



Dr. Greg Hodges, president of Patrick & Henry Community College, provided an update on the Patrick Promise, noting it is just \$110,000 away from launching for its first three years.

Patrick Promise \$110,000 shy of launch

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Education Foundation’s Patrick Promise program is just \$110,000 away from being fully funded for its first three years, Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) President Dr. Greg Hodges announced during an update to the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

“Frankly, we’re only \$110,000 away from being able to launch what would be a tremendous opportunity and benefit for the students of Patrick County and for the citizens of Patrick County to stay local,” Hodges said.

Hodges explained the threefold purpose of the Patrick Promise, emphasizing its potential impact on the county.

“To decrease the population migration from Patrick County, to increase the post-high school credential attainment rates, and increase

the economic attractiveness and workforce development potential of the Patrick County region in general,” he said.

The Patrick Promise is modeled after the SEED Program in Martinsville and Henry County, which provides free tuition to P&HCC for local students. Hodges said the Patrick Promise aims to offer the same opportunity for Patrick County residents.

Hodges commended Patrick County Public Schools for its strong high school graduation rates. In 2023, Patrick County ranked within the top 10 performing constituencies in the state of Virginia.

“You all have much to be proud of with your on-time high school graduation rates,” Hodges said. “It’s something you should celebrate and should be a point of great pride.”

However, post-high school cre-

(See Patrick Promise p.3)

Council approves \$170,000 payment to resolve decades-old VRS discrepancy

By Taylor Boyd

At its Nov. 20 meeting, the Stuart Town Council unanimously approved a \$170,000 payment to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) to address a decades-old discrepancy involving employee retirement contributions.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons informed the council of a letter received from VRS detailing a plan to resolve the issue over the next few years. “What we have talked about is, \$170,000 was paid to a previous town employee that was vested in the system that was paid out by VRS, but not paid into by the town and that goes back to the ‘70s,” Simmons explained. “I fully think that the town should be immediately responsible for that \$170,000 to VRS.”

Although Stuart is enrolled in VRS, Simmons said the town has not actively participated since the 1980s.

“The town enrolled in VRS in the ‘70s, and once you enroll in VRS you cannot get out of it,” he said. “At some point in the ‘80s, VRS changed the way that they report employment to the state, and at that time, I understand that the town tried to get out of VRS but basically has been non-reporting since that time.”

The \$170,000 payment is just part of the issue. Simmons noted that the town also owes approximately \$560,000 in back payments to VRS for employee contributions dating back to the mid-1980s.

“I’ve told [VRS] there’s no way we could pay that right off,” Simmons

said. “So, they have come up with a payment plan over the next 31 months that would basically equate to \$17,500 per month that the town would be paying to VRS to make that whole. That does not include any interest in that outstanding balance.”

Mayor Ray Weiland expressed concern about the town’s liquidity if it commits to such a payment plan while balancing other upcoming projects.

“The longer we wait, the more that keeps billing onto us,” Simmons cautioned, but Weiland suggested exploring options to extend the repayment period.

Weiland added that potential developments, such as a hospital and an apartment complex, could contribute to the town’s tax base and utility revenues, improving its ability to meet financial obligations.

“We do owe the \$170,000, and for us to be in the good graces of VRS, we should pay them what we owe them,” Weiland said.

The council’s approval of the \$170,000 payment reflects an effort to demonstrate good faith in resolving the issue. “I think that does at least show them that we are operating in good faith instead of just dragging along,” Simmons said.

Town Attorney Chris Corbett raised the question of whether reinstating active participation in VRS would be an incentive for current and future employees. “A retirement plan? Yeah,” Simmons responded.

(See VRS Discrepancy p.3)

Banjorama set for Saturday

By Taylor Boyd

The annual Sammy Shelor’s Banjorama hosted by the Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) will be held Saturday, December 14.

The event, which is held in partnership between PCMA and the Patrick County Tourism Department, will be in the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Auditorium with doors opening at 5 p.m. The music will begin at 6 p.m.

The show is sponsored by Hopkins Lumber, according to PCMA President Denny Alley, who added admission will be free.

“It’s their (Hopkins) annual Christmas party to the county,” he said.

The Lonesome River Band, a contemporary bluegrass group, will be the feature act.

The band, which was formed in Meadows of Dan, has released 15 recording projects since its formation in 1982. The current six-piece band is led by Shelor, a Virginia Country Hall of Fame member and



Sammy Shelor and The Lonesome River Band headline the annual Sammy Shelor’s Banjorama on Saturday, December 14, in the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Auditorium with doors opening at 5 p.m. and music starting at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

a five-time International Bluegrass Music Association Banjo Player of the Year recipient.

Shelor’s “had that band, I don’t know, 40 years. A long time,” Alley said.

About a dozen other banjo players will also take the stage during the

show will be well attended.

“I think last year it was a little over 600” people that came. The PCHS Auditorium “holds 740 seats, we want them all full,” he said, adding a Lonesome River Band show is normally a \$45 ticket show.

Alley said the November Veteran’s Appreciation Show was well attended.

“We had a lot of veterans that have never been to our show,” he said.

Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds going to teach children in the area firearm safety.

The PCMA also has events planned for the first quarter of 2025. For more information or to watch past music performances, visit Facebook.com/PatrickCounty-MusicAssociation.

Public hearing set on proposed budget amendment

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on a proposed \$2.2 million budget amendment when the meeting gets underway at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 9.

The proposed amendment includes revenue of \$1,706,000 Child Services Act (CSA) Pool Funds, \$100,000 Transfer Station Fees, \$200,000 Ambulance Services and \$194,000 Use of Reserves, according to the notice. CSA expenses include \$2.2 million, which is the total of the proposed amendment.

At its most recent meeting, the board discussed a portion of the CSA funds.

In other matters, according to its draft agenda, the board will:

- *Hear from Lisa Brandon, Blue Ridge Parkway, about storm damage and Mabry’s Mill.

- *Discuss topics of the board’s retreat.
- *Consider the meeting schedule for 2025.
- *Hear about Circuit Court Security Needs from Facilities Director Mike McGuinness.
- *Consider old business that includes a proposed Dangerous Dog Vaccination Fees Ordinance and FCC to Include Virginia News in Local Television Media.
- *Consider meeting in closed session to discuss personnel matters, including appointments to the Department of Social Services Advisory Committee; Planning Commission; Public Service Authority and Stormwater Board of Appeals.

The meeting will be held in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building on Rucker Street in Stuart.

Teen Pens Sci-Fi Adventure

By Taylor Boyd

At just 14 years old, Bailey M. Walker has become one of Patrick County’s youngest authors with the release of his debut science fiction novel, “The Underlands.”

Walker said the book combines his love of science fiction with original ideas.

“It’s about a guy named Jack, and he is trying to survive with his friends. They go onto the surface, and basically there was a war nobody knew how it started or how it ended. They just know that basically the world ended,” Walker explained.

The book’s synopsis introduces Jack as a cadet training to ex-



Bailey M. Walker released his debut science fiction novel, “The Underlands,” in September 2024. “The Underlands” is now available on Amazon and Kindle.

(See Sci-Fi Adventure p. 3)

Tourism Talks

Greetings Patrick,
I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had the chance to spend time with family and friends. As is common during this festive time of year, our office is busy, and we hope you and our visiting travelers are enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells of the season.

With a heavy heart, I share the news of the passing of one of our musical icons, Charley Chaney. Charley was a teacher and mentor to many Patrick and Henry County musicians. He dedicated over sixty-two years to teaching and performing gospel, bluegrass, and various forms of mountain music, and he was featured in our Fall 2023 Magazine.

One of the biggest draws to our county is our rich musical traditions that have thrived in our hills and valleys. Charley played a crucial role in preserving that traditional style of music. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the many people who were blessed to experience his talents. While we face a significant loss, I am encouraged by the many young musicians he inspired and the various groups dedicated to keeping this heritage alive. Charley was a man of faith, and I have no doubt he will be playing in the heavenly choir! To all musicians who knew him, continue to play and let our unique styles resonate.

Stop by the Coffee Break on Main



Street, right next to Charley’s place if you can. They feature live music on Tuesday mornings, and I’m sure you’ll run into some of his friends there. While you’re there, treat yourself to some famous pancakes served by Denny Alley.

Patrick, if you would like a copy of the magazine featuring Charley, come by and visit the Visitors Center. We still have a few copies available.

