

Board vacates FOIA charge amid contentious debate on transparency



Andrew Overby, of the Dan River District, (left), attended his first Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting as a board member.



Andrew Overby addressed County Attorney John Fitzgerald (right) about the Freedom of Information (FOIA) process.

By Taylor Boyd

Patrick County’s Board of Supervisors tackled issues of transparency, personnel, and community concerns during its meeting on Monday, Dec. 9. Among the most debated items was the decision to vacate a \$1,294.71 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) charge incurred by The Enterprise newspaper.

The motion to vacate the fee, introduced by Dan River District Supervisor Andrew Overby, passed in a 4-1 vote after a lengthy discussion.

Overby, who won a special election in November and began his term at the December meeting, wasted no time addressing transparency concerns, adding to the meeting agenda a discussion on FOIA processes. He also asked for

a discussion regarding County Administrator Beth Simms to be held in closed session.

The motion to amend the agenda passed 4-1, with Blue Ridge District Supervisor Steve Marshall abstaining.

Overby questioned County Attorney John Fitzgerald and Assistant County Administrator and FOIA officer Donna Shough about the FOIA process, specifically why a recent request from Debbie Hall in her capacity as editor of The Enterprise, was sent to Fitzgerald for review.

“Normally, we do send them through the county attorney unless it’s something very, very basic,” Shough said.

Fitzgerald said there was a question for him

as to what should be produced. “So, I conducted a review of the documents to determine whether anything should be exempted. We made certain redactions, and produced as much as was required,” Fitzgerald said.

“When you do a response to a FOIA request, you’re required to note the exemptions on the request” when information is redacted, as is required by law, Overby said.

Fitzgerald said he didn’t note exemptions; Shough added there were redactions, with no exemptions noted.

Overby said that doesn’t follow the requirements of the law.

“I wasn’t aware that we needed to note where

(See FOIA Charge p.2)

Patrick County Sheriff’s Office Ranks Among Busiest in Virginia, Report Finds

The Patrick County Sheriff’s Office (PCSO) remains one of the busiest law enforcement agencies in Virginia serving populations under 20,000, according to the 2023 Crime in Virginia Report. Released during the summer of 2024 by the Virginia State Police Data and Reporting Team (DART), the report confirms Patrick County’s continued position alongside Scott and Buchanan counties as the busiest jurisdictions in their category.

Despite the heavy workload, Sheriff Dan Smith pointed to a relatively low crime rate in Patrick County. “Even though we are very busy, our incident rate is still low, at 4.45 percent (per capita), compared to 4.24 in 2022, which is much lower than the state average,” Smith said.

Crime and Arrest Statistics

The report shows that Patrick deputies handled 715 reported incidents and made 468 arrests in 2023. Virginia State Police (VSP) contributed to local law enforcement efforts by investigating 18 offenses and making 16 arrests. DMV data reveals that Patrick deputies investigated 15 reportable traffic crashes, while VSP troopers assigned to the county investigated 142 crashes, including six fatalities.

Specific crimes reported in 2023 included:

- Homicides: 2
- Felonious assaults: 26
- Misdemeanor assaults: 51
- Larcenies: 32
- Narcotics offenses: 78
- Breaking and entering: 7
- Frauds: 14
- DUI arrests: 24 (12 by PCSO, 12 by the Virginia State Police - VSP)

The totals align closely with those from 2022, according to Smith. “We continue to work extremely hard to combat the distribution of illegal narcotics in our county,” he said. “The sale of methamphetamine, fentanyl, and other drugs are the root cause of most of our illegal activity.”

Smith also highlighted the department’s high crime clearance rate, noting that the PCSO solved 65.45 percent of all reported crimes in 2023. “This is extremely efficient compared to other localities,” he said.

Traffic Fatalities a Persistent Challenge

Traffic fatalities remain a significant issue for Patrick County, which ranked among the highest for rural counties in 2023, trailing only Madison and Sussex counties.

“Unfortunately, Patrick County is no stranger to having high traffic fatality rates; this has always plagued us here,” Smith said. DMV crash data shows that nearly all traffic fatalities in the county were related to speed or alcohol. Nearly all fatalities are either speed or alcohol related, according to DMV crash data provided by troopers who worked those fatal crashes in Patrick. Smith said his office is working closely with VSP troopers to increase highway visibility and reduce fatalities.

Operational Workload and Community Engagement

The report also highlights the extensive responsibilities handled by PCSO in 2023:

- 911 calls received: More than 70,000
- Calls requiring law enforcement response: More than 14,000
- Traffic stops conducted: 2,095
- Civil court documents served: 9,043
- Inmate transports conducted: 367
- Community watch meetings held: 40
- Summonses issued: 801

The average daily inmate population in Patrick County jail was 81, Smith said. PCSO also provides school resource officers, animal control services, and security for general district, juvenile and domestic relations, and circuit courts. Smith said his office also is assisted and works closely with Game Warden, Dale Ownes, of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Commitment to Professionalism

Smith emphasized the professionalism of his department, noting that PCSO is among the 25 percent of Virginia law enforcement agencies accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission.

“We are a professional organization, and we are honored to serve the best place to live and raise a family,” Smith concluded.



The Patrick County School Board heard it received a School Security Equipment grant at its December 12 meeting.

School division receives \$77,000 School Security Equipment grant

By Taylor Boyd

Patrick County Schools Superintendent Jason Wood announced during the School Board’s meeting on Thursday, December 12 that the division received the School Security Equipment grant.

“This is a 75-25 percent grant, so we are receiving 75 percent of the grant total. We’ll receive \$77,000 or more than that towards security equipment,” Wood said.

The grant funds will be used to purchase window films to limit visibility in the schools, additional surveillance cameras at the Patrick County High School (PCHS), and weapons/metal detectors.

“We’ve went through several vendors, and we saw several presentations. The OPENGATE system is the one that we have chosen,” he said.

Wood said this grant will be combined with the over \$1250,000 School

Safety & Security Grant the division received in June 2024 to get the OPENGATE weapons/metal detectors for PCHS.

“With that combination of those two dollars, we’ll have to purchase two additional OPENGATE systems out of local dollars to have enough to every entrance secured at the high school. So really good news that we were able to combine two grants to get most of that paid for with grant dollars,” he said.

In other matters, the board:

- *Approved the consent agenda.
- *Approved the proposed 2025 school board meeting calendar.
- *Approved the proposed 2025-2026 school calendar as presented.
- *Approved surplus items as presented.
- *Approved revised policies as presented.
- *Approved personnel as amended.

Safety Rope offers last-resort aid to county residents

By Taylor Boyd

For 30 years, Safety Rope has provided a critical safety net for Patrick County residents who find themselves with nowhere else to turn. The local nonprofit organization, founded in 1994, offers financial assistance for essential needs that often fall through the cracks of other aid programs.

“When people are having issues, a lot of times they go to the De-

partment of Social Services (DSS) or other organizations for assistance,” said Peggy Rakes, the organization’s treasurer. “Light bills, car repairs, plumbing issues—just different things they don’t have the money to deal with. But most of those organizations have applications and limits, and people can only get certain things covered.”

That’s where Safety Rope steps

(See Safety Rope p.3)

Early deadlines, holiday closings set

The Enterprise Office will be closed Monday, Dec. 23 through Friday, Dec. 27 to allow us to spend time with our families.

We will check emails periodically. To reach us, email Debbie Hall, dhall@theenterprise.net or Pat Delaney, submissions@theenterprise.net.

The office will reopen at 9 a.m. on Dec. 30, with regular hours through

Dec. 31. It will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1, and reopen with regular hours on Thursday, Jan. 2.

Early deadlines:

For the Dec. 25 edition, items for the Community Calendar and Classified section must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19.

We wish you and yours the happiest and merriest of holidays.

FOIA Charge

(cont. from page 1)

the redactions” were, Fitzgerald said, and asked for specific examples.

“I don’t have them in front of me, but I’ve reviewed them and there were several areas where there were redactions and there were no notations at all. So, I’m just wondering why it was redacted,” Overby said.

“You’re our legal counsel. You don’t know that you’re supposed to put an exemption or a redaction?” Fitzgerald asked Overby to point him to the part of the Virginia FOIA Code he referenced.

“You’re the expert on the Code, right,” Overby said.

“You’re the one telling me that I’m supposed to provide the exemption,” Fitzgerald said.

Overby then asked Fitzgerald what work he did for the 6.2 hours noted on the invoice sent to The Enterprise.

“What I just described. I reviewed the documents, determined in comparison with the Code about what can be exempted, or what should be exempted, made certain redactions, and then provided those to Mrs. Shough,” Fitzgerald said.

“So, you knew that there were redactions to be made, you made the decision to redact items for certain reasons, but you didn’t put why they were redacted on the response,” Overby said.

Fitzgerald said that was correct.

Overby noted a duplicate FOIA request was submitted by Marshall in his personal capacity.

“Why was Mr. Marshall not charged the same amount, or a split amount, between what Ms. Hall requested and what Mr. Marshall requested,” Overby asked.

Because she didn’t respond to Marshall’s request, Shough said she’d have to check with Amy Walker, who also is a designated FOIA officer.

Overby then made a motion to vacate Hall’s FOIA charge of \$1,294.71. Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, seconded the motion.

“I don’t want the FOIA process to be weaponized” or used as a deterrent for people to request information, Overby said, calling the charges unreasonable.

Marshall then asked for debate on the motion. Doug Perry, chairman, and of the Smith River District, agreed, adding that he thought the board needed to know all the particulars about the issue before voting. Perry added that he didn’t think the board needed to vote on the issue that night.

Marshall said the board should at least debate it.

“There’s lots of reasons, lots of times that funds are expended unnecessarily. Attorney fees are \$190 an hour. One of the most recent ones that kind of shocked me was a former supervisor, who over Mr. Overby’s campaign decided that I was a sitting supervisor, and I left my constitutional rights, and especially my First Amendment Right to Freedom of Expression, at the door. She caused the attorney, the subject of Mr. Overby’s campaign, to be asked where I had the legal right to have an opinion and publish an opinion. I believe it was at least an hour billable, it’s \$190 that went to your campaign. Not from you directly, but now that’s my definition of money not well spent,” Marshall said.

