



All of the seats were full, and several people were standing at the November 18 Board of Supervisors meeting.

## Tensions flare at board meeting amid calls for transparency and accountability

**By Taylor Boyd**

Concerns about communication and accountability reached a boiling point at the Nov. 18 meeting of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, with some board members often talking over residents during the public comment period, despite earlier calls by the chairman for civility and respect.

“Is this power of thee or is this power of me,” Valerie Loy asked at one point of the three minutes she and other residents are allotted to address the board. She noted the rules read before public comment also include a section directing residents to address the board and not individual board members.

“This is stereotyping everybody on the board. Reasoning, chairman Doug Perry was upset with several citizens for questioning him that the county is \$29.7 million in debt, which he continues to deny. It’s still on the website, you can look it up,” she said.

Loy said Perry requests residents to give respectful comments with no personal attacks or insulting remarks. Individuals can also be removed from the speaker’s chair for breaking the rules.

“Some of us citizens come to the board with concerns over the inmates at the Transfer Station only to be ignored and we were told with pictures

(See Tensions Flare p. 3)

## Local author debuts fiction novel



Linda “L.C.” Maxie published her first paranormal women’s fiction (PWF) book last summer.

**By Taylor Boyd**

Linda “L.C.” Maxie released her debut fiction novel, “The Robin’s Nest,” last summer. The book, which she plans to turn into at least a trilogy, belongs to the paranormal women’s fiction genre.

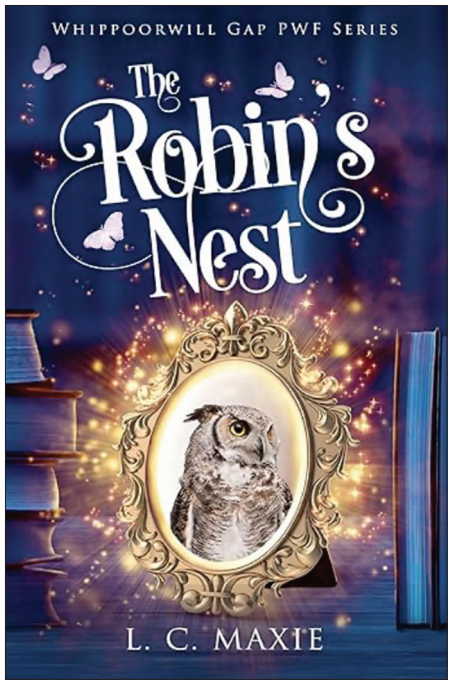
Maxie got the idea for the book after learning about the cozy fantasy genre. “I was a traditional librarian and always knew about the big genres like fantasy, sci-fi, realistic fiction, but I had never heard of these tiny sub-genres. When I heard about cozy fantasy, I thought, ‘that sounds really cool,’” she said.

The idea for the book came to Maxie almost fully formed. “I had to tweak a few things, but after talking to some book coaches, they told me, ‘oh no, your book is not cozy fantasy, this is paranormal women’s fiction.’ When I looked into it, I realized they were right. I followed the genre conventions pretty closely,” she said.

In paranormal women’s fiction, the main character is typically a woman over 40 who is either divorced or suddenly widowed and doesn’t know what to do with herself. Maxie’s book follows this trope.

“The character often moves to a new place and discovers it’s inhabited by paranormal creatures. These books are often dark and snarky, featuring vampires, werewolves, and the like, and the main character discovers she has magical abilities herself,” she explained.

In “The Robin’s Nest,” Harper Wood, a 57-year-old widow, is the main character. “Harper always felt like an appendage to her wealthy husband and didn’t know what to do with herself after his death. She goes on vacation to a mythical town I created called Whippoorwill Gap in the North Carolina mountains. She hated living in Raleigh,” Maxie said.



“The Robin’s Nest” is the first book in the Whippoorwill Gap PWF series.

While in Whippoorwill Gap, Harper falls in love with the town and a forlorn used bookshop that had been closed for over a year. “It’s for sale, and she feels compelled to buy it. She moves to the town and discovers the bookshop is inhabited by fairies. That’s the basic story, but there’s much more to it after she finds the fairies,” Maxie said.

Although “The Robin’s Nest” is the first in a series, its ending can stand alone or lead to a sequel. “This is my first novel, and I’m learning to write as I go. The series is called the Whippoorwill Gap Paranormal Women’s Fiction series,” she said.

Every book will be based in Whippoorwill Gap and feature the same trope of fairies. Harper will appear in every book, either as the main character or a side character. Maxie also wrote a short story about how the fairies came to be in the bookstore, which is available for free on her website, [lcmxie.com](http://lcmxie.com).

Maxie said writing the book was the most fun she has ever had. “I absolutely love it. I’ve written the second one now and am revising it. I keep reading books on how to improve my craft, and I find it fascinating and fun,” she said.

Her second book, “Lady Slipppers,” is set to be released in March 2025. The book will follow Harper’s 28-year-old daughter, and the title comes from the wildflower lady slipper.

Maxie’s book was also featured in Not Your Mother’s Book Club at the Patrick County Library earlier this month, where she discussed her book with attendees.

“The Robin’s Nest” is available as a print book on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and her website, [lcmxie.com](http://lcmxie.com). The eBook version is currently available only on Amazon.

## Mountain sky in autumn



Tammy Franklin shared a recent photo from the mountain entitled “Harvest Sunset.”

## Board greenlights Revolutionary War Monument, tackles FCC petition

**By Taylor Boyd**

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors addressed a request to petition the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for a market modification to Patrick County’s satellite network during its meeting on Monday, Nov. 18, and later approved the installation of a Revolutionary War Soldiers Monument at the Stuart branch of the Blue Ridge Library and Patrick County Museum.

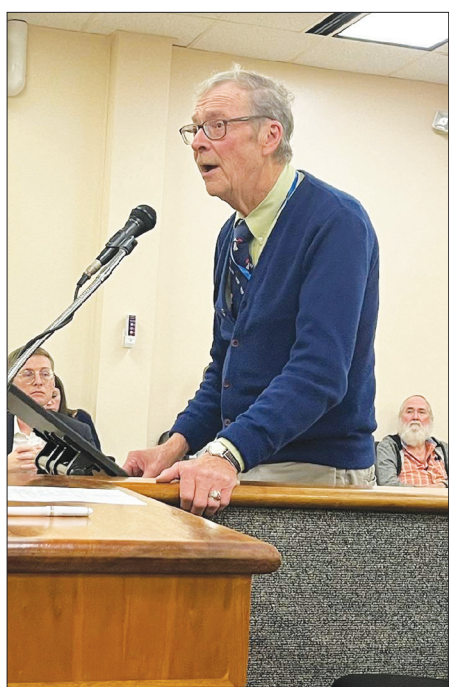
**FCC Petition Request**

Richard Landis, of Stuart, asked the board to petition the FCC to allow Patrick County residents to access Virginia-based news and weather through satellite providers like Dish and DirecTV.

“Right now, for most of us that currently (have) satellite, whether it’s Dish or Direct, we only get news from North Carolina. We live in Virginia. I don’t need North Carolina news; I’d really rather hear what’s happening in Virginia,” Landis said.

Landis noted this issue dates back to the 1960s when the FCC established broadcast zones. At the time, mountainous terrain blocked antenna reception of Virginia stations, forcing reliance on North Carolina programming.

“With satellite, we no longer” face that issue. “So, we should be able to get our own state’s news,” he said,



Patrick County Historical Society President John Reynolds discussed the new monument.

emphasizing that Virginia weather warnings, political updates, and other local news are currently inaccessible to residents.

If approved, Landis said the solution would involve only redirecting satellite dishes. “That’s it. There’s no other thing that has to be done except change the direction the antennas are pointed,” he said.

Doug Perry, chairman, and of the Smith River District, said “He’s

(See Monument p.12)

## Leaders highlight community projects at annual luncheon

**By Taylor Boyd**

Eight speakers shared updates on community initiatives and organizational goals during the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce’s annual Lunch with Leaders event on Nov. 20. The gathering, held in collaboration with the Reynolds Homestead, featured a catered lunch provided by Food Country USA and drew more than 20 attendees.

**Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation**

Kevin Brandt, Virginia Development Director for the foundation, outlined the organization’s efforts to strengthen connections between the parkway and surrounding communities. Highlighting the Blue Ridge Rising initiative, Brandt emphasized the importance of engaging localities and enhancing visitor access to gateway communities like Stuart and Meadows of Dan.

“We went out to all 29 counties” along the parkway “and asked what is important to your community, and then had regional meetings, and probably almost 1,000 people participated in either county meetings or online or at the regional meetings,” he said.

Brandt said there was consensus among all the counties on what was important to them and what could be done to improve their quality of life, economic plight, and overall connection to the parkway.

“When you think about people coming from outside the area, they’re not



Patrick County Economic Development & Tourism Director James Houchins was among the eight speakers to participate in the annual Lunch with Leaders event.

staying in the parkway anymore. These gateways that are represented by places like Stuart, Meadows of Dan are really how people are able to travel the entire length of the parkway,” he said.

From various studies, Brandt said the foundation knows that 90 percent of the people who visit the parkway do so for the views. “But they need places

(See Community Projects p.12)





# Beef Products Recalled Due to Possible E. Coli

Wolverine Packing Co., a Detroit, Mich. establishment, is recalling approximately 167,277 pounds of ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

The fresh products have a “use by” date of 11/14/2024 and the frozen products are labeled with production date 10 22 24. The products subject to recall bear establishment number “EST. 2574B” inside the USDA mark of inspection.

These items were shipped to restaurant locations nationwide.

Anyone concerned about an illness should contact a healthcare provider. E. coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause dehydration, bloody diarrhea and abdominal cramps 2–8 days (3–4 days, on average) after exposure the organism. While most people recover within a week, some develop a type of kidney failure called hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS). This condition can occur among people of any

age but is most common in children under 5-years old and older adults. It is marked by easy bruising, pallor, and decreased urine output. People who experience these symptoms should seek emergency medical care immediately.

FSIS is concerned that some product may be in restaurant refrigerators or freezers. Restaurants are urged not to serve these products. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

Consumers with questions can contact Don Tanner, company representative, at (248) 762-1533.

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or send a question via email to MPH hotline@usda.gov. For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, the online Electronic Consumer Complaint Monitoring System can be accessed 24 hours a day at https://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda.gov/eCCF/.

# School Security Equipment Grants awarded to local divisions

The Virginia Department of Education announced \$12 million in School Security Equipment Grants were awarded to 96 school divisions and 472 schools to help protect students, faculty and staff, and visitors.

Henry County was awarded \$244,000 for Fieldale-Collinsville Middle, G.W. Carver Elementary, and Laurel Park Middle schools.

Patrick County received \$77,098, Meadows of Dan Elementary, Patrick County High, and Patrick Springs Primary schools.

Martinsville City received \$112,895, Albert Harris Elementary, Clearview Early Learning Center, Martinsville High, Martinsville Middle, and Patrick Henry Elementary schools.

Most of the equipment applied and approved for purchase include voice and video internal communication systems, mass notification systems, security card access systems, visitor ID badging systems, surveillance cameras, two-way radios, security vestibules, interior bus cameras, and bus two-way radios. The 2024-2025 school year grants have been awarded on a competitive basis, with each awarded school divisions eligible to re-

ceive grant awards up to \$250,000.

The 472 schools were awarded funds based on a rank ordering of applications’ point total on the competitive application criteria. The criteria developed by VDOE and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services gives priority to schools most in need of modern security equipment, schools with relatively high numbers of offenses, schools with equipment needs identified by a school security audit, and schools in divisions least able to afford security upgrades.

