased pay for EMS employees.

“Oh Doug,” Fulk responded.

(See County Government p. 3)



County of Patrick
P. O. Box 466
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TO: _____

Name Debbie Hall

Address dhall@theenterprise.net

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Date 11/6/2024

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | FOIA Charges (request 10/25/2024) | | |
| 5.5 | 5.5 hours @ \$21.22/Hr (A Walker) | \$ 21.22 | \$ 116.71 |
| 6.2 | 6.2 hours @ 190.00/Hr (J Fitzgerald) | \$ 190.00 | \$ 1,178.00 |
| SubTotal | | \$ | 1,294.71 |
| TOTAL | | \$ | 1,294.71 |

Please make check payable to: Treasurer, Patrick County
Thank You!

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act guarantees access to public records held by public bodies, public officials, and public employees.



Construction on US 58 Advances

Construction is progressing on the U.S. 58 project, as is visible in this photo taken last week by Kevin Hubbard/Hubbard 1 Productions. Approximately three-quarters of the project is visible as it extends into the distance. (Photo by Kevin Hubbard/Hubbard 1 Productions)

Company with proven track record to transform, revitalize local hospital

By Debbie Hall

Braden Health recently acquired the former Patrick County Community Hospital in Stuart, and officials said they are committed to “rebuilding, restoring and reopening.” Perhaps most importantly, the company has built a national reputation for reopening and transforming rural hospitals, turning struggling facilities into sustainable healthcare centers.

In recent years, the company acquired hospitals across Tennessee, such as Henderson County Community Hospital, Haywood County Community Hospital, and Houston County Community Hospital. These facilities were not only reopened but transformed into profitable thriving centers of care that have become vital lifelines for their communities.

Henderson County Community Hospital is a prime example of the company’s intervention and expertise in turning a struggling facility into a profitable, fully operational hospital that now meets the needs of thousands in its community. Similarly, Haywood County Community Hospital was successfully reopened as the first permanently shuttered rural hospital in the United

(See Local Hospital p.8)



Ownership of the building that formerly housed the school division’s administrative offices was transferred to the county in 2023, and the county began paying the electric bill in December 2023. The building has been vacant since then.

Former school board office sits vacant

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors is still deciding what to do with the old school board office after the school board transferred ownership of the facility to the county in late 2023, according to Board of Supervisors chairman Doug Perry.

Last month, Perry, of the Smith River District, said three court hearings were being held at the same time, and one court was able to hold a hearing in the vacant school board office.

“They made a special court session, so they used the conference room to hold a court case in,” he said.

Now that the new Facilities Director Michael McGuinness is on staff, there’s about four different ways the county could go in deciding on a tenant because it has a lot of agencies and departments that need to move

and adjust, Perry said.

“We’re trying to figure out who the best person to get the best bang for our buck and the most usage for the building,” Perry said. “That’s what’s taking us so long to get somebody in there is doing something that will be the most beneficial over the next five to 10 years instead of putting somebody in there now and like, ‘oh no, we should have made some other arrangements,’” he said.

Perry said the initial plan was to relocate the Commonwealth’s Attorney Office to the building.

“With the upstairs and downstairs, it’s kind of maybe a little too big for Commonwealth’s Attorney Office. Then with security issues and stuff, it’s either (the) commonwealth and nothing else could go in that building,” he said.

(See Board Office p.9)

County administrator’s contract limits interactions with department heads

By Debbie Hall

Members of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors are barred from directly requesting additional information or questioning department heads under the terms of the current county administrator’s contract, according to the agreement made with Administrator Beth Simms.

The contract, executed on September 11, 2023, between Simms and the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, specifies that the board and its members must communicate solely through the administrator with county employees who are appointed or directly supervised by the administrator.

Simms assumed her role in October 2023.

The contract outlines several terms regarding her compensation and benefits, including an annual base salary of \$120,000. Additionally, the board has committed to increasing her compensation each year by at least the average increase granted to other county employees.

Simms received her first 3-percent raise on July 1, under the current budget approved by the board.

The county agreed to pay for health, hospitalization, surgical, dental, vision, and comprehensive medical insurance to the same extent it does for other county employees, enrollment in the Virginia Retirement System (VRS), with the county making the appropriate contributions and withholdings on her behalf. The county also agreed to contribute \$2,400 annually—\$200 per pay period—into a deferred compensation plan in addition to the base salary.

The contract includes provisions for sick and vacation time. Upon starting, Simms accrued time at the rate of an employee with four years of service, and she was immediately credited with five vacation days and 10 sick days. Simms was required to live in the county within 12 months of her start date, and the county was to reimburse up to \$3,000 for her moving expenses, provided she obtained at least three quotes from reputable companies.

The county provides Simms with \$500 per month for a vehicle, a business-use cell phone, a work station at the county offices, and both a tablet and a laptop for use outside the office. Simms will also be enrolled in the Certificate of Local Government Management program at Virginia Tech, with the expectation that she completes the certification within 30 months of January 1, 2024.

The contract also covers professional development, including payment for membership dues and participation in organizations such as the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA), and the Virginia Association of Counties (VaCo). The county will also cover travel and related expenses for approved courses, institutes, and seminars.

Terms of the agreement require the board to conduct annual performance evaluations with Simms, define goals and objectives, and assess her performance in meeting those goals.

Doug Perry, chairman of the board, said the evaluation would be done when Simms returns from maternity leave.

Chamber Chat, October 2024

By Rebecca Adcock
“I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.” ~ Anne of Green Gables

I love October but it did seem to go by way too fast and was too warm. If there is one month where Patrick County really shines with opening the doors to our family, friends, neighbors, and tourists, it must be October. From all the great community events, food offerings, and fall foliage, Patrick County shines this month.

The beginning of the month saw the chamber advocating on behalf of county businesses to our regional, state, and federal officials on the economic impact of closing the Blue Ridge Parkway. We are thankful that the National Park Service was able to open the parkway as soon as possible to help minimize the negative economic impact the closure was having on communities in Virginia that rely on those busy October tourism visits.

The chamber hosted a successful Apple Dumpling Festival 5K on October 19. We had over one hundred walkers and runners finish the race. That was our largest participant crowd ever. The majority

of the participants stayed after the race to enjoy the festival and great festival food.

The chamber was notified that we were selected to participate in the Rural Investment Collaborative from the Federal Reserve of Richmond. This five-month program will help us build more relationships and learn how to leverage local support and funding to prepare stronger grant proposals. We will be focusing on enhancing and extending the Mayo River Rail Trail.

As we work to finish out the year, the chamber will be busy promoting the plethora of holiday events, especially our popular Hometown Christmas in Stuart on December 6th and 7th.

We cannot close out October without talking about how fun the 9th Annual Stuart Spooktacular was. The turnout was unbelievable, due in part to such great weather. We are happy to assist One Family Productions in helping to continue this event. Partnerships with other community organizations help bring this event to life. The chamber assists with getting the word out and signing up vendors to hand out candy, along with helping with the set-

up and tear down. The Town of Stuart has stepped up in assisting with getting the street ready, assisting with logistics of trash cans and barricades. Thank you to Branch Civil for donating the use of light towers to help keep participants safe, along with the Patrick County Sheriff’s Office. Adcock Veterinary Orthopedic Solutions assists with donating all the wonderful large-scale decorations, and Patrick County Tourism is a long-time supporter.

The chamber of commerce events for November will consist of our popular “Lunch with Leaders.” This year, we are able to use the Star Theatre with the event happening on Wednesday, November 20 starting at 11:30 a.m. A light lunch will be served before the program starts with tickets on sale now through our website for \$15. We hope you can come and join us as we hear updates from Primland, STEP Inc., Patrick County Government, Town of Stuart, Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, Patrick County Economic Development and Tourism, and Branch Civil, along with a few others.

The chamber is also helping to sponsor Stuart Rotary’s “Newcomer



Rebecca Adcock and husband Jonathan Adcock at the 9th annual Stuart Spooktacular. (Contributed)

Mixer” on November 21. This fun mix and mingle event at Pickle & Ash is open to newcomers and longtime residents to come meet people and find out what is going on in Patrick County. For tickets, check out Pickleandash.com.

For more information about our upcoming events, visit www.patrickchamber.com or call (276) 694-6012.

The chamber welcomed new members: The Depot Station, Rich Creek Arts, A Little Bit of Everything, U.S. Blower Door Testing.

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

Annual Lunch with Leaders event set for next Wednesday

By Taylor Boyd
The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce is set to hold its third annual Lunch with Leaders event on Wednesday, November 20 at the Star Theatre. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for a light lunch catered by Food Country USA, and speakers begin their presentations at 12 p.m.

The event is held in partnership with the Reynolds Homestead and sponsored by Food Country USA and Branch Civil.

Chamber Executive Director Rebecca Adcock said tickets for the event are \$15, and are available through the Chamber website, Facebook page, newsletters, or at its office.



“I set it (the limit of attendees) at 100, just because the way we will have to set it up. Usually, we have between 75 and 80 people attend in the past years, so we’re hoping for around the same number,” she said.

Less than a dozen speakers are expected to speak at the event.

“We’ve got some past speakers with new updates and then we’ve got new speakers pushing into some new subject areas I feel is relevant and important for Patrick County,” she said.

Adcock said some past speakers will be returning to this event like James Houchins, who is director of the county’s Economic Development and Tourism Department; Stuart Town Manager Bryce Simmons, a representative for STEP Inc., and a representative of Branch Civil.

“Tiffany Underwood with” Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) “will be there in a dual role. She will be discussing P&H community College and a lot of the programs that they do and directly do in Patrick County. We have the heavy equipment operator training classes beginning in 2025, so that’s an exciting new program that’s going to be offered,” she said.

Underwood’s discussion will include the Pat-

rick County Education Foundation, Adcock said, and its initiative for Patrick Promise.

“Which is to raise funding to carry through covering tuition for Patrick County students to attend” P&HCC “for free,” she said.

Adcock said a representative from the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation will also be speaking at the event because the parkway affects local residents and businesses.

“The foundation is basically the fundraising arm for the park service, and they have been raising funds and are working to do some reroofing of the mill at Mabry Mill and other projects along the parkway, so we wanted to give them space to talk about that, but then also talk about their very strong new thing called Blue Ridge Rising Initiative,” Adcock said.

Primland’s new general manager will give an update on the resort, and the county’s Grants and Communications Manager Beth Morris will speak. Morris “is newish with the county, but also being the grant writer there’s a lot of different subject matters that she can cover,” Adcock said.

After all speakers give their presentation, Adcock said a question-and-answer session will be held for all speakers to answer questions from the public.

While it depends on the speakers, she estimates the event will be finished by 1:30 p.m.

“From past participation of community members, people appreciate it and are interested and want to come out,” Adcock said.

Pets of the Week



This handsome brindle fella is neutered and has beautiful blue eyes. This dog must belong to someone who is missing him. He was picked up on Fairy Road. If you recognize him, please call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS).

This female heeler mix was turned in along with her puppies. They have since been adopted and she wants a home, too.

Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination. To see all available pets, please visit the shelter, or its Facebook page.

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.