“That’s tax dollars that go to pay for that information, and is that what we want to put our tax dollars towards because somebody has to take their time to go through all

those emails, to go through everything that’s been submitted. That’s time that somebody works through lunch, that’s time that somebody has to work overtime to get that information in that short period of time, so that bill is acquired through somebody’s work,” he said.

Overby said that is part of the job for county employees and the county attorney.

Perry said it takes away from employees’ daily duties.

“I understand that, but they’re not going to receive the funds,” Overby said.

Perry said the county has to pay for that work and the overtime hours worked.

“So, you’re saying that anybody that would do any of this work has a packed schedule where they could not do this work without incurring additional costs. I just don’t believe that,” Overby said.

Perry asked how long the county has to reply to a FOIA request, and was told it was five business days.

(However, the FOIA statute provides the county an opportunity to request a five business day extension – which was done in this case.)

“If you had weeks to work on it, then I’m sure they could find the time,” Perry said.

“I just don’t want the FOIA process to be used as a deterrence for people to request information. I don’t think that the charges that were accessed were commensurate with the work that was done. I don’t believe that we got our money’s worth from the county’s attorneys to do that job if they couldn’t even site the requirement for the redactions,” Overby said.

The first email, Kendrick said that he saw about the price stated there would be a cost of \$200 minimum.

“If it’s going to jump from \$200 to almost \$1,400, there probably should have been some notification to see if they wanted to continue with it, or a little better estimate on it,” Kendrick said.

Jonathan Wood, vice-chairman, and of the Peters Creek District, asked Hall if she was given any notification that the FOIA charge would be north of \$1,000.

“I was not, and I checked multiple times for updates,” Hall said.

Marshall said he’s very concerned if the board starts spending taxpayer dollars on every FOIA request.

“Our job here is not to be stewards of a group that has a bone to pick, we’re stewards of the taxpayer money. So, taxpayer pays the money, we should handle that responsibly. If we were to write this off, and have the taxpayers pay it, I think it’s irresponsible,” Marshall said.

Overby said that neither the county nor the board need to weaponize the FOIA process to prevent FOIA requests. “And I think that’s more of what this represents. I don’t see where the charges make sense for the information that was produced,” Overby said.

Wood said he largely agreed with Overby, but still believed there should be a charge as someone has to do work to complete the FOIA request. “I definitely think we should have made notification when we jumped from \$200 to \$1,294,” he said.

“I also think this going along with the fact that if we are being transparent, we would not be getting flooded with FOIA requests,” Overby said to the applause of the audience.

“The main reason that this FOIA was requested was to shed light on situations that are being conducted behind closed doors,

or individually between certain members of government. If things were being conducted in the open, this FOIA request would have never been requested in the first place,” Overby said.

Perry then called for the board to vote.

Overby, Kendrick, Wood, and Perry voted yes; Marshall voted “No.”

Wood said he voted yes, “simply until we establish a better way of charging, so it seems more equitable for everyone.”

While he initially wanted to vote no, Perry said he voted yes as “where they (The Enterprise) wasn’t informed and that excessive was blindsiding.”

In other matters, the board:

*Heard an apology from Perry about comments he made during the November 18 meeting. “Both the editor and the employees for referring to them as a tabloid, and I do apologize for that remark,” Perry said.

*Heard from Ed Pool about the actions of some board members and the county administrator. Pool said over the last 18 months many have witnessed disturbing trends of some board members abandoning the desires of their district constituents in favor of commercial interests while never producing any chain of liability documentation from manufacturers.

Thus “potentially creating extreme legal liabilities which would cost this county millions if not tens of millions of dollars in legal fees alone in order to pursue damage recovery,” he said.

Pool said residents have also witnessed the county administrator moving legitimate Planning Commission functions to be handled by an outside consulting firm, whose talent pool he notes would not have made it through first round screening process in any organization he’s either worked for or led as a senior executive.

“These actions clearly demonstrate the lack of managerial experience, which is gained by years of work experience, not conveyance of title, resulting in the Fifth Estate being forced to file a FOIA request revealing how serious the internal disagreements have been. The press, when dealt with openly and fairly, is an ally,” he said.

Pool said he now fears the FOIA process is being weaponized as a means of obfuscating the public’s right to know. “A clear sign in the breach of representative government and the creation of adversarial relationships which never ends well for any of the parties involved,” Pool said.

He also requested a cap limit on FOIA requests of \$22.50 per hour, a full forensic audit of all county books for the last seven years, full background checks for all senior management including the board members, with the press reviewing and publishing all results from Pacer system searches and other public sources as deemed necessary, and a formal public apology to The Enterprise for “previous open comments of a derogatory or possible slanderous nature.”

*Heard from Trena Anderson about the actions of the board. She said only a fascist mentally attacks citizens and refuses free speech.

“Public servants aren’t dictators. They owe constituents explanation. Two members of this board constantly display disdain for citizens and taxpayers. You weren’t elected to do whatever you want. You were elected to listen to your constituents, represent their desires, and to be held accountable for your actions and decisions,” she said.

Citizens have the right to have a say in public process. Policies and decisions should be developed in the public arena, not in private texts or emails, Anderson said.

“For your information, every one of those texts and emails are owned by the citizens of Patrick County. There is absolutely no reason for private texts and emails relating to any county business,” she said.

Noting there are two supervisor meetings scheduled every month, Anderson said the second meeting is a work session, and supposed to be used for discussions between the board and the county administrator.

She asked why the work session is rarely held.

“Discussion of issues is the backbone of creating public policy as well as public trust and transparency. One of the FOIA’d texts” by The Enterprise “states, ‘I know we can’t meet as a group, but we do need to talk about things before an open meeting.’ He then says, ‘We do need to come up with a way to talk.’ The answer to that is to hold your work meeting monthly. Nothing is to be withheld from the public,” Anderson said.

Another quote in the texts was particularly upsetting, Anderson said of “My personal opinion, why should we expect any staff to invest here if they are going to be talked about/treated like this.”

Anderson said every resident in the meeting room is invested in the county, and some are forced to deal with the disdain from some county employees and board members.

“This is our home. We pay the taxes! We pay your salary and perks! What a truly disrespectful thing to say. Every head of every department should be required to live here and ‘invest.’ That increases the tax base and keeps our tax money here in Patrick County,” she said.

Anderson added, “the verbal assault” on resident Galen Gilbert after last month’s meeting “was despicable,” adding that she believes the offending supervisor should be removed from the board “immediately.”

*Heard from Karen DeCapp, who spoke about the May 13 public meeting where the county budget was discussed and many board members felt more work needed to be done on it.

“The county administrator went over the budget. One BOS (Board of Supervisors) member noted many things on the page had been decided to be taken off during a committee meeting, i.e. common-sense detail- HVAC maintenance going with a lower bidder than a higher one. The current CA (County Administrator) said the budget was the result of more than three months of work and its intention was for the best for the county, both now and in the future,” she said.

DeCapp noted the ambulance did not make the budget and that only one supervisor commented on this. At the September 18 meeting, she said Facilities Director Mike McGuinness said the top item on the County Administrator’s priority list was uniforms.

When concerns were raised about a paid vehicle and residence of a new hire, which DeCapp said are legitimate concerns directly affecting residents, “inner texts were revealed and the CA texted ‘My personal opinion, why should we expect any staff to invest here if they are going to be talked about/treated like this.’

“Suddenly, the best for the county fell into oblivion,” DeCapp said, adding that administrator’s

(See FOIA Charge p.3)

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FOIA Charge

(cont. from page 2)



Trena Anderson

contract stipulates that her salary must increase each year, as is granted to other county employees, and that all communications of supervised county employees must solely go through her.

“The taxpayers of PC, 20 percent who live under the poverty rate, must fork up \$500 for a vehicle, pay for both a tablet and laptop to use outside the office, and have enrollment and membership dues paid for in at least four organizations, with all travel included,” DeCapp said. “I’d argue with these stipulations” and further bolsters to “power aren’t necessary. Need it really be said, BOS you have been relegated to being an underling?”

As residents voice their concerns about the lack of common sense and the failure of county leadership, DeCapp said they are shouted down, disregarded, and faced with anger.

“Take heed and consideration to the hardships of this county and your own standing – your anger is displaced,” she said.

*Heard from Galen Gilbert, who discussed his passion for Patrick County.

“My family’s been here since the 1700s, so I’m very passionate about this county. and like I said, we need to have transparency across the board from the administrator, the employees, we need to know whom works for who around here,” he said.

Needless to say, Gilbert said the November 18 meeting was over, he was told by a member of the board “that they hoped I had the *alls to say what I said when the county administrator’s here, and I will. I just got to the age now where I



Ed Pool

don’t have that filter between my head and my mouth, and I will tell you what I think,” he said.

Gilbert said he also learned that a supervisor was discussing his disability in public.

“If you want to know what my disability is - come talk to me. I’ll tell you ... If you want to know about me, call me. I’ll talk to you. I’ll give you the time, because that’s the way we work things out with communications,” he said.

At this point in time, Gilbert said some of the communications he sees are disgusting.

“We need to be upfront with everybody in the county because we all pay taxes, whether it’s personal property or it’s your land (real estate),” he said.

*Heard from LeeAnn Seeley, who said what she witnessed at the November 18 meeting was disgusting.

“I think a lot of us were upset with some of the behaviors that went on, the rudeness that goes on, the communication, or the lack of communication, that goes on between this board and the citizens of this county,” she said.

Seeley believes the county should be a county of integrity, where residents are proud to live, and with supervisors who direct the county.