“The equipment purchased with these grants will help ensure the safety of all students and staff in Virginia’s public schools,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons. “Every child deserves a high-quality education experience, one where they can deeply focus on learning and growing the minute they step onto a school bus or pass through the doors of their school. These grants help create safe, supportive environments, both on school grounds and while traveling to and from school.”

# Pets of the Week



These pretty sisters are just a year old. They are owner surrenders that need homes as soon as possible. They have the sweetest faces and are both well behaved.

Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination. To see all available pets, please visit the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS), 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.

# Nominations open for Secret Santa program

Nominations are now being accepted for the Patrick County Secret Santa program, made possible due to the generosity of an anonymous donor. The chamber was given a fund to give three Patrick County citizens a \$1,000 Christmas bonus. A random drawing will be held to pick the winners.

To be eligible for the drawing, employees must have worked for a company, organization, business, or county department or office for at least two years and make \$48,000 or less and meet the criteria listed below. Also, with several new businesses opening in the county, some of which have not been in operation for two years, if your business is less than two years old, an employee who has worked for you the majority of the time you have been open is eligible for the bonus if the employee meets the other requirements, which are:

1. Be a Patrick County resident.
2. Have worked for a Patrick County company, organization, business, or county department or office for a minimum of 28 hours per week for two years or, in the case of a new business less than two years old, worked the majority of the time since opening.
3. Make \$48,000 per year or less.
4. No more than 30 entries per company, organization, business, or county department/office.

pany, organization, business, or county department/office.

5. Entries must be submitted using the Google Form by business owners, human resources, or supervisors. No family or friend nominations.

6. Only one winner per company, organization, business, or county department/office.

7. Business owners are not eligible.

8. Past winners are not eligible.

The validity of all entries will be the responsibility of the employer submitting the entry and will not be the obligation of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce to verify, though the Chamber may contact a place of employment to confirm eligibility. The contest will begin on November 22. All entries must be received no later than 5 p.m. on December 13.

A random drawing will be held on December 15. Winners will be notified through the company or organization submitting the entry and checks will be delivered during work hours. Contact the chamber office at (276) 694-6012 if you have any questions. Nominations will only be accepted through our online form at https://bit.ly/pcsecretsanta24, or visit the chamber’s Facebook page to access the form.

# Stuart woman held without bond

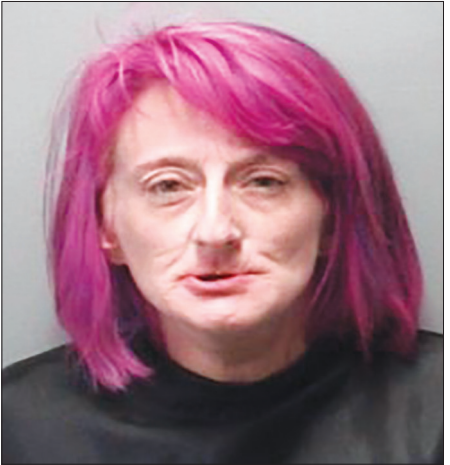
A Stuart woman has been arrested and charged with arson, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

On November 21st at approximately 2:35 p.m., the Patrick County 911 Center received a call about a structure fire at 3952 Wayside Road in Stuart. Multiple Fire Departments throughout the county responded to fight the fire.

Investigators from the sheriff’s office allege that the fire was set intentionally in the occupied home and were able to obtain evidence that supported arson.

Crystal Ann Dixon, 40, of 3952 Wayside Road, was charged with arson, according to the sheriff.

“Trash inside of the home was allegedly intentionally set on fire, causing extensive damage,” Smith said, adding “everyone inside of the home was able to evacuate without injury.”



Crystal Dixon

Smith praised the responding volunteer firefighters for their response. “I would put our volunteers up against anyone out there, they are the best in my opinion.”

Dixon is being held in the Patrick County Jail without bond.

# COME SEE US BLACK FRIDAY & SATURDAY

## November 29-30 • Noon - 4pm

# Wines are 30% off

Excludes Cider and Last Call

Come spend the afternoon with us on Black Friday or Small Business Saturday from Noon to 4:00pm each day. This will be our last Thanksgiving opening, so don't miss out. We want to thank you all for supporting our business, but most importantly, we want to thank you all for supporting us through the most difficult time of our lives almost five years ago. We are blessed to have you all as friends.

The Bustique thrift/ antique/gift bus will be set up on Saturday for additional shopping.

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# Tensions Flare

(cont. from page 1)



Steve Marshall (left), who represents the Blue Ridge District, interrupted Galen Gilbert during his public comment time.

and videos by Mr. Marshall that this stuff was not true, and it was.”

When residents come to the board with concerns, Loy said they are shot down.

“But Mr. Perry, you called people liars, and you called me ignorant. Yes, you did. You can listen back, and I totally resent that, and that’s very uncomfortable,” she said.

Perry, of the Smith River District, and Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, repeatedly engaged with residents during public comment.

Mike DeCapp cited a recent Enterprise article, which quoted a board member saying, “If people raise a fuss, we’ll change our mind.” DeCapp called the remark emblematic of a lack of openness to public input.

Those words “came off the page and hit me like a punch in the face. That does not speak well to the board’s receptiveness to listen to ideas from the citizens. That’s really unfortunate, there’s a lot of intelligent, thoughtful people in this county that are every bit as passionate about it as you are,” he said.

Their positions, even if in opposition to the supervisors, at least deserve fair consideration, DeCapp said, adding some residents experienced not receiving this to some extent during solar facilities discussions.

“I was told once by a longtime resident of this county - by the time the public hears about it it’s already a done deal, and I’m starting to think that statement carries some merit. I hope that certain members of the board for the duration of their term can find it within themselves to at least give the citizens opinions the considerate that they so richly deserve,” he said.

After DeCapp finished speaking, Perry said more of that happens that it appears.

“I know rumor control and that article in the paper (The Enterprise) was basically tabloidish and... it was not accurate,” he said to the uproar of the audience.

“By your own rules this is not question and answer,” Trena Anderson said.

“Trena let the man speak! You don’t talk over people,” Steve Marshall yelled over Anderson.

“Hey! Time out! Stop, stop, stop please, please. So, I’m just saying that we do listen, and we do hear, and we weigh the ins and outs, and a lot of that, it doesn’t come across,” Perry said.

During his allotted time to speak, Gilbert said after reading the Nov. 13 edition of The Enterprise he got inquisitive.

“As you said it was tabloid information, here’s all the texts that you all have been corresponding. I got every one of them, and I’m disgusted. I am very disgusted. This ain’t tabloid, this is fact,” Gilbert said, while slamming his hand on the binder full of text messages in front of him.

He said the supervisors need to quit spinning what they say and backstabbing other members and get a backbone.

“Our county administrator ... I don’t know who works for who? I don’t know if she works for y’all or if y’all work for her, but I’m not happy. And yes, in the hall I have said” an employee “needs to be fired,” Gilbert said.

“No, you were cussing her,” Marshall said, interrupting Gilbert.

“I don’t need a comment from you! This is my time,” Gilbert yelled.

“Your time’s running. Go, please,” Perry said to Gilbert.

During her three minutes, Anderson said she was grateful The Enterprise “chose to expose some of the activities of this board for all to see.”

A public body is not required to charge for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) information, Anderson said, and asked the board to reimburse “the outrageous fee that the county administration charged for your attorney, J. Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald should know an attorney is an in-

termediary, thus this time should be charged to the board, and not to The Enterprise,” she said.

Anderson said the current board adopted Rules of Procedure in January, which don’t specifically cover public comment.

“You need to review them and clarify that. Section 5-4 of your Rules of Procedure Prohibited Conduct: Persons appearing before the board will not be allowed to #2 use language which insults or demeans any person which when directed at a public official or employee is not related to his official duties. However, citizens have the right to comment on performance conduct and qualifications of public figures,” she said.

Anderson said this blows Perry’s “unconstitutional rules for public comment right out of the water.”

She also cited Section 8-2 of the county’s Rule of Procedure: Amending Rules of Procedure, which states that the adoption of amendments shall require an affirmative vote of the majority of the board.

“There was no discussion on these rules nor was there a vote,” Anderson said. “Once again, this current board failed to follow your own rules and procedures when you sought to silence the public comment in June. Mr. Perry and Ms. Simms (county administrator) violated those new rules immediately during that first meeting in June right after reading them to the public,” she said.

Anderson said it’s obvious when reading Perry’s texts and emails to other supervisors that he “lacks tact, management skills, and following rules and orders.”

“The manner in which Mr. Perry speaks down to women during meeting in this room and in his written communications is disgusting and degrading. Mr. Perry and Mr. Marshall have sat here in this room and called citizens ‘liars’ and ‘stupid’ during meetings,” she said.

The behavior of some supervisors shows blatant disrespect for taxpayers, other supervisors, laws, procedures, and transparency, Anderson said.

“You work for us. You should immediately resign your positions on this board and save taxpayers the expense and time of removing you. Many of us have no trust, respect nor confidence in this board,” Anderson said.

The responsibilities and objectives of the Facilities Director, a newly created and filled position, fall in line with those of the County Administrator’s position, which has a six-figure salary, Karen DeCapp said.

“When the most major issue to face this county for months is a solar facility buying hundreds of mountain land for which the company withdraws and the response of the CA (County Administrator) is ‘I didn’t ask why.’ This exposes utter incompetence or lack of transparency it could be one, or sadly both,” she said.

Karen DeCapp said a pattern’s emerging of the county hiring for high-paying administrative positions and providing them with county vehicles.

“As the CA works and assists with the goals of the board, I would ask is this is the change in growth you’re striving for? With the new hires being from outside the county and seemingly from the same county, a county which has three times the population and half of the poverty rate, this is an insult to not only the struggling PC (Patrick County) taxpayers but the dedicated, hardworking PC employees,” she said.

If the hiring judgements continue, Karen DeCapp believes the personal property tax rate will have to be increased to fund them.

“Now with the conduct of BOS (Board of Supervisors) being revealed, I want to thank The Enterprise... for their honorable commitment to provide truth to the citizens of PC. To BOS, you know who you are, this continual embracing of deceitful, D.C. tactics to go behind the backs and



Doug Perry, board chairman and representative of the Smith River District.



Mike DeCapp

against the will of your own voters to the detriment of the county taxpayers short of resignation, I would urge the board to release the current CA and make an amendment to have the CA become an elected position,” she said.

Kurt Bozenmayer also noted the state of communication between the county administration and the public.

“I have addressed the board of supervisors on this issue several times over the past few years, and I am disappointed to find that the state of communication has grown worse over that time, rather than improved. The recent issue of The Enterprise, containing extensive quotations from supervisor e-mails and an article on restriction of communication between supervisors and county employees, seems to highlight the deterioration,” he said.

Recent “hot button” issues like solar facility applications, the hospital issue, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) budget crisis, Bozenmayer said only emphasize how much residents are being disenfranchised by rumor and innuendo, “rather than obtaining honest and reliable information from the county administration.”

Bozenmayer noted he’s advocated for the county to place a short weekly column in The Enterprise to give accurate, factual information on the issues the county’s facing.

“At this time, I feel that we need more open communication between the administration and the public, and for that matter more open communication within the county administration itself, rather than a lot of behind-the-scenes e-mails and restrictions on county employees speaking to supervisors and/or the press. Please consider this an urgent issue for action soon,” Bozenmayer said.

As a business owner, Vance Agee said the county is a business.