ONLINE AUCTION

Fixer Upper Cottage with Creek & Pond for Sale in Woolwine, VA!
Online Auction Ends Friday, November 22nd, at 3 PM
10327 Woolwine Hwy., Woolwine, VA 24185
Bid NOW at VAAuctionPro.com



This fixer-upper cottage offers the potential for a peaceful retreat or permanent residence in Woolwine, VA. The property features +/- 6.85 acres with a beautiful pond and bold frontage on Gills Creek. Tract has great road frontage on both Woolwine Hwy (Route 8) and Mill House Road. There are 2 driveways already in place, with one on each road. The 1.5 story was built in 1985 and features 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. It has approximately 1,804 sq ft of living space with drywall walls, wood and carpet flooring inside. Home is finished with wood siding and a metal roof, and is heated by oil. It is served by a private spring and septic system.

Property is within sight of Woolwine Elementary School, Dollar General and Post Office. It is also within a short commute of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Fairy Stone State Park. With its prime location and potential for renovation, this property presents an excellent opportunity for those seeking a tranquil and customizable living space.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 is required on the day of sale. Close on or before January 6th, 2025. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on November 22nd, 2024. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

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County Government

(cont. from page 1)

Fulk was not the only member to be rebuked by Perry.

“You and Jane really really hurt this County. There is a lot of really bad fall out from your actions. At best our EMS might go back to the way it was, if not worse. This conspiring behind our backs and pulling these stunts at meetings have really been harmful. Please talk to us,” Perry wrote to Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District.

After checking with Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, Kendrick wrote to Fulk, “Jonathan said he didn’t get the text from Doug Perry that me and you got.”

Perry began detailing his concerns before the Oct. 21 meeting. At 1:48 p.m. that day, he asked about a resolution that was on the agenda, and suggested a divide in texts with some board colleagues.

“Good afternoon. Ref (reference) the agenda. In ref to The rights and disability proclamation. Are we all in agreement to proclaim the awareness day? Do we need to vote before the Resolved statement that is in the last paragraph,” Perry wrote.

Fulk responded: “We have to have a motion to adopt this resolution and a vote. Yes U (you) read it then we make a motion, vote and it will be signed.”

Wood replied in two texts, “I think we are all in agreement ... I will have to look at it again in a few minutes.”

Perry then responded to Wood: “Thanks. It feels we have become divided. I just want to be sure. Let me know if you have any concerns with anything so I can ensure it come (sic) out or resolved.”

“Only issue I have right now is over job postings. I think we need some input on the director jobs, Such ad (as) I don’t know if the new ems (sic) person has to live in PC,” Wood wrote. “And I want a review of DSS (Department of Social Services). I’ve heard too many bad things in the past month to overlook it now.”

Perry responded: “Lack of info had me out of sorts as well. I have made the request to have PR and Media part of our Board retreat in Jan. To help is better communicate with each other, the media and the public. Thanks!”

“And just in general, I want contact information for all directors and such,” Wood replied. “If I want to call the facilities director directly, I want to be able to.”

The county’s contract with the county administrator specifies that the board and its members must communicate solely through the administrator with county employees who are appointed or directly supervised by the administrator. (See related story)

Wood: “And as far as the TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax), let’s table it till we see how the budget works out this spring.”

Perry: “I plan to suggest we reject it now so it isn’t lingering on old business. Then in Feb, Mar Apr when we have those hard numbers in front of us we can put it back on the table. If needed.”

“I’ll agree to that,” Wood wrote.

Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, also supported the resolution, according to a text. Then, after the meeting, at 9:25 p.m., Marshall sent a text to Perry, stating in part that there were discussions in the hallway during closed session “brain storming on how to fire” a county employee “and getting the rest of the public fired up.”

Marshall named two county residents that he alleged were involved, and added, “I know you try to ignore this stuff but we need to monitor the situation.”

Perry: “Yes, you are right. It does need to be headed off.”

It is unclear which, if any, message from Marshall that Perry replies to when he writes: “They don’t know any better, but they didn’t do any favors tonight.”

Marshall: “Nope, not constructive.”

Perry: “So now people can raise a fuss and we’ll change our mind.”

Tuesday, October 22

In a text to Perry, Wood wrote: “I don’t feel good about the new ems (sic) chief driving a county vehicle home. This sets the foundation to let more and more people do the same. When he took the job, he knew he was living over an hour away. I’m not sure who gave the ok to do it, but I’m not ok with it.”

Perry: “Even worse, a lot of damage was done last time. I don’t know if

there is a fix. We’ll just have to eat it.”

Wood: “What damage are you talking about? Changing the schedule and pay?”

“It’ll costs (sic) a second ambulance on the road and making adjustments will be expensive. And it will set the pay back in the long run. We’ll see what magic Lori (Jones, the county’s finance officer) and Beth (Simms, county administrator) can work out,” Perry replied.

Wood: “We had it in the budget for a second full-time crew before the changes were made that became effective Oct. 14. We will have to see what they come up with financially.”

Perry: “Yes, we’ll see what we can do. Admin will be working on it today. I have asked Beth if he (new EMS hire) will be moving to the County. Waiting on her response.”

Wood: “I don’t think what jane (sic) brought up was the right thing at the right time and place. That is something we should have decided behind closed doors.”

Perry: “Agreed. Jane has pulled several bad and uncalled for stunts that has brought more issues and doesn’t solve things. Beth said if we want him to move. We need to have it put on Nov agenda, closed session. She said he was looking to rent here. She also said we didn’t have any applicants who were willing to move.”

A few other texts are exchanged and around 9:43 a.m., Wood replies in part, “I also think the admin needs to be more open to us about things. I should not hear from a firefighter who our new ems (sic) person is. We are all lacking communication, including myself. We all need to communicate better.

“I know we can’t meet as a group but we do need to talk about things before open meetings,” Wood wrote.

Perry: “Yes, I totally agree, I heard about the hire on the street too. I have asked about having PR and media training at our retreat. Say an hour block of instruction. Best practices and wording, We do need to come up with a way for us to talk.”

Wood: “Yes. The job isn’t bad. The PR is the harder part. I try my best to get along with everyone on the board so that we can accomplish what is best for the county.”

Perry: “I think highly if all of you. I know caring is passion and issues we have had come from that passion. Just differences on how to go about things, I’d love to have a BBQ with the Board and admin but that wouldn’t go o er (over) very well. Lol.”

Wood: “Lol. That would be good. That is the one thing I really hate about this job, We need time to talk before we have to do it in front (sic) of thr (sic) media and then public.”

Perry: “Same here.” Then it appears a good portion of that text is redacted. However, no redactions or reasons for redactions are cited, as is required by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Regardless, Wood responded, “That is true.”

Perry then asks Wood to call him. “There is a lot of really bad fallout from Monday night. Beth should be sending an email later this afternoon, but I’ll be glad to give you the run-down.”

In a later text, Perry wrote, “I haven’t received any more info in ref to the Budget. I’m wondering if they ment (sic) the rest of this year’s budget?”

Wood replies, “Hopefully so.”

In a text to Marshall, Perry again references “a lot of nasty fallout from Mon. Give me a call and I’ll give you the run down. I am working today. Might could get by if you had rather talk.”

Marshall: “Yup, a few pats on the back are more attractive to some folks than the long range health of our county.”

Perry: “They don’t want change, they don’t want better. Just the same stuff.”

Marshall: “Well there hope. Jonathan seems to be finding his stride and is at least civil in his disagreement, We know if Steve Ferring wins he thinks a lot like we do and Andrew Overby may be ok I don’t know him well enough to say otherwise.”

The fallout referenced by Perry was detailed in a series of texts—the dates and times are unclear— from County Administrator Beth Simms: “Damage was done last night that honestly I’m not sure how to remedy.”

Perry: “just have to go with it, and

place the blame where it needs to go ... It was awful.”

Simms: “Our citizens will be the ones to suffer.”

Perry asks if the new EMS employee would be moving to the county, and then, “Is he driving a county car back and forth? This seems to be what people are bent out of shape over.”

Simms: “I’m not sure he will continue working for us, will provide an update in a couple days ... What they should be worried about is now we will have one ambulance running instead of two.”

Perry: “And the price tag. \$\$”

Simms: “If the BOS (board) wants to create policies that address those items please put them on the agenda for next month. ... I don’t feel comfortable implementing those items, especially considering conversation last night.”

Perry: His response appears to be redacted, again without a notation or citing the required FOIA statute. Then, “If he does stay, will he move or stay in FC?”

Simms: “If y’all want to make him move please add it to November agenda. ... He had talked about renting a place here but I’m not sure what he’s decided. ... There were no applicants who could commit to fully move to PC.”

Perry: “Ok. Thank you.”

Simms: “My personal opinion, why should we expect any staff to invest here if they are going to be talked about/treated like this.”

Perry: “Especially before anything happens. Mike Hudson let me have it over not changing the name and the Fire Chief things. He should know better. ... I’m sure Lori (Jones, finance officer) is working on the \$ part and assume Scottie (Cassell) on a new schedule. Please keep me updated. Jon (Wood) has been texting me. Seems he is torn. He asked for me to keep him updated as well.”

Simms: “Lori is working on numbers to bring to y’all to appropriate next month. ... There’s nothing to update, decision making was taken away from admin, Scottie is adjusting schedule and the BOS will have to decide where to find the money next month. ... We will send agenda item cover sheet as soon as possible.”

Perry: “If you can send an email out to us all with the update, dollar and schedule wise, and just lay the next move in our laps. We need to see how bad we messed up.”

Simms: “It will be in agenda item cover sheet. ... The schedule is what was decided we can’t change what the board voted on, the only thing for us to do is crunch numbers.”

Simms: “All of my other employees would be better off to quit their jobs and apply to work in EMS dept ... Compression, equity issues, etc have been created.”

Perry: “No they just need to raise a stink so we can cave in and cater to the loudest member. ... Was the stunt a legal call? Can we call an emergency meeting to maybe reverse the foolery from Mon night.”

Simms: “That’s probably a question for Jim Gwynn (sic/attorney), I have calls with two of my admin (next word not legible) monitors this week but honestly I have never witnessed something like this before. ... Donna (Shough, HR) is going to let BOS know” the new EMS employee resigned, “and then I’m going to send an email letting y’all know that we will revert to org structure that was in place when I was hired until vote/ action from the BOS.”

Perry: “I’m beside myself. Please send the emails and updates. Thank you!”

Simms: “Will do. ...Apparently there are citizens talking to my dept heads about my contract... this is not fair to me or my family.”

Perry: “Hopefully, the dept heads aren’t talking to them. ... I think I just screwed myself. Taylor Boyd (reporter) called and was asking if we have had your evaluation? I said no and we couldn’t until you returned, She asked when you return and if Donna (Shough, Human Resources) was running things while you were out. I told her the real issue is Jane and Clayton going behind our backs, plotting and conspiring against us and pulling these stunts blindsiding us.”

Boyd also asked about the resignation of the new EMS employee, Perry said. “I told her there is a group that felt they would (not legible) their authority and started the rumor mill

and he was set for failure before he even started. I told her I don’t know what we will do. Can’t trust Board members and the plotting and conspiring is why Boards of the past and we are in the shape we are in. Until we can work together as a team to create sustainable plans we will never get better.”

MISCELLANEOUS TEXTS

While the dates/times are not immediately clear, Perry sent a flurry of texts to Kendrick, some as early as Oct. 14.