I’m not real proud, honestly. Before I stepped into this meeting I just happened to be on the phone with a girlfriend, who’s a resident of this county. I said I’m going to the board of supervisors meeting, and she said, ‘I heard they’re pretty rude to everybody.’ That’s the word on the street. That’s sad, that’s what people are thinking, that ain’t good, that’s not why you



More than two dozen residents attended the December 9 Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting.



LeeAnn Seeley

should be up here,” she said.

Seeley said residents have the right to free expression during public comments. “We shouldn’t be judged on it, and I feel that we are judged. That we’re a group of ‘oh-no,’ and that is not right. We’re here for everyone’s good,” she said.

*Heard from Mike DeCapp regarding the county’s budget and the hiring of new administrative management positions in the county’s strained financial climate.

*Heard from Rhonda Pruitt and Chris Hughes about the Patrick County Community Food Bank. Both requested the board consider the Food Bank’s request for funds for next year.

*Heard an update on the Blue Ridge Parkway from External Affairs Specialist Leesa Brandon and on Mabry Mill from Chief of Administration and Chief of Staff Rachel Stasny.

*Scheduled the board’s reorganizational meeting for Monday, January 6 at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Administration Building.

*Approved amending the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget with an increase of \$494,000 in local funds for the Child’s Service Act (CSA).

*Approved a bid to Hiatt Construction for security needs for



Galen Gilbert

the Patrick County Circuit Court building. According to an email sent from Jones, the work will cost \$50,958 with \$30,292.95 coming from interest earned on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. About \$20,665 will be from reserves should there not be enough fiscal year 2025 revenue to cover the work.

*Appointed Michael Tatum to the Planning Commission for the Dan River District.

*Appointed Kevin Smith to the Public Service Authority (PSA) for the Dan River District.

*Denied the request for a dangerous dog vaccination fees ordinance and moved that a resolution be prepared to direct animal control officers to seek reimbursement for vaccination and care through the court system.

*Discussed the request to ask the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to include Virginia news in local media.

*Discussed the 2025 board retreat and suggested topics.

*Approved the Nov. 2024 meeting minutes and bills, claims, and appropriations.

*Heard the administrator’s report from Shough.

*Heard the supervisors’ reports.

Safety Rope

(cont. from page 1)

in. “What Safety Rope does is we try to help with some of the bills that you don’t have anywhere else to turn for,” Rakes explained. “If your car is in the shop and that’s your only means of transportation to work, we try to help cover the cost of the car repairs. It’s just another avenue to turn to when you’ve been denied from everything else. We’re going to throw them a lifeline.”

In 2023, Safety Rope distributed more than \$25,000 to assist roughly 40 people, providing support for a range of needs, including utility bills, rent, and car repairs.

While the organization has remained steadfast in its mission, Rakes said securing sufficient funds is an ongoing challenge.

“This organization has been going for 30 years. The members back then got a lot of donations to help with this, but as the years have gone on, the donations have become less and less,” she said. “Luckily, they invested the money in CDs to earn interest, and that’s what we’ve been running on.”

Safety Rope also relies on contributions from local businesses and community members. Rakes highlighted Clark Gas & Oil as one of the organization’s largest donors, along with other charitable groups. However, the demand for assistance now far outpaces the donations received.

“The need has outdone the donations. We’re just not getting enough donations to spend out \$25,000 a

year,” Rakes said, noting that rising costs for essentials like rent and utilities have significantly increased the strain on available resources.

Among the most common requests for assistance are light bills and rent payments, Rakes said. “AEP (Appalachian Power) is one that we pay a lot to, helping people with light bills. Rent is another thing that we help people with,” she said.

The organization also addresses unique circumstances. “We helped with car repairs, and we had a lady whose insurance would only pay for one hearing aid, so we helped her purchase the other hearing aid,” Rakes added.

Because of limited funding, Safety Rope serves as a last resort, and residents must first apply for aid through DSS and other organizations.

“We wish we had the funding that you could just come to us and apply, but the funding’s just not there,” Rakes said. “It’s after you’ve applied through Social Services and different places, then those people can guide you to where you need to be to get the Safety Rope applications.”

The organization also prioritizes ensuring its resources reach as many individuals as possible.

“We don’t help the same person multiple times,” Rakes said. “We want to make sure that we’re helping everyone in Patrick County, so this is not something that you can

turn around and come back to us every month to get help for.”

Exceptions are rare but not unheard of. “If it’s extreme circumstances, we have helped an individual twice in the past,” Rakes said. “But it’s like 10 years apart. It’s not a repeat where you can come to us every month and get your light bill paid or whatever.”

For Safety Rope to continue its mission, community support is crit-

ical. Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 1439, Stuart, VA 24171. Donors who require a receipt for tax purposes should include a note, and a receipt will be mailed.

As Patrick County residents face increasing financial challenges, Safety Rope remains committed to its role as a lifeline for those in need. “We’re here to help when there’s nowhere else to turn,” Rakes said.



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PCHS Holds Fall Sports Banquet

By Ashlee Mullis
Several Patrick County High School students were recognized during the 2024 Fall Athletic Awards Banquet held on Monday, December 9. Pictured are:



Cross Country
Coach Eli Roberson, Cougar Award Female- Callie Wood, MVP
Female- Mackenzie Williams, MVP Male- Noah Hiatt
Cougar Award Male- Greely Terry



Football
Coach David Morrison, Most Improved- Wheeler Helms, Defensive MVP- Paul Pascale, Blood Sweat and Tears- Conner Goad, Offensive MVP- Easton Harris, Coaches Award- Seth Geiger & Cameron Collins

JV Girls Get Win



Martina Hubbard goes for the steal.

By Ashlee Mullis
The JV Lady Cougars got a 30-14 win on the road at Dan River, Wednesday, December 11. Martina Hubbard had 8 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 assist, and 1 block. Shianne Townsend had 6 points and 2 steals. Bella Wright had 5 points which included a 3 pointer, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, and 1 steal. Kenzie Sanchez had 4 points, 1 rebound, and 2 steals. Kaylene Garcia had 4 points, 1 rebound, and 2 steals. Meredith Wood had 2 points, 8 rebounds, 3

steals, 3 assists, and 1 block. Bella Martin had 6 rebounds and 2 steals. Bella Mashburn had 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, and a block. “Tonight, my girls played team ball! I love that they shared the ball and kept positive attitudes. They are settling down and kept composure while we had to fight through some adversity. They worked together and have improved so much over the past week. I am looking forward to seeing their hard work pay off,” said Coach Grace Helms.

Fall Athletic Awards winners announced

By Ashlee Mullis

All Three Rivers District

Cross Country

2nd Team- Greely Terry

Volleyball

1st Team—Journey Moore

2nd Team—Lilly Hazelwood

Football

2nd Team—Seth Geiger—OL

2nd Team—Seth Geiger—DL

2nd Team—Easton Harris—RB

2nd Team—Paul Pascale—LB

2nd Team—Glenn Stovall—DB

2nd Team—Jayden Corns—RB

Honorable Mention

Cameron Collins—TE

Josh Jimrusti—DL

Josiah Spangler—DL

Conner Goad—LB

Tyrese Penn—C

Calvin Lancaster—RB

Erik Martinez-Tejeda—PK

All Region 2C

Cross Country

1st Team- Noah Hiatt

Volleyball

1st Team—Journey Moore

2nd Team—Lilly Hazelwood

Football

1st Team—Paul Pascale—LB

2nd Team Easton Harris—RB

Seth Geiger—OL

Jackson Callahan—LB

Glenn Stovall—DB

PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports

Schedule for the week of December 23-29:

12/27 1pm Girls Basketbal vs Blacksburg

(at Franklin County)

5pm Boys Basketball at Franklin

12/28

County

3pm Girls Basketball vs

TBA (at Franklin County)

5pm Boys Basketball vs

Liberty-Bedford (at Franklin County)



Golf
Coach Brian Chitwood, Most Improved- Josh Freeman, MVP- Chance Corns



Volleyball
Coach Allison Gammons, MVP-Journey Moore, Best Offensive-Lilly Hazelwood, Most Improved- Sydney Tatum, Lady Cougar- Camille Gonzalez, Coach Heidi Moore

Varsity Girls Get Road Win



Camille Gonzalez lays one in for the Cougars.

By Ashlee Mullis
The Varsity Lady Cougars got a hard-fought win on the road at Dan River, Wednesday, December 11. The Cougars jumped out to a 17-6 lead at the end of the first, but had a tough 2nd and 3rd quarter. They picked up the momentum in the 4th, cruising to a 46-34 win. Kimora Wimbush had 12 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, and 2 steals. Journey Moore had 10 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, and 3 steals. Camille Gonzalez had 6 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 steals. Kendra Worley had 5 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists, and 5 steals.

Varsity Boys Fall to Dan River

By Ashlee Mullis
The Varsity Boys had a tough 47-75 loss Wednesday, December 11, when they hosted Dan River. Coach Brian Chitwood said, “Our young men battled for the 1st quarter. Unfortunately, we play four. We took a 6-2 lead out of the gate. Dan River answered back and took a 10-point lead. We hit a 3-point shot with 8 seconds left in the 1st and cut their lead to 23-20. They hit a very deep 3-pointer at the buzzer to push the lead to 26-20 and we never recovered. They are a very good and athletic team. They were ranked #2 in the state 2A basketball coming into the contest.” Tyler Marshall led the Cougars with 11 points, 9 of those behind the 3-point line. He added 1 rebound, 2 assists, and 1 steal. Easton Harris had 9 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, and 1 block. Noah Jessup had 7 points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists, and 2 steals.

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Crossing the Lines

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

County School Board Honors Teachers of the Year; Finalizes Cell Phone Policy



Teachers of the Year from each school were honored during the December 5 meeting of the Henry County School Board.

The Henry County School Board met on December 5 to honor outstanding teachers, approve a new legislative agenda, and finalize updates to the district’s cell phone policy. Teachers of the Year from each school were celebrated during the meeting, with the top three — District Teacher of the Year and two runners up, receiving a special reward.

