

# Recent Storm Brings Snow to the Area



A cold front that moved through the area early this week brought colder temperatures and gusty winds, setting the stage for another chance of precipitation this weekend, primarily rain. Last week, the second winter storm of the year delivered several inches of snow to the county. The snowfall created picturesque scenes, including the snow-covered beach at Fairy Stone State Park and the LOVE sign at the local library branch, photographed Friday afternoon as the flakes began to fall.  
(Photos by Pat Delaney)

## Power outage inspires resident-led food initiative

**By Taylor Boyd**  
A desire to help neighbors during weather-related power outages inspired Brittany Thompson, a Critz-area resident, to create ‘The Helping Hive of Patrick County VA’ Facebook page. The initiative aims to provide meals to local residents struggling during outages.  
When the entire county lost power early last week, Thompson said her neighborhood was among the last to have service restored.  
“I know for us, we really weren’t prepared for this because we really didn’t think it was going to hit us,” she said. “Then by the time we realized that it was, you know, we’re not going to rush out and buy a generator and do this, that, and the third.”  
Instead, Thompson said she packed everything down in her deep freezer and covered it with ice to prevent thawing. She and her family hunkered down and did what they could. As her family weathered the outage, she began to think about her neighbors, many of whom are elderly.  
“I just kind of got to thinking a lot of my neighbors and stuff - they weren’t prepared for this either. I live in a neighborhood that has a lot

of elderly people. So, I made a batch of soup, and I went and fed them.  
“It was just one of those things where I was like, ‘well even if they have power back, people’s groceries could have got ruined.’ Even if they didn’t, some people just want a hot meal. The power’s been out, they don’t feel like cooking, they’ve got to clean out their fridge, do whatever,” she said.  
Thomson said she then decided to make pots of taco soup and offered some to county residents on Facebook. Within an hour, Thompson said she had made three stockpots of soup. She estimates she gave soup to about a dozen households in her neighborhood, many of which had multiple residents.  
“It’s just one of those things—we don’t have a lot ourselves, but it doesn’t cost much to be kind. And I don’t think that’s something people do a lot nowadays,” she said.  
Before the second round of snow last week, Thompson received numerous messages offering donations of groceries, money, and time to help her make and deliver soup and other food to those in need.  
“I’m not comfortable taking any money, so I’m not taking any money.”  
(See Power Outage p. 2)

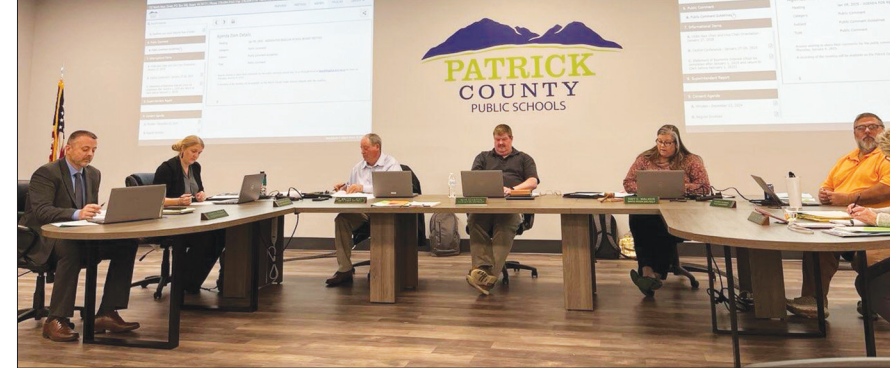
## Broadband, transparency among goals for new year

**By Taylor Boyd**  
Members of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors shared their priorities for the coming year, outlining a vision focused on better budgeting, access to healthcare, and administrative operations.  
Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, said he wants the county to continue to build on and improve its already existing organizations and operational side.  
“I think that’s the key to everything. We’ve come a long way, Mrs. Simms (County Administrator Beth) has done a great job building us operationally and developing organizationally, so we just need to continue to build and strengthen our operations,” he said.  
If there aren’t adequate operations, Perry believes nothing will fall in place.  
“From the administration piece to the department heads, the way things are ran, the way things are operated. Without that operational piece, things don’t flow,” Perry said.  
As part of that operational piece, Perry said the county intends on looking at building a building for Station 8, its paid Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department.  
“I’ve asked our Facilities Manager (Mike McGuinness) to see if he can get us some numbers as to what that’s going to cost, just (to) have something put together,” he said.  
If the board doesn’t have an estimated dollar figure for the project,