When times became tough and cuts needed to be made, Agee said took his salary cut first as he “wasn’t entitled to it if it doesn’t exist.”

“Therefore, 50 percent reduction in my salary to run this business and try to keep it afloat and keep everybody employed, I took the hit. So, when it’s in the red you close up shop,” he said.

As supervisors, Agee said they’re duly elected to manage these affairs.

“We need to do it internally and respectfully look for any waste and inefficiencies, and I didn’t see anybody in here in the administration take a hickey on it. Fixed income, you manage with what you’ve got, I think our budget needs to be managed accordingly,” he said, adding he believes the county’s budget needs to be cut.

Following the meeting’s public comment period, Perry took a moment to clarify his comment about The Enterprise story he previously called “tabloidish.”

“The difference between news and tabloid - When an article is written and it leads the reader to a conclusion that the editor is going for - that’s tabloid, and that’s what this article did. Mr. Gilbert, yes, I’m not denying texts, emails and I’ll stand behind everything I sent, and I feel they were very professional,” he said.

Perry said if he had been asked,



Trena Anderson

“hey, Mr. Perry in this email you said blah, blah, blah, what was that in context, what did you mean, what’s the specifics. None of that was done, it was an opinionated article that was very one-sided and very misleading,” he said.

Perry then told the audience they gave their opinions, this was his opinion, and it was time to move on with the meeting.

The often heated exchanges continued after the meeting, with one board member asking a resident to repeat an allegedly previously made statement.

As he left the meeting, Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, was questioned about a text message he sent to Perry after the October 21 meeting. The 9:25 p.m. text stated 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 Galen Gilbert as one of the residents involved. He added that his wife, Donna Marshall, relayed the hallway conversation to him. “I got it from someone I trust.”

Gilbert noted that he was standing outside in a group at that meeting.

Donna Marshall was not part of the group that was talking, and stood some distance away.

“I didn’t put any names, but you were the one who was cussing, and frankly I’m anxious to see if you have the, I should say balls, the intestinal fortitude to confront the woman yourself instead of talking behind her back and calling her a liar and a thief, and naming names and literally cussing her,” Steve Marshall said to Gilbert.

“Who called her a thief,” Gilbert asked.

“You did,” Steve Marshall said.

“I don’t think so,” Gilbert replied.

“One hundred percent you did, I was standing right there,” Steve Marshall said.

“No, you wasn’t,” Gilbert replied.

“Yes. You said she was a liar and a thief, and she tried to steal Woodridge,” Steve Marshall said.

“I said she tried to steal Jeb Stuart Rescue (Squad). Jeb Stuart Rescue, get your story right if you’re going to tell it,” Gilbert said as Steve Marshall walked away. Earlier in the meeting, Marshall made a motion to appoint Steve Ferring to the Planning Commission. The motion died for lack of a second.

The meeting marked Jane Fulk’s last as the interim supervisor representing the Dan River District. No one on the board acknowledged Fulk’s last meeting or her service to the county.

Andrew Overby was elected the supervisor of the Dan River District in the special election held in November. His first meeting will be on December 9, beginning at 6 p.m.

The November meeting can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YffXNcFAzI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YffXNcFAzI), or Facebook.com/TheEnterprise.

The second part of the meeting, which included the board coming out of closed session, did not appear to be available on YouTube.



# Thanksgiving

Households throughout the Ninth District, our greater commonwealth and the country are preparing for Thanksgiving.

Discussions are occurring over the method of cooking the Thanksgiving turkey and ensuring enough of the right food is available. The dining room table is organized for a feast, and maybe even a guest bedroom or couch is tidied up for incoming family.

On Sundays around Thanksgiving, it is customary to hear the hymn “We Gather Together” in churches.

The Christian song’s history is rooted in the Dutch war of liberation against the king of Spain. The Spanish were strong supporters of Roman Catholicism. The Spanish king was attempting to restrict the Protestant Dutch from exercising their faith and gathering at places of worship.

The Dutch were engulfed in years and years of battles.

In reference to the struggles of the Dutch people during this time, the hymn reads: “the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing...Let thy congregation escape tribulation.”

The hymn underscores the importance of community and faith centered around the Lord.

Meanwhile, people in England dealt with domestic problems of their own. Overpopulation with no room in the peerage for second, third and fourth sons, coupled with concerns of an overbearing government, caused people to reconsider their lifestyle options. Eager to improve their lives, the New World presented an opportunity for renewed fortune, promise and often religious freedom.

In 1607, the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown was founded in the colony of Virginia.



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

In 1619, others followed suit. That September, Captain John Woodlief and 36 men embarked on their own journey to Virginia. They battled stormy conditions sailing aboard the Good Ship Margaret from Bristol, England.

The wearied sailors and passengers arrived at their destination in December. They founded Berkeley Hundred, a settlement further up the James River from Jamestown.

Arrival at their colonial destination following the monthslong journey became cause for celebration and prayer: “We ordain that this day of our ship’s arrival ... in the land of Virginia, shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God.”

While many children are taught in school that the Pilgrims held the very first Thanksgiving in Massachusetts two years later in 1621, Virginia is credited with being a foundational player in establishing the tradition, which is why I believe all the common Thanksgiving imagery is merely Massachusetts envy towards Virginia. The Berkeley tradition was celebrated annually until the community was destroyed in an Indian conflict. I should note the Massachusetts Pilgrims only celebrated their Thanksgiving feast once.

In his 1963 Thanksgiving Proclamation, President John F. Kennedy recognized Virginia’s role: “Over three centuries ago, our forefathers in Virginia and in Mas-

sachusetts, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a time of thanksgiving. On the appointed day, they gave reverent thanks for their safety, for the health of their children, for the fertility of their fields, for the love which bound them together and for the faith which united them with their God.”

U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr. entered the story of the Virginia First Thanksgiving into the Congressional Record in 1969.

The modern annual Virginia Thanksgiving Festival at Berkeley Hundred, known better to some as Berkeley Plantation, pays homage to the contributions of Captain Woodlief and the original settlement. This year, the festival celebrated its 63rd year commemorating America’s first Thanksgiving.

Berkeley Plantation also is the ancestral home of two U.S. presidents: 9th President William Henry Harrison, which is where he was born, and 23rd President Benjamin Harrison.

Aside from issuing proclamations, presidents engage in other customs around Thanksgiving time. One such custom is the pardoning of turkeys.

This practice allegedly stems from Abraham Lincoln. Legend holds it that Lincoln spared the life of a turkey at the behest of his son. Later presidents like Kennedy and Ronald Reagan held turkey pardon events before it became an annual tradition in 1989.

The National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation takes place at the White House. During the Obama and Trump Administrations, some of the pardoned turkeys ended up at Virginia Tech!

While I will not be granting any clemency to the turkey my wife cooks, I will be thanking God for all the blessings I have received.

In my house, like the Dutch and Captain Woodlief, we will gather together and place our trust and thanks in the Almighty.

No matter what your religious tradition is, I wish all a happy Thanksgiving!

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

# Breaking the Rules

By Bryan Golden

We all grow up being indoctrinated with rules that limit us. The purveyors of this information are not malicious. They are simply passing along what they themselves have been taught.

You are probably aware of one or more of the following rules. Decide for yourself if you have been limited by any of them.

**Don’t rock the boat** -- This rule encourages conformity. Conformity offers a protection from criticism. But those who succeed don’t care about criticism. They become adept at new or better ways of doing things in spite of opinions.

**Nice guys finish last** -- According to this maxim, being nice is a recipe for failure. Therefore, if you want to succeed you may have to compromise your ethics. In actuality, those who consistently do the best are nice, considerate, and concerned about the well being of others.

**It takes money to make money** -- There are so many examples of wealthy individuals who have started from scratch, that it’s odd this rule still persists at all.

**It’s not what you know but who you know** -- Granted, networking with the right people can accelerate goal achievement. However, if you connect with the right people but have no expertise, any edge will be lost and you will develop a reputation as a fraud. You don’t have to start with connections. With persistence, you will meet the right people.

**Be concerned about what others think** -- You have to do what is right for you. It doesn’t matter what others say, think, or do. Follow your own path.

**Don’t take chances** -- Living is taking a chance. Nothing is guaranteed. If something doesn’t work out as desired, adjust your strategy and keep going. Virtually all achievement is the result of taking chances.

**It’s the way things have always been done** -- If mankind had

followed this rule, we would still be living in the Stone Age. Doing things differently leads to improvements. Ask questions. Don’t perpetuate behavior that makes no sense.

**Good things never last** -- Life has its ups and downs. With the right attitude, effort, action, and perseverance, you can have a lot more good than bad. Take an active role in what happens to you. Don’t settle for what you don’t want.

**Don’t put all your eggs in one basket** -- This isn’t necessarily a bad rule. The danger is that it detracts from your focus. Often it is better to put your eggs in one basket, and then put all of your energy into guarding that basket.

**You have to be lucky to succeed** -- Of course luck helps. But the harder you work, the more luck you’ll have. Luck determines lottery winners. Effort determines success in life. Passively sitting around waiting for circumstances to improve won’t yield any positive results.

**Money is the root of all evil** -- People use this one to justify why they are not earning as much as they would like. The original statement is that love of money is the root of all evil. Money is simply a tool that can be used for constructive or destructive purposes. Money is earned as a result of one’s service to others.

**Don’t daydream** -- Dreams are the foundation for all accomplishment. Thoughts of situations that don’t yet exist are a great motivator. Dreams give a person a vision of what could be. All that has been accomplished throughout history started with a dream.

Don’t hesitate to break any rules that limit your success. If a rule doesn’t help you or someone else, ignore it.

*Bryan is the author of “Dare to Live Without Limits.” Contact Bryan at [Bryan@columnist.com](mailto:Bryan@columnist.com) or visit [www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com](http://www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com) Copyright 2024 Bryan Golden*

# Hometown Christmas Celebration set for Dec. 6-7 in Stuart

There’s no better place to be this holiday season than in your own hometown, and no better way to get in the spirit of the season than by participating in some of many events scheduled throughout our county for Hometown Christmas.

The Christmas season officially kicks off on Main Street in Stuart Friday, December 7 with the eighth annual “Grand Illumination” tree lighting ceremony in front of the courthouse at 6 p.m. The program will include carolers, remarks from the Town Mayor, and others, as well as the tree lighting by the parade Grand Marshals. Merchants on Main Street will extend their Friday hours, allowing plenty of time for holiday shopping. Stagecoach Coffee will be celebrating the season by playing holiday cartoons in the shop. Santa will be making an appearance for pictures at the Patrick County Visitor Center following the tree lighting.

Hometown Christmas continues on Saturday, December 7 with a day jam-packed with holiday celebrations and plenty more shopping opportunities, including the Mistletoe Market at the Stuart Farmers’ Market (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), holiday bazaar at the Stuart Church of Living Water (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.), Stuart Elementary School PTO’s “Winter Blender” (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) The Patrick County Library will host an open house (10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.) celebrating Frosty the Snowman by making Snow Globe ornaments. Reserve your spot at The Landmark Center for their annual Breakfast

with Santa (8:30 to 10:30 a.m.) And don’t forget to stop by Circle K for some free hot chocolate before or after the parade (1 to 4 p.m.).

Back this year, the P&HCC Fab Lab will be hosting a DIY make your own ornament at the college (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.) Create a unique keepsake for your tree or as a gift. Connect to all the great events around the town on Saturday with the free trolley rides. Hop on at one event and get off at the new shopping destination. Trolley rides will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The 52nd annual Patrick County Christmas Parade, presented by One Family Productions, begins at 2 p.m. The theme this year is “Strength through Community” in honor of how our community comes together to support each other. Can’t make it to the parade, tune in to WHEO Radio either at 1270AM, 92.7FM or online as One Family Productions and the Chamber of Commerce will be announcing and running live complementary for the parade.