“We believe education is the foundation of our community, and we’re proud to recognize and reward our exceptional educators provided special prizes for the top winners,” Barry Nelson, and Autos By Nelson, said. “In celebration of their dedication, the Henry County Public Schools District Teacher of the Year and the two runners-up were each handed the keys to a brand-new Ford Mustang Mach-E, the first-ever rally-inspired electric vehicle by Ford. Perfect for outdoor adventures or the daily drive to school, they’ll enjoy this incredible vehicle for three months. Congratulations to Meadow View Ele-

mentary School’s Carl Scales (2nd Runner-Up), Axton Elementary School’s Amanda Chaney (1st Runner-Up), and Bassett High School’s Joshua Doss, the District Teacher of the Year.”

“We’ve got to make school fun again,” Nelson added, emphasizing the importance of supporting educators.

Educators selected as Teacher of the Year from individual schools are:

Elementary Schools— Amanda Chaney (Axton), Sarah Reed (Campbell Court), Leah Lagesse (Drewry Mason), Sarah McCormick (G.W. Carver), Carl Scales (Meadow View), Taylor Walker (Mount Olivet), Jennifer Adkins (Rich Acres), Rachel Harrison (Sanville), and Kelley Bennett (Stanleytown);

Middle and High Schools— Page Belcher (Fieldale-Collinsville Middle), Alisha Britton (Laurel Park Middle), Joshua Doss (Bassett High), Mart Barrett (Magna Vista High), and Anna Rakes (Center for Community Learning).

City School Board Honors Teachers of the Year, Shifts Graduation Date



Martinsville School Board members and administrators honor the division’s Teachers of the Year.

The Martinsville City School Board held its final meeting of 2024 on December 9, highlighting accomplishments, approving policy updates, and making adjustments to key events, including Martinsville High School’s graduation ceremony.

Teachers of the Year Recognized Teachers of the Year from each city school were honored, with the district-wide winner set to be announced in January. The 2024 honorees are:

- Clearview Early Learning Center: Ashlee Cook
- Patrick Henry Elementary: Kelly Williams
- Albert Harris Elementary: Jasmine Hall
- Martinsville Middle School: Beverly Woody
- Martinsville High School: Jeremy Scott

Responding to feedback from

families and staff, the board approved changes to Martinsville High School’s graduation ceremony schedule.

“This is from parents to our staff,” said board chairperson Yvonne Givens. Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley explained further: “The graduation is traditionally held on Memorial Day weekend. Our families are traveling, a lot is going on.”

Starting in 2025, graduation will be held on Friday of Memorial Day weekend at 7 p.m., rather than Saturday, and will take place outdoors to accommodate larger crowds. The later time is also intended to avoid the daytime heat.

While the board acknowledged concerns about scheduling conflicts with Henry County’s graduation, members agreed the changes would benefit the community overall.

Father-Son Tradition: Bowers Tree Lot Spreads Christmas Cheer for 35 Years in Koehler



Mike Bowers has operated Bowers Tree Lot on Appalachian Drive in Koehler for 35 years. Now his son Joseph Bowers joins him in help people find and take home their perfect Christmas trees.

Input sought on plan for Mayo River State Park

By Staff Reports

Residents and stakeholders will have the chance to influence the development of Mayo River State Park during a public meeting on December 16. Hosted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the session will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Lester Banquet Hall at the Spencer-Penn Centre, 475 Spencer Penn Road, Spencer.

The meeting aims to gather input for the park’s master plan, a critical document that will guide the park’s development, conservation, and recreational offerings over the next 30 years.

A Collaborative Vision for Mayo River State Park

Mayo River State



Future Mayo River State Park

Park, located in southwestern Henry County along the Virginia-North Carolina border, spans 637 acres, including the confluence of the North and South Mayo Rivers. The park complements North Carolina’s Mayo River State Park, which extends 16 miles downstream.

“The master plan defines the park’s purpose, goals, and ob-

jectives and provides direction for construction, expansion, and operations,” the DCR states on its website. The planning process integrates public input, resource assessments, market studies, and business development strategies to ensure the park meets both community and visitor needs.

Owner of local eatery faces multiple charges, ABC license under scrutiny

Lovrico “Rico” Johnson, Sr., the owner of Kornna Kitchen, is facing multiple felony charges, including 18 counts related to finances. During an arraignment hearing on Dec. 5 in Martinsville General District Court, Johnson said he plans to retain legal counsel.

Johnson has been charged with nine counts of larceny by bad checks and nine counts of obtaining money under false pretenses in connection with alleged incidents in June, September, and October, court records suggest. Johnson said that he had filed Chapter 13 bankruptcy and attributed the charges to automatic withdrawals that occurred after the filing.

The financial allegations come amid additional scrutiny for Kornna Kitchen, which has faced the loss of its temporary Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) license.

Martinsville Police Chief Robert Fincher recently sent a letter to the Virginia ABC Authority requesting a review of the eatery’s compliance and license to sell mixed drinks due to incidents that occurred outside of the restaurant and police utilization in responding to those calls. That letter was drafted a few months after Fincher supported the restaurant’s bid for an ABC license in March.

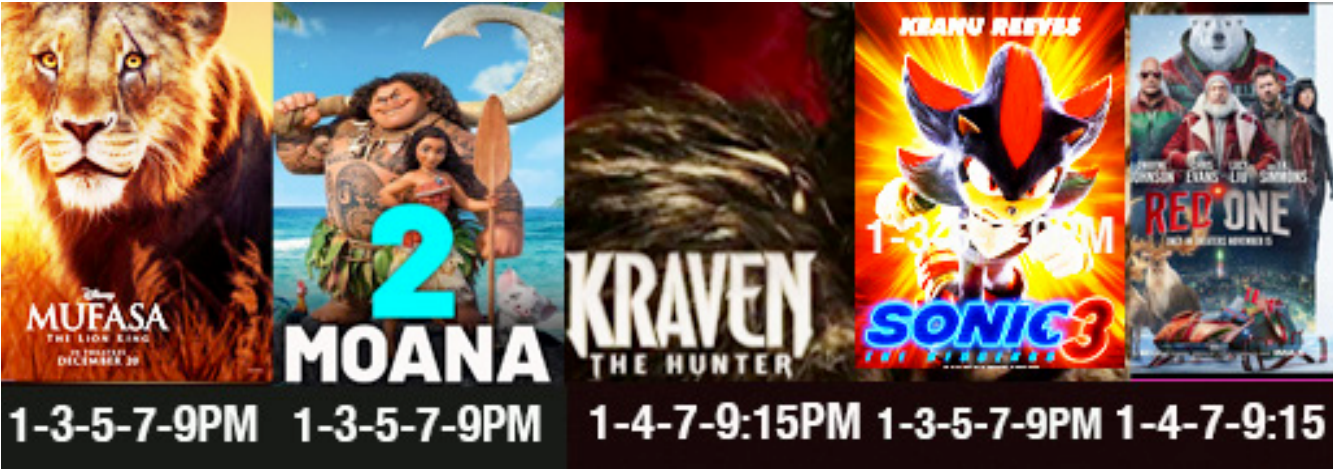
Fincher explained the process of endorsing businesses for ABC

licenses, and noted that initial endorsements are standard. “If there ends up being a problem, then we have to write a letter to the ABC stating, ‘hey, listen, it’s time that needs to be reviewed more, we recommend it be reviewed,’” Fincher said.

Had Kornna Kitchen’s license been permanent, revocation would have required a formal hearing, Fincher added. He referenced a similar situation involving Roosky’s Bar & Grill, a former Uptown restaurant, where a letter was sent requesting license revocation “right around the time that the homicide occurred.”

Johnson maintains there have been no incidents in his place of business, and that incidents outside the eatery also occur at similar businesses. He added that he cannot control public areas outside of his eatery.

Fincher explained that ABC officials consider incidents occurring within a certain radius of licensed establishments when evaluating compliance. “It could just be in the general area. The ABC takes a look at that, and takes those into consideration as being a result of that business even though it may not be inside,” he said, explaining that the agency assesses whether nearby incidents can be attributed to the business.

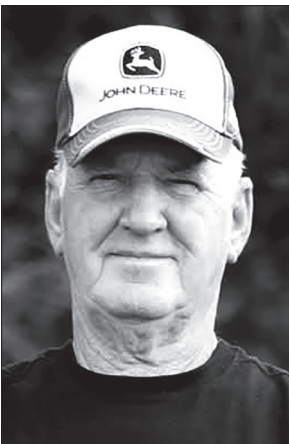


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Billy Gray Collins

Mr. Billy Gray Collins, age 83, of Claudville, Virginia, passed away early Monday morning, December 9, 2024, at the Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson surrounded by his loving family. Mr. Collins was born on March 12, 1941, one of eighteen children to the late Victor and Alpha Mae Collins. Billy was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend. He worked for many years at Pike Electric as a mechanic, but his passion was cattle farming. Billy was a member of Hatchers Chapel Community Church and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Surviving is his wife of 61 years, Susan Bateman Collins; daughter and son-in-law, Marla Collins Griggs and husband Clay; two sons and daughters-in-law,



Thomas Gray Collins and wife Amanda, Ronnie Gray Collins and wife Margie; four grandchildren and spouse, Samantha and husband Shane, Morgan, Lilly, Lewis; two step-grandchildren, Dusty, Lindsey; one great-grandchild, Stella; two step great-grandchildren, Lyla, Thea; thirteen siblings; along with many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Mr. Collins was preceded in death by four siblings. A funeral service will be held on Sunday,

December 15, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Moody Funeral Home Chapel in Mount Airy with Reverend Philip Adams officiating. Interment will follow in the Hills Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Claudville, Virginia. The family will receive friends on Saturday evening, December 14, 2024, at Moody Funeral Home from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. The body will lie-in-state on Sunday, December 15, 2024, from 1:30 PM until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hatchers Chapel Community Church, 268 Hatchers Chapel Road, Claudville, Virginia 24076. Moody Funeral Services in Mount Airy has been entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

It is with great sadness to announce the death of Mrs. Sarah Edna East, of Morehead City, NC. She passed away peacefully from natural causes in her home on Tues. Nov. 26th.