“Hey, hope you guys are enjoying this beautiful weekend! When you get a chance, please give me a call. I know you guys have something going on. Talk to me, please, please don’t blind side me again this month. I don’t know what hurt my feelings the most. You guy (sic) blindsiding me, or for whatever reason you felt you couldn’t talk to me. Or maybe I’m just reading too deep into it. Anyway, please and thanks,” Perry wrote to Kendrick.

“Hey, what legal matters are you wanting to discuss in closed session. If we know before the meeting we can get the ball rolling instead of being blind sided (sic) and having to react. Feel free to give me a call when you have a chance.”

It does not appear that Kendrick responded to either text.

EMAILS

On Oct. 18, Perry sent an email to the county administration, but that person is not identified:

“I know the County give (sic) the Vol Rescue for, lack of better terms, permission to operate as a rescue squad. Does the County approve the Fire Stations as well? Also, I don’t know the protocol, but when mutual aid is requested especially from outside the County, that request comes from the County not the individual station, right? The County has MOU’s (Memorandums of Understanding) with the surrounding counties, right?”

Assistant County Administrator and HR Director Donna Shough responded to Perry’s email on October 21:

“I discussed your questions with Scottie (Cassell) this morning. It is required that the Board of Supervisors grant permission to rescue squads and fire departments to operate, particularly since it is expected that the county fund those operations. The Board designates which district the squad/department operates in. This is standard practice for all localities.

“Patrick County has an MOU with surrounding localities in the event of national emergencies. For mutual aid, there is a ‘gentleman’s agreement’ that surrounding localities will provide mutual aid within the adjoining county of no more than one mile. If mutual aid is required, the volunteer squad or Station 8 (usually Scottie) will contact E-911 and ask them to call the appropriate locality. The squads do not contact the localities directly for mutual aid,” Shough wrote.

Perry responded: “Thank you! That is what I thought. Out of anticipation of ‘cry’s (sic) of outrage’ for tonight. Especially where I have had the Fire Chief thing come up. I wanted to be sure that when I said the County has to have a Fire Chief not to ‘take over the incident’ but to manage and set up operationally to ensure the Vols have what they need to be successful.

“Also, the model we are using allows for assessment and evaluation so the Chief and Deputy can grow and evolve to make a better system. Where previously 1 person drank from 10 firehoses and that’s more than one person can successfully do. Thank you!” Perry added.

The email discussed in texts between Simms and Perry was sent by Simms at 1:48 p.m. on Oct. 23. It stated the new employee resigned, and noted that “the EMS department will continue to operate with 1 Director, Scottie Cassell, and staff to run calls, as it was before I was hired unless the BOS wants to take action on a different structure at a future meeting,” Simms wrote.

“I do ask in order to provide clear direction to County staff that if the board wants Patrick County to implement certain items such as a residency requirement, vehicle purchases/usage, involvement with hiring of staff, etc. that a policy be voted on at a future BOS meeting,” Simms added.

A hard copy of the communications can be viewed at The Enterprise office.

Veterans Day - PTSD and TBI

November 11, 2024, is when Americans will celebrate Armistice Day, more commonly known as Veterans Day.

The roots of this day date back to 1918, when the world was engulfed in a great war.

The Alliance of the United Kingdom, France and Russia was pitted against the Central powers comprised mainly of Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. The United States exercised relative neutrality at the beginning of the conflict.

However, in April of 1917, President Wilson declared war on Germany. American troops landed in Europe to join the ranks of the Allied powers.

By 1918, the war waged on, and U.S. soldiers faced a new threat to their lives. The Spanish Flu, first identified in U.S. military personnel in the spring of 1918, presented a challenge to the health and well-being of all the troops. At the time, there was no vaccine nor any kind of antibiotics to treat our American troops.

Unsanitary conditions in the trenches did not help. Dysentery, cholera and typhoid fever also spread.

And yet, American soldiers fought through some of the worst conditions imaginable to preserve peace and harmony on the planet.

At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice agreement between the Allied powers and Germany went into effect, putting an end to World War I.

The United States sustained more than 320,000 casualties from the conflict, including over 53,000 Americans killed in combat. This number of American fatalities ranks as the third highest death total from a war in our country's history, behind the American Civil War and World War II.

Additionally, 43,000 American soldiers died because of the Spanish Flu, which spread across battle lines af-



fecting both allied and enemy forces.

Moreover, the psychological toll of the war caused great harm. Because the conflict forced troops to endure entrench warfare, many soldiers faced severe artillery bombardments. The intense shelling caused great emotional distress, and soldiers began to develop unusual psychological disorders that were labeled as “shell shock.” Those who suffered from “shell shock” could be admitted into a hospital to receive treatment and recover.

Over time, these injuries, more commonly known today as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), have continued to impact our servicemen and servicewomen.

One study from the Department of Veterans Affairs finds this: in World War II, three veterans out of 100 who survived experienced PTSD at one point in their life. Of those who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (post-9/11 era), 29 out of 100 who survived experienced PTSD at one point in their life. My theory as to why we have more coming home with PTSD and TBI is because medicine has gotten better and more of our warfighters survive battlefield injuries to return home.

It is great that we are saving more soldiers, but we also need to recognize they need additional assistance when they come home.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, almost 2,000 of veterans housed returned to

homelessness. The VA also engaged more than 42,000 unsheltered veterans.

The National Veteran Suicide Prevention Report finds a slight increase in veteran suicide rates, particularly in veterans aged between 18 and 34 years old.

New treatments continue to be studied and developed. Just this year, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it was exploring the use of psychedelic compounds in treating PTSD and depression.

Ecstasy and molly are two drugs that are often used for illegal and illicit purposes. But both are amongst the potential drugs being tested in these psychedelic-assisted therapies.

I am supportive of exploring new therapies and alternative medicines to treat our veterans and assist them in recovery and reintegration into civilian life.

Some veterans in Virginia's Ninth District may struggle getting such treatments due to the distances they must travel to see an approved doctor. I will continue to advocate for reforms in telehealth to make treatments and mental health services more accessible to our veterans who live in rural areas.

As we come together on the 11th to honor our veterans, I will not only consider their service to the military, but also their roads to recovery and treatment.

Happy Veterans Day.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call my Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, my Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or via email at www.morgan-griffith.house.gov.

An Open Letter to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors:

By DEBBIE HALL

If there has ever been a ‘this hurt me more than it hurt you’ moment, it was on Friday, Oct. 25 – the day I submitted a request for your texts, etc., under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. It was not an action taken lightly, nor one I ever wanted, because, in my opinion, it signaled an abject and total failure.

As you know, our ability to perform our job has been severely hampered. While the nearly \$1,300 fee for the request may be permissible, it signals that inquiries are unwelcome, and that cooperation or transparency should not be expected, further creating an environment of opacity and control, rather than one of public service and transparency. You should rally against that, just as you should rail against the barriers to transparency with which we have had to contend.

As you know, we have been questioned about the validity of certain stories, told a county employee's departure “was not a story” because the individual was not a long-term employee and only accepted the position to “pad” their resume. A reporter was directed to email questions because the subject did not like seeing their comments in print. We have been quizzed on why we pay so much attention to county government and have learned that a long-standing board of directors was dissolved—reportedly without prior knowledge or formal notification of its members—and replaced with an Advisory Board. It remains unclear whether this was a directive from the full Board of Supervisors. Regardless, many affected individuals on that board—some who served the county for years—have shared details about their mistreatment.

As you know, we have pursued other routes to rectify the situation, both privately and publicly, conveying many of our concerns to staff and individual board members in private conversations and highlighted some of these issues in a public forum. The exception to this is Peters Creek District representative Mr. Jonathan Wood, who did not return a recent request for a call.

As you know, our best efforts seem to have created additional barriers, further restricting our access and the public's right to know. Recently, we learned that board members were told not to talk to the media but wait for a press release. Morale is low among county employees and some report feeling as though they're in jail. Because they are in an untenable position of doing their job and responding to requests from the board/public or potentially losing their job.

As you know, our access has become more limited. We cannot pick up the phone and call for clarification or ask a question, as we do regularly in other localities. Taxpayer-funded employees are now accessible only through restricted email channels; key

taxpayer-funded positions were filled, and benefits extended, without full transparency—and according to texts, without the knowledge of the board.

As you know, relations among board members are strained, with those who publicly stand by their convictions chastised in private; behavior that raises concerns about the board's commitment to transparency, responsiveness and the professional respect owed to their colleagues, districts, and the county as a whole. Such opacity fuels rumors and distrust, prompting questions of loyalty and fostering the perception of avoiding accountability. When trust erodes this way, it strains the board's internal relations and weakens its connection to the community it serves.

As you know, other public officials and local governing bodies uphold transparency and accountability principles. They recognize our role, work with us to inform the populace, and proactively address rumors and misinformation. They understand we are not the public relations arm of the government, and they do not ask or expect us to serve in that capacity. They are diligent to remove barriers, and connect us to key staff and other information avenues.

If public information had been disseminated as it should have been, it would likely have negated the need for this FOIA request. But it was not. And a majority of you knew about our struggles. According to your texts, you also suffer from a lack of communication.

Mr. Perry noted in a text, “just lay the next move in our laps. We need to see how bad we messed up.” We concur. Government should not be conducted in private meetings or via text/phone calls but in the public square, in public view and readily available for public inspection.

Each of you sought and won the support of your constituents, after promising to represent their best interests. Make good on your promises, remember your oath, and begin to act with integrity, honor, and transparency that is befitting of your post. Your allegiance is to your constituents. If you cannot keep the terms of the agreement you made with your constituents, consider other ways to serve your community. The duties and responsibilities of your current position are too important to squander.

The Hospital

The bright spot of the week is wholly due to Braden Health's acquisition of and announced restoration and opening of the hospital. Yes, it is true that we have been burned in the past, but we cannot allow that experience to cloud our opinion of Braden Health. By all accounts, this company seems legitimate. Mr. Kopec, I appreciate your call to touch base. We look forward to working with you, and welcome the Braden Health team to Patrick County.



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Enrollment for Health Plans open on Virginia's Insurance Marketplace

Open enrollment began November 1, on Virginia's Insurance Marketplace, the Commonwealth's official state-based exchange dedicated to providing affordable and high-quality health insurance to eligible consumers. This open enrollment season, running now through January 15, 2025, comes at an important time as nearly 500,000 Virginians have lost Medicaid coverage following the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Launched in 2023, the Marketplace has helped more than 400,000 Virginia residents enroll in health plans, placing Virginia among the top 10 states nationwide for first-year enrollment. The Marketplace is operated by the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, a division of the State Corporation Commission.

“Virginia's Insurance Marketplace was designed by Virginians, for Virginians, and we're excited to help more residents find affordable health coverage,” said Keven Patchett, director of Virginia's Insurance Marketplace. “With more than 3,000 certified local assisters and agents across the Commonwealth and translation services in more than 15 languages, our team of experts is here to guide Virginians through open enrollment and ensure they receive the best plan to fit their needs and budget.”

The Marketplace is the only place where Virginians can apply for financial assistance to help lower their monthly health insurance costs. Nine out of 10 customers qualify for savings, and many Virginians can get coverage for as little as \$10 a month. Individual and family plans are available to eligible Vir-

ginians, including those who are unemployed, are self-employed, or have jobs that don't provide affordable insurance options.

