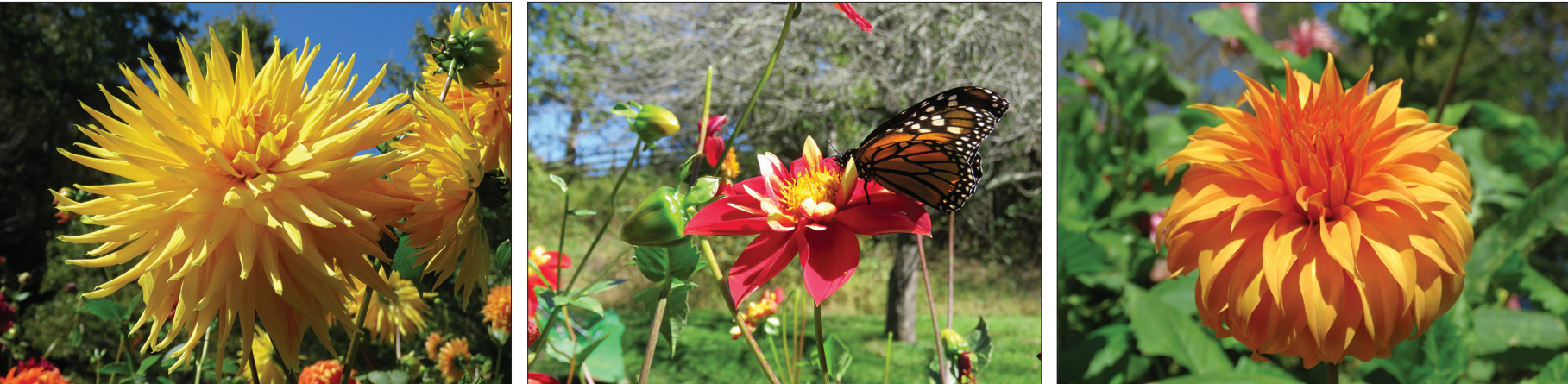


Meadowpoint Dahlias: A Story of History, Family, and Blossoming Beauty



Various scenes from Meadowpoint Dahlias.

By Joanne Hill
It is only fitting that a colorful bouquet of dahlias from Meadowpoint Dahlias adorned Mayberry Presbyterian Church recently for their Sunday morning service. Dahlias, symbolic of elegance, creativity, positivity, and growth, flourish in a delightful farm situated just a few miles

from Mayberry Church. The history of both the church and the farm is deeply intertwined. Mayberry Presbyterian Church is one of the rock churches built by Bob Childress, the inspiration for the book “The Man Who Moved a Mountain.” The dahlia farm is located in the yard of the former Charles Langhorne “Tump”

Spangler, the first representative from Patrick County to the Virginia House of Delegates, where he served for five years. The current owner of the farm, Debra Spangler Shelor, and her husband, Rob, are continuing the family legacy. Debra is the granddaughter of the elder Spangler. (See Meadowpoint Dahlias p. 2)



The Virginia Department of Transportation determined that a stoplight is not warranted at the intersection of U.S. 58 and Virginia 680 (Spring Road – right/South Mayo Drive-left) in Patrick Springs.

VDOT: Stoplight ‘Not Warranted’ for Patrick Springs Intersection

By Taylor Boyd
A recent analysis by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) concluded that a traffic signal is not warranted at the intersection of U.S. 58 and Virginia 680 (Spring Road/South Mayo Drive) in Patrick Springs. The decision, outlined in an April traffic engineering work order, was based on an evaluation of traffic volumes, turning movements, and crash data. Lisa Price-Hughes, VDOT’s resident engineer, explained the criteria used to determine the need for a traffic signal. “There are certain requirements for hourly volumes of traffic on the main line, which would be (U.S.) 58, traffic volume on the intersection, which would be Spring Road” and South Mayo Drive — “all four legs,” Price-Hughes said. The study reviewed traffic patterns during peak hours, which are between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. The highest volume of traffic was recorded from 4-5 p.m., with 640 vehicles traveling east and west on U.S. 58. Meanwhile, Virginia 680 experienced a peak of 117 vehicles from 10-11 a.m. The lowest volumes were 408 vehicles on U.S. 58 and 78 vehicles on Virginia 680, both recorded between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. The intersection is classified as a rural arterial for U.S. 58 and a rural major collector for Virginia 680. In 2022, U.S. 58’s average annual daily traffic (AADT) was 8,621 vehicles west of the intersection and 5,196 east of it. South Mayo Drive’s AADT was 461, while Spring Road

saw 3,513 vehicles per day. A radar speed sample found the 85th percentile speeds on U.S. 58 were 53 mph westbound and 52 mph eastbound. Crash data spanning 10 years, from August 2014 to April 2024, showed 15 crashes related to the intersection. Most involved a left-turn or crossing movements from Virginia 680. Eight of the crashes resulted in injuries. The average age of at-fault drivers was 60.3 years, with 66.7 percent exceeding that age. Three crashes occurred between October and December 2023, prompting renewed discussion about intersection safety. Before these incidents, the most recent crash occurred in December 2021. The report also stated the age of at fault drivers is a commonality, and Traffic Engineering recommended improvements in both the long-term and short-term “to address the issue of older drivers, and their ability to judge speed, distance, and gaps in traffic.” The report outlined short-term and long-term safety improvements. Short-term measures include:

- Installing transverse rumble strips in both directions on U.S. 58.
- Relocating and refreshing existing signage.
- Adding ground-mounted “Intersection Warning” signs with supplemental plaques.
- Replacing existing signs with updated versions.