“Edna” was born on Jan. 15th, 1933 to William Russell (Buck) Boles and Ann (Pace) Boles in Stuart, VA. She was the eldest of 8 siblings.

Edna was a devoted wife, a caring mother, a beloved sister, and a fun-loving “Granny”. She had a genuinely beautiful soul, and would do anything

Sarah Edna East

for anybody. She was loved, admired, and respected. Her sense of humor was second to none. She touched the souls of those that knew her in such a way that will never be forgotten.

Edna was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Herbert and Johnny Boles; husband, James Daniel (Dan) East; and son-in-law, Herbert (Herb) Orama Jr.

Edna is survived by her daughter, Donna Gayle East Orama; her grandson, David Orama; her granddaughter, Allison Orama;

her great granddaughters, Sophia Orama and Phebe Johnston; her sister, Sue and husband Herman Geesaman; her sister, Linda and husband Jackie Spence; her sister, Shirley Sutphin; her sister, Beverly and husband Howard Tate; her brother, William (Billy) and wife Phyllis Boles.

Edna was laid to rest on Sunday, Dec. 8th 2024, beside her husband Daniel, at Crea-sey’s Chapel in Dry Pond, VA. We love you Granny. You will be missed dearly.

Elizabeth Ann Wright Turner



Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Wright Turner, age 84 of Martinsville, Virginia passed away at Sovah Hospital in Martinsville on Thursday, December 12, 2024. She was born in Patrick County on August 27, 1940, to the late Robert Alvin Wright and Elizabeth Naylor Wright. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister, Frances Wright Spencer.

Ann grew up in Patrick County and graduated from Hardin Reynolds Memorial High School, Critz, Virginia. She worked for Anthony Brothers Supply and Fieldcrest Mills Personnel Office. Ann moved to Laurinburg, North Carolina in 1971 when her husband transferred with Fieldcrest Mills. In Laurinburg she worked as assistant business manager for St. Andrews College and later went to work for Cape Fear Farm Credit as a loan officer and paralegal. She retired from Farm Credit with 26 years of service. After retirement for a while she went to

work for a realty firm for two years. While in Laurinburg, she volunteered for the Chamber of Commerce, nursing home, Relay for Life, and March of Dimes. Ann played on a local tennis team for years. Her team won the North Carolina State Championship one of those years. She was a member of St. Luke United Methodist Church in Laurinburg for over 35 years. She worked for the food bank where they served over 100 families once a month. She worked on numerous committees for the church. Ann loved to do crafts, reading, cross stitch, walking, and tennis. In 2010 she and her husband moved back home to be near family. After mov-

ing home, she moved her membership to Pleasant View Baptist Church; the church she grew up in.

Mrs. Turner is survived by her husband, Ned Turner of the home; one son, Gregory Wright Turner of Martinsville; one granddaughter, Megan Murdock (Ryan) of Fort Mill, SC; two great-grandchildren, Liam and Lyza Kate; two sisters, Alvina W. Price of Patrick Springs and Lois W. Vaughn of Axton; several nieces and nephews; and her beloved dog, Ellie.

Funeral services for Mrs. Turner will be held Monday, December 16, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Pleasant View Baptist Church with Pastor Joey McNeil officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is in charge of the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Judy Vaughn Shelton

Judy Vaughn Shelton, age 77, passed away Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born in Martinsville, VA to the late Noel Vaughn and Dorothy Stedman McDaniel. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband James Douglas Shelton; one brother, Mike Vaughn. She was a lifelong member of New Hope Church of the Brethren where she was a deaconess and sang in the church choir. She loved sewing and embroidery, especially making scripture quilts, had a green thumb with flowers and plants. She was very caring and would do anything for the people she loved in-



cluding displaying a kind heart to the people in the community whether it be visits or donations to the less fortunate.

Mrs. Shelton is survived by two daughters, Nellie “Shannie” Shelton Jessup of Stuart, and Melody Shelton Hutchens and husband, Joey of Temperanceville, VA; seven grandchildren, James Kary Jessup, Lilly Sofia Jessup, Chessie Shoemaker Turner, Lay-

la Shoemaker, Sadie Shoemaker, Patrick Russell, and Joella Hutchens; one brother, Gary Vaughn and wife Elaine of Stuart; sister-in-law, Catheryn Vaughn of Stuart; and half-sister, Jeannie Martin Howard of Tennessee; caregiver and dear friend, Judy Hale; and lifelong best friend, Sandra Halsey Wood.

A Funeral service will be held Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. at Moody Funeral Chapel with Pastor Rick Randall officiating. Burial will follow in Union Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Online condolences may be sent to www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Sharon Renee Vaughn

Miss Sharon Renee Vaughn, age 55 of Stuart, Virginia passed away at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital on Friday, December 13, 2024. She was born in Patrick County on May 19, 1969. She was preceded in death by her father, Moir Ray Vaughn. Sharon was a registered nurse in the home health setting. She previously worked at Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. Her love for taking care of children was unmatched. She enjoyed crocheting and being with her family. Sharon was a loving daughter, car-



ing sister, adoring aunt, and great-aunt.

Left to cherish the memories of Sharon are her mother, Eva Haden Vaughn of Stuart; one brother, Tim Vaughn of Martinsville; one niece, Claire Shumate (Austin) Bassett; one nephew, Matthew

Vaughn (Gabriella) of Martinsville; one great-nephew, Liam; and one great-niece, Stella.

The funeral service for Miss Vaughn will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Les Croft and Pastor Ronald Deskins officiating. Burial will immediately follow in Patrick Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services on Thursday morning. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Mr. Christopher Thomas Stovall, age 57 of Bassett, passed away on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at his home. He was born in Patrick County on August 28, 1967, to the late Lloyd Thomas Stovall and Barbara Craddock Boothe. In addition to his parents, Chris was preceded in death by his grandparents, Otis and Edith Craddock and Ruth Stovall.

Chris is survived by his siblings, Denise Stone (Tim), Cindy Keller (Tommy), Brandon Boothe (Wendy), as well as special aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Chris, with his meticulous attention to detail, spent most of his life as a carpenter. He took great pride in helping build homes for families, always striving for perfection in every detail. In his earlier years, he was employed at Bassett Mirror Company. He is cherished for his sense of humor, love for his family, and strong will and courage.

A celebration of life for Chris will be held Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at



Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Freddy Bonds officiating. Interment will be private. The fami-

ly will receive friends one hour prior to the services at the funeral home on Sunday afternoon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you enjoy a meal with your family and friends or donate to a charity of your choice. A special thank you to the Carilion family, especially Krista, Jenna, Mary, Lynn and Libby. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is in charge of the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

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PATRICK PULPITS

Oh, Those Human Differences

By Van Yandell
Proverbs 3: 5-6
“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Recently in a meeting of ministers, I have never felt so short and wide. One of the attendees was about 6’ 6” and probably weighed about 130 pounds. Realizing that humans look and think as much alike as daylight and dark, our variances are intriguing and create in some of us a state of curiosity.

Physiologically we are as different internally as we are externally. Physiological (relating to the branch of biology that deals with the normal functions of living organisms and their parts) we are defined by numerous factors. We humans work out, go to the gym, walk/jog/run, diet and take billions of dollars in vitamin and supplement pills to change our bodies. We want to feel better, look better and in some cases appeal to the opposite sex.

Our ancestry, nutritional variations, body chemistry and even our environmental circumstances establish in us distinctions that superficially we cannot explain. Very few people seem to be satisfied with their bodily characteristics.

We can choose our nutritional and exercise programs but it’s impossible to choose our ancestors. Such ailments as heart disease, diabetes and even cancer propensity appear to have heredity followings.

Regardless of our disease/condition, ancestral proclivity, we do have a few conditions in our lives we can control. Among those are nutrition and exercise. Our exposure to pollutants can be controlled with limited success. To be in a room with a smoker gives us reason to know where the door is located.

1 Timothy 4:8 “For bodily exercise profits little: but Godliness is profitable unto all things, having prom-

ise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” Notice the words “profits little.” If God was telling us it profits none, it would have said that. Numerous places in the Bible we are told to run. “Isaiah 40: 31 “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

This verse is telling us to find our strength in the Lord and that is great advice but it can also be referring to endurance. Physical exercise builds endurance, especially cardio-vascular exercise such as running or bicycling.

Endurance, mental, emotional and physical, is of great benefit for those called to promote the Gospel of our Jesus. If one’s purpose in life is to lead others to Christ, we must be strong to endure the work Jesus assigned to us (Matthew 28: 18-19). The Bible also acknowledges the mind-body connection. Proverbs 17: 22 “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”

Have you ever felt really down, to the point of depression? Then the grandchildren came to visit or your dog came along and appeared to think you were the grandest person to ever live. It’s really interesting how one’s attitude and self-concept can quickly change. The improvement may be temporary but life is better.

We can also take this as a lesson to build people up (encourage) rather than to criticize. When a person, especially children, hears nothing but negativism, what can we expect them to become? Do you want to make an enemy for life? Humiliate or insult them!

Many parents today are using the TV or smart phone for a baby-sitter. This negligent practice not only contributes to the dumbing of future generations but contributes to the ignorance that affects

decision making processes.

Proverbs 22: 6
“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Failure to heed this scriptural admonition contributes to the degradation of our world societal status and will proliferate as technology proceeds with the development of more “toys” that teach harmful values.

Proverbs 22: 7 “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.” Such a dire warning of the dangers of debt should be a red flag warning to individuals and governments but greed and blindness prohibits that from happening.

These examples are only a few of the reasons our human differences are so segmented and divergent. The only solution is to return to the teachings of God in the Holy Bible. The problems of this world have a solution and the only barrier to these Biblical teachings is people.

We are spiritual beings. I Corinthians 6: 19 “What, Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

God made us with our physical and mental variances for a reason. To believe He has a purpose for all of us may seem to stretch the imagination for many but the Bible clearly states Jesus came to save all, (John 3: 17) not just a select few.