In closing, don’t forget to check out our YouTube series, “The People, The Places, and Performers of Patrick,” where we interview and showcase some of our county’s highlights. Remember, “Come get lost and find yourself here.”

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season!

James Houchins,
Director of Economic Development and Tourism
jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us

Nutrient management training set for January

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Nutrient Management Program will offer a two-part agriculture nutrient management training school in January. The school is for anyone interested in learning about the development of agricultural nutrient management plans or how to become a certified nutrient management plan writer.

The first session, Jan. 9-10, is a lecture series by Virginia Tech professors on soil science, soil fertility and

crop production. The two-day soils and crop lecture series will be hosted through Micro-soft Teams.

The second session, Jan. 14-16, will cover nutrient management plan writing using a case-study farm. The three-day plan writing training will be in-person at Brightpoint Community College in Midlothian, Virginia.

Each day will run from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Registration is \$150 for each session with a deadline of Dec. 30. Registration is available online

at www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/nmtrain.

Nutrient management continues to be an important factor in a farmer’s decision-making process when considering application of materials to supply nutrients to crops and forages. Nutrient management plans determine rates for applying manure, fertilizers, biosolids and other soil amendments so that yields are maximized, and nutrient loss to ground and surface waters is minimized. Application rates are determined by a process using actual yield records or soil productivity when yield records are not available.

Chamber Chat

By Rebecca Adcock

“There is October in every November and there is November in every December. All seasons melted in each other’s life.” ~ Mehmet Murat Ildan

It used to seem that November was a quiet month. A month to take a breath between the chaos of homecomings, fall festivals, sports and Halloween in October and the holiday hustle of December. Nowadays the months seem to blur all into one. November is as busy as the other months. The Chamber of Commerce was hectic, running here and there as well. We participated in the Town of Stuart’s Downtown Revitalization grant meeting with DHCD representatives. While this project is taking a while to see movement, work is being done behind the scenes to have things lined up so once the Town is given the green light, they can bolt out of the gate.

We attended the career fair hosted by Patrick & Henry Community College at the high school on November 6. This was well attended by businesses and the students were engaged. The Chamber, along with Sarah Wray from Reynolds Homestead traveled to Richmond to present at the Mid-Atlantic Farmers Market Conference. Our presentation focused on building community through events at the market. We had an engaging group that asked questions during and after the presentation. It is always fun and rewarding to share our community with others.

The chamber partnered again with Reynolds Homestead to present our annual Lunch with Community Leaders event, which was held on November 20th. This event is always a highlight of the year, where we have several of our local leaders share what is going on with our community. We are so appreciative of the guest speakers who gave informative presentations and to the attendees as this event was well attended.

We are also busy in the office winding down the year and getting things lined up for 2025. Chamber



membership drive will kick off in January, along with Patrick County magazine sales. Our board has approved an updated strategic plan, which we will be sharing with everyone.

Holiday events started happening in November with the Reynolds Homestead Holiday Market and Small Business Saturday on November 30, which coincided with the Meadows of Dan Christmas parade. Those events only amplify as we move into December. Kicking off the month on December 1, a new event – Handcrafted Christmas in Woolwine, 4-6 p.m. This community event will host carolers, cookies, silent auction, and tree lighting. We hope you will join us in Stuart on Friday, December 6 for the Grand Illumination, and tree lighting at the Courthouse at 6 p.m., followed the next day by several holiday events in Stuart concluding with the 52nd annual Patrick County Christmas Parade at 2 p.m.

Holiday festivities continue around the county all month: the Parkway Christmas in Meadows of Dan will be Saturday, December 7 & 14, 2-6 p.m. with music and events, Dehart Park’s Festival of Lights will run December 13-23. Two different concerts at the Historic Star Theatre and a free movie day are on the calendar, along with several events at Reynolds Homestead. Check out the Chamber’s event page for all the up-to-date happenings, www.patrick-chamber.com.

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

Pets of the Week



This female Pyrenees mix (left) was picked up on Old Mill Road. She wants to go home and someone must miss her.

This little adorable cutie (right) was found on Elastic Plant Road. Help her find her people.

If you recognize either of these pooches, call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) or visit its Facebook page to view 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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Volunteers Needed

Calling All Volunteers! STEP invites you to join our VITA program as a volunteer. By contributing your time and expertise, you can help local families access essential tax benefits. Join us in supporting the community and ensuring financial stability for Patrick County residents. Make a difference today by becoming a VITA volunteer!

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TAX

Patrick Promise

(cont. from page 1)

dential attainment rates in Patrick County tell a different story.

The national rate for adults aged 18 to 64 with post-secondary credentials was 53.7% in 2023, while Virginia’s rate stood at 59.3%. Patrick County lagged significantly at 28.8%, ranking 105th out of Virginia’s 133 municipalities.

“The Patrick County rate is, of course, about half of the Virginia average,” Hodges said, adding that the gap is widening. “Of the 133 municipalities in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Patrick County ranks 105th, which is lower than all surrounding constituencies,” he said.

Another fact that’s troubling, Hodges said, is the fact the national and Virginia rates are growing faster than the Patrick County rates.

“We want to put that in context for you that the aim here is to see how we, Patrick & Henry Community College and the Patrick County Education Foundation, can help solve this to make sure we are educating the citizens to get the good paying jobs that keep them local,” he said.

To help with this, Hodges said P&HCC has considerably spread its footprint in Patrick County with the P&HCC Stuart site, the welding lab and the powerline training program at Patrick County High School, the Baliles and Reynolds

Learning Center that offers multiple programs and certifications, and the upcoming 2025 heavy equipment operator training program.

These initiatives aim to address workforce development needs and provide local opportunities for higher education and training.

Hodges estimated the funding needed for Patrick Promise is \$45,000 in the first year, \$90,000 for year two, and \$135,000 annually starting in year three.

“Currently, just over 50 percent of the students from Patrick County already attend at a cost that’s free to the family,” Hodges said. “What we’re seeking to do is to incentivize students to remain locally by getting to that 100 percent.”

The Foundation requires three years of funding before launching the program and has raised \$160,000 so far. Efforts to secure the remaining \$110,000 include fundraising and community outreach.

“The Patrick County Education Foundation decided that they wanted the first three years in place before they launched that program. We wanted to have the first three years of funding before we launched, and we’re at the \$160,000 mark,” Hodges said.

The Patrick County Education Foundation,

founded in 2001 by former Virginia Gov. Gerald Baliles, who was a Patrick County native, and other community leaders, initially focused on raising high school graduation rates in the county.

“They had a 10-year goal that the high school/ GED rates in Patrick County would exceed rural communities in Virginia, and they accomplished that goal well under the 10 years,” Hodges said.

After achieving this milestone, the Foundation turned its attention to post-secondary credential attainment about five years ago. “The Patrick Promise was born out of that – how does Patrick County Education Foundation help accelerate post high-school graduate rates so that Patrick County citizens can take advantage of economic opportunity,” he said.

Hodges noted that Baliles, a driving force behind the initiative, passed away shortly after its inception.

He encouraged community members to support the initiative and shared testimonials from students who have benefited from similar programs.

To learn more or donate to the Patrick Promise, visit Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation’s website.

VRS Discrepancy

(cont. from page 1)

Weiland acknowledged that addressing the \$560,000 backpay would be essential for fully integrating existing employees into the VRS system. “We’re going to have to examine closely to see if we’re going to be able to pull that off and get our employees back into VRS,” he said.

The payment to VRS marks a significant step in addressing the town’s long-standing retirement system obligations, with council members emphasizing the importance of financial plan-

ning as they navigate the larger \$560,000 issue.

In addition to the VRS discussion, the council:

*Addressed Logo Rumors: Mayor Weiland clarified there are no plans to change the town’s official logo despite some confusion over a design used for the downtown project.

*Approved Donations and Bonuses: The council granted \$400 to One Family Productions for a Christmas event, provided employees with a \$200 holiday bonus (plus tax), and added Nov.

29 as a paid holiday.

*Created a Handbook Committee to revise the town’s handbook.

*Encouraged Public Participation: Town residents interested in filling a vacant council seat were encouraged to attend the Dec. 18 meeting.

The council also approved meeting minutes, paid bills, and received updates on public works projects and town policies.