(See VDOT p.3)

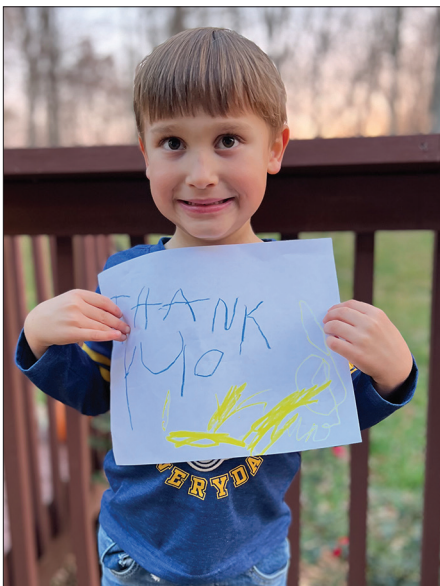
Patrick County Supervisors to elect new officers at January 6 meeting

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors is set to hold its reorganizational meeting on January 6 at 6 p.m. in the third-floor meeting room of the Patrick County Administration Building. During this session, the board will elect a new chairman and vice-chairman. Additionally, the board will consider adopting its Rules of Procedure and a proposed meeting schedule for the upcoming

year. In other business, the board will appoint members to various committees. The county attorney is also scheduled to discuss Conflict of Interest forms. The board will consider meeting in closed session, however, proposed items of discussion were not included on the draft agenda.

Fourth Grader Raises Over \$2,400 for Patrick County Animal Shelter

By Taylor Boyd
Noah Beasley, a local fourth-grade student at Woolwine Elementary School, raised over \$2,400 for the Patrick County Animal Shelter in November. Kirsten Beasley, Noah’s mother, said the GoFundMe fundraiser began as part of a new family tradition. “So, we were using the month of November as our give back month. He was given three options as give back projects, and the first option I gave him was you know we could raise money for the animals at the animal shelter. Immediately he knew he wanted to do that,” she said. Beasley said Noah is a huge animal lover who adores all creatures, even the ones she finds less appealing, such as “creepy crawlies, the earthworms, and the bugs.” The GoFundMe campaign raised \$2,410 from 60 donors. “We had friends and family, people from the county, people from other parts of the state. Actually, a couple of days ago people were still reaching out



Noah Beasley gives his thanks to those who donated during his November give back month for the Patrick County Animal Shelter. trying to donate, so I said, ‘just send your money directly to the animal shelter,’” she said. After the fundraiser concluded, Kirsten and Noah ordered several (See Fourth Grader p.3)

Ararat man charged after pursuit

An Ararat man has been charged in connection with a December 26 pursuit, according to Sheriff Dan Smith. Deputies had been investigating an incident that had occurred on Christmas Day, in which a man was suspected of assaulting his girlfriend, and allegedly made threats to shoot members of her family, Smith said, and added the man was a fugitive and had been wanted for several months on a felony probation violation capias issued by Patrick County Circuit Court. Patrick Sheriff’s Lt. Dustin Foley spotted the suspect vehicle on River Road shortly after 2 a.m. and attempted a traffic stop, at which time the vehicle failed to stop and a pursuit ensued. The chase covered many of the roads in Ararat and Willis Gap, with the driver of the suspect vehicle allegedly ramming Foley’s vehicle on Lovell Pond Road. The sheriff advised that Foley attempted unsuccessfully multiple Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuvers on the suspect vehicle. “At one point, Lieutenant Foley had gotten the suspect vehicle spun around from a PIT maneuver and had actually pushed it into a bank, but the suspect was able to spin out and the pursuit continued,” Smith said. Master Deputy Eric Sain became involved in the pursuit shortly afterwards and deployed spike strips at the intersection of Johnson Creek Road and Willis Gap Road. The suspect vehicle avoided the strips, and



James Aaron Briggs

the pursuit entered Surry County, N.C., at which time the Surry County Sheriff’s Office became involved and took over the pursuit. The pursuit ended when the suspect vehicle ran out of gas in a driveway in Mount Airy, N.C. James Aaron Briggs, 41, was taken into custody by N.C. authorities and charged with multiple offenses. “Two handguns and a large quantity of methamphetamine were found in the suspect’s vehicle,” Smith alleged. Foley charged Briggs with felony eluding a law enforcement officer, felony assault of a law enforcement officer, and assault and batter. Briggs is being held in jail in Surry County, N.C. without bond. “We are fortunate that Lieutenant Foley was not injured, and damage to his patrol vehicle was minimal due to his push bumper absorbing the damage,” Smith added.

Meadowpoint Dahlias

(cont. from page 1)



After retiring from thirty-one years of service with Tri-Area Community Health Clinic, Debra found more time to indulge in her passion for planting and growing dahlias. Her son, Aaron Shelor, soon discovered his own joy in flower gardening, planting a few dahlias at his house. Aaron, a Virginia Tech graduate and the manager of Meadowpoint Cattle Company, became so involved in growing dahlias that he explored online sales. The business quickly expanded, and they now grow and sell over 400 varieties of dahlia tubers, shipping them to all fifty states. However, running this small business requires significant effort. In spring, beds must be prepared, and the tubers, which were dug up in the fall, washed, meticulously sorted, labeled, and stored in the basement

in shoeboxes, must be replanted and tended throughout the summer. Dahlias begin blooming in June and continue until the first frost. During this period, they need to be fertilized, watered, weeded, staked, netted, protected from varmints, and deadheaded. While the Shelors generally do not sell cut blooms, they do provide flowers for special events on occasion. Selling tubers involves cataloging, packaging, mailing, and accounting. Marketing the tubers online with photos of each beautiful variety is crucial, with Aaron handling much of the computer work and Debra managing much of the outdoor labor. Discoveries can be found around every curve, and this fascinating dahlia farm is no exception. Located on Route 58 beside Quakerfield Creek, which happily hops over



Aaron Shelor with the reflection of the garden in his glasses.



Bouquet by Beth Ford.



For more information, visit their website at Meadowpoint-dahlias.square.site or their Facebook page, Meadowpoint Dahlias.

Secret Santa Winners announced



Ivan Byers at J&P Contractors

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce used funding from a generous donor (could be the man in the red suit) to operate the Secret



Karen Rorrer at Piedmont Community Services

Santa contest. The three winners of the annual Christmas Bonus Holiday Drawing received \$1,000. The winners are Ivan Byers with J&P



Rebecca Spence at Nancy's Candy

Contractors, Rebecca Spence at Nancy's Candy Company and Karen Rorrer at Piedmont Community Services. (Contributed photos)

Activities, offerings flourish for area seniors

Five Stuart High School graduates of the class of 1963 found that they were among the 56 seniors who recently enjoyed a day trip with the Patrick County Senior Citizens group to Wohlfahrt Haus to attend their annual Christmas musical.