The Bible also tells us unequivocally God Jesus called the Apostle Paul to take the Gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 3: 15). As different physically as we may be, Christ died for the remission of sin of the world.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. A part of the Bible Connection series. His email: vmy2121@outlook.com

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Immanuel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ? Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah
3. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ...? Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers
4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the shepherds learn of Christ’s birth? Magi informed, Joseph announcement, Mighty wind, Angel appearance
5. Where did the wise men go

first when they arrived in the Holy Land?

Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron

6. What does the Bible record as to when Jesus was born? Late September, Dec. 25, March 17, Does not

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Isaiah, 3) Engaged, 4) Angel appearance, 5) Jerusalem, 6) Does not
“Test Your Bible Knowledge,” a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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- 1 NATO has a special one for spelling out words over the radio
9 Architectural wings
13 Provo people
20 In a lying, faceup position
21 Sticky stuff
22 Kind of energy
23 Moniker for novelist Ernest
25 Dig up
26 Apt. overseer
27 Yoko of music and art
28 Singer Waters
30 Puente of mambo
31 Road coater
34 Weed B- —
36 Marriott, e.g.
39 Doesn't lack
42 Often-dried fruit
44 Diarist Anaïs
46 "Caveman diet"
47 Messy roommate on "The Odd Couple"
51 Dune locale
56 Chicago hub

- 57 Dot on some transit maps
59 Gave a coif
60 Suffer ruin
62 Admonish
65 "Hello" singer
66 Cast off skin
68 1992 Guns N' Roses hit
70 Extermination target
73 Civil rights icon Parks
76 Hoagies
77 Extermination targets
78 Method of measuring ocean depth
83 Boy actor in 1937's "Elephant Boy"
85 Raccoon kin
86 Alluring attributes
89 "No doubt!"
93 Trig topics
95 Dependent
97 — -ground missile
98 Barely beats
101 Doing certain ballroom moves
103 Spanish bar appetizers
105 Born, to Luc
106 Plant pouch
107 — Zedong

- 108 Very thin material for book pages
113 Steelers' gp.
115 Mu — pork
117 Normandy city
118 Doctrine
120 Internet ID
122 Symbol of innocence
126 One revising something
129 Portrayer of Jax Teller on "Sons of Anarchy"
133 Act as arbiter
134 Symbol of innocence
135 Brazil's largest city
136 Soul
137 Amply skilled
138 Apt word spelled out by the first letters of eight answers in this puzzle

DOWN

- 1 Deadly vipers
2 Island feast
3 Musical mark for "extremely softly"
4 "Drive South" singer John

- 5 Le Duc — (1992-97 president of Vietnam)
6 Nectar lover
7 Sailors' saint
8 Knotting up
9 Ovum
10 Actor Rob
11 Averse (to)
12 Whale's half-rise out of the water
13 Island guitar
14 "Sn" element
15 Suffix with prop-
16 Shrubland
17 Sunny lobbies
18 Mafia's Frank
19 "Danke —"
24 Around 12 p.m.
29 Greek H's
32 In a new way
33 Backboard attachment
35 Sentra maker
37 Grasslands
38 Actor sharing top billing
39 Backboard attachment
40 Tennis' Arthur
41 Injury vestige
43 Yak it up
45 "That's false!"
48 Pupil of Plato

- 49 French noble
50 Rule for homework time, perhaps
52 Operated by water under pressure
53 Brand of fat substitute
54 Ignited anew
55 Blissful sites
58 Bakery buys
61 Hoagie
63 Coll. in Dallas
64 Wanes
67 Football's Flutie
69 Hollywood's Morales
70 Praline bit
71 Cut-rate, in adspeak
72 Thick carpets
74 Show filmed at 30 Rock
75 Hebrew month
79 Daytime nap
80 "How — Your Mother!"
81 Pitcher Ryan
82 African nation whose capital is Conakry
84 Boil briefly
87 Very angry
88 — -Caps

- 90 Hat edge
91 Italian peak
92 African nation whose capital is Lomé
94 Lava or Dial
96 NFL scores
99 Stymied
100 Sticky stuff
102 Some small batteries
104 Japanese green tea
108 "Veni," translated
109 Monikers
110 Skillful feats
111 Navel type
112 Fixed-up building
114 Brittle
116 Arm bones
119 Like giraffes
121 Emmy winner
Remini
123 "Sometimes you feel like —"
124 African nation whose capital is Bamako
125 Coll. hotshot
127 Football's Marino
128 Lister's abbr.
130 Caviar source
131 "Yoo- —!"
132 1995-2006 TV channel

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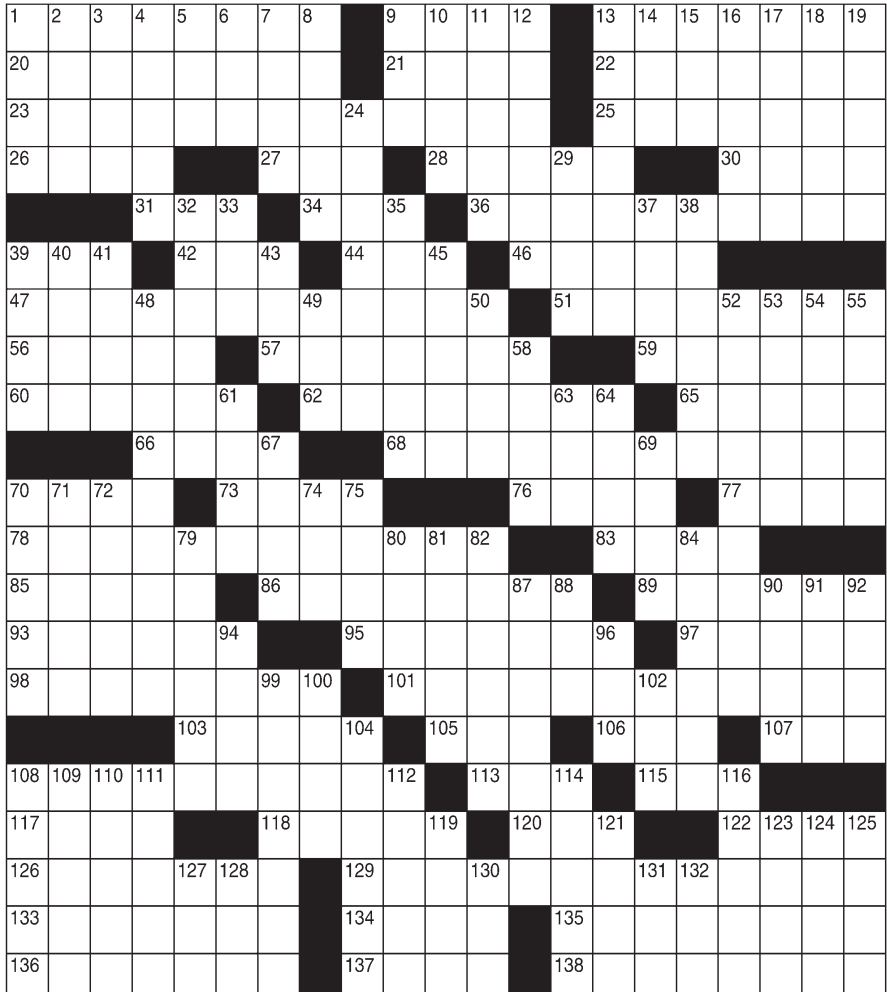


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DANVILLE, VA
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Puzzle answers page 11

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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HELP WANTED

Virginia Tech/Virginia Cooperative Extension Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources Patrick County Extension Office, Job #531775 Applications are to be submitted online at jobs.vt.edu; enter job number 531775 for additional information

and to apply. For further information contact Terri Alt, Unit Coordinator, at 276-694-3341 or email talt@vt.edu. Review date 1/3/25. EO/AA Employer



AUCTIONS

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or 276-694-5697
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3609 South Mayo Dr., Stuart
God Bless You

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.

PATRICK COUNTY ALZHEIMER'S LOVE LIGHTS
Our Love Light Program has been continued until December 20th and the Angels will be placed on the tree as we receive the orders. Thank each of you so much for the help each of you do to help someone else with dementia. The following is a list of the Angels that have been purchased as of December 16.

| | | | |
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| IN MEMORY Jessee Mae Vernon Dennis Vernon James E Belton Jr Levie Hill Jennie Hill Lee Ann Collins Johnnie B Roberson Virgil Williams Lowell Williams Charles Vernon Lottie Ann Smith Elmer Smith Ruby Smith Marion Cobbler Frances D Rodgers Fred Smart Lillian Smart | Charlene Williams Lottie Ann Smith Marion Cobbler Elmer Smith Ruby Smith Gail Johnson Nellie G Belton James E Belton Sr. Acie Cox Ethel Cox Angela Dalton CW Puckett Lorene Puckett David Puckett Debbie Overby Jewel Baliles Frances Hughes Walter Goins | Nellie Goins Bobby Goins Johnnie Searce Bobby Searce Pauline Searce Roy Rodgers Peggy Roberts Ginger Bryant William Rodgers Norma Puckett Polly Tatum Bobby Pendleton Bobby Pendleton Bobby Pendleton Jean Gilley Marion Cobbler Mabel Clark Rachel Sheppard | Danny Sheppard Paula Pendleton Dorothy Jessee Doris Wood IN HONOR Derick Smith Peggy Smith Donald Vernon Carol Vernon Sally Smith James Smith Denise Smith Guy Smith Miranda Platt Michaela Blevins Keith Blevins Kiley Blevins Charles Platt |
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Love Lights \$5 Per Light
Checks payable and mail to:
Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC
PO Box 1301, Stuart, VA 24171

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@the-enterprise.net.

Meetings

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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 18
The Carroll County Genealogy Club will hold its monthly business meeting at 2 p.m. on the left side of the Historical Courthouse in Hillsville.