Sci-Fi Adventure

(cont. from page 1)

plore the largely uncharted surface world, which has been abandoned since a war over 200 years ago.

“Jack does not know the perils he will face as he completes his training. A mysterious murder haunts his existence, and he places his friends in constant danger. He must overcome the worst the Underlands has to offer, as well as the most terrible things from the surface,” the synopsis reads.

Crafting the Story

Walker began writing the novel last year.

“I just wanted to write a book, so I sat down and started writing it one day. It was pretty difficult. After a while, I started running out of ideas,” he said.

Using Google Docs, Walker initially completed the manuscript at 69 pages. When formatted for the Kindle app, the book expanded to 120 pages.

Encouraged by his first venture into publishing, Walker plans to write a sequel.

“Possibly a trilogy, or just a two-fer if people like it or not,” he said. “I was going to do the sequel mostly for my friends because they kind of liked the first book. Also, they were in the first book, so I decided to continue that.”



A Young Talent

Walker’s talent for writing earned recognition in 2023 when he won The Enterprise’s annual writing contest for his age group while he was a seventh grader.

His mother, Gabrielle Walker, said the win marked a significant milestone.

In addition to his sequel to “The Underlands,” Walker has started working on another novel unrelated to the series.

“The Underlands” is available for purchase on Amazon and Kindle.



Ferrum College Revives Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas

As fall semester winds down at Ferrum College, sessions of hammering and harmonious singing expand inside Schoolfield Hall, with the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre (BRDT) and Performing Arts program preparing their second production of Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas for performances December 5 to 15. Program Coordinator Emily Blankenship-Tucker, who directs the play and music in addition to playing Ma Otter, says they are honored to “introduce new folks to the magic of Emmet Otter” and “start a holiday tradition that caused nostalgic audience members to talk about their happy memories of childhood” last year, so that now it feels “like something to look forward to at this time in Ferrum.”

The musical is based on a 1971 picture book by Russell and Lillian Hoban, inspired by O. Henry’s short story “The Gift of the Magi.” In a river town called Waterville, Mayor Fox announces a Christmas talent contest. Ma and Emmet Otter, struggling to get by since Pa died, both hope secretly that winning the \$50 prize would allow them to buy the other a special Christmas gift. With trepidation they both sacrifice essential possessions in order to prepare for the contest. Emmet’s new jug band playing “Brothers” and Ma’s inspiring song “Our World” compete with some hilarious acts as the contest unfolds on stage.

In 1977 Jim Henson used his Muppets and songs by Paul Williams to turn the Hobans’ animal fantasy into a television special that became an annual holiday favorite for many viewers, including Blankenship-Tucker. The theatrical adaptation by Timothy Allen McDonald and Christopher Gattelli, which opened in Connecticut in 2008 with human actors and puppets, was later revived in New York and then last



year in Chicago—and the village of Ferrum. The Ferrum theatre faculty “took a chance,” like Ma and Emmet Otter, and acquired the only license to perform this show to date outside of Timothy Allen McDonald and Music Theater International (MTI). “The show at Ferrum will be authentic,” said McDonald after researching Ferrum’s drama traditions. “You are where the show would take place, so it is exciting to have it on stage here.”

Only Ferrum is staging the show this year. And only in Ferrum’s production have the actors in the jug band played their own instruments. They all have experience performing with traditional instruments such as washtub bass, washboard, and kazoo in Ferrum’s 49-year-old touring company, the Jack Tale Players. Blankenship-Tucker believes the show represents “what we value in our community” and “people here feel connected to it,” in the

“spirit of the season and hope.”

Performances are in Schoolfield Hall’s Sale Theatre with meals available next door in Franklin Hall, served by the cast. The times are December 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 14 at 7 p.m. (dinner at 5:30), and December 8, 10 and 15 at 2 p.m. (lunch at 12:30). Meals must be ordered in advance and tickets can be reserved at <https://www.ferrum.edu/theatre-showings>.

A number of cast members are reprising their roles from last year, such as Burgess’ son Django Burgess ‘27, who plays Wendell Porcupine and builds sets, while others have changed roles, and some are new to this cast. Rachel Blankenship-Tucker, returning as both co-director and Harvey Beaver, also took on a new role playing drums in the Nightmare Band. The stage manager is Professor of English Tina Hanlon. Assistant stage managers are Theatre Intern TJ Baker ‘24, who designs make-

up and plays the mayor’s vain and deceitful wife Gretchen Fox; and Aryahna Tyree ‘27, who can be seen around the theatre practicing the banjo every day for her new role as Charlie Muskrat.

Continuing the traditions of the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre started by Rex Stephenson in 1979, the cast is inter-generational, with performers from the college and community, and with everyone learning multiple roles onstage and off. Seven college students are receiving credit in applied theatre courses for their work this year, performing as well as helping with sets, puppets, lights, and costumes. Gage Shelton ‘25, playing the title role of Emmet this time, has the Kirk Cash Theatre Scholarship for his senior year. “I really hope Emmet Otter becomes a tradition at Ferrum during the holiday season, as a lot of the story’s ideals just fit into the culture here,” said Shelton. “This is certainly one of the more technically intensive shows we do, and while that is ambitious for us, it opened up new opportunities and skills to build on that we wouldn’t have otherwise.”

The four youngest cast members, ages eight to 10, have performed in other Ferrum College plays in the past several years. Their current roles include a skunk, a weasel, a ferret and squirrels. Sandy Delaney likes learning about props and other aspects of play production. Even though cast members can’t watch the whole play, they peek at it from backstage sometimes, and Sienna Bell enjoys seeing the “theatre come to life” when the show begins.

For additional information, email theatre@ferrum.edu or call the box office at (540) 365-4355 and leave a message. Both Schoolfield Hall and Franklin Hall are handicapped accessible.

Most of us spend a good portion of our money on food each month. Especially for those feeding a family, the grocery bill can begin to pile up. Wouldn't you like to learn how you could save money on groceries?

The study found that high-calorie foods (generally from high fat or sugar contents) tended to be cheaper. However, foods such as fruits, vegetables, and grains were cheaper in terms of portion size and meeting the daily nutrition requirements. Factor in the benefits of good health and the little extra you may spend is worth it.

1. Save on Produce

Frozen fruits and vegetables are also a smart choice. When frozen, foods tend to retain more of their nutrients than they do being shipped hundreds/or thousands of miles to your local store. When your favorite produce is in season, stock up and freeze it. Then, you'll have some to use when it is not easily available.

When shopping for a week's worth of groceries, it's always best to plan out meals ahead of time. At the supermarket, make sure you stick to your menu to avoid purchasing unnecessary food. Don't shop hungry either, you'll be much more prone to make impulse buys.

Get to know the local stores and what their prices are to get the best value for the items you commonly purchase. Look for sales and use coupons whenever available. Saving a little here and there can add up significantly over time. Check out local farmers markets where you can often find produce that is cheaper and fresher.

The many food choices we have can be overwhelming. Whether you should buy products fresh, frozen, packaged, or canned depends on the food. When purchasing beans, dried ones are cheaper and healthier than canned. Pre-cut or bagged produce will also be more expensive.

Avoid name brands. Generic foods are often the same size and quality at a cheaper price. Furthermore, pay attention to unit sizes. If you have the funds, you can often save a good amount by buying larger sizes. Food staples (such as rice, flour, or beans) should be bought in bulk or when they go on sale.

We often pay for convenience, but when your budget is tight, spending extra time can save you a good amount of money. Use fresh ingredients and not pre-packaged foods. Many commonly bought products can easily be made at home. For instance, making homemade salsa, spaghetti sauce, hummus, or guacamole is relatively simple and is much more affordable than store-bought products. Having a garden is another great way to save money and have extra fresh and tasty produce.

Remembering to eat simple is key. Healthy eating can be more expensive when you constantly indulge in processed or gourmet style foods. Eat within your calorie requirements. Since most Americans overeat, limiting your caloric intake will likely save you money as well.

There are a variety of meals that can be prepared and stretched out for several days. Soup, chili, stir-fry, spaghetti and casseroles are all great examples. Ingredients that stretch include dry beans, lentils, oats, brown rice, and other baking essentials; these should always be kept on hand. Sweet potatoes are affordable, very high in nutrients, and can be used in a surprising variety of dishes.