Perry said it’s not going to be put in the budget. “If it doesn’t get put in the budget it’s not going to happen. If we can get just an educated guess what it’s going to cost us then we have something put into the budget and get that ball rolling,” he said.  
Based on his last conversation with McGuinness, “I think he’s got a couple solid plans put together that he’ll address that we can put into the budget or work into the budget. And again, that’s part of that whole operations piece that’s just on the EMS side,” Perry said.  
An upcoming board retreat will be when the board “put heads together and develop that operations piece” and determine its overall priorities for the year, he said.  
The date for the board retreat had yet to be set as of the publication of this article.  
Perry expects EMS and the way the board’s budgeting process will be among the top priorities at the retreat. At last year’s retreat, improving the Transfer Station and EMS were among the board’s priorities.  
“The Transfer Station improved leaps and bounds,” Perry said. “It’s now actually running like a Transfer Station should run. That was a huge accomplishment. The Facilities Manager (has) been able to save us a whole lot of money, keep us from making mistakes on various facilities in the county. Then

(See Broadband p.3)

## Walker, Harrell to lead school board



The Patrick County School Board heard an update on its security grants at its Thursday, January 9 meeting.

**By Taylor Boyd**  
The Patrick County School Board selected its chairman and vice-chairman for the upcoming year during its Thursday, January 9 meeting.  
Amy Walker, of the Mayo River District, was chosen to serve as chairman and Shannon Harrell, of the Blue Ridge District, was elected as vice-chairman.  
Sara Leigh Collins was reelected to serve as board clerk, and Deree Reeves was appointed as the board’s deputy clerk.  
The board also approved its special committee assignments for the year. Walker will serve on the Employee Insurance, Parent Advisory, and Budget committees, and Harrell will be on the Gifted and Building Committees. The pair will also



Shannon Harrell, of the Blue Ridge District (left), and Amy Walker, of the Mayo River District (right), will serve as the vice-chairman and chairman of the Patrick County School Board.  
serve on the liaison committee.  
Rob Martin, of the Dan River District, will be on the School Health  
(See School Board p.3)

## Local representatives’ proposals address healthcare, public safety, and funding

**By Taylor Boyd**  
Local delegates are gearing up to propose over 20 bills in the 2025 General Assembly session that recently got underway, tackling issues such as healthcare, public safety, and funding initiatives.  
Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, plans to introduce 12 of the 15 bills he is allowed, including the Unfunded Mandate Reduction Act, which he described as a “Good Governance Bill.”  
“What it does is it looks at unfunded mandates that the state has put upon the localities, and it takes a review of those unfunded mandates and makes suggestions to the state about how to alleviate this unfunded mandate for the locality,” he said.  
Williams believes the bill could save taxpayers money and has encountered minimal opposition. The act will conclude after three years, with policies vetted during its term. However, the policies would have been thoroughly vetted by the end of that time period.  
“That’s a cool one that’s gotten some traction by localities because it could save their taxpayers money. I haven’t had a lot of opposition to it right now at all, there might be concern about the process as far as

what’s required to slow down legislation and look at it more carefully,” he said.  
Williams plans to call it a ‘Good Governance Bill,’ in part to hopefully help it gain enough traction in the General Assembly to pass.  
Another notable proposal is the Healthcare Sandbox Bill, aimed at addressing rural healthcare challenges by creating experimental zones for alternative healthcare models.  
“Instead of those projects having to meet the Certified Public Need requirements, the CPN laws, it would allow them to waive those,” Williams said. He explained that the bill could enable emergency services in underserved areas like Patrick County, which previously missed out on establishing a stand-alone ER due to CPN restrictions.  
Williams hopes the initiative will gain traction, noting, “Hopefully the initiative taken on this type of legislation will have some success.”  
If the projects work well, Williams said they will receive the right to expand. If they don’t work, then they have to reform or withdraw.  
Williams said this bill is more addressed to the challenges rural communities are facing when it comes  
(See Local Representatives p.3)



# Power Outage

(cont. from page 1)

tary donations. I'm asking if people want to donate, that they buy items themselves and we arrange pick-up, drop-off, meet up. However they want to do it," Thompson said.