Patrick County’s Hometown Christmas weekend (December 6 and 7) is a collaborative effort of local merchants, the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Stuart, Patrick County Tourism and One Family Productions.

Find yourself here in Patrick County and enjoy the many festivities of Hometown Christmas along with all of our other Holiday Events, please contact the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce at 276-694-6012 or online at [PatrickChamber.com](http://PatrickChamber.com).



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# Patrick Pioneers

Wade and Easter Martin Emberson (Emmerson)

**By Beverly Belcher Woody**

This week, we are spending time with the Embersons of Dodson, along the banks of Puppy Creek in Patrick County, Virginia. Samuel and Sallie Holley Emberson (sometimes spelled Emmerson) brought their young family from Pittsylvania County to the Puppy Creek area around 1840. In the 1850 census, children listed living at home were Allison William, age 15; Wade Allen, age 14; Susan, age 11; Matilda, age 8; and James Bannister; infant.

Samuel and Sallie’s daughter, Susan married Samuel Lewis in Patrick County on the 16th of December 1852; she was fourteen years old. Susan Emberson Lewis died only 18 months later at the age of sixteen; her cause of death was recorded as dropsy on the 24th of May 1855 in the Patrick County Death Records.

Samuel and Sallie Holley Emberson also may have had a son named Jabez who was born in 1833 and served in the Civil War. In 1850, he was seventeen and living with Elkanah Turner who lived beside John B. Martin and Elizabeth Moles Martin. He died in 1863 so he may have been killed in the war. Samuel and Sallie also had a son named John Smith Emerson who was born in 1835 and died in 1922 in Surry County. He is mentioned in the 1850 census.

Allison William Emberson married Miss Phoebe Cox, the daughter of Randolph Cox and Jane Bryant of Patrick County, on the 12th of January 1853. Allison and Phoebe moved across the line to the Endicott community of Franklin County where they raised at least five children. Phoebe Cox Emberson passed away on the 25th of July 1873; Allison married Frances Buckner Turner on the 9th of November 1873.

I have not had any luck finding information about Samuel and Sallie Emberson’s youngest daughter, Matilda, so the remaining part of our column will focus on their second son, Wade Allen Emberson. Wade married Miss Easter Jane “Ellie” Martin on the 12th of February 1857; Ellie was the daughter of Moses Josephas Martin, Jr. and Sarah “Sally” Moles of the Green Hill area of Patrick County.

Ellie’s siblings include Nancy Elizabeth Martin who married Creed Allen; Catherine Martin who married Isaac Dixon; Reed Martin, who wed twice, once to Mahala Bryant and after her passing at the young age of twenty-eight; he married Louisa Foster. John B Martin was also Ellie’s brother; he was featured in an earlier Patrick Pioneers column. John was conscripted to fight in Captain C. W. Fry’s Company, Orange Artillery, Carter’s Battalion when he went AWOL on the sixth of June 1863 to come home to see his expectant wife. Twenty-six-year-old John B. Martin was executed by firing squad on January 9th, 1864, he was survived by his wife and three children.

Ellie’s younger brothers were the progenitors of many descendants in Patrick County: William Green Martin was married three times, first to Celia Hancock Bryant; next to Amanda Foster, then to Elizabeth Bowman, David Harbour Martin married Harriett Elizabeth Bowling; and James Moses Martin married Wilmouth Ruth Martin.

Wade Allen Emberson and Ellie Martin married on the 12th of February 1857 in Patrick County; their first child, Susie was born the 4th of June 1858. In the actual birth records book



Wade and Easter Martin Emberson (family photo from Sheila Turner)

in the courthouse, it states that Susie’s place of birth was Puppy Creek, Virginia. Susie’s grandfather, Samuel Emmerson, reported her birth. Susie never married and remained at the home at Puppy Creek her entire life; she passed away in 1927; six days past her sixty-ninth birthday.

John William Emberson was born to Wade and Ellie on the sixth of February 1861; John also never married and remained on the family farm until his death in 1940 at the age of seventy-nine. On the first of April 1862, Wade was conscripted to serve in Captain C. W. Fry’s Company, Orange Artillery, Carter’s Battalion, (the same company as his brother-in-law, John B. Martin) and they both went AWOL in June of 1863 on the march to Spotsylvania Courthouse. Wade was captured alongside his brother-in-law John; it is likely that he witnessed his execution at Frederick’s Hall. because Wade went AWOL again shortly after this horrible event.

Wade came home to Puppy Creek and on the 20th of April 1864, he and Ellie’s third child, Matilda Nancy Elizabeth “Nannie” was born. Nannie never married and remained at home with her sister, Susie and brother, John, her entire life. Nannie passed away on the 5th of January 1930 at the age of sixty-five.

Wade and Ellie’s fourth child, Lucinda, was born on the 2nd of February 1866. Lucinda married James Bryant on the 31st of January 1892; the couple settled in Endicott where they raised four children. Martha Jane Emberson was born on the 20th of January 1868 and remained on the family farm with her siblings, Susan, Nannie, and John. Martha Jane passed away at the age of sixty-five in March 1933.

The sixth child of Wade and Ellie, David Wade Emberson was born on the 11th of June 1870. David married Miss Malinda Moran on the 7th of June 1892. David and Malinda raised a large family along Puppy Creek where they remained until David and Jeff Turner were convicted of operating a large still in the area. According to an article in the Danville Bee on October 28th, 1910, the distillery was in Dodson, which was described as a “dense mountain forest in a very remote section of Patrick County and illicit manufacturers of liquor have thrived in that community for many years.” After David’s conviction, he moved his family to Draper in Rockingham County, North Carolina where he found work as a carder in a cotton mill. David Wade Emberson passed away on 18th of March 1946 at the age of seventy-five.

Wade and Ellie’s seventh child, James Isaac Emberson, was born on the 23rd of May 1872 and married Miss Mollie Nichols of Franklin County on the 12th of July 1894. James found work as a carpenter at the Norfolk and Western rail yard and moved his young family to Goodview, Virginia. Apparently, James and Mollie were history lovers because their sons were named General George Washington Emberson;



Remnants of the Emberson Mill (photo by Ron Martin)

Colonel Monroe Emberson; and Theodore Roosevelt Emberson.

Samuel Jack Emberson, Wade and Ellie’s eighth child, was born on the 16th of November 1874. Samuel married Miss Senora Catherine Setliff on the 27th of October 1895. Samuel and Senora had five children before Samuel passed away at the age of thirty-nine on Christmas Day 1913.

Sarah Frances Emberson, child number nine, was born on the 16th of July 1877. Like Susie, Nannie, and John, Sarah never married and remained on Puppy Creek for her entire life, passing away at the age of eighty on the tenth of November 1957. The tenth child of Wade and Ellie, Pleasant Wade Emberson was born on the 22nd of March 1880. Pleasant married Miss Delia Nichols (who was the sister of Mollie Nichols, who married James Isaac Emberson) on the 20th of August 1899. Pleasant and Delia moved to Ridgeway where they raised seven children and are buried at Roselawn Cemetery.

Wade and Ellie’s eleventh child, Henry Harrison Emberson, was born on the 27th of May 1882. Henry married Miss Sarah Lou Setliff on the third of October 1907, and they had six children. Henry and Sarah were married for sixty-one years before passing away only thirty days apart, with Sarah passing on March 18th, 1968, and Henry passing on April 17th, 1968.

The twelfth and youngest child of Wade and Ellie Martin Emberson was Mary Augusta, born on the 25th of May 1886. Mary Augusta married John Robert Setliff on the 27th of June 1907. John was the brother of Miss Sarah Lou Setliff, the wife of Henry Harrison Emberson. Mary and John Robert Setliff had nine children

In addition to running a grist mill on his property, the same year that Mary Augusta was born, Wade Emberson received approval from the Internal Revenue Service to become a licensed distiller. Wade’s license was dated August 15th, 1886.

Ellie Martin Emberson passed away on the 5th of June 1920 at the age of eighty followed by her husband Wade Allen Emberson on the 5th of March 1922 at the age of eighty-five. Oh, what he must have witnessed in his lifetime. Ellie and Wade were laid to rest on the banks of Puppy Creek in the Emberson family graveyard, along with many of their children.

Thank you so much to Ron Martin for doing so much research on the Emberson family, particularly photographing the Emberson gristmill and homestead sites and the family graveyard. Ron has been working diligently to document and register all the forgotten cemeteries in this part of the county. If you know of a forgotten cemetery, please let me know so I can pass the information along to Ron before the cemetery is lost forever. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

# Social Security Matters

**By Russell Gloor**, *National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens*

*Ask Rusty - When Should My Wife Claim Social Security Benefits?*

**Dear Rusty:** I turned 64 in July and my wife turned 62 in August. My wife has not worked for approximately 15 years but does qualify for Social Security on her prior work record. My wife is having some physical issues and would like to not return to work. Since she is eligible to collect Social Security, that would be an option to provide additional income, so she doesn’t have to work. My question is how would it affect her future SS spousal benefits based on my record if she begins collecting her own benefit now? I plan to work until at least my full retirement age (67), and maybe longer, but plan to start collecting SS at 67 even if I continue working. Signed: *Working Husband*

**Dear Working:** If your wife has the required 40 SS quarter credits, she is eligible to collect reduced retirement benefits at 62 (for that needed extra income), but her age 62 benefit will be about 70% of what it would be if she waited until her SS full retirement age (FRA) to claim. That reduction would, in turn, carry over to her spousal benefit when you eventually claim your SS benefit. Here’s why:

Your wife’s spousal amount when you claim will be a combination of her own SS retirement benefit, plus an auxiliary amount (a “spousal boost”) that she is entitled to as your spouse. At age 62, her own benefit will be cut by 30% and she can collect that reduced amount until you claim, at which point her spousal boost will be added to make her benefit equal her spousal entitlement. So, her total benefit as your spouse (when you

claim) will consist of her reduced age-62 amount, plus an additional amount as your spouse.

If you claim at 67, your wife will be about 2 years short of her own FRA, which means that her spousal boost amount will also be reduced for early claiming. That reduced spousal boost will be added to her already reduced (age 62) SS retirement benefit, which will make her total benefit less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

So, your wife claiming her own reduced SS retirement benefit at 62 also means her spousal benefit amount will be affected, and taking her spousal boost before her FRA means that the boost amount will also be reduced for early claiming. The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement is to wait until she reaches her own FRA (67) to claim Social Security benefits.

Having said all of that, if your wife’s physical issues suggest that she claims her benefits early and she is comfortable with the smaller benefit she will get, then that may be the right choice. For reference, the reduction to your wife’s spousal boost amount (if you claim at your FRA) will be about 17%, and that reduced spousal boost will be added to her reduced age 62 SS retirement amount. The end benefit for your wife (if you claim at age 67) will likely be about 42% of your FRA entitlement (instead of 50%).

FYI, you can further delay your own SS retirement benefit (up to age 70) for a higher benefit yourself, but that would also mean your wife would need to wait longer to get her spousal boost. You could also wait to claim your SS until your wife reaches age 67 (her FRA), which would give you a higher personal amount and also ensure your wife gets her maximum spousal boost (but her total will still be less than 50% of yours

because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit at 62). When to claim Social Security depends on financial need and life expectancy. If a long life expectancy is anticipated, waiting longer to claim is often the best move. But financial need always trumps waiting longer.