Every health plan offered on the Marketplace covers the 10 essential health benefits required by law, which include emergency services, pregnancy and childbirth services, and prescription drugs.

“Navigating changes in your health care coverage can be daunting, especially for the many residents who have recently lost Medicaid coverage,” said Patchett. “Life happens in real time, and we are proud to be an accessible, easy-to-use resource for Virginians to find the plan that's right for them.”

The plan year 2025 Open Enrollment Period will run from November 1, 2024, through January 15, 2025. Anyone who enrolls by December 31, 2024, will have health insurance coverage effective on January 1, 2025. For those who enroll between January 1 and January 15, coverage will begin February 1, 2025. After January 15, Virginians experiencing a Qualifying Life Event (such as having a baby or losing health insurance coverage) may be eligible to enroll during a Special Enrollment Period.

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

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

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

David Clark - Isabella Brown

Crossing the Lines

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

Apartment complex changes hands; neighbors excited to see changes



The former Crestview Apartments on Halifax Drive in Collinsville are under new ownership. Repairs to and remodeling of the 20-unit apartment complex is underway.

The former Crestview Apartments on Halifax Drive in Collinsville have a new owner, and neighbors are hoping it will help improve the neighborhood.

Michael Lindow said he purchased the 20-unit apartments in October from Ken Lazaro, who owned the complex for about 30 years. Lindow said he and his company, Ridgeway Halifax LLC, decided to purchase the apartments because it seemed like a good project.

“It’s hopefully going to help clean up that neighborhood a little bit,” he said.

Within days of the purchase, large dumpsters were onsite, and trash and debris were being thrown away and removed.

“It’s a lot of work every day. For us, it’s kind of like an onion, and we’re peeling back one layer at a time. I don’t really see any big challenges, it’s just going to be a matter of time is all,” Lindow said, and estimates work on the apartments will be completed within four to six months.

“We’re looking forward to getting this project done, getting it back on the market at market-rate rents,” he said.

Currently, work is focused on the leftmost apartment building, with walls being replaced, and ceilings being repaired. Some units are being gutted to make reoutfitting easier. As a result, most of the apartments on that side of the complex are also vacant.

Operation Christmas Child Seeks Local Support for Annual Shoe Box Drive

Operation Christmas Child, an annual project led by Samaritan’s Purse, is underway, inviting local communities to help pack shoe boxes filled with essential items and gifts for children around the world. Each box contains supplies and a message of hope, as well as a personal letter from the donor, making it a unique, impactful gift for many children in need. For some, it’s the only gift they’ll ever

receive, says local area coordinator Mark Hubbard. “For many of these children, these shoe boxes are the first and only gift they ever get,” he said.

For recipients, these boxes provide tools that improve their daily lives and even help them access education. For details on packing tips, drop-off locations, and times, visit <http://www.samaritanspurse.org>.

Program Aims to Equip Inmates with Job Skills for Life After Release

A groundbreaking partnership between Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) and the Henry County Sheriff’s Office aims to change the future for local inmates by equipping them with trade skills for employment after release. The historic agreement, signed on Nov. 4, will bring P&H-CC instructors into the Henry County Adult Detention Center to teach inmates trades, starting with industrial electrical training.

The initial 15-week industrial electrical course is scheduled to begin in 2025, with classes taking place on Saturdays. P&H-CC President Dr. Greg Hodges expressed excitement about the initiative, emphasizing its potential to reshape lives and strengthen the community’s workforce.

“The economic renaissance of this community is very, very



P&HCC President Greg Hodges and Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis inked an agreement last week to provide trade education to inmates housed in the Henry County Adult Detention Center.

real,” Hodges said. He pointed out the abundance of “good-paying jobs” in the area and a need for more skilled workers. “They get a skill, they get a credential, they become employable, and get what we call the ‘J-O-B degree,’” he said, stressing the transformative impact of job training on formerly incarcerated individuals.

Henry County Sher-

iff Wayne Davis echoed this optimism. “We’re thankful for this opportunity,” he said. Both Davis and Hodges hope the program will reduce recidivism by giving inmates a chance at stable employment, which can provide a meaningful path forward. “This is a new frontier in trying to reduce repeat offenses,” Davis added.

Lawson, Mei, Gravely win election bids



Kathy Lawson

By Taylor Boyd

Kathy Lawson, Julian Mei, and Rayshaun Gravely won the three open slots on the City of Martinsville Council, surpassing fellow candidates John Wilson III and LaNita Herlem in the five-way race, according to unofficial election results.

Lawson, an incumbent who won her fourth term on the council, received the most votes in the election with 2,887 votes, or 24.80 percent of all votes cast in her favor. “The citizens, the voters, of Martinsville have shown their faith in me and the job that I have done,” Lawson said. “We’re just going to move forward to further advance our city and our citizenry.”

Mei received 21,38 percent of all votes, or 2,488 votes. In a comment on social media, Mei said he appreciated the congratulations, and noted that Martinsville’s in trouble. “I’ll do my best to effect some change, but it’s going to be difficult with some of the choices Martinsville’s made,” he said.



Julian Mei



Rayshaun Gravely

Gravely received 2,480 votes, or 21.31 percent of the votes. Throughout the entire election, Gravely said he didn’t know what the results would be. “I didn’t feel like I was going to lose, I didn’t feel like I was winning, I was in the middle, and that showed tonight – I was in the middle. You know, second place. But it’s been great. The community showed out, came up, and did what they thought was best for us,” he said.

Holiday Havoc 2 to benefit P&HCC’s wrestling team

National Independent Championship Wrestling (NICW) will hold Holiday Havoc 2 at Patrick & Henry Community College’s (P&HCC) Stone Hall Gym on Saturday, November 23. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the bell for the first match will start at 7 p.m.

NICW owner Scott Rutter, of Rutter’s Martial Arts, said proceeds from the event will go towards the P&HCC Wrestling Team.

“When I host wrestling events, this is probably two years we’ve been doing events in” Patrick and Henry counties, “we’ve always looking for causes and things to give back to,” he said.

When NICW held its first Holiday Havoc last year, Rutter said it coincided with the P&HCC’s wrestling team’s first year.

The team was “in need of some funds and different things to help them out. We did a show last year, helped them raise some money, and we’re doing it again this year

hoping we can make it an annual thing,” he said.

Rutter said six matches are on the card including a NICW World Heavyweight Championship match with “Bam Bam” Lance Erikson vs. Mike Mars. A flag match also is scheduled between Team USA as Scott Lee, Tony Ray, and Ace Englund face Viktor Kraus & The Invaders of Team Germany.


Rutter said Ray is a P&HCC student and wrestling team member.

“He’s known as ‘USA Tony Ray,’” he said. “Right now, it’s a big battle between which country is better, you know, Germany or America. They’re building that up really well, so that’s a good match on the card.”


A NICW Mid-Atlantic Heritage Championship match will also take place between Bobby Yela and Chase Bennett.

For more information, visit [Facebook.com/NationalIndependentChampionshipWrestling](https://www.facebook.com/NationalIndependentChampionshipWrestling).


FOR MORE, VISIT THE HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE AT WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM.




TERRIFIER 3
1-4-7-9PM



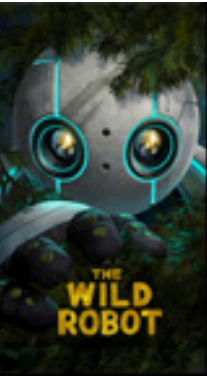
HUCKLEBERRY
1-4-7-9PM



SMILE 2
1-4-7-9PM



VENOM
1-3-5-7-9PM



THE WILD ROBOT
1-3-5-7-9PM

\$5 tickets

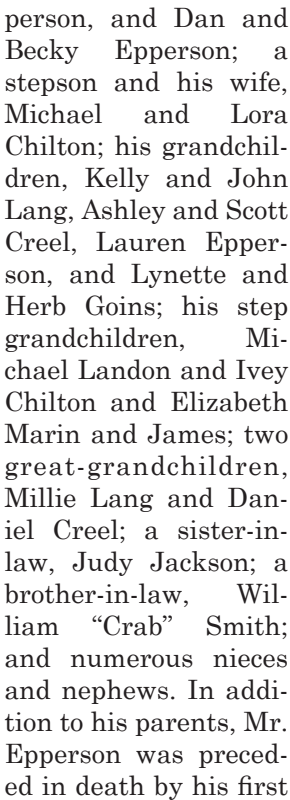
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Shirley Ann Willard

Left to cherish the
memories of Theresa

States to resume operations and become profitable, a feat that attracted national attention and further cemented the company's reputation as the go-to organization for rural hospital revitalization.

Dr. Beau R. Braden, DO, MPH, MS, Founder and CEO, said the company "is committed to rural healthcare because we understand its importance in preserving the health and well-being of the people we serve. Our track record speaks for itself; when we step in, we complete the job better than anyone else around. Our vision is for Patrick County Community Hospital to become a high-quality, sustainable hospital that will serve the



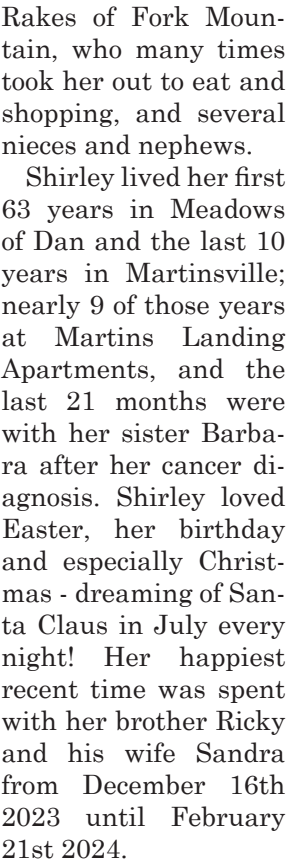
are her son, Timothy Sean O'Leary (Adrienne); special caregiver and adopted child, Shannon Huffman; five grandchildren, Ryliegh Huffman, Amelia Huffman, Ashlyn Huffman, Garrett O'Leary, and Grayson O'Leary; one sister, Dreama Gibbons; one niece, Kris-

A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in Fair Haven Memorial Park with Pastor Bud Sedwick officiating. The family will receive friends at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

In the coming months, the company will provide updates on the progress of the hospital's reopening. As part of its commitment to transparency and community engagement, it will host a press tour of the facility, inviting local media, legislators, and community leaders to tour the improvements being made. This event will also include a Q&A session, giving attendees an opportunity to learn more about the company's mission, the hospital's future services and how it will positively impact the community. The date for this event will be announced later.