Friday, Dec. 20
The Community Food Bank will be at Fairystone VFD 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.

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 patrick-countyquilters@gmail.com.

The Ararat Ruritan Club holds Rook games every Monday night from 6:30-8 p.m.

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets the first Tuesday of every month at the American

Legion Post 105 at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

Free Community Meal, every 4th Wednesday, 5 p.m., Raven Rock Wesleyan Church, 1912 Raven Rock Road, Ararat. Take out or dine in. Call Scott or Nann Phillips at (276) 773-6004 or email pastor@ravenrockchurch.org.

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Honey Pot, 106 N. Main St., Stuart (across from The Coffee Break). Call (276) 694-2356 for more information.
The Carroll County Genealogy Club is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food. The music and dancing are 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food, music and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m.

Connect Health+ Wellness offers free confidential Medicaid/FAMIS application and renewal assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. Medicaid renewals have resumed. Medicaid members need to keep their mailing address and contact information up to date. Connect Health + Wellness' specially trained Medicaid/FAMIS Outreach Advocate can provide more information. Call or text Ann Walker, (276) 732-0509, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.


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Weekly SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

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Grant provides funds for middle school students to visit P&HCC's campus

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) is one of ten Virginia colleges and universities awarded a State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) grant to support the Middle School Campus Visit Project. SCHEV, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education and Commonwealth Savers, awarded \$126,000 to ten institutions to enable the post-secondary schools to host campus visits for middle school students during the 2024-25 academic year.

“The Middle School Campus Visit Project introduces young students to the possibilities of higher education, sparking their interest in postsecondary pathways early in their academic journey,” said Scott Fleming, SCHEV director. “By creating age-appropriate and engaging activities, colleges and universities are inspiring students to see themselves as future college students and begin to believe in the high expectations we have for them as the rising generation.”

P&HCC college guides plan to use the \$15,000 award to host local seventh graders on P&H-CC's main campus. Students will be invited to



Pictured are: Jentonia Wilson (MVHS Career Coach), Lydia Prillaman (MHS Career Coach), Cherica Williams (BHS Career Coach), Ashley Hughes (Dual Enrollment Support Specialist), Chloe Mayhew (Coordinator of Dual Enrollment), and Stephanie Keith (PCHS Career Coach) plan to welcome middle school students to P&HCC during the spring semester. (Contributed photo)

spend the day for a fun and interactive exploration of the college's programs and resources that will engage students and increase their awareness of postsecondary options available to them. While on campus, students will have the chance to be exposed to a Mobile Fab Lab tour and demonstration, interactive STEM lab experiment demonstration, tour health sciences and skilled trades labs, meet with their high school's designated Career Coach, and learn more about opportunities open to them once they are in high school (including Dual Enrollment and Upward Bound). Students will also enjoy lunch on campus and will receive prizes for engagement competitions throughout the day.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity to middle school students in our service region and to welcome them to our campus as they begin to craft their career plans and envision a future of financial stability for themselves,” said P&HCC president Dr. Greg Hodges.

Now in its third year, the Middle School Cam-

pus Visit Project is part of SCHEV's Level Up initiative, which aims to increase postsecondary readiness, enrollment, and completion for all students in Virginia.

DMV Select in Stuart sets holiday hours

The DMV Select office in Stuart will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday Monday, December 23, Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25.

The office reopens with regular hours on Thursday, and Friday, December 26-27.

The office closes again on Wednesday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Day.

Flooding prompts an extension of road closure

Virginia 671 in Patrick County will remain closed to through-traffic until December 20 due to flooding.

The closure went into effect on November 12 for pipe replacements. It affects the portion of Virginia 671 (Raven Rock Road) from Virginia 631 (River Road) to Virginia 631 (Pond Road).

The road was scheduled to reopen to traffic on Friday, December 13.

Directional signs are in place to assist motorists.

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

[Signature]
Clerk

LEGAL

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

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

ABC NOTICE
Tin Pen Alley Inc. trading as TIN PEN ALLEY, 511 W Blue Ridge St, Stuart, Patrick County, VA 24171. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant, Beer and Wine, On and Off Premises license, to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Kathy Anderson, co-owner/secretary/treasurer
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

LEGAL

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS)
Petitioner,) Case No. CL24000054-00
v.)
SAMUEL DAVID MARTIN, JR.) **ORDER OF PUBLICATION**
MARY ELIZABETH MARTIN CLEMENT) Project 0058-070-E18, R201
SANDRA M. MAHONY) UPC: 17536, Parcel 153
MICHAEL J. BELL) Tax Map No. None Assigned
BETTE G. BELL)
UNKNOWN OWNERS, as Their)
interests May Appear)
and)
One parcel of land containing 1,000)
square feet, more or less, land in fee,)
and all improvements and)
appurtenances thereon)
Respondents.)
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Pursuant to an order entered on the 13th day of November, 2024, this notice is hereby given:

In this proceeding, the Petitioner seeks to acquire by condemnation one parcel of land containing 1,000 square feet, more or less, land in fee, and all improvements and appurtenances thereon, from a parcel of land (Parcel 153) situated in Stuart, Virginia, for the uses and purposes of the Petitioner for construction, reconstruction, alteration, improvement, maintenance, and repair of Route 58, for a project known as State Highway Project No. 0058-070-E18; R-201, in Patrick County, Virginia, all of which uses and purposes are described more particularly in the Petition and Exhibits attached thereto on file in the office of the Clerk of this Court, to which Petition and Exhibits reference is hereby made for a full and accurate description there of; and the Petitioner further asks the Court to ascertain, or to appoint commissioners or to empanel a jury to ascertain, just compensation to the owners of any estate or interest in the property to be taken or affected as a result of the taking and use thereof by the Petitioner.

For such purposes, the Petitioner will apply to the Court, sitting at the Patrick County Courthouse, 101 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171, on the 16th day of January, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the Petitioner may be heard, for the Court to ascertain, or to appoint commissioners, or to empanel a jury to ascertain, and report just compensation as aforesaid.

And it appearing by Affidavit filed according to law that all owners of Parcel 153 at the time the Petitioner acquired the aforesaid property interests cannot be found, that all living heirs at law of any deceased owner cannot be found, and that due diligence has been used by and on behalf of the Petitioner to locate all owners or all living heirs at law of any deceased owner of Parcel 153 without effect, the Court does hereby ORDER that:

- Any owner of Parcel 153 shall appear within ten days after due publication of this Order in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, and do what is necessary to protect their interests; and
- If any owner or heir at law of any deceased owner desires to assert any objection or defense to the taking or damaging of Parcel 153 or to the jurisdiction of the Court to hear the case and to proceed with a jury, commission, or bench trial, such person shall file an answer designating the property in which that person claims to be interested, stating the grounds of any objection or defense to the taking of the property or to the jurisdiction of the Court to hear the case, and asking the Court to proceed with a jury, commission or bench trial for the determination of just compensation. Should any such person fail to file an answer as hereinabove provided, such failure shall not preclude the person from appearing on the date set for the jury, commission or bench trial or from presenting evidence as to valuation and damage or from sharing in the award of just compensation according to that person's interests therein or otherwise protecting that person's rights, but such failure shall preclude such person from any other defense by way of pleas in bar, abatement or otherwise.

An extract, Teste

[Signature]
Clerk

T. Bray Gammon (VSB# 85324)
DANIEL, MEDLEY & KIRBY, P.C.
110 North Union Street
Danville, VA 24541
Telephone: (434) 792-3911
Facsimile: (434) 793-5724
bgammon@dmklawfirm.com

Counsel for Petitioner

LEGAL

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS)
Petitioner,) Case No. CL24000055-00
v.)
MICHAEL J. BELL) **ORDER OF PUBLICATION**
BETTE G. BELL) Project 0058-070-E18, R201
JOHN R. ROBERSON, JR.) UPC: 17536, Parcel 154
STEPHNEY P. ROBERSON) Tax Map No. None Assigned
UNKNOWN OWNERS, as Their)
interests May Appear)
and)
One parcel of land containing 12,837)
square feet, more or less, land in fee,)
and all improvements and)
appurtenances thereon)
Respondents.)
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Pursuant to an order entered on the 13th day of November, 2024, this notice is hereby given:

In this proceeding, the Petitioner seeks to acquire by condemnation one parcel of land containing 12,837 square feet, more or less, land in fee, and all improvements and appurtenances thereon, from a parcel of land (Parcel 154) situated in Stuart, Virginia, for the uses and purposes of the Petitioner for construction, reconstruction, alteration, improvement, maintenance, and repair of Route 58, for a project known as State Highway Project No. 0058-070-E18; R-201, in Patrick County, Virginia, all of which uses and purposes are described more particularly in the Petition and Exhibits attached thereto on file in the office of the Clerk of this Court, to which Petition and Exhibits reference is hereby made for a full and accurate description there of; and the Petitioner further asks the Court to ascertain, or to appoint commissioners or to empanel a jury to ascertain, just compensation to the owners of any estate or interest in the property to be taken or affected as a result of the taking and use thereof by the Petitioner.

For such purposes, the Petitioner will apply to the Court, sitting at the Patrick County Courthouse, 101 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171, on the 16th day of January, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the Petitioner may be heard, for the Court to ascertain, or to appoint commissioners, or to empanel a jury to ascertain, and report just compensation as aforesaid.

And it appearing by Affidavit filed according to law that all owners of Parcel 154 at the time the Petitioner acquired the aforesaid property interests cannot be found, that all living heirs at law of any deceased owner cannot be found, and that due diligence has been used by and on behalf of the Petitioner to locate all owners or all living heirs at law of any deceased owner of Parcel 154 without effect, the Court does hereby ORDER that:

- Any owner of Parcel 154 shall appear within ten days after due publication of this Order in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, and do what is necessary to protect their interests; and
- If any owner or heir at law of any deceased owner desires to assert any objection or defense to the taking or damaging of Parcel 154 or to the jurisdiction of the Court to hear the case and to proceed with a jury, commission, or bench trial, such person shall file an answer designating the property in which that person claims to be interested, stating the grounds of any objection or defense to the taking of the property or to the jurisdiction of the Court to hear the case, and asking the Court to proceed with a jury, commission or bench trial for the determination of just compensation. Should any such person fail to file an answer as hereinabove provided, such failure shall not preclude the person from appearing on the date set for the jury, commission or bench trial or from presenting evidence as to valuation and damage or from sharing in the award of just compensation according to that person's interests therein or otherwise protecting that person's rights, but such failure shall preclude such person from any other defense by way of pleas in bar, abatement or otherwise.