Within 24 hours, volunteers from across Patrick County, including Ararat, Stuart, Patrick Springs, and Critz, offered to cook and deliver meals. Some with four-wheel-drive vehicles volunteered to brave difficult conditions to deliver food.

Although the power remained on during the second round of snow last week, volunteers still distributed hot meals to those in need. Thompson herself delivered two six-quart pots of soup to four households with multiple residents.

"The ladies that volunteered to cook froze the soups they made so we will be ready to go for any unexpected outages, and I am going to make and free a few myself this weekend," she said.

To better coordinate efforts, Thompson created 'The Helping Hive of Patrick County VA' Facebook page.

"I'm going to make sure that how I've got it

set up runs smoothly," she said. "I want to keep people updated in the community as to locations where they can pick up, meet, or request delivery. I want everybody to be able to follow one page for updates."

Thompson envisions the group providing assistance year-round, not just in the winter.

"Our power goes out randomly in Patrick County—sometimes for hours, sometimes for days. It's just one of those things where I'm going to try to get this to be where it can be anytime the power's out. Anybody that needs help, reach out," she said.

Looking ahead, Thompson is considering expanding the initiative to offer meals about once a month to those in need.

"It's not much, but with the way groceries and everything cost, it's kind of hard to do much. But it doesn't cost much to be kind, and it's just really great to see how the community has rallied together," she said.

For more information, go to Facebook.com/TheHelpingHiveofPatrickCountyVA.

### The Helping Hive of Patrick County VA

The Helping Hive of Patrick County VA Facebook page was created last week to help provide free meals to residents without power or the ability to cook.

### AD RESERVATIONS FOR THE SPRING 2025 PATRICK COUNTY MAGAZINE

Contact Patrick County Chamber of Commerce  
director@patrickchamber.com  
276-694-6012

## Ads for county magazine being accepted

The Patrick County Magazine won the "Best Magazine Guide" award at the 2024 Southwest Virginia Tourism Awards for the second year in a row. The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and Patrick County Tourism are gearing up for volume

4, Spring 2025 edition. Like the 2024 editions, the magazine will feature articles about our well-known and best kept secrets. Residents and Visitors will continue to enjoy reading about Patrick County. The magazine is circulated across the region at events, regional visitor centers and local businesses. The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce is responsible for selling the advertisement spaces in this magazine. Contact the chamber if you are interested at (276) 694-6012 or email director@patrickchamber.com. Ad reservation is January 24.

## Pets of the Week



This sweet pooch is available for adoption. She seems so sad at the shelter, and would love to find her forever home.

This beautiful cat is so loving and friendly. She is already spayed, about four years old and wants to be part of a family.

When you adopt a cat or dog from our local shelter, you are literally a life saver. These animals need you; they are all there through no fault of their own. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259, visit in person or check out their Facebook page to view other available pets. Adoption fees are only \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination.

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## Norris Memorial Services

Visit our website for pricing:  
www.norrismemorialservices.com

1500 Kings Mtn Rd.  
Martinsville, VA,  
276-638-2778

## Buy Your Love Local Market set for February 7

# BUY YOUR LOVE local

A POP UP FARMERS' & ARTISAN MARKET

**02.07.25 • 9 AM - 1 PM**

Come shop local artisans & our market vendors

CALLIOPE CIRCUS FOR THE ARTS  
410 PATRICK AVENUE  
DOWNTOWN STUART

www.patrickchamber.com

The Stuart Farmers' Market in partnership with Bull Mountain Arts and the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce are hosting the "Buy your Love Local" pop-up event on Friday February 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This indoor market will feature Stuart Farmers Market vendors and Bull Mountain Artists selling locally produced

foods to locally made art. The perfect combination to support local and find that unique gift for your loved ones.

The market will be held in Callopie Circus for the Arts, 410 Patrick Avenue in Downtown Stuart. Check out the Stuart Farmers Market Facebook page for attending vendor announcements.

## Tourism Talks

Greetings Patrick, Happy New Year! It's hard to believe we are almost halfway through January, and I am delighted that we got some snow. It's wonderful to see the mountains, hills, and valleys covered. I'm excited about the friends visiting and the family members coming in from out of town!