Always eat whole grain rice/breads/noodles and other foods high in fiber. You will eat less and they will sustain you longer. Refined grains may seem cheaper, but you will eat larger portions and get hungry quicker, which ultimately makes them more expensive. Also watch out for hidden sugars, which only keep you full temporarily. Learning to read a nutrition label is an excellent idea.

Successfully incorporating healthy foods into your tight budget is entirely possible, and more than just your wallet will thank you. Eating a nutritious and balanced diet will help with energy level, mood, productivity, and brain functioning. It will also help fight against pesky colds and the flu. Perhaps most importantly, it will help you immensely in the fight against more serious diseases such as heart attack, hypertension, cancer, and diabetes.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Jon Ewald, MD. Used by permission from www.lifeand-health.org)

Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing (Sta-
rt, VA)

Senior Lilly Hazelwood

Two Patrick County High School Lady Cougar volleyball players were named to the All Region Team.

Junior Journey Moore was named 1st Team All Region and Senior Lilly



Junior Journey Moore

Hazelwood was named 2nd Team All Region. In addition to being named to the All Region Team, Hazelwood also fished her senior season setting a school record for blocks.

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Gage Titus Nester, 21, of Stuart, was charged Nov. 7 with fail to appear. Sgt. W.L. Higgs was the arresting officer.

*Jordan Anthony Capps, 23, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Nov. 7 with violation of bond & supervision conditions. Sgt. J.D. Lewis was the arresting officer.

*Brian Maurice Green, 52, of Ararat, was charged Nov. 7 with fail to comply with pretrial services. Senior Deputy H. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Keyona Tyshell Redd, 22, of Axton, was charged Nov. 7 with malicious wounding. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Adrian Rashad Scales, 43, of Waynesboro, was charged Nov. 7 with one count each drive while intoxicated and abuse/neglect child. Senior Trooper R.S. Lawson was the arresting officer.

*Jonathan Robert Forcier, 31, of Henry County Jail, was charged Nov. 8 with three counts of probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Michael Paul McAdams, 29, of Stuart, was charged Nov. 8 with one count each destruction of property, interfere with property rights of another, obstruction of justice, and assault and battery on law enforcement officer. Senior Deputy Doug Perry was the arresting officer.

*James Brandon Bennett, 45, of Martinsville, was charged Nov. 9 with four counts of probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Devin Dewayne Meadows, 28, of Pilot Mountain, N.C., was charged Nov. 9 with one count each possess Sch. I or II drugs, false identity to law enforcement officer, and drive without license. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*Rodney Aaron Turner, 31, of Stuart, was charged Nov. 10 with

one count each assault, assault and batter on law enforcement officer, and obstruction of justice. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Jonathan David Bocock, 37, of Stuart, was charged Nov. 10 with drive while intoxicated and hit & run attended. Trooper J.A. Armes was the arresting officer.

*Franklin Rose, 39, of Stuart, was charged Nov. 12 with dumping trash. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Megan Hollie Smith, 38, of Claudville, was charged Nov. 14 with fail to appear. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Deshaun Hughes, 36, of Stuart, was charged Nov. 14 with fail to appear. Master Deputy E. Sain was the arresting officer.

*Michael Lewis Quinn, 41, no address available, was charged Nov. 16 with probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Tony Lee Epperson, 52, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged Nov. 17 with two counts probation violation. Sgt. I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

*Zachary Dalton Scales, 29, of Claudville, was charged Nov. 18 with one count each possess firearm by non-violent felon convicted within 10 years and petty larceny. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*Anthony Chandler Bryant, 29, of Critz, was charged Nov. 18 with fail to comply with terms of pre-trial services. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*Misty Brownwyn Cox, 35, of Danville, was charged Nov. 20 with interfere with property rights of another and probation violation. Sgt. C.L. Elgin made the arrest for Danville.

*Joshua Allen Hulick, 43, of Danville, was charged Nov. 20 with interfere with property rights of another. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.



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NO MORE HAPPY SUNSHINE WINE DATE PLANTS PANTS SHOES

Crossing the Lines

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

Two Henry County School Board Members Honored by Virginia School Boards Association



Teddy Martin, center, holds the 2024 Advocate for Education Award.

Two members of the Henry County School Board were recognized with top honors by the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA). Chairman Teddy Martin received the 2024 Advocate for Education Award, while Ridgeway District representative Champ Hardie was named the Henry County School Board Member of the Year and the VSBA Blue Ridge Region School Board Member of the Year.

Martin expressed gratitude to the board for nominating him, stating, "I am deeply grateful for the honor of serving Reed Creek as School Board Member," Henry County as chairman, and as past president



Champ Hardie was named Henry County School Board Member of the Year and the VSBA Blue Ridge Region School Board Member of the Year.

of the VSBA. He also thanked his family and employers, Patrick & Henry Community College and GENEDGE, for supporting his public service.

Hardie received recognition during the VSBA's Award of Distinction Luncheon and the opening session of the association's Annual Convention. Martin praised Hardie for earning the highest individual award achievable over a two-year period.

Martin also extended his thanks to Elizabeth Durden for representing Henry County as a delegate at the convention and participating in its 5K tradition.



The Henry County Food Pantry is stocked with goods to provide assistance to individuals and families in need.

Food Pantry Provides Essential Support for the Community

The Henry County Food Pantry plays a vital role in supporting the community, assisting between 2,500 and 2,700 individuals each month. Fueled by donations, the pantry supplies food, clothing, and basic necessities to families facing hardship, working to help them regain stability after crises.

"We get referrals every single day, sometimes four or five a day," said Sharon Mills, the pantry's director. "Our purpose is to help people get back on their feet."

The pantry offers several programs tailored to meet residents' needs and takes referrals from various sources. While most of the assistance provided is in-

come-based through USDA guidelines, the pantry also supports individuals with higher incomes who face emergency circumstances.

"They can receive food here if they're dealing with an extenuating situation," Mills said, emphasizing that the pantry's mission is to address short-term crises and prevent further destabilization.

The pantry welcomes donations of all kinds, including used furniture, household goods, hygiene products, pet supplies, linens, and nonperishable food. Smaller items can be dropped off directly, while larger donations can be arranged by calling (276) 629-1369.

Holiday program brings hope, joy to families in need

For families across Martinsville and Henry County, the annual Christmas Cheer program has become a beacon of hope during the holiday season. The program provides toys, food, and household items to families in need, ensuring children experience the magic of Christmas and families have a meal to share.

Christmas Cheer collects toys throughout the holiday season and opens its office to process applications from families seeking assistance. Parents can apply in person, detailing their family's needs in a thorough screening process.

"We go over them thoroughly and get all the numbers right," said Wendy Prilliman, who has led the program since the passing of her husband, Roy



The Christmas Cheer Office is accepting donations for the 2024 holiday season.

Prilliman. "We have a small group that goes through them to make sure everything is right, and we approve as many as we can."

Those who don't qualify receive letters notifying them of the decision, but Prilliman emphasizes the effort made to help as many

families as possible.

One of the cornerstones of Christmas Cheer is providing age-appropriate toys for children. Volunteers sort through donated toys, ensuring each child receives something special.

"The toys come by age," Prilliman said.



Parade goes bundled up for the crisp air to enjoy the festivities.

Christmas Parade Kicks Off Holiday Season

Holiday spirit filled the streets of Uptown Martinsville as the Martinsville Henry County Christmas Parade, sponsored by Crown Holdings, delighted thousands of attendees on Nov. 23. This year's parade, the largest in its history, ran for nearly two hours with over 130 entries, including several first-time participants like Bassett Furniture.

Families, children, and community members lined the streets to enjoy the festive event. "I love the parade. I think it's good for the com-

munity and brings everybody together," said attendee Zoie Shough.

Martinsville's Deputy Police Chief Chad Rhoads agreed, adding, "It's good to see everybody come out and have a good time. The kids love it, and the adults love it too."

Kaden Lucas, who was promoting a local event, noted the parade's strong sense of community. "It's such a community type of event. You can see that it's filled out down here. It's just a beautiful type of event," he said.

Personal property tax deadline extended until February 5

The Henry County Board of Supervisors approved a motion Tuesday night to extend the county's personal property tax deadline until February 5.

Tiffany Hairston, the Commissioner of Revenue, requested an extension due to a delay in generating the file needed for billing this year.

According to Henry County Code, Deputy County Administrator JR Powell said all personal property levies and taxes are due by December 5 of each year.