The Seniors Group which meets each month on the second Thursday at Rotary Field is fortunate to take an occasional out-of-town bus trip under the leadership of Judy Lacks who is the chairman of the planning committee of the Seniors group. BR George Tours previously planned the trips, but Lacks has taken on the job as coordinator and tour guide in recent months. The group had the opportunity to go on an overnight trip to Elkins, WVA in the fall. Although the Seniors Group falls under the umbrella of the Patrick Co. Parks and Recreation Department, Lacks and the planning committee take care of all the details for the monthly meetings and road trips. At the monthly meetings, guests are usually invited to bring a food item for lunch and local groups provide entertainment. A donation box is available for those who wish to contribute financially, and Blue Ridge Therapy Connection and the Landmark are there each month to take blood pressure. They also provide one meal during the year along with

Reynolds Homestead. Participants enjoying the recent trip reserved their seats early and continued to get excited for the happy day to come when they would ride up the mountain on a chartered bus to attend the "Christmas in the Park" performance at the Wytheville dinner theatre. A delicious three course meal was served by the entertainers and then the fun began. There were tap dancers, line dancers, dancing Santas and sparkly costumes with 12 performers who were energetic, talented and provided us with a program that renewed our Christmas spirit. The second half of the show was dedicated to portraying the real reason for Christmas with a nativity performance and all the sacred Christmas carols to go along with the portrayals. Christmas scenery, lighting and sound added to the presentation of Christmas delightfulness. All Patrick Co. seniors and those from surrounding areas are invited to attend the monthly meetings and sign up for special outings. Notices are posted on WHEO and in The Enterprise.

Pets of the Week



This tri-color Beagle mix is a neutered male. He is ready for his new home now. This cute male Husky mix has waited too long for a home, and at a year old, has been waiting patiently for a new family. Please come and meet him. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259, or visit in person or its Facebook page to view other available pets. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and a rabies vaccination. The Patrick Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) provides financial assistance for Patrick residents to have their dogs spayed and neutered. Contact the groups at paws@swva.net or (276) 694-2378 for more information.

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VDOT

(cont. from page 1)

For long-term safety, VDOT suggested exploring alternative intersection designs, such as roundabouts or restricted movement options. The agency emphasized the importance of community support for such projects.

“It should be noted community support is vital to the success of an alternative intersection design,” the report stated.

VDOT encouraged the county to consider applying for funding through programs like SmartScale or the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Price-Hughes noted the county’s past success with SmartScale projects, including improvements at Archie’s Creek on Virginia 103 and Ashby Drive on Virginia 8.

“We’ve been through six rounds of SmartScale already. The 2026 round will be round seven, and that’s what a project like (U.S.) 58 and 680 would be eligible for should the county choose to apply,” she said.

VDOT assists localities with SmartScale applications by providing sketches and cost estimates, but the application process remains the locality’s responsibility, “but we heavily assist in developing the application,” she said.



Overhead flashing beacons were added to the intersection of U.S. 58/Virginia 680 in 2017. The beacons were designed to enhance visibility.

VDOT has studied this intersection multiple times. In 2003 and 2004, traffic engineering reports concluded that a signal was not warranted, though recommendations included installing flashing beacons. Overhead flashing beacons were added in 2017 to enhance visibility.

VDOT’s current approach prioritizes innovative intersection designs over traditional stop-



lights, Price-Hughes said.

“We are moving away from stoplights and more towards innovative intersections like roundabouts, offset intersections, and restricted movement,” she said. “We have to investigate any kind of alternatives before we even consider a signal. That’s where we are in the process right now.”

Fourth Grader

(cont. from page 1)

items for the shelter from Amazon. “He picked a few things out, and then I ended up writing a check for the shelter for the rest. We didn’t want to spend all the money; we wanted to give them the money so they could address any future needs,” Beasley said. The items purchased included dog food, cat food, toys, treats, blankets, and cat litter.

Beasley believes that taking Noah to the shelter and immersing him in the experience had a profound impact on him. “I mean, you can talk about it with a fourth grader, but they don’t really understand until they’re actually there doing it. He was really excited, and after that he was telling everyone about it. He was like, ‘I’m raising money for the dogs and the cats,’” she said with a laugh.

Kirsten plans to continue this new family tradition by offering Noah

three choices for their give back month next year, with the shelter being one of them. “It was honestly just a really fun thing to do, and for a fourth grader to learn how to give back to his community and make an impact, it was just really good for the whole family to see that,” she said.

The shelter staff were appreciative of Noah’s efforts. “They were so thankful for all that he’s already done,” Kirsten said.

Beasley also expressed her gratitude to everyone who donated. “It really just made a huge difference in a small county where we don’t always get the most resources or funding, so it was just really incredible,” she said.

Those wishing to donate to the shelter can make checks payable to the Patrick County Animal Shelter and mail them to P.O. Box 466, Stuart, VA 24171.



Noah Beasley raised over \$2,400 for the Patrick County Animal Shelter.

Blattner named Physician of the Year

As an OBGYN, Dr. Blattner is a name that resonates deeply within our community, and his dedication to providing exceptional care is truly commendable. His commitment extends beyond just medical expertise, he is a constant, reliable presence for those who need it most. His generosity of spirit and wealth of knowledge make him a vital resource for both his patients and colleagues.

Dr. Blattner is also dedicated to sharing his knowledge with the next generation of healthcare professionals. He enjoys mentoring medical students from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) during their clinical rotations, as well as Physician Assistant students from Emory & Henry University. His passion for teaching and his love

for his work is truly evident, and his commitment to shaping future medical professionals does not go unnoticed.

Board-certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology since 1986, Dr. Blattner’s dedication to his field is unwavering, as evidenced by his voluntary recertification. He has provided a wide range of healthcare services, with a special focus on preventive care such as pap smears, contraception, hormone replacement therapy, and sexual health. His expertise also extends to managing sexual pain disorders and performing invasive gynecological surgeries.

Dr. Blattner is particularly skilled in guiding women through both low-risk and complicated pregnancies, including those affected by preeclampsia, diabetes, and other conditions.

Alongside his dedicated team, he offers prenatal care, ultrasounds, diagnostic testing, labor and delivery services at Twin County Regional Hospital, and postpartum care.

In addition to serving the Twin County area, Dr. Blattner works at high-acuity hospitals in Florida and Northern Virginia and holds licenses in North Carolina, Florida, and Virginia. His passion for women’s health is evident in everything he does, striving to achieve the highest quality care for his community.