We are looking forward to a fantastic year for tourism in 2025, and we are currently in the planning stages for events, festivals, and activities.



I want to let you know that the chamber is now accepting ad reservations for the 2025 Spring Edition of Patrick County Magazine. This is a great opportunity to promote your business and showcase what makes our community special. The magazine has been a tremendous success in promoting our area and has been distributed nationwide. I have personally handed out several copies to global travelers who enjoyed them and took them back to their homes.

Here are some visitor statistics from our Visitor Center in 2024: over the 3 ½ years we've been collecting data, 2024 recorded the second-highest number of visitors at 2,411, just below the 2,512 visitors in 2023. We welcomed guests from 27 states and five countries. Our magazine made its way back to Australia, Canada, England, Germany, and Scotland. This is

outstanding, and we hope to see even more visitors this year. To learn more about advertising, please contact Rebecca, director of the chamber, by visiting the Chamber's website; you can also find a link on our site.

I will share more statistics about our tourism efforts in the coming weeks. If you are a proud member of this community and haven't stopped by to see us yet, please do so in 2025! We are located on Main Street in Stuart and serve the entire county. Let's thrive together in 2025 by greeting one another, engaging in fellowship, entertaining, and sharing our wonderful home with the world. "Come get lost and find yourself here!"

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



# School Board

(cont. from page 1)

Advisory Committee and the Division Crisis Team. Walter Scott, of the Smith River District, will serve on the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Advisory and Building Committees.

Lester Harrell, of the Peters Creek District, will be on the Special Education (SPED) Advisory, Transportation, and Park and Recreation committees.

In other matters, the board:

- \*Heard a school security update from Schools Superintendent Jason Wood, who said the division received notification it had \$10,000 in carryover funds from a previous security grant, which will allow it to expand some of its school security measures.

- “The first is the mobile panic badge system that will allow all staff members to use a panic button system, much like an ID badge. Three presses will enact the school security team, and if it’s pressed multiple, eight times or more, of course if there’s an active shooter situation or something in which we need to go on lockdown, you would just continue to push it,” he said.

- Wood said the system is unique in several ways. For instance, it knows employees’ locations and can notify 911 for them with the division’s new mapping system. It’s really coordi-

nating a lot of systems that we already have in place together for school security and safety,” he said.

The division will receive the pass-through metal detectors this week, Wood said, adding that training and the first roll-out of the metal detectors is expected in late January, before a hard-start in February.

- “Again, that additional \$10,000 will allow all schools to get the reflective window film to limit visibility from outside looking into our schools. That has a deadline that has to be completed by June,” he said.

- Wood said the division is also in the process of getting bids for other security grant cameras. It also has a deadline of June 30.

- “I know with the cellphone discussion there’s a lot of concern about school safety, but we are maintaining that our number one priority is the safety of staff and students and any visitors coming to our schools. We have a lot of measures and procedures in place,” he said.

- While he knows students want to be able to have their phones on them all the time, Wood said the fastest response is to use the phones in the classrooms or the new panic buttons because that system ties in directly with 911 and knows

exact locations.

- “It’s a hard conversation to have with students, but they need to know” the classroom phone can be used to dial 911 in the event there’s an emergency. Make sure you get to an adult with a panic button system, and they’ll know the location,” Wood said.

- He also hopes these new school security plans will help alleviate some of the anxiety students and parents have as the division follows the new cellphone policy.

- “To really let parents know, and the community know, that we really take safety first in Patrick County, we’ve got all this in place to ensure their safety,” he added.

- \*Heard an update on the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Fall 2024 Standards of Learning (SOL) scores.

- \*Approved adopting the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Code of Conduct.

- \*Adopted the Roberts Rule of Order.

- \*Approved the consent agenda.

- \*Approved the PCHS 2025-2026 program of studies.

- \*Approved the personnel report.

# Local Representatives

(cont. from page 1)

to healthcare opportunities.

- “We were limited in Patrick County to a 30-mile radius for a hospital to have an Emergency Room (ER) due to COPN laws. Those COPN laws say 30 miles from a hospital, you can have a stand-alone ER, but you have to be within those 30 miles, and we missed out. This Sandbox law would allow that to be approved instead of having to go by the current rules of COPN,” he said.