"However, Ms. Hairston has indicated that her office faced challenges over the past year causing a delay in generating the file needed



Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce President Brenell Thomas; Debra Buchanan, of the Horsepasture District; Appalachian Power (AEP) External Affairs Manager Amanda Cox; Clay Campbell, of the Campbell Foundation; Garrett Dillard, of the Iriswood District, and representatives of Martinsville Walmart celebrate the donation of over 200 new coats.


for billing," he said.

In light of this, Powell said staff recommend the board extend the payment deadline by two months.


"We are not requesting the board to change the due date for the personal property taxes. Per code, that date is still December 5. However, we are asking the board to consider extending the payment deadline date. In other words, if it's not paid by February 5 then" it's late, Powell said.

County Attorney George Lyle said there's typically a penalty for personal property taxes paid after December 5.


"What you're doing today is just waiving the penalty for personal properties to be paid after December 5. You're not changing the date, it's just no penalty," he said.




WICKED
2D 1-4-7PM




MOANA 2
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9



GLADIATOR II
1-4-7-9:30PM



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1-4-7-9:15

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PATRICK PULPITS

A Child of God

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

In Romans 8: 14-16 the Apostle Paul speaks of becoming a child of God. It's an awesome thought, almost unbelievable as we contemplate the majesty of our God. In our world of suffering, violence, war, and immorality it can be difficult to hold on to such high hopes. The world can affect us and cause us to be fearful and depressed to the point that we may lose our faith.

Such a circumstance requires us to spend more time with God's Word and in prayer, and to be reminded of the goodness of God. John 3: 17 tells us that "God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." God is doing everything possible to save us.

Another helpful reminder in times of spiritual darkness is that our salvation does not depend on any works of merit on our part. Rather it is entirely on Christ's righteousness and His sacrifice in our behalf. Christ came to manifest the love of God and to die the death we deserve. We need only to believe, appreciate, and accept what He has done for us. This then inspires us to love and obey God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

I was recently reading about John Wesley's faith experience. In his earlier years he felt a dependence on his own good works for his assurance of

salvation. He strove vigorously for years in self-denial, fasting, and his good works to try to achieve this assurance. But he wasn't sure when he had done enough.

The turning point in Wesley's life was when he was aboard a ship in a violent storm. He and others feared for their lives. But there were some German Moravians aboard who faced the storm with serenity. Later he asked one of the men if he had been afraid. The man said "I thank God, no." Wesley found this to be true of their women and children on board as well.

At a later date, Wesley attended a Moravian meeting and found his heart strangely warmed by their simple faith and love for God. It led him soon to trust in Christ alone for his salvation. It is a gift "without money and without price." (Isaiah 55: 1)

After his conversion Wesley continued his rigorous life of self-denial and work for Christ, but now with a different motive. It came from his love and appreciation of Jesus and being assured of salvation through His merits.

Therefore, becoming a child of God is trusting in Christ, regardless of how we may feel at the time. He knows the "feelings of our infirmities because He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4: 15)

So, let's put our faith in Jesus at all times. It will bring peace beyond measure.

Dellenback-Hill shares love of area during international trip

Mary Dellenback Hill is on a 42-day Grand Voyage to the Atlantic/Mediterranean Sea Cruise with Holland America, and reported that she can't resist talking to people about the Dan River District, Ararat, and Patrick County, "especially our Willis Gap Community Center Open Jams, The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail (Love sign) 144 The Hollow Road, Dan River District, Ararat," and distributing business cards.

"Everybody I meet is a traveler, guest, crew member, etc. So, as you are eating, someone comes and sits with you, then it just begins to happen," she wrote. "They talk about themselves, their cruises, home, kids, etc. Then I start talking."

The conversation "always comes around to my home, Dan River District, Patrick County, and volunteering/tourism," Dellenback Hill said. "I bring out the brochure and business card for Every Friday Night (Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam) and the last Tuesday in the month (Golden Oldies 50s,60s,70s Rock and Roll Open Jam," she said, adding that the next one is a New Year's Eve Dress Up Party on December 31.

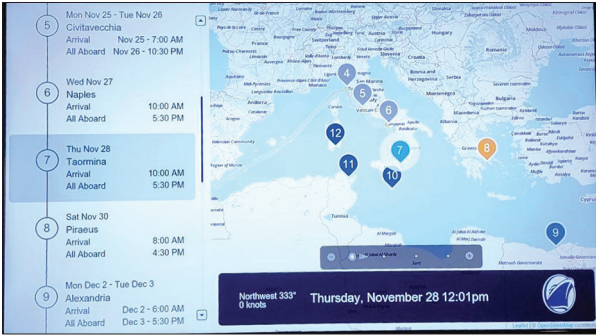
She also is sure to



Captain Paul Adams came around to our table twice during the Thanksgiving Dinner, Mary Dellenback Hill. (Photos by ship staff.)



Wine Sommelier Bojelle and Mary Dellenback Hill talked about the wine list and the U.S. wineries that were listed. The three states represented were Washington State, Oregon and California wineries.



A daily map of current travels and destinations. Hill was aboard the ship at sea Thanksgiving Day, enjoying a wonderful turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

mention Virginia's LOVEWORKS LOVE SIGN, and notes that the area is affiliated partner with the Crooked Road Virginia's Heritage Music Trail. Hill

also talks about the Virginia Tourism Corporation, Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, and the Patrick County Tourism department.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Advent (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What was the innkeeper's name who turned away the pregnant Mary as there was not room? Eliada, Jesimiel, Phlegon, Bible does not say
3. According to the Gospel of Matthew, the Wise Men saw the star in the...? North, East, South, West
4. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of _____ in the days of Herod the king. Nazarene, Jerusalem, Judaea, Capernaum
5. In what type of clothes did Mary wrap the newborn Jesus? Admonishing, Resurrecting, Swaddling, Castling
6. How many times is "swaddling clothes" mentioned in the Bible? 1, 2, 3, 4

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Bible does not say, 3) East, 4) Judaea, 5) Swaddling, 6) Two (Luke 2:7, 12) Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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ACROSS

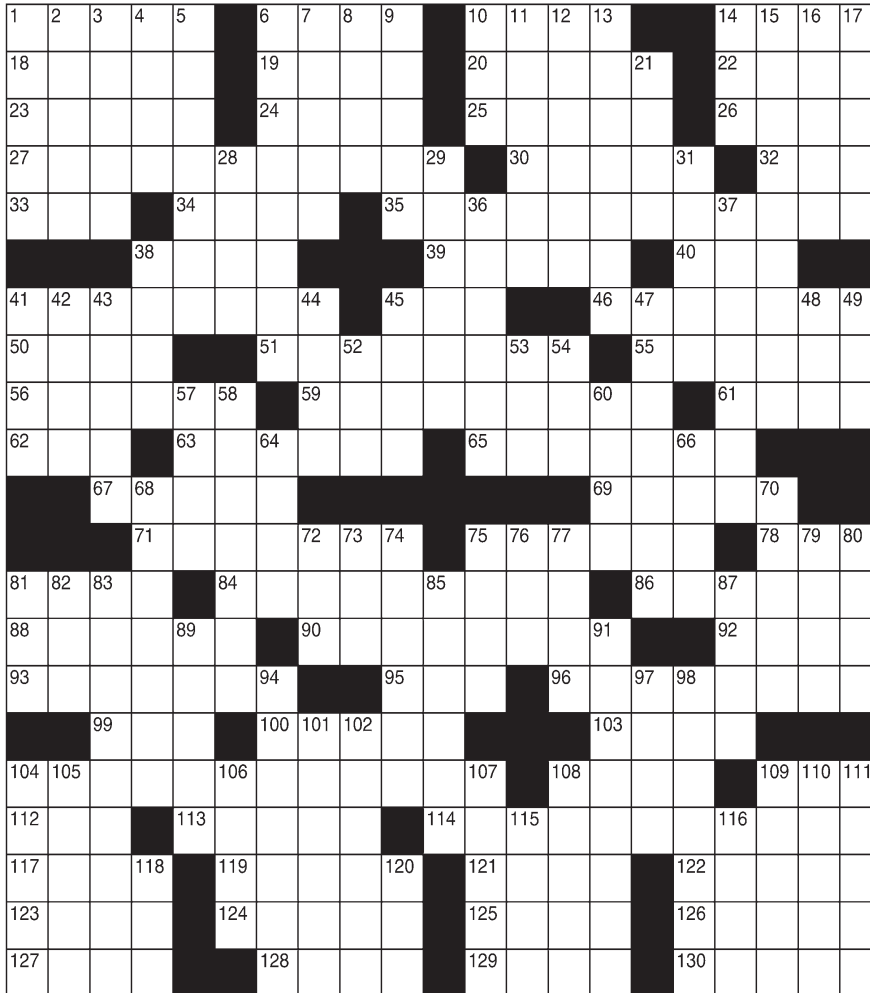
- 1 Lagoons
6 Jaunty greeting
10 Basics
14 Aid in crime
18 Full of vitality
19 Purim's month
20 Patio cooker
22 Sage guide
23 Pope after Sergius II
24 Acting Ward
25 "Same here"
26 Arab country
27 Player hitting to prepare for a spike
30 Energetic journalist
32 Chicago-to-Tampa dir.
33 Suffix with leopard
34 Caroling song
35 Journalist covering a particular sector
38 To be, to Bardot
39 Lock of hair
40 Dubai's country, for short
41 "Kung Fu Hustle" director and star