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

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# Crossing the Lines

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

### Pregnancy Center to host open house

For more than a decade, the Pregnancy Center of MHC has quietly provided essential resources and support to expectant mothers, fathers, and families in need, but on Tuesday, December 3, it is hosting an open house, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The event is needed, in part, because despite its long-standing presence, the center is often referred to as the area's "Best Kept Secret," a sentiment echoed by Interim Executive Director Paula Woods.

"We want to get our name out there more," Woods said, emphasizing the center's commitment to increasing awareness about its free services and resources for the community.

The Pregnancy Center offers a range of free services starting with pregnancy tests and ultrasounds to confirm viable pregnancies. From there, the center continues to provide care throughout the pregnancy and beyond.

"We support women at every stage," Woods explained. "After the baby is born, we provide items like formula, car seats, and clothing for both the child and mother."

Additionally, the center offers parenting classes for both mothers and fathers to help them prepare for parenthood.

The center's mission is rooted in encouraging women to choose life for their babies. "We try to help them make a decision that's in the best



Paula Woods serves as the interim executive director of the Pregnancy Center. The center is hosting an open house from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3.

interest of their baby," Woods said, noting that the center also connects women with adoption agencies when needed.

The Pregnancy Center is open Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with appointments available at other times. It is located at 314 Fairy Street Extension, Suite E, in Martinsville. For more information about the center and its programs, visit [www.pregcc.com](http://www.pregcc.com) or call (276) 634-5433.

### County to consider legislative agenda for upcoming year

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will hear an update and consider its legislative agenda for next year at its 3 p.m. meeting on Tuesday, November 26 in the Summerlin Room.

The three page document includes a core agenda, with several broad areas highlighted: land use and preservation of the locality's authority to address all aspects and options related to utility-scale installations of solar power, wind power, and energy storage facilities; economic development, and increased funding for recruitment incentives and site devel-

opment; transportation, and funding improvements to U.S. 220, South of Martinsville to N.C. line; education, and providing dedicated funding for School Resource Officers.

Housing, and providing incentives to help with the development of workforce housing; recreation, building Mayo River State Park; Children's Services Act, and increased state funding for mandated services such as residential and foster care; and public safety, and providing funding support for local fire and E.M.S. as recommended by the workgroup created by the 2023 HB2175.

### Council appropriates remaining ARPA funds, hears safety concerns at meeting



Members of the Martinsville City Electrical Department were recognized for the relief efforts they provided to Hurricane Helene victims.

Martinsville City Council members heard from Alexis Heavner, and decided the fate of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds at a meeting on November 19. The remaining funds had to be appropriated by December 31.

The council approved \$400,000 for an IT, Security and Network update, with \$85,000 for a SCADA system update for water and sewer. An additional \$250,000 will help fund the youth program for FY25. This program helps to fund meaningful summer employment opportunities for youth.

"You can build schools, or you can build jails," Aaron Rawls, vice mayor said.

The council approved \$85,000 for a Law Clerk position requested for FY25 funding, and the remaining \$140,000 for the EDA.

When Heavner, the aunt of Iviiyan

Dandridge who was killed on July 7, addressed the council, she discussed policing in the city.

So far, no arrests have been made in the case. However, Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher has said a task force of local, state and federal investigators are working to resolve the case.

Heavner said she feels that safety isn't being taken seriously enough. "The police are supposed to be here to protect everyone in Martinsville. I don't see the police, I don't see the safety, I don't see it being taken seriously," Heavner said that she feels like "no one cares" and that she wants to see more safety for the black community.

Mayor LC Jones asked Heavner and her family to stay after the meeting to talk to Jones and Fincher about safety changes. Jones said that he and Fincher wanted to address safety in the area.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the new Fitness Court at the Smith River Sports Complex.

### Smith River Sports Complex Debuts Free Fitness Court

A new fitness court at the Smith River Sports Complex is now open to the public, offering free access to workout equipment aimed at promoting healthier lifestyles. Sponsored by Aetna, the court is part of a statewide initiative to provide accessible fitness opportunities for residents 14 years and older.

The facility officially opened on Nov. 19 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a friendly fitness challenge between Patrick & Henry Community College athletes and members of the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

"It's truly a special day here in Henry County," said Roger Adams, director of Henry County Parks and Recreation. The county is among the first in Virginia to launch this type of fitness court, which focuses on body weight exercises and integrates with a mobile fitness app.

The court was developed to combat rising health concerns. Accord-

ing to Garrett Dillard, supervisor of the Iriswood District, Henry County ranks 119th out of 133 counties in Virginia for health outcomes, with a life expectancy nearly five years below the state average. Additionally, 42% of the population is classified as obese, and only 22% report having access to fitness facilities.

"Yes, we have a fair share of health problems, but we also have an opportunity to solve them if we work together," said Dillard. He encouraged residents to embrace healthier lifestyles and challenged local employers to support employee fitness through incentives.

Dr. Sandy Strayer, a program officer with the Harvest Foundation, emphasized the need to address the county's health disparities, while Brad Kinkema, executive director of the YMCA, expressed interest in partnering to offer classes at the court.

### 'Mardi Gras Christmas with Lights' ushers in holiday season Saturday



The 2023 Crown Brand Building-Packaging Christmas Parade float. (Contributed)

The streets of Uptown Martinsville will come alive with holiday cheer on Saturday, Nov. 23, as Star News hosts the annual Martinsville-Henry County Christmas Parade. This year's event, sponsored by Crown Brand Building-Packaging, will feature a 'Mardi Gras Christmas with Lights' theme and promises to deliver festive entertainment for all ages.

"Crown is super excited to be a part of the parade," said Kim Trifari, human resources manager at Crown Cork and Seal. "It's my first time doing this, the second or third time for others, and I'm thrilled to see the process from start to finish. I'm also excited to explore Martinsville and be part of this celebration."

The parade, which costs more than \$10,000 to produce, is free to attend. Star News carefully vets all entries to ensure a high-quality experience. Local businesses, community groups, and marching bands will bring the festivities to life.

Charles Roark, owner of Star News, emphasized the importance


of recognizing Thanksgiving alongside the holiday season. "We always get criticized for having the parade before Thanksgiving, so this year, the very first float will feature a turkey to celebrate the holiday," Roark said. The float, built atop a car, reflects Roark's effort to pay homage to the holiday while maintaining the parade's festive spirit.

Growing Participation

This year's parade will feature a record number of participants, with nearly 150 groups, including some newcomers. "We've got Bassett Furniture joining for the first time, along with New South Metals," Roark said. "Sovah Health always goes all out, and we're excited to have them back."

The event will include all three local high school bands and numerous creative floats. Roark has also worked to reduce the number of plain vehicles in the parade, encouraging participants to decorate their cars for a more engaging and festive display.

FOR MORE, VISIT THE HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE AT [WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM](http://WWW.HENRYCOUNTYENTERPRISE.COM).



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**Joyce Conner (Belcher) Wimbish**

Mrs. Joyce Conner (Belcher) Wimbish, age 80, of Patrick Springs, VA passed away Saturday, November 23, 2024 at Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson, NC surrounded by her family. She was born on June 4, 1944 in Raleigh County Besoco, West Virginia to the late Daniel R. and Goldie F. Conner. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by a sister, Vera Conner Nicometi; and a grandson, Jerry Wayne Knowles. Joyce was employed by Vaughn Furniture Factory in Stuart, VA until closing in November 2004. She also worked for Hanes Brand Baby Clothes in Stuart, VA.

Mrs. Wimbish is survived by her husband of 46 years, Russell Wimbish; one daughter Darlene Knowles (Kenneth); two sons, Wayne Odell Belcher and Tony R. Wimbish; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers, David E. Conner and Wendell M. Conner; and a sister, Marjorie C. Malcom.

All services for Mrs. Wimbish will be private. Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Healthcare group awarded ‘A’ Hospital Safety Grade from Leapfrog Group**

Twin County Regional Healthcare received an “A” Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group. This national distinction celebrates Twin County Regional Healthcare achievements in protecting hospital patients from preventable harm and errors.

“We are very pleased with this high mark, which places Twin County Regional Healthcare among the top tier of hospitals across the country when it comes to patient safety,” said Sudandra Ratnasamy, Twin County Regional Healthcare CEO. “I would like to extend my personal gratitude to every member of our team from our nurses, clinical and ancillary staff to our physicians, board members and volunteers for their ongoing commitment to quality care and patient safety.”

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization with a 10-year history of assigning letter grades to general hospitals throughout the United States, based on a hospital’s ability to prevent medical errors and harm to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent, and free to the public. Hospital Safety Grade results are based on more than 30 national performance measures and are updated each fall and spring.

“I applaud the hospital leadership and workforce for their strong commitment to safety and transparency,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “An ‘A’ Safety Grade is a sign that hospitals are continuously evaluating their performance, so that they can best protect patients. Your hospital team should be extremely proud of their dedication and achievement.”

To see Twin County Regional Healthcare’s full grade details and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit [HospitalSafetyGrade.org](http://HospitalSafetyGrade.org) and follow The Leapfrog Group on Twitter, Facebook, and via its newsletter.



**Music Center raising funds to match National Park Foundation grant**

The National Park Foundation has awarded a matching grant of \$170,000 to the Blue Ridge Music Center for improvements to the national park facility at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

“The grant will allow for enhancements at the Music Center that go beyond what is possible with current federal funding,” said Program Director Richard Emmett. “We’re thrilled to have the opportunity to provide much needed upgrades at this gathering place for mountain music.”

The grant paired with support from donors will:

- Provide audio equipment to play traditional mountain music in the breezeway and in front of the visitor center and luthier shop
- Repair masonry seating and retaining walls, sidewalks, and curbs to improve safety
- Expand public Wi-Fi access at the visitor center and museum
- Upgrade lighting in the outdoor amphitheater

Concerts and additional Music Center events are presented through funding by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, the national park’s non-profit partner. “Our donors can double the impact of their generosity,” said Jordan Calaway, Chief Development Officer for the Foundation. “Each donation will be matched by funds provided through the grant.”

In the past, donors to the Foundation supported projects at the Music Center that included upgrades to the sound system in the amphitheater, repairs to the exhibits at the Roots of American Music Museum, construction of a bridge on the High Meadow Trail, installation of a Kids in Parks TRACK Trail, and the planting of shade trees.

The Music Center has welcomed more than 125,000 concertgoers and 500,000 visitors since the Music Center opened. Each year we are able to share the rich history of mountain music with more than 7,000 concertgoers and 40,000 visitors from all over the world and all 50 states.

It is a venue partner of The Crooked Road: Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail and Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina. For more information, visit [BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org](http://BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org).

**Jewel Ore Wilson**



Mrs. Jewel Ore Wilson, age 83, of Ararat, VA passed away at her home on November 23, 2024. She was born on May 4, 1941 to the late James and Pearl Austin Ore. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Daniel Wilson; brothers, James Albert Lee Ore, Donnie Dexter Ore; and sister, Carolyn Ore Burchette. Jewel was a long-time member of Creasey’s Chapel Church. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Stuart Chapter #25. She always enjoyed giving her time by volunteering with many organizations in the county.

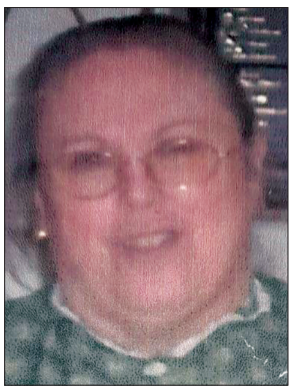
(Ashley) of Concord, NC; five great-grandchildren; and sisters, Shirley Keene of Stuart, VA and Linda Conner (Wayne) of Martinsville, VA.