- Williams noted the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) didn’t seem to have any immediate concerns about the bill, and that no one else has reached out to him about any complaints about the proposal.

- “Hopefully the initiative taken on this type of legislation will have some success,” Williams added.

- Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, plans to introduce 10 bills, with a key focus on public safety. His flagship proposal is a statewide bill to provide funding for volunteer fire departments and emergency services through a Fire Protection Fee, which is “about getting more funding for our volunteer fire departments and emergency services, so it would be a state-wide bill,” he said.

- Phillips said this bill would allow individual localities to hold a referendum for residents to vote yes or no to fund public safety in a different way.

- “There would be a one-cent fee if you have a residential dwelling and a one-cent fee if you have a commercial building like for businesses. It would be up to the citizens to impose that fee on themselves, just like they did with the one percent school tax,” he said.

- As a Republican, Phillips said he doesn’t like fees or taxes, “but I do want to make sure we’re safe and it’s going to be a real crisis in rural Virginia, rural communities, if we can’t figure out this issue with volunteer fire departments,” he said.

- He noted the vast majority of fire departments in rural Virginia and in Henry and Pittsylvania counties are volunteer agencies.

- “Volunteerism is down post-COVID” in all sectors. “At the same time, the cost of buying equipment and firetrucks and things like that just keeps going up, and there’s no way to have enough Brunswick Stews and enough black pot chicken dinners to be able to pay for a \$2.5 million firetruck. They were buying used trucks in some cases, and they’re still almost \$1 million,” he said.

- Because of this, Phillips said volunteers not only have to volunteer their time to run calls but fundraise a lot more than in the past, as well as write federal government grants to be able to get the equipment they need, and go through more training to achieve the qualifications to be able to volunteer in the first place.

- “In rural areas...nine times out of ten, even if you’re in a car wreck or something, the first responders are usually going to be somebody from your local volunteer fire department. They usually show up before anybody. So, what happens if you don’t have enough volunteers, and they’re not funded well enough? I don’t know about you, but if I have a fire at my house or if I have a wreck, I want somebody to show up well-trained, well-qualified with good equipment,” he said.

- In addition to meeting with over 30 volunteer

department chiefs, Phillips said Virginia has done two studies on the issue and both concluded it’s a massive problem.

- “It’s a crisis that’s probably a half-billion unfunded problem. What I’m proposing is certainly not going to fix the problem forever, but it’s going to be a start until we can figure out long-term what we’re going to do to be able to get these folks the money they need to protect our communities,” Phillips said.

- Another bill Phillips hopes to get passed will remove the sunset provision that prevents the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and Go Virginia from using funds on the same project.

- “Right now, they are able to, but that bill sunsets every couple of years. Going forward, there’s no question if it’s a worthy project. You can use funds from both state agencies on that project.” It will allow them “to be able to fund more than one project at the same time,” he said.

- Phillips also seeks to address workforce development with a bill to ensure the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) counts students in workforce and FastForward training programs in its enrollment metrics.

- “Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) President Dr. Greg Hodges estimated the college has around 1,190 students receiving that training on top of its full-time students,” Phillips said, noting that these students currently do not factor significantly into funding calculations.

- “But that 1,190 people don’t really get counted in any significant way towards their funding and things like that,” he said.

# Broadband

(cont. from page 1)

with EMS, and of course people turned that into a debacle, and we’ll just have to go back to the drawing board and figure that out again,” he said.

- Andrew Overby, of the Dan River District, said he has seven main goals he wants to accomplish in 2025, including increasing transparency to ensure better communications between county administration, the board, the public, and the media.

- “Number two is better budgeting to minimize last minute and mid-year budget requests and modifications,” with the third: “increased accountability through clearly defining processes, duties, and procedures across administration. That’s to include county administration, financial, maintenance and DSS (Department of Social Services),” he said.

- Overby said his fourth goal is to continue the work to increase healthcare opportunities like the reopening of the local hospital, the mobile health unit, and local primary and urgent care facilities.

- Providing better support to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) by clearly defining the board’s vision for economic development and aggressively pursuing any and all available grant opportunities to minimize taxpayer burden are also a goal.

- “My last one – develop a plan for the future of Station 8 and paid fire and EMS services in coordination with all of our volunteer agencies. We need to create a one team, one goal approach,” Overby said.

- To accomplish these goals, much work will be required, he said.