We are beyond fortunate to have Dr. Blattner as part of our Twin County family. His impact on the lives of those he serves is immeasurable, and we are deeply grateful for his continued dedication.”



Local events among those to gain funding boost

Events in Patrick County and Martinsville to receive a portion of more than \$812,139 in matching grant funds awarded to 81 special events and festivals as part of the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC)’s Special Events & Festivals Sponsorship Program (SEF), Gov. Glenn Youngkin said in a release.

Local events include:

- Stuart Rotary Club (SRC) Productions were awarded \$5,000 for a total match of \$26,382 for the Beach Music Festival, slated to be held June 12-14.
- One Family Productions received \$5,000 for a total match of \$39,050 for the Front Porch Fest, set for August 28-31.
- Rooster Walk Inc. was awarded \$10,000 for a total match of \$41,880 for Rooster Walk Music & Arts Festival, set for May 22-25.

This funding program is designed to leverage local marketing and event production dollars with matching state funds to increase overnight visitation, improve the visitor experience, and increase traveler spending at Virginia special events and festivals. This funding cycle, local partners will commit more than \$4.8 million in

private-public sector funds to match the VTC funding, providing more than \$5.62 million in new marketing and event production activity focused on increasing overnight visitation to Virginia in 2025. The funding will be awarded to 81 special events and festivals, ultimately impacting 324 combined partners.

“Special events and festivals are vital to Virginia’s thriving visitor economy, supporting our musicians, artisans, hotels, and restaurants. This year’s grant recipients have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to growing their event footprint, increasing visitation, and enhancing the visitor experience in 2025,” said Youngkin. “By leveraging these funds, we aim to attract even more visitors, showcase the unique charm of our communities, and reinforce Virginia’s reputation as a premier destination for memorable events and festivals.”

The VTC Special Events & Festivals Sponsorship Program is designed to increase visitor spending by leveraging limited marketing and event production dollars to stimulate overnight visitation through new tourism marketing and event expansion partnerships. The

program also extends the Virginia is for Lovers brand to drive special events and festival visitation. Each Go Virginia region is limited to 20 percent of available funds creating a matrix of sponsored special events and festivals statewide.

Using the hub and spoke tourism model to create multi-day itineraries, four Virginia entities partner financially to apply for funding. Partners may consist of Virginia cities, towns, counties, destination marketing organizations, restaurants, museums, attractions, and other tourism-related businesses. With the special event or festival as the main lure, the program is designed to encourage visitors to extend their stay to experience Virginia Main Streets, boutique shopping, unique restaurants, and historic sites creating significant economic impact driven by the special event or festival.

The VTC will have additional grant and sponsorship rounds opening throughout 2025. Organizations and businesses that are interested in applying may visit vatc.org/grants for more information.

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Mountain Valley, a local hospice and palliative care organization, received a \$25,000 grant awarded by the Hospice Fund of the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia. The funds will directly support hospice care for residents of Patrick and Henry counties and the City of Martinsville.

This latest grant brings the Foundation's lifetime support for Mountain Valley to more than \$110,000 during their six-year partnership with the foundation, reflecting a shared commitment to compassionate end-of-life care.

"The Foundation's ongoing generosity enables us to serve our Virginia communities with dignity and excellence, ensuring families receive vital care when they need it most," said Tracey Dobson, president and

CEO of Mountain Valley.

"Mountain Valley never turns anyone away due to their inability to pay. Grants like this one help us sustain our mission," said Leigh Anne Groves, senior VP of philanthropy. "This contribution will fund charity hospice care and services for patients in need, which, on average, amounts to over \$400,000 a year."

Mountain Valley's services include specialized hospice care, serious illness (palliative) care, grief support, pediatric hospice care and grief support for kids and teens, Alzheimer's and dementia care, and Veteran-centered programs. The organization focuses on support for the entire family, with a mission to create the best experience possible for every patient, every family, every time.

Virginia's child welfare

Virginia's child welfare system grapples with a surge of unfounded reports that critics say stem from overly broad mandatory reporting laws, disrupting families and straining resources.

More than 1,000 of more than 90,000 annual reports to Child Protective Services are found to be valid, said Valerie L'Herrou, deputy director of the Virginia Poverty Law Center's Center for Family Advocacy. She explained that some parents are forced into impossible choices because of poverty, and can face neglect accusations even though their actions stem from economic necessity, not intentional disregard for their children's well-being.

“And that’s when the nosy neighbor picks up the phone and calls CPS,” she said, “and so these are the kinds of things: a family’s water gets turned off because they can’t afford to pay their water bill and so kids show up to school unattended, and the teacher calls CPS.”

L'Herrou said agencies such as the Virginia Department of Social Services are now classifying some situations as "Poverty Adjacent Neglect," acknowledging that families often lack the resources they need. She advocated for solutions

that address these root causes, including raising the minimum wage, strengthening programs such as SNAP and TANF, and expanding access to affordable child care.

Mandatory reporting laws have also created a dilemma for teachers, doctors and other professionals. Anna Daniszewski, a staff attorney for family defense at the VPLC, emphasized that people often fail to recognize the enduring and traumatic consequences of a false report to Child Protective Services.

“There’s still harm in a call that leads to an assessment or inquiry or investigation that turns out to be unfounded,” she said. “Depending on if the report is about a bruise on an arm, a child might be strip-searched, and that’s obviously traumatic, or even just the experience of having CPS knock on your door.”

Advocates have said one solution would be using family resource centers to allow parents to ask for help without the fear of involving CPS. They also want better training for mandatory reporters.

Teachers are the top reporters of neglect and abuse, and groups such as the American Federation of Teachers now support an approach known as “mandated support,” giving them a broader range of options beyond mandatory reporting.

A Patrick Springs man was charged with breaking and entering in connection with a Friday incident, according to Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith.

Around 5:50 a.m., the 911 Communications Center received a call from an elderly woman on Martin Farm Road who advised that someone had made entry into her home. Sheriff's Lt. Dustin Foley arrived at the residence a few minutes later and allegedly found a man, later identified as Richard Lee Byrd, lying on the living room floor.

Foley took Byrd into custody immediately, Smith said, and alleged the man entered the home owner's bedroom prior to being found in the living room.