- 45 Canonized Mlle.
46 Campers under canvas
50 Field unit
51 Jarred
55 Having no commercials
56 High-scoring hoops shot
59 Met or La Scala frequenter
61 "That didn't escape my notice"
62 Prior to, to bards
63 Pooch's cry
65 Country singer Blake
67 Andrea — (ill-fated ship)
69 Swimming sensation at the 1972 Olympics
71 Nine-sided shape
75 Comic buffoon
78 Entertainer Zadora
81 Deli salad
84 Injury rehab professional
86 Scattering in the field
88 Baja blanket
90 Vandals, e.g.

- 92 Gillette brand
93 Genghis Khan followers
95 Silvery gray
96 Deliverer of a fine spray
99 Text-scanning device, briefly
100 Revises text
103 First letter of the Arabic alphabet
104 130-to-135-pound bout competitor
108 "— Well That Ends Well"
109 Cavity fillers' org.
112 According to
113 Sheriff's star
114 Popular yoga pose ... or something found seven times in this puzzle
117 Color shade
119 Research facility
121 TV "Warrior Princess"
122 Duck with soft feathers
123 Tortilla treat
124 One of the singing Braxton sisters

- 125 Eternally
126 Love, to Lucia
127 Place of bliss
128 Stuck-up type
129 Relaxation
130 Crowded
DOWN
1 Give birth, as a whale
2 Margarines
3 Forerunners of cellos
4 Pernicious
5 Like July, order-wise
6 Dinosaurs, so to speak
7 Exemplar
8 Passageway
9 Brand of toothbrushes
10 DOJ heads
11 She wrote "Jane Eyre"
12 Apple quaffs
13 Most sluggish
14 Past time
15 Lousy pieces of advice
16 Rub out
17 Piano fixer
21 Talk like Daffy Duck
28 Past time
29 See 27-Across
31 See 30-Across
36 Sports sites
37 Snitching sort
38 Sort of sword
41 Fill totally
42 Sch. worker
43 Went wrong
44 See 41-Across
45 Give a bias to
47 Wildlife-tracking aids
48 Lulu Hogg player Peggy
49 Stitch up
52 GI address
53 "Blech!"
54 "The Raven" poet
57 Spanish river
58 See 56-Across
60 Red Muppet
64 Infant's cry
66 Nabisco treat
68 Doing sentry duty
70 See 69-Across
72 H.S.-level exam
73 "... bug — feature?"
74 Quarterback great Joe
75 Relief sound
76 Mao — -tung
77 Other, to Gabriela
79 About

- 80 Petri dish gel
81 Old JFK jet
82 Meadow
83 Haughtiness
85 Gridiron score after a throw, in brief
87 Street urchin
89 Alternative to "Section 2"
91 Steadfast
94 Spring farm machines
97 Earthen pot
98 Interpret wrongly
101 Starts eating, informally
102 "— kick from champagne" (Cole Porter lyric)
104 Milk, in Italy
105 Homer epic
106 Bulb unit
107 See 104-Across
108 Two of Henry VIII's wives
109 Append
110 Active sorts
111 Match up
115 "— Only Just Begun"
116 Very thin coin
118 2,000 pounds
120 See 119-Across



Puzzle answers page 11

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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 PEED FROM MICHAEL RAY BRIDGES, DATED OCTOBER 6, 2010, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERICS 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. 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. 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 I, 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 The Vendor Covius Holding Services will be used in conjunction with this sale.

LEGAL

TRUSTEE'S SALE
4104 Goose Point Road, Bassett, VA 24055
Patrick County
In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of **\$60,000.00**, dated **February 14, 2003** recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the **Patrick County, Virginia**, in **Document No. 030000493**, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the **Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, on January 8, 2025 at 1:00 PM** the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:
Lot No 3a, Section 1, Fairystone Farms, with any improvements thereon
Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.
TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than \$10,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. 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 which affects the validity of 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. 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 his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

This is a communication from a debt collector.
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C. (39154)
448 Viking Drive Suite 350
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757-457-1460 - **Call Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**
or visit our website at www.siwpc.net

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.c., Substitute Trustee

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VPS Virginia Press Services
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BUYING: Cans, #1 Copper, #2 Copper, Brass, Metal, Different types of Aluminum, Vehicles, Stainless Steel, etc.

Call for prices.



Roll off container & pick up service available. Call for details.

(276) 694-5692 or 276-694-5697

Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm, closed 12-1 pm for lunch

3609 South Mayo Dr., Stuart

God Bless You

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.

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.

Ongoing

The Patrick County Parks and Recreation Office is now conducting sign-ups for the grades K–3 basketball season. Students in grades K–1 and students in grades 2-3 will play on co-ed teams according to the two grade-level groupings. Games are played on Saturdays during February and March. The deadline for sign-ups is Monday, December 16. Forms are available at any elementary school or the recreation department. Questions? Call or email the recreation department at 276-694-3917 or redept@co.patrick.va.us.

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.

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.

Events

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 starts at 2 p.m.

Jeb Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad will hold a Community Breakfast at its building 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.

Country Breakfast, 7:30-10 a.m., Ararat Ruritan Club, 4711 Ararat Highway, Ararat, dine in our take out plates are \$8 adult, \$5 kids, \$3 biscuit. Ham, sausage, eggs, apples, gravy, homemade biscuits, pancakes & beverage. A special guest might be checking his list.

Christmas Bazaar, 7:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. (Big Country Breakfast served until 10 a.m.), Francisco Community Building, 7100 NC 89 West, Westfield, N.C.

Initial unemployment claims decreased last week

The 2,244 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending November 23, 2024, is 0.9 percent lower than last week’s 2,265 claims and 103.3 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (1,104), according to Virginia Works. Nearly 82 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (247); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (246); Manufacturing (210); Retail Trade (176); and Health Care and Social Assistance (170).

Continued weeks claims (15,554) were 0.8 percent higher than last week (15,438) and were 35.0 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (11,522). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (60 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,494); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,038); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,493); Manufacturing (1,321); and Retail Trade (1,235).

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

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.

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 requested to bring finger foods and desserts to share with the group.

Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.
Buying Logs
Standing Timber or Timberland
Stuart, VA

Contact Ronnie Bolt at
(276) 694-4432

Tired of driving to the landfill? We'll pick it up at your curb!

Household pickup once a week - \$30 month
Dumpsters for residential and business use available.