- “I’m hoping that the board itself can have better communications between each other. If we need to have more meetings in order to get things taken care of, I think that’s what we’re going to do. I know that I am going to push these

- items throughout the year and do what we can to ensure that we are giving the taxpayers the value for the dollar that they’re paying,” he said.

- With the better communication goal, Overby said he wants the county to have a better communication plan, which he doesn’t believe it currently has. He also wants to make sure the media is informed of all meetings and anything that’s going on in a timely manner, and that information is being posted properly on the county’s social media pages.

- That will help “mainly make sure that the county administration is communicating with the board, and they understand exactly what the board’s vision is and what we want to get accomplished,” Overby said, adding a lot of his goals will be covered during the board’s upcoming retreat.

- Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, said he doesn’t think the board has come up with its goals for the year yet, but will discuss them at the annual board retreat, even though “they don’t never seem to materialize. You get all these big plans and tell us all this, that, and the other, and then you never hear anything about it till the next year, and nothing changes,” he said.

- From his part, Kendrick said his priority for the year is to have a balanced budget, without a tax increase.

- “That’s going to be hard to do with the way things are going right now. There’s some other stuff in mind that I’d like to see, but you got to get a team together, I guess we’ll know more about it when we get everything figured out” at the board’s reorganizational meeting, he said.

- Improving the county’s infrastructure is another of Kendrick’s goals, particularly in terms of better phone and internet services.

- “I went to VACO (Virginia Association of Counties) and I sat in on a meeting,” he said. In Floyd County, “with their fiber or broadband

- and the way it’s set up, they’ve got 100 percent coverage,” he said, compared to Patrick County’s coverage of about 47 percent.

- Kendrick added the percentage would not be that high if not for Infinity and Spectrum’s coverage in the Ararat area.

- Internet coverage and phone service are “really important. We need to get broadband and better cellphone coverage or whatever because if you can get your internet, you can get your Wi-Fi” and make calls with a cellphone, he said. “But the way we are now, things are terrible.”

- With broadband projects between Appalachian Power (AEP), Charter Communications, and Riverstreet Networks in Franklin, Henry, Pittsylvania, and Patrick counties underway, Kendrick said he’s only seen AEP updating some of its lines in the Stella area.

- A recent wintry mix that caused widespread power outages “really showed how bad the infrastructure that we’ve got with them” is, Kendrick said. Still, the AEP part of” the broadband projects — “what they’ve got the grant on, it’s supposed to run on the power poles, too. We aren’t getting anywhere.”

- Kendrick said the county relies on those service upgrades for many facets of everyday life, including economic development. Patrick County won’t be able to add jobs until it has good broadband infrastructure in place, he said.

- “A lot of people could actually work from home and make good money, but you got to have good broadband or internet to be able to do it,” he said.

- Kendrick also believes the county will need help from Richmond and local representatives like Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, to accomplish these goals.

- Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, and Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, did not respond to multiple attempts for comments.







# Patrick Pioneers

*The Ingrams of Patrick County*  
**By Beverly Belcher Woody**

Last week, we concluded a series on the Yeatts and Reynolds family with a look at Sally Barnard who married John G. Ingram. This week, we will look at Mr. Ingram and other members of the Ingram family. John G. Ingram was born on the 18th of October 1827 to Rowland Ingram and Nancy Corn. Rowland was the son of John Ingram and Elizabeth Chiles who were originally from Botetourt County. Nancy was the daughter of Samuel Corn and Elizabeth Smith, originally from Albemarle County, Virginia. Samuel Corn and his brothers, Jesse, George, and John settled on the banks of Goblintown and Sycamore creeks.

Rowland Ingram (often spelled Ingrum in old records) married Miss Nancy Corn on the 19th of July 1809; their first child, Samuel Corn Ingram was born in June of 1816. Samuel married Miss Sarah “Sallie” Clark in December 1835. Sarah was the daughter of John Moorman Clark and Elizabeth Wright. Samuel and Sallie had eight children with the youngest being a year old when tragedy struck, Samuel was murdered on his way home from a horse race.