An extract, Teste

[Signature]
Clerk

T. Bray Gammon (VSB# 85324)
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bgammon@dmklawfirm.com

Counsel for Petitioner

LEGAL

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS)
Petitioner,) Case No. CL24000056-00
v.)
PLACERIAS, L.L.C.,) **ORDER OF PUBLICATION**
a Virginia Limited Liability Company) Project 0058-070-E18, R201
KOLISA L. STERMER a/k/a) UPC: 17536, Parcel 158
KOLISA STERMER, KOLISHA L.) Tax Map No. None Assigned
STERMER and KOLISHA STERMER)
TRAVIS D. DULANEY)
UNKNOWN OWNERS, as Their)
interests May Appear)
and)
One parcel of land containing 541)
square feet, more or less, land in fee,)
and all improvements and)
appurtenances thereon)
Respondents.)
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Pursuant to an order entered on the 13th day of November, 2024, this notice is hereby given:

In this proceeding, the Petitioner seeks to acquire by condemnation one parcel of land containing 541 square feet, more or less, land in fee, and all improvements and appurtenances thereon, from a parcel of land (Parcel 158) situated in Stuart, Virginia, for the uses and purposes of the Petitioner for construction, reconstruction, alteration, improvement, maintenance, and repair of Route 58, for a project known as State Highway Project No. 0058-070-E18; R-201, in Patrick County, Virginia, all of which uses and purposes are described more particularly in the Petition and Exhibits attached thereto on file in the office of the Clerk of this Court, to which Petition and Exhibits reference is hereby made for a full and accurate description there of; and the Petitioner further asks the Court to ascertain, or to appoint commissioners or to empanel a jury to ascertain, just compensation to the owners of any estate or interest in the property to be taken or affected as a result of the taking and use thereof by the Petitioner.

For such purposes, the Petitioner will apply to the Court, sitting at the Patrick County Courthouse, 101 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171, on the 16th day of January, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the Petitioner may be heard, for the Court to ascertain, or to appoint commissioners, or to empanel a jury to ascertain, and report just compensation as aforesaid.

And it appearing by Affidavit filed according to law that all owners of Parcel 158 at the time the Petitioner acquired the aforesaid property interests cannot be found, that all living heirs at law of any deceased owner cannot be found, and that due diligence has been used by and on behalf of the Petitioner to locate all owners or all living heirs at law of any deceased owner of Parcel 158 without effect, the Court does hereby ORDER that:

- Any owner of Parcel 158 shall appear within ten days after due publication of this Order in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, and do what is necessary to protect their interests; and
- If any owner or heir at law of any deceased owner desires to assert any objection or defense to the taking or damaging of Parcel 158 or to the jurisdiction of the Court to hear the case and to proceed with a jury, commission, or bench trial, such person shall file an answer designating the property in which that person claims to be interested, stating the grounds of any objection or defense to the taking of the property or to the jurisdiction of the Court to hear the case, and asking the Court to proceed with a jury, commission or bench trial for the determination of just compensation. Should any such person fail to file an answer as hereinabove provided, such failure shall not preclude the person from appearing on the date set for the jury, commission or bench trial or from presenting evidence as to valuation and damage or from sharing in the award of just compensation according to that person's interests therein or otherwise protecting that person's rights, but such failure shall preclude such person from any other defense by way of pleas in bar, abatement or otherwise.

An extract, Teste

[Signature]
Clerk

T. Bray Gammon (VSB# 85324)
DANIEL, MEDLEY & KIRBY, P.C.
110 North Union Street
Danville, VA 24541
Telephone: (434) 792-3911
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bgammon@dmklawfirm.com

Counsel for Petitioner

Letters to the Editor

Blood drive meets goal

Patrick County made its goal this month! There were twenty-one equivalent blood units collected with twenty-one as a goal. Two donors were first-time donors.

A big thank you to the dedicated volunteers who take time out of their day to assist all donors and to make your donation a positive experience. Volunteers who worked this month were Denise Clark, Bill Hines, Betty Holt, Carol Martin, and Ann Sheppard. The volunteers prepared a Christmas luncheon for the donors and Red Cross workers. We also celebrated Bill Hines 80th birthday with a cake and many birthday

wishes. Bill Hines was surprised! Thank you, Patrick County Farm Bureau, a long-time friend of the PC Blood Drive, for supporting this month's blood drive.

The Red Cross encourages donors to make an appointment for donations by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767) or online by going to www.redcrossblood.org and searching 24171.

The next blood drive is scheduled on Tuesday, January 14, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the John D. Hooker Building. Hope to see you there. Happy New Year!

Gene Stirewalt,
Stuart

Thank You

The Patrick County High School Fishing Team would like to take this public opportunity to thank everyone who supported the fishing team and stopped by our booth at the Patrick County Agricultural Fair and everyone who purchased a raffle ticket. The annual raffle ticket drawing was held Facebook live on October 27th, Congratulations to all the winners:

1st Place: Jerome Smith; 2nd Place: Brett Haskins; 3rd Place: Terri Bowman; 4th Place: Leigh Wilson; 5th Place: Daniel Hill.

We would like to say a special thanks for your donations and supporting the team fundraisers

as they continue to help support the youth with expenses, such as tournament specific fees, boat gas, jerseys and entry fees when competing against other high school teams throughout the Commonwealth.

A very special thank you to all our sponsors, boat captains, parents, grandparents and our community and everyone for their support of the youth anglers. The team is excited for the 2024/2025 season!

On behalf of the Patrick County High School Fishing Team,
Hylton Scott,
Melanie R. Scott,
Sandra W. Heath

Dear editor,

Though I do not agree with a number of policies of the national Democratic Party, the choice of voting for a convicted felon who is likely guilty of many more crimes yet to be tried was reason enough to back Kamala Harris or, in fact, anyone other than Donald J. Trump for president. For example, anyone who has served in the military knows that if they had handled highly classified documents the way Mr. Trump had, they'd be in Leavenworth federal prison right now. Sadly, his constant stream of lies, insults directed at anyone who disagreed with him, and racist remarks concerning immigrants - not to mention his attempt to overthrow the democratic electoral process after the 2020 election - seems to have had little effect on the average voter. Likewise, we seem to have someone who I'd not trust as head of the local rod and gun club now re-elected as the "commander-in-chief" of the most powerful military in the world.

Does Donald Trump have a "mandate" as one recent letter to the editor of this newspaper implied? Not really, unless you think winning the votes of only slightly more than one-third of the eligible voters in America is a mandate. He won because many of those who voted for Democrats in the previous election simply stayed home. Although the GOP achieved a small majority (three seats) in the U.S. Senate, Republicans actually LOST several seats in the House of Representatives and are left with the smallest majority in decades.

As often happens, many of those eligible to vote, about one-third, simply did not, so I don't think they can be counted as favoring the Trump agenda or "mandate."

"Buyer's remorse" in a couple of years is likely if all of Trump's promises, however illogical, are fulfilled and if all his cabinet nominees, most of whom are incompetent or even opposed to the very existence of the departments they would lead, are approved. Expect high inflation, HUGE budget deficits, a major recession, another pandemic, and, perhaps, another war caused by his bumbling, bluster foreign policy.

With virtually every federal employee's job threatened, expect a few other problems in the future too - getting your Social Security claims processed or your veterans benefits approved and even your request for help after the next weather-related or environmental disaster. Funny thing, Republicans always bad mouth "big government" until their homes and businesses are destroyed by a natural disaster, and then they want FEMA there to help them ten minutes after the event.

Will DJT end the war in Ukraine as promised? Yes, as long as he gives Putin everything he wants and another democracy dies. The brave Ukrainians fighting a cruel dictator, admired by Mr. Trump, will not likely survive. In short, any sort of supposed "mandate" for Mr. Trump, if carried out, will be bad news for a lot of people.

John Reynolds,
Critz

Norris

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Allen named to President's List at Emmanuel University

Matthew Allen was named to the President's List for the fall semester at Emmanuel University. Those named to the list must be

able to maintain a 4.0 grade point average while meeting other demands of pursuing a full-time college education.

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- *Other requirements will apply

To learn more, please contact:

Savannah McNear

(434)793-4711 ext. 1115

109 Bridge Street

Danville, VA 24541

savannah.mcnear@spectrummed.com

Red Bank club elects officers at dinner meeting

The Red Bank Ruritans recently elected officers for the upcoming year and held its Christmas meal.



Red Bank Officers (l-r), Roger Gammons, President; Jerry Atkins, Oak Level club who installed the officers; Robert Cowdrey, Vice President; Karen Cowdrey and Charlie Bowman, Secretary; Joe Cole 1 year Director; Jerry Felts, 2 year Director; and Glenna Morse, club Treasurer



Co-Ruritans of the Year, Robert Cowdrey and Jerry Felts, presented by Jerry Atkins and Merlin Scales.



Jerry Felts, Community Service Award, presented by Jerry Felts and Merlin Scales.



Connie Bishop receiving the Ruritan Forever award from National Director Merlin Scales and Jerry Atkins.



Co-District Ruritan of the Year, Roger Gammons, presented by Jerry Atkins.



Red Bank Ruritan President's Award, Tom Bishop, presented by Merlin and Jerry.



Youth of the Year Award: Emily Adam's, presented by Jerry Atkins.

Season's Greetings & Best Wishes

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We Wish You & Your Family, Safe & Happy Holiday!!

Dr. Nicole DeShon

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