Byrd is also charged with destruction of property.

"Due to the suspect's behavior, and as the result of investigative findings," Smith alleged the man

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of January 6-11:		1/9 1/10	7pm Boys Basketball at Radford 7pm Girls Basketball at Floyd County TBA Indoor Track Meet at Roanoke College
/6	6pm Girls Basketball at Glenvar		
/7	7pm Boys Basketball vs Glenvar		TBA Wrestling Tournament at Virg
/8	6pm Wrestling Match at Radford High School	1/11	inia High (Bristol) TBA Wrestling Tournament at Vir
	7pm Girls Basketball at Radford		ginia High (Bristol)

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) and Friends of Southwest Virginia, in partnership with local organizations like the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), Patrick County Economic Development, and Henry County Parks & Recreation, are

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) and Friends of Southwest Virginia, in partnership with local organizations like the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), Patrick County Economic Development, and Henry County Parks & Recreation, are launching the Foothills of the Blue Ridge Outdoor Recreation Planning Project as part of the larger Gateways to Southwest Virginia: Outdoor Economy Recreation Plan. Access the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HTLP6DX>

Input also is being sought on the master plan for the Mayo River State Park, a newly acquired Virginia State Park in southwestern Henry County along the Virginia-North Carolina border. The commonwealth has acquired a total

of 637 acres of land between the North Mayo River and the South Mayo River, converging just south of the state line in North Carolina. The Virginia State Park will complement the North Carolina Mayo River State Park, which continues 16 miles further downstream.

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is directing the preparation of a master plan for this new state park. The purpose of this master plan is to guide the management and development of the park by identifying natural, cultural, and physical resources, as well as to identify park needs and engage with the public. To provide input, visit <https://may-orsiverspmasterplanva.com/>

Applications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's \$2 billion Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops program are due Jan. 8.

Applications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's \$2 billion Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops program are due Jan. 8.

The program provides financial assistance to help specialty crop farmers expand markets and manage higher costs. The program focuses on producers of commercially marketed specialty crops including fruits (fresh and dried); vegetables (including dry edible beans and peas, mushrooms and vegetable seed); tree nuts; nursery crops, Christmas trees and floriculture; culinary and medicinal herbs and spices; and honey, hops, maple sap, tea, turfgrass and grass seed.

“Specialty crop farmers don’t have access to risk management tools typically available for row crop producers,” noted Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. “MASC is intended to provide

financial assistance to help specialty crop farmers manage increased marketing costs and expand existing markets or establish new ones.” He added that MASC payments

can help farmers pay for specialized handling and transport equipment with temperature and humidity control; damage-preventing packaging; and high labor costs. “However, the program doesn’t require funds to be directed toward marketing-specific activities, allowing specialty crop farmers flexibility to use the financial assistance as needed,” Banks explained.

To be eligible for the MASC program, producers must be in business at the time of application. They also must maintain an ownership share of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in 2025.

FSA will issue MASC payments after the end of the application period. For details, visit MASC Program or contact your local FSA office.

School will soon be in session for individuals who want to learn the ins and outs of soil science and farm nutrient management plans. case study. Participants will complete hands-on exercises using soils, soil tests, crop yields and manure analysis to learn all the com-

School will soon be in session for individuals who want to learn the ins and outs of soil science and farm nutrient management plans.

This January, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Nutrient Management Program will offer a two-part agriculture nutrient management training school. Those interested in learning about developing and implementing agricultural nutrient management plans, or how to become a certified nutrient management plan writer, are invited to register.

During the first session Jan. 9 and 10, Virginia Tech faculty will educate attendees about soil science, soil fertility and crop production. Considered a mini-agronomy course, the lecture series aims to help students understand how nutrients react and interact when applied to soil.

This virtual two-day soils and crop lesson will be held through Microsoft Teams.

The second session will take place Jan. 14-16 and will cover nutrient management plan writing using a

case study. Participants will complete hands-on exercises using soils, soil tests, crop yields and manure analysis to learn all the components of a nutrient management plan.

The three-day training will be held in person at Brightpoint Community College in Chesterfield County.

Nutrient management plans are vital to famers' operations as they consider how best to apply inputs to their crops and forages. Nutrient management plans determine rates for applying manure, fertilizers, biosolids and other soil amendments to maximize yields while minimizing nutrient loss to ground and surface waters. Application rates are determined by a process using yield records or soil productivity when yield records are not available.

The training courses will run from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. each day. The sessions are \$150 each, and the deadline to register is Dec. 30. Visit dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmtrain for more information and to register.

Crossing the Lines

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

Oasis Wellness Escape Ushers in Spa Innovations

Oasis Wellness Escape, a new spa in Martinsville, aims to offer residents relaxation and holistic health options that were previously only available with long commutes. The facility, owned by husband-and-wife team Ginger and Randy Epling, features a sensory deprivation tank, a salt cave, and an infrared sauna, with plans to expand offerings in the future.

The couple's journey into wellness began with a personal experience. "I worked real hard in an innovative and holistic sense to come up with a plan to help him," Ginger said, referencing their son's autoimmune reaction at age eight.

The experience led Ginger to a career as an integrative nurse practitioner, and now, she and Randy are bringing that passion to Martinsville. "We are bringing businesses in this area that are needed, and it's bringing awareness to people to help optimize their own health," Gin-



The salt cave at Oasis Wellness Escape will accommodate multiple clients.

ger said.

The spa's name, Oasis Wellness Escape, reflects the couple's vision for the facility. "This is the start of my vision, this is the start of my dream, I think it's off to a really good start," Ginger said. The couple, admitting the name might be "cheesy," emphasized its alignment with their goal of creating a tranquil and rejuvenating space for the community.

The Eplings are also looking ahead to future additions, including advanced red light therapy and a cold plunge tank.

Oasis Wellness Escape is located at 2559 Greensboro Road, Martinsville. The spa is set to begin accepting appointments in the coming weeks, with an easy-to-use online booking system currently in development.

City Council faces renewed tensions amid leadership clash



LC Jones and Aaron Rawls when the two sought a post on Martinsville City Council.

Discord resurfaced during a contentious Martinsville City Council meeting in December, as Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls raised concerns about the council's direction, reigniting grievances tied to both recent developments and long-standing issues. Rawls' remarks provoked sharp responses from other council members, notably incoming member Rayshaun Gravely, who publicly called for Rawls to step down.