WE ARE NOW OFFERING ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS.
Please call for pricing. **276-251-1303**

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THINKING ABOUT SELLING YOUR HOME?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

LINDSEY PUCKETT
LPUCKETT@FOURRIVERSVA.COM
276-732-6544
LINDSEYPUCKETT.COM

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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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THINKING ABOUT SELLING YOUR HOME?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

LINDSEY PUCKETT
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WHEO

92.7 FM
Classic Hits

wheoradio.com

"Small Town Station with a BIG Town Sound"



DECEMBER				PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY				2024			
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
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Yoga 10:00*		Storytime 10:30 Dogs		Walking Club 9:00		Yoga 5:15*		Sit & Stitch 11:00		Family Movie Frosty the Snowman & DIY Ornaments 10:30	
Chair Exercise 1:30				Yoga 1:15*							
LEGO Club 4:00											
	9		10		11		12		13		14
Yoga 10:00*		Storytime 10:30 with Emme Polar Bears		Walking Club 9:00		Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00				Board Game Day	
A Wreath of Carols 2:30				Book Bingo 10:30							
LEGO Club 4:00				Yoga 1:15*							
	16		17		18		19		20		21
Yoga 10:00*		Storytime 10:30 Christmas		Walking Club 9:00		Yoga 5:15*		Sit & Stitch 11:00			
Chair Exercise 1:30				Retired Teacher's Book Club 11:00				Gingerbread House Party 10:30*			
LEGO Club 4:00				Yoga 1:15*							
	23		24		25		26		27		28
		CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE		CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS							
	30		31								
Decorative Journaling 2:00*		Storytime 11:30 Noon Year's Eve Party		Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. *Registration is required.							
		Vision Boards 2:00									

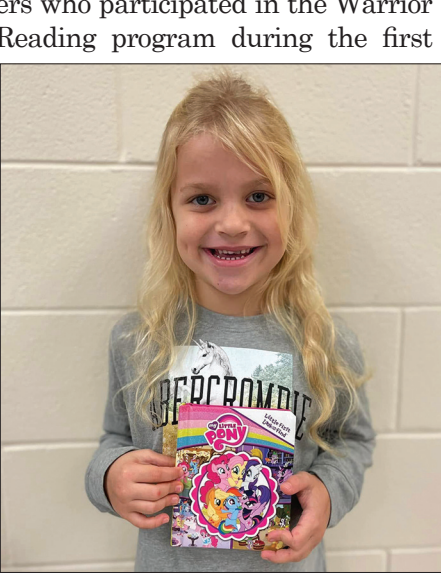
Woolwine Warrior Readers



Lexi Hubbard



Blake Belcher

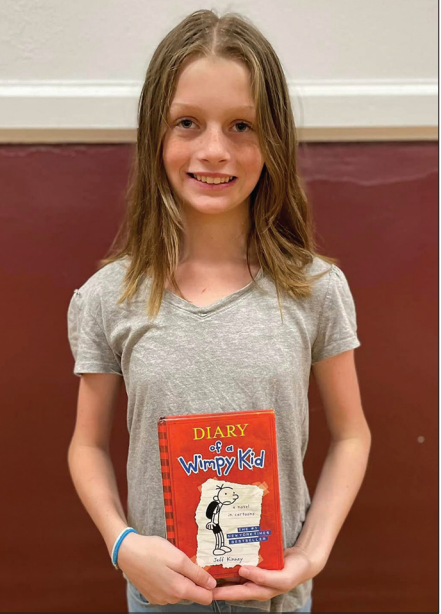


Abigayle Cox

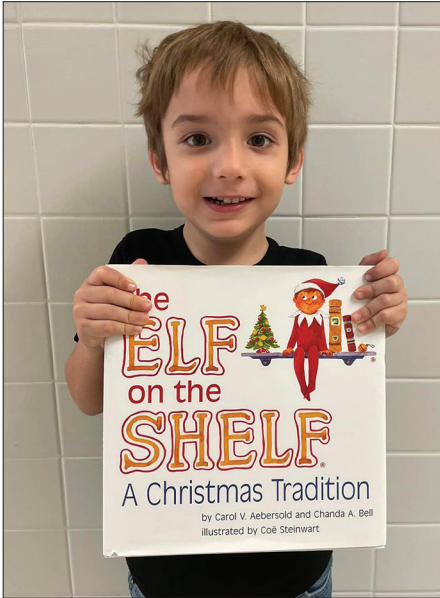
Woolwine Elementary School announced the names of its top readers who participated in the Warrior Reading program during the first quarter. Each student who reached their grade level goal received a free snack and a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut. In addition, students who read the most books in each grade also received a free book. The top readers are Pre-K-Logan LeBlond, Kindergarten--Abigayle Cox, First Grade--Lexi Hubbard, Second Grade--Elly Griffin, Third Grade--Callie Tejeda, Fourth Grade--Melissa Hughes, Fifth Grade--Sophia Otero-Garcia, Sixth Grade--Blake Belcher, Seventh Grade--Lacie Bullins. Congratulations everyone! We hope you will keep reading!



Sophia Otero-Garcia



Lacie Bullins



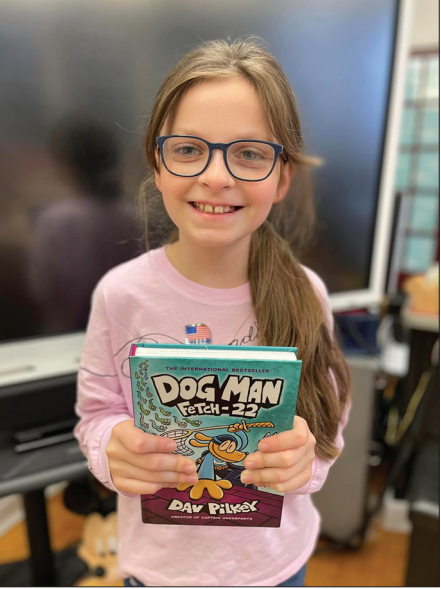
Logan LeBlond



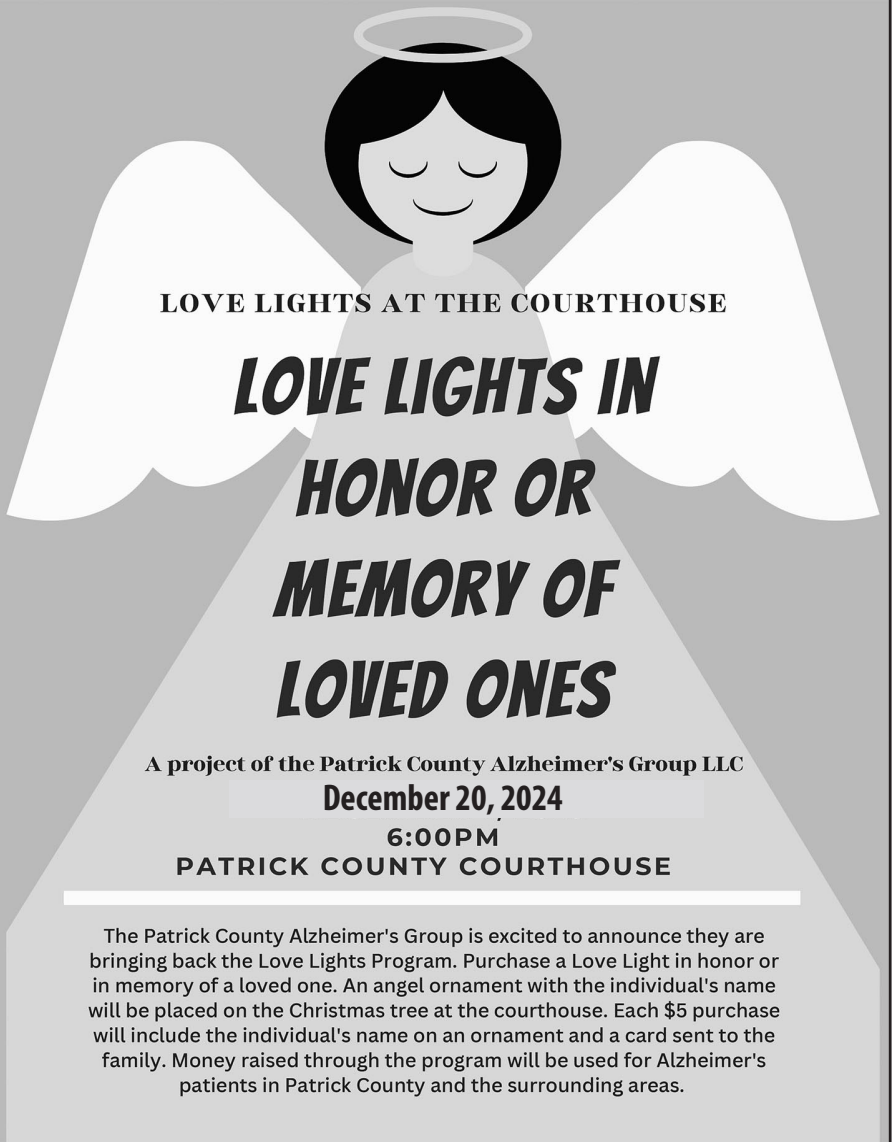
Elly Griffin



Callie Tejeda



Melissa Hughes



LOVE LIGHTS AT THE COURTHOUSE

**LOVE LIGHTS IN
HONOR OR
MEMORY OF
LOVED ONES**

A project of the Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC
December 20, 2024
6:00PM
PATRICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group is excited to announce they are bringing back the Love Lights Program. Purchase a Love Light in honor or in memory of a loved one. An angel ornament with the individual's name will be placed on the Christmas tree at the courthouse. Each \$5 purchase will include the individual's name on an ornament and a card sent to the family. Money raised through the program will be used for Alzheimer's patients in Patrick County and the surrounding areas.