A memorial visitation for Mrs. Wilson will be held on Friday, November 29, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart, VA. Burial will be private. Flowers will be accepted or memorial donations may be made to Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care, 730 East Church Street, Suite 13, Martinsville, VA 24112. Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

She will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved her.

Mrs. Wilson is survived by a daughter, Sandy Haynes (Kennie) of Stuart; two grandchildren, Jennifer Haynes Hartman (Eddie) of Stuart, VA and Jamie Haynes

**Mary Susan Campbell “Susie” Holt**



Mrs. Mary Susan Campbell “Susie” Holt, age 68 of Stuart, passed away Friday, November 22, 2024 at SECU Hospice Care in Yadkinville, North Carolina. She was born in Patrick County on July 14, 1956 to the late Woodrow and Hazel Lawson Campbell. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Holt was preceded in death by two brothers, Roger Campbell and Connie Ray Campbell; and two sisters, Allie Mae Bullins and Brenda Snow. She was a member of Five Forks Wesleyan Church. She was a CNA for 41 years at R.J. Reynolds Memorial Hospital and at Blue Ridge Nursing Home. Also, she was the first Hospice CNA in Patrick County.

Wesleyan Church on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. with Pastors Michael Fain and Andy Pack officiating. Burial will follow in Crossroad Community Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service in the church fellowship hall. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is in charge of the arrangements and online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

lyn Gonzales and Amberlyn Gonzales; and special cousins, Kathy Ayers and Diane Bowen.

Funeral services will be held at Five Forks

**Card of Thanks**

The family of Mary Hill would like to thank everyone for their donations, flowers, as well as Moody Funeral Services for their support.

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# PATRICK PULPITS

## Being thankful: action or attitude?

**By Van Yandell**  
Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Which day of Thanksgiving week do you like the most, Thursday or Friday? Are you happier feeling gratitude or shopping?

Thanksgiving is not a one-day holiday or a time of year but a continuing action and attitude of our incomparable gratitude for a Savior and the blessings He has given us.

Ephesians 2: 8 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Faith is a belief system but it is also a feeling. It is an emotional belief that requires greater strength than simply possessing knowledge.

The Bible states in John 3: 16 “Whosoever believes in Him.” That is a complete statement to insure eternal life. But is that belief with the mind or is it an emotional belief? And, is there a difference that can be separated outside the individual heart and mind?

“Whosoever” includes every living soul on the face of the earth! Jesus stated in John 3: 17 “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

The words “the world” in that verse from the Book of John appears to leave out no one willing to believe, repent and confess that Jesus is Lord and through Him and only Him can we be saved (Philippians 2: 10-11).

Romans 10: 9-10 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Notice in the last line of verse ten above that man believes with the heart but salvation is acquired through confession. Confession includes both confession of our sins (Romans 3: 23) and also belief in the Lord Jesus as crucified for the remission of sin and resurrected.

To confess/admit/state we believe is a requirement for salvation. Romans 1: 16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

It is only by His spilt blood we have remission of sin. Hebrews 9: 22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.”

Books have been written and sermons preached on the horrors of the process of scourging and crucifixion. For an American (and most in the

free world) that has quick access to emergency rooms and pain killing drugs the pain is unimaginable inflicted by crucifixion.

John 15: 13 “Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends.” We mere mortals think of our friends as being a select few. Jesus on the other hand, regarded all the world as His friends because He created us. (John 1: 3, Colossians 1: 16).

God Jesus even created the non-believer. That is why He commanded us to “preach this Gospel to all nations.” The connection that exists between Jesus and His creation is not within the comprehension of the human mind.

James 2: 18 “Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.” We are not commanded to do good works. We know (Ephesians 2: 8) we are saved by grace through faith. Works demonstrate our faith and it also demonstrates our gratitude for what God Jesus has done for us.

To serve the Lord is an honor and a privilege. He has been so good to us. How can we not show our thankfulness through our actions? Acts of service will not buy us a one way ticket to Heaven and we do not expect them to.

Our service to God is a blessing to ourselves and those we serve. The question of “callings” in the Christian faith has been one of intrigue to many. All I can offer is my own thoughts and I’ve had the belief for many years; if God provides an opportunity, that’s a calling.

Yes, giving thanks is definitely an action but it is also an attitude. Just as Romans 10: 10 states “with the heart man believeth unto righteousness,” with the heart man also gives thanks.

1 Chronicles 16:34 “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever” God is never going to stop loving you. Once you believe and His spirit enters in to you (Matthew 3: 11), you are His for all eternity (John 10: 28-29).

Our greatest action of thanksgiving after our own confession and repentance is to tell someone about the saving power of our Lord Jesus. The scriptures have proven themselves true over and over. There is no room for doubt; there is only acceptance and sharing.

A life of humility and thanksgiving is essential. God does not want an arrogant, dogmatic Christian sharing Him with the world. 1 Peter 3: 15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email is vmy2121@outlook.com.

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word “thanksgiving” the most times at eight? Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah
2. In 2 Timothy 3:1 - 2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? Adulterers, Sun worshipers, Renegades, Unthankful people
3. From Psalms 106:1: “O give thanks unto the Lord; for his \_\_\_\_\_ endureth for ever.” Love, Good, Mercy, Spirit
4. From 1 Thessalonians 5:18: “In every thing give thanks: for

this is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.” Power, Will, Gratitude, Travail


5. From Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant

6. Where was Jonah when he prayed with the voice of thanksgiving? Fish’s belly, Aboard ship, In the wilderness, Mountaintop

ANSWERS: 1) Psalms, 2) Unthankful people, 3) Mercy, 4) Will, 5) At your own will, 6) Fish’s belly  
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey’s subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Hoover, e.g.
  - 7 Hertz rival
  - 12 Military vehicle for recon
  - 20 Roma's place
  - 21 Go into a major tizzy
  - 22 Worth of a security at its face
  - 23 Rare musical gift
  - 25 Being filmed
  - 26 Aug. follower
  - 27 Feel awful
  - 28 Tree's anchor
  - 30 Sandbox toy
  - 31 Elicitor of a rave review
  - 39 Newton and Asimov
  - 41 Beats of life
  - 42 Klutzy sorts
  - 43 Naiad or dryad
  - 44 Plant swelling
  - 46 Ben of "Zoolander"
  - 49 Mint quality
  - 54 "13th" director
  - 55 Styne of song
  - 56 TV spots
  - 57 Vaper's item
  - 58 How-to unit
  - 59 Catch sight of
  - 60 Ostrich's kin
  - 61 Big name in cosmetics
  - 64 Big bees
  - 66 Rainforests and such
  - 69 Round one of the corners in Monopoly
  - 72 Mets' div.
  - 73 Vast span
  - 74 Awful review
  - 77 First-aid plant
  - 78 Purplish berry
  - 79 Derby, e.g.
  - 80 Buffalo's county
  - 81 Aladdin's monkey pal
  - 82 Excellent etiquette
  - 88 Wasn't penned up
  - 90 Levi's, e.g.
  - 91 Start
  - 92 Singer Celine
  - 93 Green sushi condiment
  - 96 "M\*A\*S\*H" actor David Ogden —
  - 97 Famed DuVernay
  - 98 Steelers play of 1972
  - 102 Cole Porter's "— Love"
  - 103 "I got — in Kalamazoo"
  - 104 Toothpaste tube inits.
  - 105 — kwon do
  - 108 O.J. Simpson trial judge
  - 111 Activity that will be unsuccessful when applied to this puzzle's theme?
  - 117 Hans Christian —
  - 118 JFK Library architect
  - 119 The Beach Boys' "Help Me, —"
  - 120 People giving rubdowns
  - 121 Printer brand
  - 122 Motto
- DOWN**
- 1 Big cheeses
  - 2 Suited to —
  - 3 Goldfish and minnows are members of it
  - 4 Samuelsson who got the winning goal in the 1991 Stanley Cup
  - 5 Driver's 180
  - 6 Large parrots
  - 7 Cider fruit
  - 8 Chou En —
  - 9 Picnic pest
  - 10 Emceeing aid
  - 11 Earthy hues, to Brits
  - 12 Satirizes
  - 13 Division of a long poem
  - 14 Tolkien brute
  - 15 Coll. in the Old Dominion State
  - 16 Home of the NFL's Bucs
  - 17 Symbol of a fresh start
  - 18 Gold-related
  - 19 "Royal," in 20-Across
  - 24 Up to, in brief
  - 29 Metal in rocks
  - 32 Small error
  - 33 German for "eight"
  - 34 Design detail
  - 35 — wrestling
  - 36 Strategy
  - 37 Quaint newspaper section
  - 38 Primary
  - 39 Dressed for nighty-night
  - 40 IHOP topping
  - 44 Result
  - 45 — Moines
  - 46 Autograph: Abbr.
  - 47 All tied up
  - 48 Sharp knocks
  - 50 "You are not!" retort
  - 51 Noble acts
  - 52 "All booked up, sorry"
  - 53 Model Tequila
  - 58 Catch sight of
  - 60 Liverpool loc.
  - 61 Purple flower
  - 62 — acid (fat substance)
  - 63 Irish actor Stephen
  - 64 Allowance
  - 65 Sizable vase
  - 66 Put to work
  - 67 A single time
  - 68 Sports sides
  - 69 Early TV host Jack
  - 70 "Dark Angel" star Jessica
  - 71 Healthy intellectuals
  - 74 Introducing
  - 75 Broadcaster
  - 76 Aeries, e.g.
  - 78 Big primate
  - 79 Clutch sitter
  - 80 Film scorer
  - 82 — -Z (old Camaro)
  - 83 List of options
  - 84 Partly open
  - 85 Neuwirth of "Cheers"
  - 86 Nonclerical
  - 87 "Me? Never!"
  - 89 Husbands-to-be
  - 93 Tots' haulers
  - 94 — discount
  - 95 Smartphone pic, often
  - 96 Railing sites
  - 97 Sunni's faith
  - 98 Animated 2016 Disney film
  - 99 After a time
  - 100 Sup at home
  - 101 Adobe Acrobat file
  - 106 Forever — day
  - 107 "Manhattan Beach" novelist Jennifer
  - 109 Sooner than, poetically
  - 110 Sch. in Terre Haute
  - 112 Gig hookup
  - 113 FedEx rival
  - 114 Zodiac lion
  - 115 Dallas Stars' org.
  - 116 "Yabba dabba —!"

## Correction

The theme of the Patrick County Christmas Parade is “Community through Strength.” The theme was incorrectly stated in last week’s edition. We regret the error.

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## LEGAL

### FOR PUBLIC NOTICE:

The Town of Stuart will hold a Planning Commission Meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Stuart Town Office, located at 100 Patrick Avenue. The Stuart Planing Commission will consider the Zoning Ordinance, Sign Requirements, and other business. Those that are interested in providing comment to the Planning Commission, but are unable to attend, please contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager by phone at (276) 694-3811 or by email at [bryce.simmons@stuartva.org](mailto:bryce.simmons@stuartva.org).

## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to hear comment on amending the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget with an increase of \$2,200,000 as follows:

Revenue	CSA Pool Funds	\$ 1,706,000
	Transfer Station Fees	100,000
	Ambulance Services	200,000
	Use of Reserves	194,000
	Total	\$ 2,200,000
Expenditures	CSA Expenditures	\$ 2,200,000
	Total	\$ 2,200,000

The hearing will be held in the 3rd floor Courtroom in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia. A vote will be taken at the meeting. Anyone wishing to view the proposed budget amendments may do so at the County Administration office, Suite 218 located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

## LEGAL

BWW# VA-354662-1

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1683 WILLIS ROAD, MEADOWS OF DAN, VA 24120.** In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 12, 2012, in the original principal amount of \$120,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 120001901. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on January 6, 2025, at 3:15 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THOSE TWO CERTAIN TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE BLUE RIDGE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: CONTAINING 36.980 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND 1.00 ACRE, MORE OR LESS; AND BEING THE SAME TWO TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND CONVEYED TO MICHAEL RAY BRIDGES AND SUSAN CAROL RAINES BRIDGES, HUSBAND AND WIFE, BY DEED FROM MICHAEL RAY BRIDGES, DATED OCTOBER 6, 2010, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 1001737, TO WHICH DEED REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: B WW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). VA-354662-1.

## LEGAL

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 568 Laurel Ridge Estate Road, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120** In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$193,325.00 dated October 17, 2022 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Patrick County on October 21, 2022 as Instrument Number: 220001897, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W Blue Ridge St, Stuart, VA 24171 on January 14, 2025 at 4:00 PM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: All that certain tract or parcel of land with all improvements thereon and appurtenances and rights of way thereunto belonging, and being in the Blue Ridge Magisterial District of Floyd County, Virginia, being Lot 13, containing 4.9142 acres, as shown on that certain plat of survey prepared by Larry G. Rakes, CLS, dated October 29, 1984, and recorded in Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, in Plat Cabinet 1, Slide 15-C; and Together with that right to use the roadways shown the aforesaid plat of survey, for ingress and egress to State Route #601, as set forth in Deed dated November 19, 1984, recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 240, Page 592. Parcel ID: 4414-111 Tax ID: 4414.00.111. TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 24-007522) Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans PC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: [www.Orlans.com](http://www.Orlans.com) The Vendor Covius Holding Services will be used in conjunction with this sale.

## LEGAL

**TRUSTEE'S SALE - Real property at 4465 Bull Mountain Road, Stuart, VA 24171** In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$125,000.00 dated April 14, 2011 and recorded in the land records of Patrick County at Instrument 110000729, default having been made in the indebtedness secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the Front Entrance of the Circuit Court for Patrick County, VA located at 101 Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171, the above referenced property and fixtures or improvements thereon briefly described as "Certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the Mayo River Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia", Tax ID 5114-34, on December 5, 2024 AT 10:00 AM TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO any environmental or other conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, prior liens, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any. Substitute Trustee shall have no obligation to deliver possession of the property or any other obligation as to the premises. A bidder's deposit of \$23,200.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale in the form of a certified check or cashier's check from the purchaser or the bid will be rejected. Successful bidder will be required to sign a memorandum of sale at the time of the sale and settle by remitting the balance of the purchase price within fourteen (14) days of sale. If the buyer wishes to use their own settlement company and documentation, there will be a fee of \$300.00 for review of their settlement documents. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee according to the Code of Virginia. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges to be prorated through date of sale; those incurred after the sale date, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale or whether other legal impediment to title exists. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Cohn Goldberg Deutsch, 410-296-2550 or [www.cgdlaw.com](http://www.cgdlaw.com) re: CGD #460848. Cohn Goldberg Deutsch is a debt collector; any information obtained will be used for that purpose. BLUE RIDGE TRUSTEES LLC Run dates approx. November 20, 2024 and November 27, 2024



### Meetings

**Monday, Dec. 9**  
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

**Wednesday, Dec. 11**  
Patrick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) meets at 6 p.m. in the 2nd-floor conference room, Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building.

**Thursday, Dec. 12**  
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

**Wednesday, Dec. 18**  
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

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

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.

**Thursday, Dec. 12**  
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Jimmy Handy. Attendees are asked to bring finger foods and desserts to share.

**Friday, Dec. 13 – Monday, Dec. 23**  
The annual Festival of Lights at DeHart Park will be held from 6-8 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 15**  
The Reynolds Homestead Victorian Christmas will start at 1 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 20**  
The Community Food Bank will be at Fairystone VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

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.

**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 may call Katlyn Boyd at 2776-694-9708 to be added to the home delivery list.

**Saturday, Nov. 30**  
The Holiday Market at Fairy Stone State Park will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Meadows of Dan Christmas Parade begins at 3 p.m.

The Patrick County Democratic Committee will meet from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Patrick County Branch Library Community Room.

**Monday, Dec. 2**  
A tree lighting will be held at the Landmark Center starting at 6 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 6**  
The Community Food Truck will be at the Woolwine SSRS from 3-4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 7**  
The Church of Living Water will hold a Christmas Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The annual Patrick County Christmas Parade begins at 2 p.m.

Jeb Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad will hold a Community Breakfast at its building, 1258 American Legion Road, Stuart, from 7:30-10 a.m. Plates are \$8 each and dine in, carry out, and curb service options are available. Orders can be placed by calling 276-694-6171.

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**Four Rivers Realty**  
(276) 694-5044

**Kelsey Fain**  
REALTOR



Call me today!

KFain@fourriversva.com (276)693-3620  
21521 Jeb Stuart Hwy PO Box 823 Stuart, VA 24171

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## Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.

### Buying Logs

### Standing Timber or Timberland

Stuart, VA

*Contact Ronnie Bolt at*  
**(276) 694-4432**

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# WHEO



## 92.7 FM

### Classic Hits

**wheoradio.com**

**"Small Town Station with a BIG Town Sound"**



# Monument

(cont. from page 1)

asking us to request the FCC to open it up to allow these TV satellite companies to provide stations out of Roanoke, so you get Virginia stations as well.”

While some board members supported the request, others called for more information before proceeding. Jane Fulk of the Dan River District suggested waiting until the Dec. 9 meeting, citing concerns about potential disruptions to existing services.

### Revolutionary War Monument

The board unanimously approved the installation of a Revolutionary War Soldiers Monument at the Stuart library. John Reynolds, president of the Patrick County Historical Society, presented the proposal, which was initiated by board member John Wesley Martin, a descendant of a Revolutionary War soldier.

Reynolds said the monument, crafted from granite and standing approximately seven feet tall, will list 160 to 170 soldiers from the area who served in the war, with space to add additional names if discovered.

“It will have printed 160 to 170 names on it with space to add more. The top of the monument will include ‘Patrick County Historical Society’ and a relief of a minuteman soldier,” Reynolds said.

The monument will be situated to the left of the walkway leading to the library, near the flagpole. Reynolds assured the board there would be no cost to the county, as the Historical Society would cover any maintenance needs.

“This will be a monument that lasts a long, long time for the county. Being a veteran myself, these Revolutionary War veterans need to be commemorated just like all the others,” Reynolds said, adding that the monument will coincide with the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026.

In other matters, the board also:

\*Heard from Stuart Volunteer Fire Department President John West regarding comments from County Administrator Beth Simms that appeared in the November 13 edition of The Enterprise.

“Ms. Simms, one of her statements was, and it’s in partial context to that all of her other employees would be better off to quit their jobs and apply to work in EMS (Emergency Management Services) department,” he said, adding that isn’t quite accurate, because EMS employees must meet certain qualifications, including completion of a 162+ hour course.

“I know we tried to have them here in the county, we need to have a certain number of people to be able to do that,” he said.

Simms’ other texted statement was about compression and equity issues being created because of the pay reinstatement to Station 8 employees.

“There’s not an equity issue unless you’re talking about other EMTs and paramedics, because unless you’re talking about them across the board type of pay raise, it’s just not the same type of thing. It’s no different than talking about someone who’s operating the waste treatment plant versus someone who’s on trash crew,” he said.

\*Heard from Steve Ferring about funding to the Department of Social Services. He said it appears the board is applying the DSS funding mismanagement to the entirety of county functions and resources.

“This is dangerous and irresponsible, and it’s obvious that you know less than the professionals that administer the day-to-day county functions. Your irresponsible management with” DSS “for the last three years, not only put foster children in mortal jeopardy, but our county finances in peril as well,” he said.

Ferring requested Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, tell residents the financial liability of the bills that remained unpaid from last year total from his chairmanship of the subcommittee that had financial oversight of DSS.

“Odd that these required funds of up to \$6,300 for fiscal year are not in the current budget. One can only assume he knew this problem existed, since he was the cause of its existence in the first place and the chair of the committee that drafted the current county budget,” Ferring said.

\*Heard from Debbie Foley, captain of the

Smith River Volunteer Rescue Squad, about the county’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) services and the restoration of Station 8.

\*Heard from Virginia Department of Forestry Technician Cory Johnson, who introduced himself to the board.

\*Heard from Walter Scott, who talked about what’s being done with the old school board office building and Rural Services trash pickup schedules.

\*Heard an update from Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) President Dr. Greg Hodges regarding the Patrick County Education Foundation and the Patrick Promise.

\*Awarded the bid to Schnabel for the Ararat Watershed Dams Professional Engineering Services.

\*Awarded the bid to American Roofing Company to redo the roofing at P&HCC’s Stuart site.

\*Scheduled a public hearing for December 9 to consider giving additional funding to the Child Services Act (SCA).

\*Heard a DSS update from Director Carol Craig.

\*Discussed the dangerous dog vaccination fees ordinance.

\*Approved an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the board and the Economic Development Authority (EDA) regarding the Business Development Center Interagency Agreement.

\*Approved a resolution for Delay in Solar Applications.

\*Appointed Megan Stokes to the DSS Board for the At-Large position.

\*Approved the Oct. 21 meeting minutes.

\*Approved the bills, claims, and appropriations.

\*Heard the administrator’s report from Assistant Administrator/Human Resources (HR) Director Donna Shough.

\*Heard the supervisors’ reports.

For additional details, the board’s full meeting minutes are available upon request from the county administration office.

# Community Projects

(cont. from page 1)

to get fuel, food, lodging, and they also come for arts and culture and things like that as well. So, we wanted to build stronger connections between the parkway and parkway visitors and the gateway communities,” he said.

Brandt said several themes that were common to every locality were discovered, including marketing communities for tourists.

“We want to get signs on the parkway telling them there’s a community like Stuart or like Floyd, but also use those international symbols so when people get off of the exit of the parkway, they know where they’re going,” he said.

Enhancing education is another theme, Brandt said as many communities noted it’s hard to find and hire qualified employees.

“I know from park service standpoint, the last two years 50 percent of their seasonal positions have not been filled because they haven’t had qualified applicants, in some cases no applicants at all,” he said.

Advocacy is also important because it’s sometimes difficult for a single county to get anything accomplished, “but if all 29 counties and all the communities along the parkway are advocating for themselves and the common things that they need, I think we’ll be more successful in funding the things that are important to the communities along the parkway,” he said.

Regarding Mabry Mill, Brandt said the foundation has raised most of the money to purchase the shakes to replace its roof. It’s currently raising money to fund the craftsmen who can do the installation.

“There’s also the pond that needs to be dredged, and if you’ve tried to walk along the asphalt trails you know that even if you’re a sure-footed person, it’s a little bit challenging because the walkways have deteriorated. There’s a lot of investment that we want to help make at Mabry’s Mill to improve that visitor experience,” he said.

Brandt also talked about the general state of the Parkway and the efforts to maintain it and increase tourism to it.

### Economic Development and Tourism

Patrick County Economic Development Director James Houchins detailed projects aimed at fostering growth, including a small business incubator and a potential apartment complex in Stuart to attract professionals relocating to the area. He also highlighted the \$37.7 million impact of tourism in the county, driven by attractions like Fairy Stone State Park and the Mayo River Rail Trail.