Surviving is a sister, Barbara Wilson of Martinsville, Virginia, a brother, Ricky Dale Willard (Sandra) of Meadows of Dan, Virginia., aunts Irene Reed of Spencer, Virginia, Mildred Goode of Collinsville, Virginia, sister-in-law Betty Turman of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Iola Hubbard of Meadows of Dan, Virginia, Lou Massey of Bassett, Virginia, and a special cousin, Donna Reed

All services for Mr. Mitchell will be pri-



Danny Lee Sidden

John Gilbert Mitchell



In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, North Carolina, 28607, or to your favorite charity, in her memory. Collins-McKee-Stone Funeral Home is assisting the Willard family.

preceded by his wife of 22 years, Brinda Ann “Kay” Payne Sidden. A celebration of Danny’s life will be held on Saturday November 16, 2024, at 12:00pm in the Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Mount Airy with Pastor David Bowman officiating. Inurnment will follow in Skyline Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends on Saturday at the funeral home from 11:00am to 12:00pm. Moody Funeral Services in Mount Airy is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

ers, memorial donations may be made to Mountain Valley Hospice, 240 Commonwealth Blvd. West, Unit 602B, Martinsville, VA 24112, or Sunnyside Retirement Communities, 600 University Blvd., Suite L, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

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Terri S. Wood, Manager

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‘Don’t Let Yourself Be Robbed

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

“Hold fast what you have, so that no one may rob you and deprive you of your crown.” Revelation 3:11, Amplified.

Many years ago a North Carolina couple moved to Oklahoma in search of a better life. They bought a little farm there. It turned out that the soil was less productive than expected and the water tasted foul. However, in time they got used to the flavor of the water.

One day two thirsty travelers stopped by and asked for a drink. The farmer was a friendly man and enjoyed talking to them while his wife drew some water from the well and gave a glassful to each of them. One of the strangers poured some of the water into a bottle. For a moment the wife wondered why the man had done that. But she soon dismissed the thought from her mind.

Months passed. The same two men dropped by again. This time they offered to buy the farm. The offer seemed very reasonable. After all, the farm’s yield hardly justified the work put into it. Convinced they were making a shrewd deal, they agreed to sell the struggling farm. Only later did they discover that under their feet was a rich deposit of petroleum that would have made them millionaires for the rest of their lives. That glass of water was the clue to the two strangers of the oil beneath the

ground.

The Bible is like that farm. Within its covers lies a vast deposit of truth (See John 5:39). The problem is that many who possess this Book never dig deep enough to understand the message and appropriate it to themselves. Like the Oklahoma couple, they barely scratch the surface.

I was raised like many today to go to church every Sunday and hear a good sermon from the pulpit. But I was rarely encouraged by the church or my family to diligently and consistently read the Bible for myself. I had no idea how it could help me in my day to day life, or how it could prepare me for heaven and eternal life. The Bible was an undiscovered treasure.

Today, it is often the Bible critics that rob us from digging into the Bible. They present dozens of reasons why the Bible can’t be trusted and therefore not to be read. Science has taken the place of the Bible as the source of truth.

So, if you and I want to discover the rich, precious deposits of truth hidden in the Bible, we need to dig into it, not merely scratch its surface. As we do so prayerfully with the spirit of learners, the Holy Spirit will guide us to rich sources of truth (See John 16:13 and 1 Corinthians 2:10). And this will bring joy and purpose into our life.

Board Office

(cont. from page 1)

Perry said he thinks the Department of Social Services (DSS needs to be re-located. The building “would be enough room to have Social Services and some other departments in there. I know the Extension Office being up there on the third floor with court services, that’s a huge inconvenience, and it would really work out better to have court services up there instead of the Extension Office,” he said.

If the county could have two or three departments in the former school board building, Perry believes it would be better and more productive.

“All those options are being explored and looked at, and figured out, and doing cost analysis and all that kind of stuff with,” he said.

Perry also doesn’t know if there’s been any maintenance issues in the former school board building, located at 106 Rucker St.

In response to an email for informa-

tion, Finance Officer Lori Jones wrote: “I’ve attached two spreadsheets. One with the all of the expenses paid to date for 106 Rucker St. We started paying the power bill in December 2023.

“The other spreadsheet is all of the expenses paid for the Commonwealth Atty’s Office to date I have in our system,” she added, and included budget sheets in the email.

Perry said he knows the county has been responsible for maintaining the building that houses the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office.

“The rent, they could charge us way more. Like if you went by market value, they could charge us way more than what they’re charging us. So, that would make sense if they’re going to charge us less and then, we maintain” the building,” he said, adding he doesn’t know if that language is included in the lease agreement.

Attempted murder charge lodged in Wednesday incident

A Stuart man was charged with attempted murder on Nov. 6, following an altercation with his father, according to Patrick County Sheriff’s Lt. Steve Austin.

Around 1:21 p.m., the Patrick County 911 center received a call alleging a disturbance at 3243 Clark House Farm Road in Stuart.

When deputies arrived, they located one man outside of the home. According to the preliminary investigation, two men got into a verbal argument that eventually escalated to a physical altercation. One of the men allegedly went outside and retrieved a bottle of suspected lighter fluid. Upon reentry, authorities allege the fluid was poured onto another man, and an attempt was made to ignite it.

The man managed to escape from the home and fled to a neighbor’s house, while the other man allegedly gave chase, breaking out a window in an attempt to get to the other man.



Eric William Walker

In addition to attempted murder, Eric William Walker, 28, also was charged with damaging property, and being intoxicated in public in connection with the incident.

He is currently being held in Patrick County jail without bond.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of 2 Thessalonians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Revelation 20, what is the eternal home for those not written in the book of life? Whirlwinds, Lake of fire, Underworld, Exile
3. Who did God not allow to build the temple as he had been a man of war? David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jesse
4. In Proverbs 6:6, where/ what should lazy people go to for wisdom?

Mountaintop, Priest, The ant

5. What kind of place was Patmos, where John received his revelation? Temple, Isle, Ship, Mountain

6. Who was the father of Gershom? Adam, Noah, Moses, David

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Lake of fire, 3) David, 4) The ant, 5) Isle, 6) Moses

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.Trivia-Guy.com.

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Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church
1515 Rock Church Rd.
Meadows of Dan, Virginia
Rev. Tommy Gosnell
CHURCH SERVICES
Sunday School 10 am
Worship Services 11 am

Risen Lord Catholic Church

Mass Schedule
Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness
260 Spring Rd., Patrick Springs, VA - 276-694-6357

Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm
Food Distribution Ministry: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
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Bringing the World to Christ
108 W. Blue Ridge St.
276-694-3440
www.stuartbaptist.org
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
office@stuartbaptist.org

Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church
220 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 1078, Stuart, VA 24171
276-694-7677 • www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org
SATURDAY SERVICES:
Sabbath School - 9:20; Worship 11:00 a.m.
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Super Crossword

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----|---|-----|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| ACROSS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Cheer shouts | 5 | Specialty of Penn & Teller | 10 | Meddles, with "in" | 15 | Golfer Snead and politician | 19 | On the ocean | 20 | Port in Japan | 21 | TV's Winfrey | 22 | "Zip- — -Doo-Dah" | 23 | Start of a riddle |
| 26 | Four-term Georgia senator | 27 | Calf's meat | 28 | Make a dining surface of | 29 | Fastening bars with crosspieces | 31 | Hog hangout | 33 | Riddle, part 2 | 38 | Kotb of morning TV | 40 | In this place | 41 | Sun Yat- — |
| 42 | Travel bags | 43 | Nice scent | 45 | Government bigwig | 47 | Deer — (street sign) | 48 | Riddle, part 3 | 53 | More tightly packed | 58 | In the habit of | 59 | Common origami birds | 61 | Pass on |
| 62 | Durance of "Smallville" | 66 | Astronaut | 68 | Own | 69 | Riddle, part 4 | 75 | Shine | 76 | Alleviation | 77 | Worshiper of Jah, for short | 78 | Bits of Viking script | 80 | Decelerate |
| 82 | Ultimatum | 87 | Bonuses | 89 | Riddle, part 5 | 93 | Robert of "The Sopranos" | 95 | Twin brother of Jacob | 96 | Clear mist | 97 | Sci-fi writer L. — de Camp | 101 | Place to get a mud wrap | 104 | To be, in Toulon |
| 106 | Sahara-like | 108 | Riddle, part 3 | 111 | Directed | 112 | In last place, say | 113 | Plastic wrap | 114 | Rock bassist | 116 | Stork's kin | 117 | Riddle's answer | 124 | Fork feature |
| 125 | Extracts juice from | 126 | Olympics award | 127 | Depraved emperor | 128 | Wise off to | 129 | Ballerina's field, in France | 130 | Affirmative answers | 131 | Gas brand in Canada | DOWN | | | |
| 1 | Coarse | 2 | Campfire residue | 3 | Large amount of medicine | 4 | Surfeit | 5 | Bread | 6 | Horse relative | 7 | Gun, slangily | 8 | 1950s prez | 9 | Military pupil |
| 10 | Infant's sock | 11 | Northern part of an urban area | 12 | Robbins of "underground comix" | 13 | Tic- — -toe | 14 | Kind of sheepdog | 15 | Maalox's company | 16 | Grown-ups | 17 | Crème de — | 18 | Feels |
| 24 | Furry "hand" | 25 | Slangy refusals | 30 | Ray who portrayed the scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz" | 31 | Famed orca, once | 32 | Bagel shape | 34 | Faith faction | 35 | Rice-shaped pasta | 36 | On or about | 37 | 56, to Caesar |
| 39 | In the hub of | 44 | One- — (brief drama) | 46 | Part of R&R, for short | 47 | Nissan model until 2015 | 49 | More peeved | 50 | Amount of food carried in a cafeteria | 51 | 50% | 52 | Slashed words of choice | 54 | Old soda brand |
| 55 | Czech, e.g. | 56 | Roof feature | 57 | Seedy loaves | 60 | Perches | 63 | 3/15, e.g. | 64 | Stiff shirt part | 65 | It's negatively charged | 67 | Sleep aid brand | 69 | HIDEOUS giant |
| 70 | Continuous change | 71 | It might be boldface | 72 | Fancy jug | 73 | Prurient | 74 | Capacitance unit | 79 | Broadway's "Miss —" | 81 | Edgar Allan — | 83 | Pair for vision | 84 | Rescue ropes |
| 85 | Sleep noisily | 86 | Goaded (on) | 88 | Habitually lazy sort | 90 | Tiny fraction of a min. | 91 | Cat, in Spain | 92 | Sound from a 91-Down | 94 | Always, to poets | 97 | Cracks | 98 | Extreme fear |
| 99 | Cello bow | 100 | Liqueur | 101 | Cramps, e.g. | 102 | Sentence structure | 103 | — Sea (salt lake in Asia) | 105 | 1950s Fords | 108 | C.S. Lewis lion | 109 | Foe | 110 | Chevy |
| 115 | Web mag | 118 | Grassy tract | 119 | Spot | 120 | Spots | 121 | Actress Issa | 122 | 52-wk. spans | 123 | Lav, in Leeds | | | | |

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CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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9835 for information.



AUCTIONS

Equipment Absolute Auction! November 14 at 11AM! Trucks, Trailers, Equipment, Tools, Office Supplies and more all offered at auction! See Woltz.com for complete inventory list and more information. Auction representatives will be onsite for previews on 10/26 and 11/9 from Noon to 3PM. 3321 Shenandoah Ave NW, Roanoke, VA 24017. Call Woltz & Associates, Inc., Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers. (VA #321), 800-551-3588. 10% Buyers' Premium.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
HANDICAPPED REGULATIONS

This notice is published pursuant to the requirements of 24 CFR Part 8, Nondiscrimination Based on Handicap in Federally Assisted Programs and Activities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as published in the Federal Register on June 2, 1988. 24 CFR Part 8 prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals because of their handicapped status.