"It's time out for playing the blame game, disrespecting others, running your own agenda, and trying to have it your way all the time," Gravely wrote in a social media post. He added, "Council members ... are for the community. Stop crying because you are not getting your way. You have nothing good to say about council or the citizens because it did not work in your favor to were (sic) you would be able to control everything. So long bye bye."

Mayor LC Jones also expressed concern about the tone of council discussions and pledged to restore professionalism to the governing body. "I am dedicated to restoring professionalism to our city council meetings. Disparaging and unprofessional comments from council members will not be tolerated. If any council members wish to perpetuate negativity that detracts from the dignity of our city, they can do so privately rather than at the ex-

pense of our citizens.

"The majority of this council stands firmly with the majority of Martinsville's residents, and together, we can propel our city toward a brighter future," he added.

Despite the tensions, Jones highlighted significant achievements of the past year, including many successful firsts.

"2024 has been notably eventful, characterized by a challenging election season that has garnered considerable attention," Jones said, and added that even with several challenges, the community has "experienced numerous significant achievements worth celebrating," including community events like the Black History Expo, the Cinco De Mayo Festival, and the Food Truck Rodeo, "alongside the establishment of various new businesses and restaurants.

"Furthermore, 2024 has served as a period of revelation, exposing specific individuals' true motivations and political agendas. Nonetheless, the most recent election result reflects that the citizens of Martinsville are committed to pursuing positive growth and meaningful change," Jones said.

As the council looks ahead to the new year, members are setting goals for the city's progress, despite lingering tensions that could shape its future dynamics.



Runners line up for a before-run picture in December. (Contributed)

Uptown Pub Run promotes year-round fitness

The Uptown Pub Run is a running event that occurs in Uptown Martinsville every Monday. The event is sponsored by the Martinsville Henry County YMCA and Renewal Brewing. The ultimate goal is to promote year-round fitness in the community.

The weekly event is coordinated by Brian Hurd, who starting in 2025 will be helping with the Miles in Martinsville races. The run has been going for about 24 weeks and has picked up since the team partnered up with the YMCA.

"The most we've ever had is 45, the least we've ever had is 15," said Hurd. Hurd said the run averages in the 20s with runners. There have been less participants since the weather got colder, but the running club intends to keep meeting through the winter months.

"The crowd for the pub runs kind of different from the people who do the races, there are a few here who sign up for the races and are competitive." The Pub Run is a laid-back experience where runners can come out to walk and run through Uptown.

People are able to socialize during and after the run at Renewal Brewing. Hurd said that a couple from Florida moved to the area, and he believed that running helped the couple connect.

Hurd emphasized that just because the run starts and ends at a brewery, runners don't need to drink to enjoy the event. "I come down here and drink water and talk. Hurd also said that you don't have to come to the brewery, and families with kids are welcome to run the route.

Ridgeway Bee City

The Town of Ridgeway has met the standards to become a Certified Affiliate of Bee City USA.

Mayor Craig O'Der said he was notified Ridgeway had completed all the inspections to become a Bee City in early November.

"We're very happy. We've been working on this for a couple of years developing some pollinator gardens, and it felt like this was the time to go ahead and apply and see if we met the standards to be a Bee City. They felt that we had done a good job on" it and "we met all the prerequisites to become a Bee City, and so we're very excited about that," he said.

O'Der anticipates Ridgeway will hold an event in the future to officially announce and celebrate this achievement.

"Where we can invite the public out, sometime after the holidays, because right now everything is full on" with holiday events, he said.

To meet Bee City USA's standards, O'Der said four pollinator gardens were



BEE CITY USA
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

Photo: Xerces Society/
Katie Lamke

created throughout Ridgeway.

"What we did was we developed them on the VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) right of way. It wasn't being used; it was just right-of-way use that the state had. I had reached out to VDOT and told them this is what we wanted to do, and the local Resident Engineer" Lisa Price-Hughes "blessed it," he said.

While he knows one of the pollinator gardens is on Ridgeway Town property, O'Der thinks two -of the others are on VDOT rights-of-way.

O'Der said Ridgeway went after the Bee City USA design-

nation to continue its mission of making the town a great place to live for its residents.


To further this goal, he added Ridgeway plans to go after getting a Tree City designation next.

Bee City USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a Portland based non-profit organization that has offices across the United States.

An event will be scheduled this spring to celebrate the Town of Ridgeway's recognition as a Bee City USA affiliate.

For more information on Bee City USA, visit www.beecityusa.org.

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



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Angels We Have Heard on High

Pastor Wayne Moore

High Point Baptist Church

The Christmas hymn, “Angels We Have Heard on High,” originated in France during the 1700s. The title was “Angels in Our Countryside.” The version we are familiar with was published in 1862. The information in this paragraph came from Robert J. Morgan, Come Let Us Adore Him: Stories Behind the Most Cherished Christmas Hymns. In the first verse, the shepherds proclaim that they have heard goods news from angels on high. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains: And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. In verse two, their audience asks what good news they’ve heard. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What [the] gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song? In the last two verses, the shepherds invite us to come and see, and join them and the angels in praising God.

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. See Him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise. Logos Hymnal (1st edition.). (1995). Logos Research Systems, Inc. The refrain at the end of each verse is in Latin. Gloria in excelsis Deo means glory to God in the highest. These words are a direct quote from the angels in Scripture. (See Luke 2:14, NKJV)

The night the angels visited the shepherds probably started out like almost every night. “Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.” (Luke 2:8) The shepherds would have divided the night into watches and took turns staying awake and vigilant. Most nights would pass quietly and peacefully. The greatest excitement would be confronting a wild animal or a thief. What happened on this night was the most exciting thing any shepherd has ever experienced. “And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.’” (Luke 2:9–10) The angel said what angels must always say to humans when they appear to them, “Fear not.” Then he announced that he had good news. What news could be so good the it would bring great joy to the shepherds and to all peo-

ple?

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11) This was good tidings of great joy indeed! Generations of Israelites had passed away without their hopes of seeing a descendant of David save them from their enemies and restore the kingdom. But now the shepherds were chosen to receive the first announcement that Christ had come in their generation. The angel referred to the baby with three titles: Savior, Christ, and the Lord. The first two titles fit Israel’s expectation of a man who would save them from their enemies and restore the kingdom of David. The last title, though, equated him with God. The angel had just referred to God as Lord in verse nine. Now, he says the baby is the Lord. The shepherds were further surprised to learn of the baby’s physical circumstances.