Rowland and Nancy’s second child, Ruth was born in 1818. Ruth married Emmanuel Ewell Clifton in 1836, and the couple went on to have at least twelve children. Elizabeth was Rowland and Nancy’s third child, born in 1820. Elizabeth married Michael Andrew Rorrer in 1841; they would go on to have at least eleven children before Elizabeth died at the age of forty-two. According to the Patrick County death register, Elizabeth passed away on the 11th of January 1862 from heart dropsy.

James Andrew Ingram was Rowland and Nancy’s fourth child, born in 1821. James married Miss Martha Jane Smart in February of 1847. I was unable to determine who all of James and Martha’s children were except for their daughter, Alaminta Ann who married William Henry Trent and son, William Green Conner Ingram who married Martha Frances Wood.

Rowland and Nancy’s fifth child, Rozina was born in 1822. Rozina married John Slaughter in 1840, and they had at least five children. Richard Lee Ingram was born in 1825 to Rowland and Nancy. Richard married Miss Ida Agee in 1856, and the couple had at least four children before Ida’s passing at the age of forty-two. Richard married again, this time to Lucy Pendleton and the couple had two children.

John G. Ingram, who we mentioned at the beginning, was the next child born to Rowland and Nancy, followed by Susan in 1831. Susan married James Preston Handy in 1854; he was wounded in battle at the Charles City Crossroads in June 1862. James was taken to a Confederate hospital where he died a few weeks later. Susan passed away in 1870, leaving their four daughters- ages nine to fourteen-orphans.

Martha Jane Ingram, the youngest child of

Rowland and Nancy, was born in 1832. Martha married Clayborn Hurd in 1868; the couple had at least six children.

The first Ingram to show up in records for what would become Patrick County (Lunenburg County in 1747) was John Ingram who along with Thomas Jarrell, Thomas Foster, and a Simmons man, applied for 3,200 acres along the Dan River.

In 1812, another John Ingram applied for a permit to operate a mill on the south fork of the Mayo River. Around the time of the Revolutionary War, brothers John and James Ingram settled on the lower Smith River. James Ingram died in 1816. His daughter Elizabeth married William Via, another early settler. Four of the first founding members of Union Primitive Baptist Church in 1815 were Ingrams, James; Alexander; Martha; and Elizabeth.

According to the History of Patrick County, Virginia, a Ross family tradition holds that James Ingram operated a ferry over the Smith River on the Patrick-Franklin border. A young Daniel Ross, who had recently bought a farm in Patrick County, was walking back to his home in Franklin County and went to Ingram’s house to have someone ferry him across the river. No one was at home except a teenaged daughter, Nancy, who agreed to ferry him across the river. Ross liked her looks and asked permission to call on her. They married and left many descendants as one of the earliest families in the county.

About ten years ago, award winning actress Angela Bassett appeared on the PBS show Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.. Angela’s great grandfather was William Henry Bassett from Henry County. According to his death certificate, dated October 6th, 1918, he was seventy-two years old at the time of his death and had served as a minister.

In the Henry County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, a marriage license was found for William Henry where he married a woman named Martha Price on October 29th, 1885. William Henry listed his parents as G. and J. Ingram. In 1870, five years after emancipation, Angela’s great-great grandparents, George and Jinny Ingram made their home in Franklin County, Virginia. The 1870 census record stated: George Ingram, 67 years old, male, black, farm laborer and Jinny, 55 years old, female, black, housekeeping along with two of their younger children, Sally and Fleming.

In 1870, another Ingram lived next door George and Jinny: Ingram, Elizabeth, 87 years old, white. Elizabeth Ingram would be the key to unlocking Angela’s ancestry; Elizabeth was the daughter-in-law of the man who owned both George and Jinny. A will filed in 1816 in the Patrick County Clerk’s Office would establish the connection between the two families. The following is a direct quote of an excerpt from the will: “I, James Ingram, give and bequeath to my son, Alexander Ingram, one Negro named George. I



Melinda R. Ingram (dec.)  
Wife of Josiah Turner, Jr.

Melinda Ingram, daughter of James Ingram and Betsy Hall.

give unto my daughter, Sarah Ingram, one Negro girl named Jinny.” At the time this will was filed, Angela’s great-grandfather George would have been about thirteen years old, and her great-grandmother and George’s future wife, Jinny, would have been about a year old.