The Town of Stuart, VA advises the public, employees, and job applicants that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in admission or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities.

The Town of Stuart, VA has designated the following as the contact to coordinate efforts to comply with this requirement.

Such inquiries should be addressed to:

Bryce M. Simmons, PE
Stuart Town Manager
100 Patrick Avenue
PO Box 422
Stuart, VA 24171
(276) 694-3811
(276) 694-2583 (fax)
Information@stuartva.org



Route 8 (South Main Street)
Bridge Replacement
Patrick County

Find out about a project to replace the Route 8 (South Main Street) bridge over the Mayo River in Patrick County. The project entails replacing the aging existing bridge with a modern structure that meets current standards. The project begins 3.32 miles from Route 103 (Dry Pond Highway) and ends 8.78 miles from Route 58 (Jeb Stuart Highway).

Review the project information and National Environmental Policy Act document in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem, 540-387-5353 1-800-FOR-ROAD, or TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Bryan Smith, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 on or prior to **November 21, 2024**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is provided in the environmental documentation.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Bryan Smith at the phone numbers listed above.

UPC 111410
State Project: 0008-070-712, B636, P101, R201
Federal Project: STP-BR02(407)
From: 3.32 miles from Route 103 (Dry Pond Highway)
To: 8.78 miles from Route 58 (Jeb Stuart Highway)



ver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

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LEGAL

Invitation for Bid - IFB# 2025-81500-11-24
The County of Patrick is soliciting sealed bids from qualified Virginia licensed contractors to perform various renovations at the Uptown Stuart Business Development and Child Care Center located in Stuart, Virginia. Electronic copies of the Invitation for Bid documents, including the plans and the specifications, will be available for inspection on the Patrick County website (www.co.patrick.va.us/Bids.aspx) as well as the Virginia's Marketplace eVA site (www.eva.virginia.gov).

LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL24000569-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
PATRICK CIRCUIT COURT
101 WEST BLUE RIDGE STREET/PO BOX 148, STUART, VA 24171
DEBRA FABYANSKI, ET ALS v. KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LENA GIELLE

The object of this suit is to:
TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICE TO HEIRS WITH UNKNOWN WHEREABOUTS
It is ORDERED that KNOWN AND/OR UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LENA GIELLE appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before NOVEMBER 26, 2024.
OCTOBER 25, 2024

Clerk

Meetings

Thursday, Nov. 14
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Monday, Nov. 18
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

The Budget & Finance Committee of the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) College Board will meet at 11:15 a.m. in room F125 of the Frith Economic Development Center.

The Academic & Student Affairs Committee of the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) College Board will meet at 11:30 a.m. in room F125 of the Frith Economic Development Center.

The Legislative Committee of the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) College Board will meet at 11:15 a.m. in room F125 of the Frith Economic Development Center.

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) College Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 12 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall of the Frith Economic Development Center.

Tuesday, Nov. 19
The Patrick County Planning Commission will meet at 6 p.m. in the community room of the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

Wednesday, Nov. 20
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

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, Nov. 14
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Philip Adams will provide the entertainment, and the Reynolds Homestead will provide the meal for the attendees. Attendees are requested to bring desserts to share with the group.

Friday, Nov. 15
The community food truck will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 16
Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a hamburger steak dinner from 4-6:30 p.m. The menu includes hamburger steak, French fries, baked beans, slaw, roll, and a drink for \$10 for either dine in or carry out. Place an order by calling (276) 930-2113.

Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a cash giveaway at 7 p.m. Cash raffle tickets are \$20 each. To purchase a ticket, contact a fire department member or call (276) 930-2117.

Friday, Nov. 22
Patrick County High School (PCHS) freshmen, sophomores, junior, and senior boys will face off at 7 p.m. to determine the King of the Court in Volleyball for 2024. Admission is \$5 and concessions will be available.

Saturday, Nov. 23
Home Alone Thanksgiving Meal - If you are unable to have a Thanksgiving meal, join Hunter's Chapel Assembly for a Thanksgiving dinner. The church is located at State Route 104, Ararat, from 4-6 p.m. Takeout orders will be available. Deliveries can be made in the Ararat area only. If you plan to attend, call (276) 251-7232. For more information, call Joseph or Lori Easter at (276) 251-7232.

New Hope Community Church will have music by Michael Fian starting at 7 p.m. Refreshments will follow the singing.

Wednesday, Nov. 27
A Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at the Meadows of Dan Community Building from 4-6 p.m. Organized by Faith Baptist Church, the meal is free to everyone. Those unable to drive should contact Katlyn Boyd at 2776-694-9708 to be added to the home delivery list.

6-7 boys and girls basketball season. Games will be played in January and February. The deadline for sign-ups is Monday, November 18. Forms are available at any elementary school or at the recreation department. Questions may be directed to the recreation department at 276-694-3917.

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

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

Events

Wednesday, Nov. 13
The Patrick County Food Bank will hold

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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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Students earn awards in 1st Quarter

Local schools provided the list of students to receive an Academic and/or Principal’s award for the 1st Quarter.

**Blue Ridge Elementary School
3rd Grade**

Academic Awards: Javonni James Bertka, Ayla Acacia Bowman, Thomas Levi Chaney, Gunnar Aaron Kerns, Jaxton Ryker Lee King

Principal’s Award: Elijah Monroe Paredes, Stella Lane Turner

4th Grade

Academic Awards: Chloe Rae Bowles, Jase Bowman, Grayson James Guynn, Faith Ann Hedgepeth, Hope Flora Hedgepeth, Brody Bryant Meredith, Arabella Mae Lee Noonkester, Madison Mae Pack, Hunter Grace Reynolds, Brooklyn Charity Stanley, Elijah Isaac Voisey

Principal’s Award: Lydia Marie Clement, Marlee Aspen McKenzie Dailey, Kara Nicole Hiatt, Kasen Paul Rupert, Landree Bryn Simmons

5th Grade

Academic Awards: Jase Evan Brim, Mackenzie Grace Cain, Jack Stryker Duppstadt, Eastyn Tinley Handy, Early G Hill, Dallas Colt Lawson, Robert Edward Lawson, Renesmee Lynn Moody, Chloe Ann Quesinberry

Principal’s Awards: Olivia Pearl Chaney, Raven Skye Hernandez, Staci Emery Martin, Daniel Patrick McGrath, Karleigh Paige Saunders, Evan Glenn Seal

6th Grade

Academic Awards: Emily Beth Adams, Arieanna McKenzie Crews, Lucas Cameron Hall, Jade Marie Hedgepeth, Matthew Morales, Lincoln Garnett Puckett, Tobin Reggie Simmons, Wyatt Alexander Thompson

Principal’s Awards: Kaylee Mae Bowles, Sadie Jayne Bowman, Montana Rae Elaine Cain, Jay William Hill, Kaya Reeder, Ariella Grace Valerio, Olive Lola-Mae Waycaster,

7th Grade

Academic Awards: Haylee Grace Bowman, Elijah Justus Brown, Mason Reid Epperson, Maddox Kent Frye, Jayden Lee Gonzalez, Kimberly Gutierrez, Grayson Carter Holland, Reese Elizabeth Horton, Brody Thomas Hunger, Brody Thomas Lawrence, Chole Belle Lawson, Brigham Lee Meredith, Beckham Kane Terry, Briella Faith Terry

Principal’s Awards: Bronx Davidson Beasley

Hardin Reynolds Memorial School

4th Grade

Academic Awards: Katelyn Adkins, Mila Bespaliuk, Adalye Bowman, Syrina Bowman, Riley Collins, Abigail Hall, Easton Jones, Hunter Keen, Caden Kendrick, Randyn Kingsley, Jacob Martin, Jaxon Meade, Emily Nelson, Jace Newcomb, Jeremiah Penn, Cameron Redd, Averie Stowe-Holt, Addison Triplett

Principal’s Award: Landon Correll, Adalyn Dehne, Londyn Goff, Ryan Graham, Mia Hagwood, Rebecca Handy, Caleb Hankins, Amarilis Hernandez, Sophia Hylton, Nathaniel Jones, William Keffer, Kayleigh King, Avery Lawrence, Natalie Lawrence, Bobby Lawson, Cam’ron Lopez, Emma Nelson, Cassandra Omarra, Etta Owens, Destiny Plaster, Trinity Plaster, Carter Quesenberry, Taylor Ragsdale, Korbin Salda, Arianna Slate, Samuel Slate, Harlem Smith, James Stowe, Kaiden Valentine, Caroline Whitlow, Taelyn Wilson, Sarah Wyatt

5th Grade

Academic Awards: Kaylee Biggs, Colton Blackard, Chloe Bowman, Scarlett Dobbins, Julianne Harmon, Nevaeh Justice, Amya Stephany, Carter Trent

Principal’s Award: Ella Dollarhite, Natalie Ferguson, Paisley Holt, Timothy Hough, Holly Lawrence, Hannah Miller, Zoey Pickering, Jasen Puckett, Jessica Schroeder, Levi Sumner, William Trent

6th Grade

Academic Awards: Wesley Burge, Matthew Callahan, Harper DeHart, Raylan Foster, Nataley Graham, Jensen Harbour, Mackenzie Harman, Miles Lange, Andrew Nelson, Jada Stump, Linnea Tankersley, Hunter Thomas, Mason Whitlow

Principal’s Award: Taelyn Blankenship, Braiden Brooks, Savannah Carroll, Dylan Clark, Colston Collins, Averì Cruz, Riley Epperly, Aiden Hagwood, Avalynn Huffman, Amilya Lawson, Lucas O’marra, Leila Stephany, Alice Terry

7th Grade

Academic Awards: Kody Agee, Kira Barker, Michael Blevins, Caitlyn Collins, Eli Collins, Mason Collins, Brayden Conner, Ronald Davis, Addyson Foley, Caden Harris, Evelyn Hayes-Linton, Kendra Howell,

Benjamin Hudson, Gabriella Johnson, Arianna Lemons, Alaina McBride, Brinlee Mills, Levi Montgomery, Dane Orton

Principal’s Award: Aleah Bowman, Kenneth Craig, Alexa Diaz, Noah Jenkins, Sarah Lawson, Novie Rutledge, Mia Spangler, Asher Vaughn, Maci Whitlock

Meadows of Dan Elementary School

3rd Grade
Academic Awards: Jackson Boyd, Dorsie Harrell

Principal’s Award: Dakota Lee Proffitt, Tanner Whitt

4th Grade

Principal’s Award: Banner Davis, Carter Puckett

Academic Awards: Deklynn Goins, Jennings Hatcher, Wednesday Mashburn, David Procuero, Emersyn Wood

5th Grade

Academic Awards: Easton Hall, Gabriel Helms, Jayce Pascale, Hayleigh Phillips, Lexi Proffitt

6th Grade

Academic Award: Daylin Blevins, Kenzie Lewis, Fedir Pitovol

Principal’s Award: Paul Procuero

7th Grade

Academic Awards: Ayden Garcia, Allysa Jordan, Savanna Knowles, Solomiia Piatovol

Patrick Springs Primary School

Academic Awards: Corey Blankenship, Noah Bowman, Alex Cumpston, Jessely Diaz, Ella Ferguson, Jacob Harbour, Aiden Hooker, Landon Manns, Kylie Marshall, Dylan Motley, Orion Patenaude, Camden Penn, Chase Styers