“And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:12) The shepherds were already amazed that the prophecy of the Christ was fulfilled in their generation, and that they, of all people, were the first to be told, but now they learn that he was born into poverty. But before they could make sense of it all, the skies exploded with angelic activity.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’” (Luke 2:13–14) The angels praised God and pronounced a blessing on mankind. Then, as suddenly as they appeared, they were gone.

“So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.” (Luke 2:15–18)

The angels and the shepherds worshiped the baby Jesus; we should too. Except He is no longer a baby. He grew to be a man. He died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins. He ascended into heaven and intercedes for us at the right hand of God the Father. One day, He is coming back to rule and reign on the earth. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to men!

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. For possible new year’s resolutions, Proverbs 16:3 (KJV) says, “Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be ____.” Resolved, Established, Directed, Bountiful
2. Likewise, Psalm 37:5 (KJV) instructs us to, “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to ____.” Nurture, Pass, Action, Light
3. From which book’s 29:11 does the Lord declare plans to prosper you, thoughts of peace to give you hope and a future? Leviticus, Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah
4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 are among the verses to focus on what in a new year? Blessings, Moving forward, Grace, Church attendance
5. In which month of the religious calendar did the new year begin in the Bible? 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th
6. From James 1:5, what may one lack, and if they ask God, it shall be given? Love, Wisdom, Truth, Goals

ANSWERS: 1) Established, 2) Pass, 3) Jeremiah, 4) Moving forward, 5) 7th, 6) Wisdom
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- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Biblical boat of refuge | 1 Riddle's answer |
| 9 1971 Best Actor winner Gene | 116 Fall lawn tool |
| 16 Sewing line | 117 Interweaves of joy |
| 20 Classroom instructor, in Aussie lingo | 118 St. Patrick's Day bar order |
| 21 Long South American river | 119 Went quickly |
| 22 Toothpaste container | 120 Store full of playthings |
| 23 Start of a riddle | 121 One of the men waiting for Godot |
| 25 Said aloud | 1 Australian state whose capital is Sydney: Abbr. |
| 26 Sleekly designed | 2 Scottish interjection of surprise |
| 27 Muscles to crunch | 3 "Eureka!" |
| 28 Persona non — | 4 Scorching |
| 29 Riddle, part 2 | 5 Lawn turf |
| 37 Special multi-book packages | 6 Red Sox and Orioles' div. |
| 38 Cyberauction site | 7 Construction bolts |
| 39 Botching, with "up" | 8 Actress Knightley |
| 40 Travis of country music | 9 Tilling tool |
| 41 Thick slice | 10 "— longa, vita brevis" |
| 43 Stare | 11 Buzzy insect |
| 44 Go gray, say | 12 Having rounded protrusions |
| 45 Riddle, part 3 | 13 Timid |
| 51 Hall-of-Fame Giant Mel | 14 Often-injured knee part, for short |
| 52 Debt slips | |
| 53 "Exodus" novelist Leon | 15 Start to doze |
| 54 Toe the line | 16 Birds bringing bundles |
| 58 Actress Liu | 17 Russia locale |
| 60 Angelina of Hollywood | 18 Easing off |
| 62 Spiny lizard | 19 Hodgepodge |
| 64 Riddle, part 4 | 24 Sanders' title: Abbr. |
| 70 Third-place medal metal | 28 Sticks with pasty stuff |
| 71 24 in a day | 29 "— Subsequent Moviefilm" (2020 sequel) |
| 72 Vid shooters | 30 Have life |
| 73 Ship out, e.g. | 31 Narrow land strip: Abbr. |
| 74 Menageries | 32 — pot (sinus-clearing apparatus) |
| 75 Eerie sign | 33 Not fatty |
| 77 Celtics' org. | 34 Eases off |
| 80 Riddle, part 5 | 35 Union Jack and Old Glory |
| 87 Innuendo queen West | 36 Exude slowly |
| 90 Not common | 37 Vitamin |
| 91 Sgt. and cpl. | also called riboflavin |
| 92 "Serpico" director Sidney | 41 "Disco" guy on "The Simpsons" |
| 93 Herb in pasta sauce | 42 — Angeles |
| 95 Cruising | 43 "Peer Gynt" composer Edvard |
| 97 Egg hunt holidays | 46 Particular specialty |
| 99 End of the riddle | 47 Maja painter Francisco |
| 103 Oscar-winning Berry | |
| 104 Prefix with angle or color | |
| 105 Compel | |
| 106 "— and the Detectives" (old Disney film) | |

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LEGAL

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Case No. CL24000628-00
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Patrick Circuit Court, 101 West Blue Ridge Street/PO Box 148, Stuart, VA 24171
SAMRUAY KHOONIN HOWELL v. MICHAEL CALVIN HOWELL
The object of this suit is to:
PROVIDE PROPER SERVICE TO DEFENDANT WITH UNKNOWN ADDRESS
It is ORDERED that MICHAEL CALVIN HOWELL appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before January 1, 2025.
NOVEMBER 19, 2024

My Barth
Clerk

LEGAL

Request for Proposals
for
Professional Services

The Town of Stuart, Virginia is in need of professional engineering and/or architecture services for design, construction administration and resident inspection of the Stuart Downtown Revitalization Project. The project is being financed with Virginia Community Development Block Grant funds, Appalachian Regional Commission funds, and local funds.

Firms interested in receiving a copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP) may contact: Bryce M. Simmons, Town of Stuart, 100 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 422, Stuart, VA 24171, (276) 694-3811, information@stuartva.org. Deadline for submittal of proposals is Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Stuart Town Office (100 Patrick Ave., Stuart, VA).