Beth Morris, grant writer, and P&HCC Associate Vice President Tiffani Underwood also addressed those attending the event.

The Small Business Development Center that started several years ago is finally out to bid. “Hopefully, once we have to go through the due diligence, once the bids come back in, we should be able to see some type of movement with that particular building. This is going to be a business incubator right behind the Visitor’s Center to help some up and coming entrepreneurs have places to be able to come in and set up shop until they can find some other places to go,” he said.

The Cockram’s Mill project, which hopes to turn the property into a taphouse, Houchins said the owner recently turned in his designs for the county’s Building Inspections Building Official to review. “Hopefully we can have some better news before the end of the year because all of us want a win,” he said.

Houchins noted there’s also plans for a company to build an apartment complex on Commerce Street in Stuart. He believes this is important and timely as Micro Port, a company that makes battery separators and engineered materials, plans to relocate to Danville.

“We’re only 50 minutes away from the site. I timed myself as I was going down to visit with them, so that will help us with a lot of influx too. With the apartment complex, I think we should be set and poised to have some growth in the county,” he said.

However, Houchins also noted retaining already existing businesses in the county is still the primary focus.

With tourism, Houchins said its direct impact on Patrick County was \$25 million and its indirect and induced impact was \$12.1 million.

“The total impact for Patrick County was \$37.7 million. Our local taxes, which helps our TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) was \$1.7 million in 2023, and we’re very fortunate to have that,” he said.

In addition to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Primland, Houchins said some tourism highlights include the

newly opened Red Rooster Amusement Park, Fairy Stone State Park, and The Oaks RV Resort.

Houchins said the county also needs to increase its outdoor recreation options. “We’ve been working diligently over the last several years with the Mayo River Rail Trail” with community partners, and “we are having meetings to try to improve the Mayo River Rail Trail, but we’re not looking at just in the Stuart area, we’re also looking at throughout the county,” he said.

### Patrick & Henry Community College

Associate Vice President Tiffani Underwood introduced the Patrick Promise initiative, aiming to provide Patrick County graduates free tuition at Patrick & Henry Community College. The program requires additional funding but is part of broader efforts to improve educational attainment and workforce development in the region.

Between federal financial aid and scholarship programs through the P&HCC Foundation, Underwood said 54 percent of currently enrolled Patrick County students are able to attend P&HCC free to the family.

“But we know there are more out there who would take advantage of that opportunity if they knew they could without that additional burden of having to pay the tuition, books, fees, and what may come with that. So, we’ve been working to raise funds, somewhat quietly a little bit in the beginning, through grants, individual donors, organizations,” she said.

So far, more than \$160,000 has been raised. However, Underwood said at least \$270,000 is needed to launch Patrick Promise for the first three years.

“All together, after we raise that \$270,000, we will need to continue to raise \$135,000 a year to continue that program until we have an endowment established that earns enough to pay for that,” she said.

While this information was shared with local business and community

leaders, Underwood said individual donations also are needed and appreciated.

Underwood also spoke about P&HCC’s programs, facilities, classes, and students.

### U.S. 58 Expansion

Branch Civil Project Executive Robbie Williams provided an update on the \$100 million 7.4 mile U.S. 58 expansion, with work expected to conclude by summer 2026. He noted ongoing challenges with traffic management and coordination at key intersections.

“Today, we started to switch the traffic from Trot Valley down to what many of you know as Karl Weiss’ house. We got about 75 acres of dirt moved (and) should have most of it moved by March, early spring. We will be hauling dirt through the winter, so they’ll be flagging going on,” he said.

Williams said the connection at Route 8 will be a challenge.

“You can see where the new road’s going now, 8’s going to come tee into it. If VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) insists, then we’ll place both box cords at Howell’s Store (Howell’s Grocery). So, we’re going to place box cords, maintain traffic, maintain storage. If we get around to leave those boxes in place they’re 1975 Persian boxes, they’re not too bad in shape that’ll make things a lot easier, but I don’t know if that’s going to fly or not,” he said.

Williams said the project’s target to be completed is May 2026.

“It will definitely be done in ’26. We’re targeting May,” but “it may be summer of ’26,” he said.

### STEP, Inc.

STEP, Inc. Program Director Kathleen McEvoy shared updates on services for children, seniors, and families, including free childcare programs and a new diaper bank launching in 2025. She highlighted the organization’s efforts to provide meals and transportation for seniors, with more than 28,000 meals delivered last year.

### Primland Resort

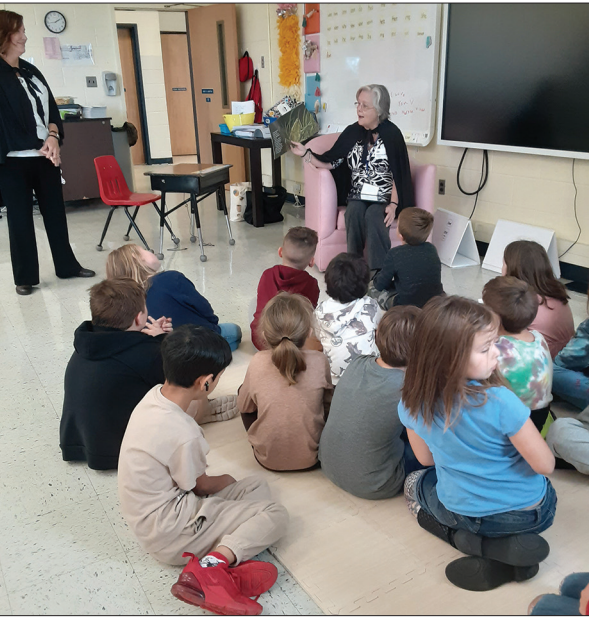
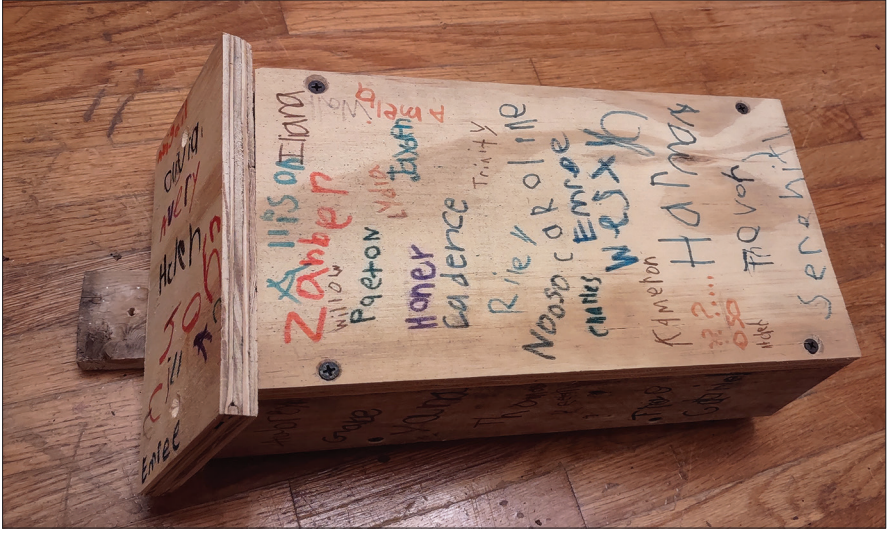
General Manager Will Rentschler announced plans for new amenities, including a ropes challenge course and expanded residential facilities. October marked one of the resort’s best months, with significant growth in tourism from the Northeast.

### Town of Stuart

Town Manager Bryce Simmons reported progress on several projects, including the \$1.7 million Downtown Revitalization Project and the town’s lead service line inventory, which revealed no lead pipes but identified galvanized lines requiring replacement.



# Bats are Beneficial Program held at Patrick Springs Primary School



A Bats are Beneficial Program was presented to students of Patty Mosketi, Morgan Norman, and Samantha Martin classes at Patrick Springs Primary School on Nov 15. The students learned about the benefits of bats in the environment and bat behavior. They also heard bat stories, made a bat craft and they all signed their names on a bat house that will be installed near the school. The program was led by Master Gardeners Revonda Gilbert, Jessica Hines, Deborah Foster, Carol Russo and Norma Bozenmayer.

# Solar Sale Scams

The sun might be shining on solar energy, but buyers beware – costly solar panel scams could leave you in the dark with massive loans and higher bills. Here’s what you need to know to stay in the light against this scam.

The sales pitch often starts with a solar salesperson knocking on the front door, calling on the phone, or connecting on social media, offering promises of lower energy bills, reduced emissions, and increased resale value. They’ll likely push a special deal – but only if you sign right away.

Be suspicious and don’t share sensitive personal information with anyone who calls, emails, or visits you out of the blue promoting a solar panel deal, and always read the fine print before signing any document. Know that the government does not have any program that installs solar panels on the houses of Americans for free. If you are interested in solar, research providers, get multiple estimates, and check for complaints and issues with installation companies by visiting the Better Business Bureau national business directory at [bbb.org/search](https://bbb.org/search).

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](https://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork).

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Patrick County Library 10:30AM to 12PM

**SES WINTER BLENDER**  
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**SATURDAY 2PM**  
For details: [www.patrickchamber.com](http://www.patrickchamber.com)



# Hike the Tobacco Heritage Trail with DRBA

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) invites you to hike the Tobacco Heritage Trail in South Boston, Virginia, on Saturday, December 7. The organization's First Saturday Outing will take advantage of the rail-to-trail with a 5.2-mile round trip walk between South Boston and the Berry Hill Resort.

Participants will meet at 10 a.m. at the Cotton Mill Park trailhead, 196 Railroad Avenue, South Boston, VA. The compacted crushed stone surface of the trail makes it an easy walk, and, like most rail trails, the path is relatively level.

**The History of the Trail**

DRBA enjoyed a preliminary walk on the rail bed back in 2008 before it was improved for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians.

The pathway is clearly marked with the trail's logo, a golden tobacco leaf in a red circle. The trail is part of a system planned ultimately to stretch 150 miles across Southern Virginia.

According to Tom McLaughlin of SoVaNow, the trail has "scenery that's more subtle than spectacular" and "exudes an aura of peace." A small clearing high on the river bank enables one to pause and contemplate the flowing waters of the Dan.

Closer to Berry Hill Resort is a duck impoundment habitat funded by the Game Commission and dedicated to the memory of the late Big-



Courtesy of DRBA

gie Hunt. Naturally, sightings of waterfowl are common here.

Construction of the trail was funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation along a former right of way of the Richmond Danville Spur Trail. At the old Halifax Cotton Mill, owned by the Town of South Boston, a botanical

garden is planned for what will be Cotton Mill Park, near the trailhead.

Tobacco Heritage Trail Coordinator Heather Sussee recently met with interested volunteers in South Boston to establish a Halifax County chapter of "Friends of the Tobacco Heritage Trail."

Participants in DRBA's outing are asked to bring lunch and water. Dress in layers of synthetic fabric or wool, wear hiking boots or walking shoes, and be prepared for wind or rain. If desired, bring a walking stick or poles. All participants are asked to sign a waiver.

**Directions**

To reach the trailhead from the south, take US 58/US 360 to South Boston. Turn north onto US 501 (Main Street). Continue onto Broad Street and cross the Dan River. Take the first left onto Factory Street. Take the second left onto Seymour Drive. Seymour Drive will cross, then parallel, the railroad. Turn right onto Railroad Drive into the parking lot near the trailhead.

From the north, take US 501 (Halifax Road) to South Boston. Continue onto Wilborn Avenue for 0.9 mile. Turn right onto Edmunds Street, and continue for 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Railroad Drive, and continue for 0.4 mile to the parking lot near the trailhead.

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