Principal’s Award: Carlynn Hancock, Wake Mills

Stuart Elementary School

3rd Grade

Academic Award: Teagan Combs, Jazzmin Glenn, Natalie Gonzalez, Odyssey Hagwood, Oliver Hall, Christian Johnson, Natalia Juarez-Luna, Shelby Loving, Carson Lunsford, Patrick Martin, Tanner Overby, Nylah Peery, Gian Roman-Miranda, Lyndon Slate, Cooper Trent, Macie Turney, Carter Williams

Principal’s Award: Emma Black, Colton Bogle, Lilly Briley, Jourdyn Cassell, Scarlett Foley, Brennan Fox, Lucas Hartman, Emory Hughes, Penelope Maddux, River Rakes, Thomas Reasor, Josie Snow

4th Grade

Academic Award: Adley Black, Copelyn Bray, Caleb Duffy, Carley Rae Fain, Brooklyn Fulcher, Raelynn George, Preslie Hall, Milli Juarez-Luna, Scarlett Kendrick, Maewyn McCraw, Skilynn McDonnell, Alana Morris, Olivia Morrison, Nora Post, Isabella Queen, Bella Terry, Reina Tucker, Bradley Wheeler

Principal’s Award: Avery Brown, Wyatt Fain, Jacob Puckett, Canon Rakes, Jocelyn Stevens, Wesley Whitener

5th Grade

Academic Award: Peyton Adkins, Caleb Allison, Nella Bembry, Braeden Campbell, Kaythan Gray, Nathan Hodges, Lyric Houchins, Courage Jackson, Hadley Jones, Conner Martin, Dallas Martin, Leah Minter, Kenneth Neace, Harper Russo

Principal’s Award: Lucas Black, Aiden Brown, Easton Conner, Tomias Devers, Carter Foley, Kay’Cee Glenn, Emily Hawks, Emma Hutchens, Parker Jones, Jose Matias, Paige Ragsdale, Lucas Wheeler

6th Grade

Academic Award: Elizabeth Allison, Emaline Combs, Milayna Helms, Adalee Hughes, Alex Leon-Cisneros, Ethan Lester, Addyson Minter, Chandler Moles, Easton Taylor, Karoline Walton

Principal’s Award: Lydia Bowman, Elise Cagle, Eli Fain, Avery Hubbard, Sophia Martin, Hannah Post, Maddox Scott, Millicent Scott, Juliet Turner

7th Grade

Academic Award: Ian Baker, Eli Briley, Carles Campos, Tessa Curry, Jacob Duffy, Carrie Gregory, Madison Handy, Kiah Jackson, Adilynn Jones, Ezekiel Pack, Nathan Spencer, Danica Swisher, Mya Taylor, Coltlyn Tobler, Izzabella Walker

Principal’s Award: Savannah Fain, Vanessa Gregory, Ashton Hall, Jada Hylton, Pagan Smith, Bryson Turman

Woolwine Elementary School

3rd Grade

Academic Award: Jeffrey Blecher, Lars Johnson, Lillian King, Aran Moran Hill, Silas Scott, Harper Shelton

4th Grade

Academic Award: Paisley Cardenalli, Jeremiah Lester, Zoey Mabe

Principal’s Award: Maelynn Jones,

Talin Masselli, Asher Perez

5th Grade

Academic Award: Emmalyn Hubbard, Moncerat Joaquin-Ortega, Bjorn Johnson, Cameron Kendrick, Raina Newsome, Sophia Otero-Garcia, Charlie Shuff

6th Grade

Academic Award: Blake Mills, Christian Rakes, Wyatt Rodgers, Cassidy Urbach, Ethan Worley, Natalie Worley

Principal’s Award: Aubree Bowman

7th Grade

Academic Awards: Kaitlyn Gunt-er, Grant Iacovone, Jasper Lockhart, Jackson Osborne, Holden Perez, Nathan Shuff

Patrick County High School

8th grade: (88 or higher average)

Dixie Atkins, Malaya Barr, Kaylee Belcher, Noah Bembry, Cali Biggs, Kobe Bogle, Noah Bowling, Ayden Bowman, Kaylee Bowman, Lilly Boyce, Cassidy Brim, Steven Brooks, Elena Cagle, Hans Campbell, Alexandria Cannon, Molly Cassell, Kylee Childress, Leia Cobbler, Tucker Collins, Fisher Colna, Mason Conner, Emmalynn Corns, Gabriel Delgado, Anna Dixon, Conor Dollarhite, Michael Eckman, Sky Evans, Grahm Foley, Daniel Freeman, Robert Goff, Sarah Hagwood, Levi Hankins, Austin Harrell, Kinsleigh Harris, Mackenzie Harris, Ethan Hawks, Layla Hege, Riley Hostetter, Caleb Howell, Conner King, Wesley Kruse, Ainsley Lawson, Jameson Lawson, Addison Leath, Allie Lewis, Anna Long, Hilary Madrid, Ean Martin, Tenley Meadows, Rosalinda Medina, Mauricio Mendoza-Gonzalez, Aiden Moody, Lemuel Newsome, Ashland Noonkester, Levi Ojodeagua, Abigail Pell, Jonathan Penn, Hannah Phillips, Elizabeth Post, Heidi Prillaman, Lily Pritt, Reed Puckett, Madison Purdy, Collin Rakes, Gabrielle Reynolds, Ava Rigney, Jenna Robertson, Mariah Scott, Dixie Sebastian, Paisley Shuff, Gavin Smith, Jasmine Swick, Charlie Tabor, Samuel Tatum, Kody Townsend, Jillian Turner, Jayson Turney, Reagan Underwood, Midori Waycaster, Gage Whitaker, Cooper Wikstrom, Isabel Wilson, LaKisha Wilson, William Wood, Bella Wright, Trevor Wright

9th-12th grade (3.2 GPA or higher)

9th grade:

Samuel Agee, Hailey Anderson, Kloe Armentrout, Braylon Arrington, Joshua Ayers, Marley Baliles, Rylee Barker, Benjamin Bowman, Lily Bowman, Casey Boyer, Cody Boyer, Briar Branch, Logan Brown, Jake Bryant, Wesley Catron, Ariel Clarke, Caleb Clement, Presley Combs, Daniel Conner, Gracen Conner, Hayden Conner, Oliver Cruise, Rain Davis, Eli Dillon, Jordan Draper, Thomas Eckman, Carson Farrar, Kaylene Garcia, Karson Gillispie, Anthony Gonzalez, Cheyenne Gregory, Scarlett Gregory, Ashton Gurley, Evan Hancock, Mason Hancock, Morgan Handy, Abigail Hanks, Jordan Hardee, Sierra Helms, Nathan Hodges, Martina Hubbard, Soledad Huerta-Dominguez, Brayden Hylton, Ivan Joaquin-Ortega, Analeigh Jones, Riley Jones, Mason Keith, Leah Kendrick, Evan Kruse, Owen Kruse, Caleb Lancaster, Savannah Lawrence, Sheyan Lester, Halo Martin, Isabella Mashburn, Peyton McBride, McKenzie Mitchell, Jayme Moose, Kinley Morrison, Christian Pendleton, Asia Penn, Camryn Perkins, Asher Perry, Ernesto Ponce, Cameron Rakes, Mark Register, Alexa Rivero, Mar-ion Rowe, Maggie Rutledge, McKenzie Sanchez, Brisan Scott, Eva Sechrist, Josiah Shelor, Aiden Slate, Kalix Smith, William Smith, Neveah Teague, Jared Thompson, Layla Thompson, Aiden Triplett, Julianna Turner, Caleb Vaughn, William Viperman, Jonathan Walton, Ethan White, Elijah Wilmoth, Haileigh Wingfield, Anna Witt, Conner Wood, Kayleen Wood, Meredith Wood, Jenna Woods

10th grade:

Caleb Ashworth, Myhia Ballenger-Mijes, Robert Bannister, Melissa Barker, Brooklyn Barner, Joseph Beasley, Nathaniel Bright, Noah Cain, Mason Cassell, Arionna Catron, Isobel Clay, Madison Corns, Jackson Davis, Jason Day, Leah Delgado, Adam Edwards, Jacob Edwards, Laine Errichetti, Mason Fain, Aedan Frazier, Allison Gonzalez-Barajas, Kaylee Gravley, Cinthia Gutierrez, Elijah Hairston-Slater, Addisyn Hall, Natalie Hancock, Kaydence Harman, Braxton Harold, Wheeler Helms, Ava Hiatt, Chloe Hubbard, Willow Hylton, Kyra Ingalls, Elyjah Jenkins, Allison Justice, Lily Kelly, Arabella King, Demetrious Land-

ers, Aubreigh Large, LeMia Lemons, Garreth Link, Joseph Linster, Fisher Martin, Hunter Martin, Kimatai Martin, Mischa McMeans, Andrew Miller, Michael Mitchell, Landon Moles, Brady Moore, William Moore, Oren Osborne, Alyssa Overby, Peyton Pascale, Emily Pearson, Kendra Penn, Anderson Philpot, Riley Pruitt, Logan Rakes, Ryder Richardson, Alexia Shuff, Abigayl Slate, Jacob Spencer, Mason Spencer, Stella Stimac, Lacey Sutphin, Maddox Taylor, Tripp Thompson, Zachary Thompson, Karleigh Vasquez, Isabella Walker, Charles Wellbrock, Lilliana White, Paige Whitt, Evan Wood

11th grade:

Skye Ayers, Jaxon Ayers-Rosas, Amber Barnett, Kylei Blevins, Devon Booth, Hannah Bowles, Andrew Bowman, Autumn Bowman, Isaac Boyer, Rachel Branch, Reggie Brown, Isaac Brumbaugh, Abigail Bryant, Lilieann Butler, Jackson Callahan, Jayden Callahan, Ethan Casstevens, Brooke Collins, Haley Conner, Alexandra Cotoc Santos, Alexis Cox, Tristan Cox, Dylan Cruise, Kristopher Huerta Dominguez, Lacey Easter, Carrington Fain, Daniel Finnegan, Adin Geiger, Camille Gonzalez, Carter Gregory, Jaeden Hairston, Jykevis Hairston, Aiden Handy, Johnathan Harbour, Tillee Hauser, Peyton Hazlewood, Joselin Hernandez, Robert Holt, Shyanne Holt, Taylor Holt, Zachary Holt, Chloe Hostetter, Hunter Hubbard, Ty-leke Hylton, Hannah Ingalls, Jacob Jones, Mitchell Keith, Avone Kidd, Raegen Kingsley, Benjamin Knight, Sadie Knight, William Lancaster, Hayden Lawless, David Lawson, Isabella Lemons, Kylee Leonard, Jacob Lester, Alyssa Light, Ashantis Madison, Ashly Madrid Romero, Evan Martin, Kiley Martin, Jordan Martinez, Erik Martinez-Tejeda, Draysin Maselli, Mallory McAdams, Ocean Melton, Callie Montgomery, Elli-anna Montgomery, Journey Moore, Virginia Nations, Samantha Nester, Eden Nickelston, Angela Overby, Lexus Owen, Abigail Pendleton, Michael Perez, Angel Plaster, Brandy Ponce, Braydon Priest, Haley Rakes, Nathan Register, Aailyah Reynolds, Jazmyne Reynolds, Hunter Roberts, Parker Roop, Abigail Royall, Vincent Russo, Madison Scott, Cayden Smith-Adame, Rylee Soliday, Vishal Somasundaram, Katelynn Spillman, Mitchell Stovall, Sydney Tatum, Adara Taylor, Greely Terry, Alyssa Titular, Jennifer Venegas, Wyatt Westmoreland, Dana Wilcox, Xena Wilcox, Kade Williams, Callie Wood, Eli Wood, Kathryn Wood, Zoe Wooden, Kendra Worley, Savanna Wright, Jed Young