Minority and/or female owned businesses or firms and Section 3 businesses or firms are encouraged to apply. The Town of Stuart, VA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LEGAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
)
LEE T. CONNELLY,)
PLAINTIFF,) SUMMONS AND NOTICE
)
vs.)
MARK E. HANCOCK) DOCKET NO.:
DEFENDANT.) No. 2024-DR-40-1768
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT MARK E. HANCOCK:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer on the Plaintiff's Attorney at his office, 1720 Main Street, Suite 301, Columbia, SC 29201, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief sought in said Complaint.
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the original Complaint was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Richland County, South Carolina, on June 13, 2024.
ATTORNEY: Larry C. Marchant Jr., Attorney for Plaintiff Columbia, South Carolina

Meeting and event information is due no later than 5 p.m. Friday of the week before publication is requested. Items are included as space allows. Email to dhall@theenterprise.net.

Meetings

- Monday, Jan. 6**

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold its reorganizational meeting at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building.
- Thursday, Jan. 9**

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

- Wednesday, Jan.15**

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

Events

- Friday, Jan. 3**

The community food truck will be at the Woolwine SRRS building from 3-4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 4**

Jeb Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad will have a community breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. at its building. Plates are \$8 and dine in, carry out, and curb service options are available. Orders can be placed by calling (276) 694-6171.
- Thursday, Jan. 9**

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its January monthly meeting at 11 a.m. in

the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by The Senior Melodies. A variety of soups, crackers, and beverages will be provided for lunch. Attendees are requested to bring sandwiches and desserts to share with the group.

Ongoing

- The Patrick County Patriots Turkey Shoot will be held Saturdays in January, and Saturday, February 1 and 8 at the Smith River Wildlife Club. Practice rounds start at 12:30 p.m. Shoot starts at 1 p.m. Rules are factory chokes only, no sleeves or re-chokes, and no modified gun barrels. Food will be available for purchase.
- The Coffee Break Café hosts live music on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring an instrument, or just come and listen.
- The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at the Alzheimer's office at 109 Buena Vista Ave in Stuart. New members or volunteers are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.
- The Patrick County Quilters' Sit-N-Sew is held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Quilted Colors. For more information, call 276-694-3020 or email patrickcountyquilters@gmail.com.
- The Ararat Ruritan Club holds Rook games every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m.
- The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor

Guard meets the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105 at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

- Free Community Meal, every 4th Wednesday, 5 p.m., Raven Rock Wesleyan Church, 1912 Raven Rock Road, Ararat. Take out or dine in. Call Scott or Nann Phillips at (276) 773-6004 or email pastor@ravenrockchurch.org.
- Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Honey Pot, 106 N. Main St., Stuart (across from The Coffee Break). Call (276) 694-2356 for more information.
- The Carroll County Genealogy Club is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- The Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food. The music and dancing are 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food, music and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m.
- Connect Health+ Wellness offers free confidential Medicaid/FAMIS application and renewal assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Medicaid renewals have resumed. Medicaid members need to keep their mailing address and contact information up to date. Connect Health + Wellness' specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate can provide more information. Call or text Ann Walker, (276) 732-0509, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hill enjoys rare event while traveling

Mary Dellenback Hill is checking out tourism in other areas while on a voyage aboard Holland America's Volendam Ship. Hill has been traveling since November 9 on a 42-day Legendary Voyage in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

On Monday, December 16, the Volendam headed back toward Fort Lauderdale, Florida, when a rare phenomenon, known as a Lunar or Moon Rain Bow, was sighted by the Navigation crew. The event occurs at night when moonlight illuminates falling water droplets in the atmosphere. The navigation crew took photos, and the captain was summoned. In his update meeting on December 17, the captain related that during his 25 years of sailing, he had not seen a Moon Rainbow.



This photo was taken off the bow during the daytime.



This photo was taken on the night of the Moon Rainbow by the navigation crew. It was sent to Photoshop at the request of Capt. Adams to bring out more of the colors.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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WHEO



92.7 FM

Classic Hits

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"Small Town Station with a BIG Town Sound"

League provides meals for shelter pets



Pictured from left to right are Candy Elliott, LeeAnn Seeley, Dana Jones, Debbie Sayre, Lynn Chipkin & Amber Rakes. Those who prepared meals but were unable to attend and are not pictured are Karen Cowdrey, Shawn Jones, Samantha Compton, and Stephanie Sayre.



Food bowls filled with holiday staples for pets in the Patrick County Animal Shelter.

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A sample of the food collected for the event.

Everyone deserves a special meal for the holidays, and what better way to show shelter pets they are loved than treating them to a turkey dinner for Christmas? Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League volunteers brought bowls of food to eleven dogs and six cats housed in the Patrick County Animal Shelter, who will be spending the holiday at the shelter. Volunteers hoped to brighten their day with some turkey, rice & pumpkin, and lots of love. Hundreds of pounds of pet food were also donated by the organization. Special thanks to Stuart and Cindy Hampton at the Patrick Co. Food Bank for their donation to the event, as well as Wanda Vaden and Vickie Martin Bowles for their year-round dedication to the shelter cats and dogs. Please consider giving these wonderful pets a forever home. Be a life saver!

Membership meeting of local Farm Bureau deemed a success

By Sandra Heath

Patrick County Farm Bureau held its annual membership dinner and meeting in the Community Room at the Patrick Henry Community College site in Stuart. Patrick County Farm Bureau President Jonathan Wood gave the report of the county president, where he recognized and thanked board members and county office staff for their time and dedication during the past year. Achievements aided by member support and the county board were noted. Such achievements include purchasing, reading, and donating books to each school and library in Patrick County in support of Ag Literacy Week and Ag in the Classroom. Facilitating and funding a tour of

Virginia State University for Patrick County Farmers and donating money for the Patrick County Livestock Show. Guest speakers at the meeting were Mark Dawson, Field Service Director; Bob Burnette, Agent; and Board members Sandra Heath, Christian Taylor and Thomas Slate. Resolutions were presented and approved by farm bureau member attendees. Mr. Burnette also thanked Sadie Perry for her role and service in the office as the new Member Service Specialist.

Patrick Farm Bureau Board members were nominated and unanimously approved as follows: President Jonathan Wood; Vice President Barry Shelor; Chairman of the Women's Committee Sandra

Heath; Chairman of the Young Farmer's Committee Christian Taylor; Directors: Ronnie Pilson, Danny Wood, Thomas Slate, Benton Culler, John Bray.

After the business session, door prizes were awarded with the assistance of several members of the Patrick County High School FFA Club.



A shelter cat enjoys a Christmas meal.



Two beagles partake of their Christmas dinner.

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