Love Lights Registration Form

1) Name placed on Love Light: _____
(please circle one): In Honor of In Memory of
Name of Purchaser: _____
Address of Purchaser: _____
Name of Love Light Family: _____
Address of Love Light Family: _____

2) Name placed on Love Light: _____
(please circle one): In Honor of In Memory of
Name of Purchaser: _____
Address of Purchaser: _____
Name of Love Light Family: _____
Address of Love Light Family: _____

Love Lights \$5 Per Light
Checks payable and mail to:
Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC
PO Box 1301
Stuart, VA 24171

Tools for Gardening

By Kristine Adel, PCMGA

Most of us are familiar with lawnmowers and weed eaters, leaf blowers, and leaf rakes. Beyond that, the range and variety of equipment for gardening and landscaping can be daunting.

Beginner or old hands, the first and foremost investments are a pair of gloves and a wide brimmed hat. Don't forget sunscreen and bug spray. Always remember personal protection is your highest priority. The more powerful the equipment you are using, the more likely you are to need safety glasses, ear plugs, protective clothing, perhaps even steel-toed boots and a hard hat.

For most of us the next priority is cost. None of us wants a tool that doesn't earn its keep. We know what falls off the trees in the autumn, and it's not money. Let's explore the question of which tools we want and need by activity.

Potted Plants

If you're new to gardening you might start with potted plants. With a small investment in time and energy, potted plants can make a big impact on any porch or patio. Tools needed are minimal, a pair of gloves, a pot and a trowel. You may also want a dibble or a bulb planter for digging holes to a specific depth if planting numerous pots. I will admit that I have used a kitchen spoon on oc-

casation when I have misplaced my trowel, though I don't recommend the practice.

Vegetable Gardens, Flower Beds, and Raised Beds

Soil Preparation

The larger your project, the greater the number of tools required. You can make do with whatever you have, but having the right tool for the job makes everything easier. Preparing the soil is the first step of any gardening project. Most gardeners will want to amend the soil in a new garden. Adding composted or organic materials, and possibly lime or sulfates to alter the ph. For this you want something in which to carry these materials. The simplest is a pail or bucket but is hard on the back and doesn't carry much. Wheelbarrows, garden carts, muck buckets or a small trailer will do the job better. If your soil amendments include straw you'll need a pitchfork or manure fork.

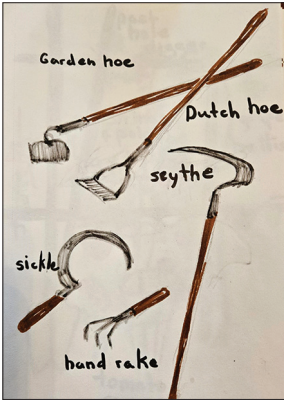
Once the vegetation is killed by covering with a tarp or cardboard for several months, a plow or tiller is the easiest way to turn over the soil. You can rent a tiller from a local hardware store. Another method is double-digging or turning the soil over twice. Double-digging which works best in small or tight spaces. Which shovel do you want to use? Shovels come in many shapes for different purposes. The flat

shovel is rectangular and slightly dished for moving materials. An edging shovel is also rectangular but not dished and is often used in landscaping. The elongated trench shovel can dig deep. The triangular root shovel with its serrated edges is great for digging through the roots of shrubs and trees. The pointed shovel is ideal for gravel or clay soils, but the rounded shovel is the most versatile. Long handled shovels require less bending and provide more leverage when lifting. A short handle may be easier to maneuver in tight spaces.

After turning over the soil you will need a rake to remove remaining vegetation. A small hand rake may be useful for small areas, but you might want to use a full-size garden rake for larger spaces. Now, the soil is prepared, ready to plant your seeds or seedlings with a dibble or a hoe.

Weeding

My grandmother kept a very large vegetable garden. Every morning, she was up with the sun and out to check her plants. Walking each row, trowel in hand, she removed every tender blade of grass and every weed that tried to emerge. They never stood a chance. No sooner did they pop up than she dug them out. I never saw her chopping the weeds with a hoe, nor did she ever use a sickle or scythe. She never had any handy-dandy



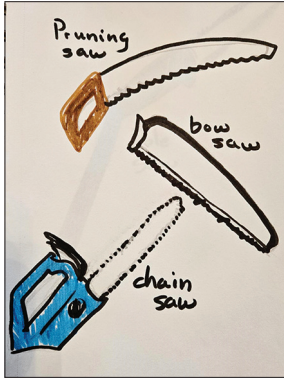
Hand tools



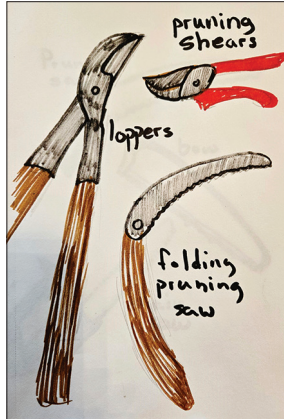
Diggers



Barrows carts



Pruners large



Pruners

gadget, as sold on TV, just her constant vigilance. I once heard a visitor remark, "A weed wouldn't dare grow in her garden!". I am not that vigilant. I've spent hours and hours with a hoe and a small hand rake. All I can say is my grandmother knew best all along.

Staking

Many plants such as trees, grapes, beans and tomatoes need support when first planted or as they grow too heavy to support their own weight, staking keeps the fruits from touching the ground, increases air circulation, and makes harvesting easier. Staking can be as simple as twigs stuck in the ground for peas, or string tying tomatoes to supports. Any type of stick or pole will do. You may need a post hole digger when installing a permanent trellis for grapes, brambles, and roses.

Landscaping

Pruning

Shrubs and trees in the landscape frequently need shaping and pruning. They may grow lopsided or tangled, have dead wood, suckers or water sprouts. Pruning can help. It can be as simple as pinching spent flowers to encourage

reblooming or require a professional to remove heavy limbs from a tree. Fortunately, most pruning can be done by a homeowner. Almost all pruning requires personal protective gear. Gloves, eye-protection, and earplugs are a must when using power equipment. Steel-toe boots and a hard-hat will be necessary if cutting heavy limbs and felling trees. Protect yourself by researching and using appropriate items.

Pruning shears and loppers are sized depending on the diameter of the branch to be cut. Hand saws also come in a range of types and sizes. Larger saws have larger teeth for faster cutting, while those with smaller teeth are more precise. Larger limbs require chainsaws, either gas or electric, while higher limbs might require

a pole saw, manual or power.

Never attempt to remove a limb while standing atop a ladder. These tools, used appropriately, can make short work of large jobs. Used carelessly, they can cause injury and death. The CDC reports that chainsaws are responsible annually for approximately 36,000 injuries and 250 deaths.

General guidelines for using any tool, especially power-equipment: *learn how to operate and maintain the tool safely, *always use appropriate personal protective gear, *never work in a potentially dangerous situation alone, *never try to force a tool to perform a task for which it was not designed, *always work in good light, *never use tools while impaired.

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Turtle time at the library

A recent Storytime at the library was all about turtles. The books, “Where’s My Turtle” by Barbara Bottner; “I Am Stuck,” by Julia Mills and “Turtle and Tortoise Are NOT Friends,” by Mike Reiss were read by Children’s Librarian Sam Edmundson and enjoyed by the young attendees.

Facts about turtles were shared by Jessica Hines and Norma Bozenmayer, followed by making a

turtle bank using a recycled fruit cup as a shell.

The program was completed with the children planting tulips and crocus bulbs in the Books, Blooms and Bugs Children’s Garden. Did you know that turtles can live 200 years and the oldest known living turtle in the world is Jonathan, a Seychelles giant tortoise who is estimated to be 191 years old? He was born in 1832.



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