12th grade:

Anna Arellano, Tylor Ashworth, Dante Belcher, Jordan Belcher, Burke Black, Kali Bowman, Heather Brim, Mya Bryan, Emma Buchanan, Alyssa Callahan, Sasha Campos, Carrie Cassell, Haley Cassell, Bryan Clark, Amelia Clement, Eliza Clifton, Jonah Collins, Cameron Collins, Tara Collins, Taylor Collins, Zachary Collins, Daryl Combs, Benjamin Conner, Skyler Conner, Alysha Copen-ing, Williams Corns, Lexi Cutchins, Mason Dellenback, Emma Dellinger, Blake Dillon, Emily Eastridge, Gavin Fain, Arienah Evans, Gavin Fain, Rachel Fitzjarrald, Brett Foley, Joshua Freeman, Aaron Funes, Santa Garcia, Adrienna Gause, Haley Gillispie, Conner Goad, Nicol Gonzalez, Jacob Gosnell, Nicolas Haden, Breanna Hall, Sammi Hall, Easton Harris, Evan Havens, Lilly Hazelwood, Richard Hazelwood, Hunter Heath, James Hensley, James Hodges, Caleb Hostetter, Riley Hubbard, Scottie Hubbard, Allison Hughes, Jackson Iacovone, Abigail Jackson, Noah Jessup, Joshua Jimrusti, Elena Joaquin, Justin Keen, Alivia Kirk, Whitley Kruse, Trinity Lackey, Rianne Lary, Chelsea Lawson, Haley Lawson, Cindy Leon-Cisneros, Zachary Letchworth, Jymasia Manns, Jude Martin, Sadie Martin, Kenzie Mize, Raeli Moran, Matthew Nester, Chase Norman, Owen Nut-ter, Rocio Olivares, William Overby, Dayton Pack, Paul Pascale, Sydney Peer, Hunter Pendleton, Quentyn Penn, Tyrese Penn, Rhythm Poynter, Jakya Pruitt, Carley Quesinberry, Dylan Quesinberry, Samantha Register, Brayton Reynolds, Emily Ring, Kieran Rodriguez, Lane Ross, Mason Scott, Sophie Scruggs, Jonah Shockley, Josiah Spangler, Emily Stiltner, Benjamin Sutphin, Dhritihik Tanna, Lucas Taylor, Xavier Torres-Seda, Isabelle Turner, Sydni Turner, Katie Vernon, Josilene Williams, Kendall Williams, Mary Beth Williams, Kimora Wimbush, Noah Wingfield, Brayden Wolfe, Cheyenne Wood, Al-lie Zwerling

Winners of scarecrow contest announced



First Place: Tax Scarecrow by Visit Patrick County, VA Treasurers' office with 27 percent of the vote.



Second Place: Piedmont Community Services with their Piedmont Peanuts display at 15 percent of the vote.



Third Place: West Piedmont Planning District Commission with their Moonshine Mountain Spirits Heritage Trail with 13 percent of the vote.

Superintendent is guest speaker at meeting

Jason Wood, Superintendent of Patrick County Schools, was guest speaker at the Patrick County Retired Teachers meeting held September 16. The meeting was held at the Landmark Center where the group enjoyed a meal prepared by the staff.

Mr. Wood commented on new career and technical programs that have been added to high school curriculum; new resources available in the new school board building that were not available before; the total cost to purchase and renovate the new school board office; and money available through grants and government programs that will directly benefit students. He addressed the fact that teachers receive training that encompasses ways to teach all students of varying ability levels within the same heterogeneous classroom.

New enrichment and remedial programs, such as the Cougar Time Block, have been added at the high school. The Marketplace in the basement of the new school board building houses



Patrick County Schools Superintendent Jason Wood

the food services program where meals can be ordered, and a large meeting room will be available. Volunteer opportunities are always available at the high school. There are opportunities for all students.

Following Mr. Wood's presentation, the retired teachers held a necrology service for Jean Gilley, a member who recently passed away. Plans for projects to be carried out by the group were finalized. PCRTA donates for graduation attire, birthday bags for Blue Ridge Therapy, to PARC Workshop, Developmental Center, and to a retired teachers' scholarship.

The retired teachers book club is open to the public and meets every third Wednesday at the library at 11 a.m.

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Business & Employment Notice Town of Stuart

The Town of Stuart, VA is preparing to carry out the Stuart Downtown Revitalization Project through the use of Virginia Community Development Block Grant Funds. In the implementation of this project the following job types may be available:

Administrative and Professional Services

1. Project Manager
2. Grant Administrator
3. Financial Analyst
4. Community Development Coordinator
5. Administrative Assistant

Technical and Engineering

1. Civil Engineer
2. Structural Engineer
3. Environmental Engineer
4. Architect
5. Draftsman
6. Inspector (Building, Electrical, Plumbing)
7. Geotechnical Engineer
8. Urban Planner

Construction and Trades

1. General Laborer
2. Carpenter
3. Electrician
4. Mason
5. Concrete Finisher
6. Heavy Equipment Operator
7. Painter
8. Welder
6. HVAC Technician
7. Surveyor
8. Site Supervisor
9. Safety Officer

In carrying out this project the Town of Stuart, VA, its contractors and subcontractors will, to the greatest extent feasible, utilize qualified persons who permanently reside within Patrick County for employment and training positions.

All job openings will be listed with the local office of the Virginia Employment Commission. Persons qualified for the jobs listed should register at the following location:

Virginia Employment Commission – Martinsville
233 West Commonwealth Blvd.
Martinsville, VA 24112
Phone: 276 634-3600
Fax: 276 632-9425

Additionally, the following contracts and procurements will/may be made:

- Stuart Downtown Revitalization Project
 - Design & Architectural Services
 - Environmental Services
 - Structural Deck Removal & Disposal
 - Business Enhancement & Improvement Projects
 - Stuart Downtown Façade Improvement Project
 - Stuart Farmers' Market Improvements

The Town of Stuart, VA will, to the greatest extent feasible, use businesses located in and owned by persons residing in Patrick County.

Any person residing or firm located in the above named localities may request to participate in procurement opportunities associated with this project by contacting the following person within ten (10) days of this notice:

Bryce M. Simmons, PE
Stuart Town Manager
100 Patrick Avenue
PO Box 422
Stuart, VA 24171
(276) 694-3811
(276) 694-2583 (fax)
Information@stuartva.org

Written requests should include the name, address, product or service and phone number. All above-referenced procurements will be made on a competitive basis. The names of businesses who respond to this notice will be included on procurement lists for this project. Names of job seekers will be given to contractors.

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Looking for an ideal home in the Woolwine area of Patrick County? Look no further than this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home that is located right across the road from the Woolwine Post Office. This 1998 home is in good condition and features 1,568 sq ft of living space with a full, unfinished walkout basement. The electric heat pump ensures comfort year round. You will find a mix of carpet, hardwood, laminate hardwood and vinyl flooring throughout. The appliances in kitchen convey with purchase. The ceiling stain in the back bedroom is from a previous leak and has been fixed. Home is being sold "as is" and any personal property items remaining will convey with purchase.

Downstairs you will find a full walkout basement, with concrete floors and a cinder block foundation. The garage downstairs makes for a great work space or vehicle storage. The exterior of the home is finished with vinyl siding with brick to grade and a shingle roof. Home is served by a private well and septic system. The 2 outbuildings are great for extra storage or a workshop. The building right behind the home is a 24x24 wood sided shed with electricity and a loft. The second building is a 54 x 28 wood sided 3 car garage with a metal roof with water and electricity.

The home sits on +/- 5.231 acres with Gills Creek flowing across the back side of the property. Home is right across the road from the Post Office and is within sight of Woolwine Elementary School and the Dollar Store. It is also within a short commute of Stuart VA, Floyd VA and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Sale is subject to court approval.

PREVIEW DATE: Saturday, November 16th at 11 AM

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 is required on the day of sale. Close on or before January 10th, 2025. Subject to seller confirmation and court approval. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on November 26th, 2024. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT: Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Darrell Hylton at 540-250-0850 or email dwh@swva.net

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Veterans honored for service, dedication



The service and selfless dedication of local veterans were honored last week during the annual Veterans Parade. (Contributed photos)

Historical Society & Museum to hold annual meeting

By John Reynolds
On Sunday, November 17, at 2:30 p.m., the annual general membership meeting of the Patrick County Historical Society & Museum will feature local author Larry Hopkins as guest speaker. Larry will present “Milepost 75: From Taylorsville to Stuart - By Rail,” in which he will discuss the arrival of the “Dick & Willie” railroad into Patrick County and explore how that helped to shape and develop the village of Tay-

lorsville into the town of Stuart.
The program, to be held in the museum at 116 West Blue Ridge Street in Uptown Stuart, will feature photos and other memorabilia Hopkins has collected over many years.
Born in Patrick County, Hopkins resided in the town of Stuart for almost 50 years where he and his wife Eva raised their two sons, Josh and Ryan. After studying engineering at Virginia Tech, Larry received a BA from Mars Hill Col-

lege and returned to Patrick County where he developed a strong interest in local history.
After pursuing family history and other local interests, his research eventually led to railroading, particularly the Danville & Western Railway Company, better known locally as the “Dick and Willie.” Fascinated with its history and narrow gauge railroading, Larry spent more than two decades

collecting facts, photos, and memorabilia pertaining to this local legend. In 2017 he published a history of the Dick & Willie Railway that contained much of the information he had compiled. The book soon sold out and more copies were ordered, but due to various delays, including the death of his publisher,

the book has only recently been republished in a softcover edition.

Larry has shared his knowledge of the D&W on several occasions at local and state sponsored events. In 2001, he was the guest speaker for the annual meeting of the Southern Railway Historical Society, and the following year, he spoke about the D&W at the 22nd Annual National Narrow Gauge Railroad Convention held in Providence, Rhode Island.

Hopkins is President Emeritus of the Board of Directors of the Patrick County Historical Society and Museum, and previously served on the Board of Directors of the Mt. Airy Museum of Regional History in Mt. Airy, NC. When he was not researching and collecting railroad history, Larry had a successful

career in human resources for over 40 years. He is currently enjoying retirement with his wife Eva at their home in Stuart, Va., but has never lost his fascination with the beloved Dick & Willie and its remarkable history.



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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET

The next meeting of the Patrick County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will be held at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at the Patrick County School Board Office in the conference room, Stuart, Virginia.

This meeting is open to the public. Anyone who wishes to be placed on the agenda should contact Andy Bowlin, Director of Special Education at 276-694-3163 by noon on November 19, 2024.

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