Moving forward thirty-three years, James Ingram’s son Alexander’s will was filed on April 2nd, 1849, in Franklin County, Virginia. The following is a painful excerpt from the will, “I, Alexander Ingram, Sr., give my beloved wife, Elizabeth Ingram, all my estate, real and personal, consisting of my land and Negroes, namely George, Bob, Stephen, Sophia, Amanda, Henry, Moses, Matilda, and Rhoda, together with all of my household and kitchen furniture.”

In this 1849 document, Jinny’s name wasn’t listed-she had been bequeathed to Alexander’s sister Sarah-but it included father and son, Angela’s great-great grandfather George and her great-grandfather, Henry. John Henry Bassett wound up with ownership of young Henry from the Ingrams and at the time of emancipation, young Henry took the surname Bassett. It would be over forty years later when John Henry Bassett’s sons would begin their lumber and furniture business.

Patrick County’s success is built on the contributions of all our ancestors. Their hard work, values, and experiences have shaped the foundation of what we have today, and it’s through honoring this shared history that we can continue to grow and thrive together.”

Thank you to Andy Doss for helping confirm facts and records. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

## Social Security Matters

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

**Ask Rusty – About Investing Social Security Money in the Stock Market**

**Dear Rusty:** For most folks collecting Social Security, you get back what you put in within 3-5 years, so for those that scream - “SS is not an entitlement, it is my money”- that is not entirely accurate beyond 3-5 years. For me personally 4.4 years is the number. But had I been able to invest that money over the 43 years I worked at a modest 6% interest, I expect the amount would have been a lot more. And of course, the stock market averaged 9.5% over that time. Perhaps Social Security should invest in the stock market instead of U.S. Government treasury bonds. Signed: *Interested Observer*

**Dear Observer:** You bring up a point we frequently hear – that if, instead of paying into Social Security, I had invested the same money in the stock market I would have gotten more. That, of course, might be the case if you had the unwavering discipline to religiously invest the equivalent amount in the market, avoiding the temptation to use that investment for any other reason. And life is full of good reasons – financial

emergencies, for example, or the simple temptation to buy something desperately needed, or just occasionally skipping a month to pay bills. Also, the stock market is notoriously volatile, which can create substantial angst for investors who are faint of heart. The fact is that Social Security provides guaranteed financial growth from the age of eligibility (normally 62), up to age 70 when the maximum benefit is attained. Benefits claimed at one’s full retirement age are about 24% - 32% more than if taken at age 62 (depending on full retirement age), and benefits taken at age 70 are about 75% more than benefits taken at age 62. And that is guaranteed growth for those with the patience to wait longer to claim.

You may recall that the idea of investing Social Security reserves in the stock market has been floated a few times in previous years, but accompanying risks made Congress essentially unwilling to even entertain the idea. It has always been a political “hot potato” and those who suggest it are usually castigated for wanting to “give SS money to Wall Street,” so I expect it is unlikely to happen. Guess we’ll need to be satisfied with the interest on those Special Issue Government Bonds (which, by the way, returned about \$67 billion to the Social Security

Trust Fund in 2023). FYI, average interest rate for new deposits to the Trust Fund in 2023 was 4.1%, and the overall effective rate of return on all Trust Fund assets was 2.4%.

Social Security has some issues and will face some financial difficulty in less than a decade unless Congress enacts program reform soon. But it is a program which most seniors rely on for a major part of their retirement income and one which keeps over 22 million Americans out of poverty. Here at the AMAC Foundation, we strongly advocate for sensible Social Security reform and we’re very optimistic about the program’s future. But Congress needs to act soon to avoid a cut to everyone’s Social Security amount in about 2033.

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

## 3 Reasons Why New Year’s Resolutions Don’t Work – Part 3

3. We tend to forget our “why”.  
“Those who have a ‘why’ to live can bear with almost any ‘how’.” – Viktor Frankl (Holocaust survivor) 4

Oftentimes, when a patient has their first meeting with me, they’re excited and looking forward to a more hopeful future. They’d heard that I’m a naturopathic doctor and they want to enlist my help to turn their life and health around. Of course, I’m always happy to see this.

However, after putting in a few months of effort, most patients’ enthusiasm dwindles down and they slip back into their unhealthy ways. At such points, I would ask them: “Remind me again why you wanted to do this.” Usually, their response is, “I don’t know... to lose weight?”

While they may be telling the truth, the deeper truth most likely has nothing to do with the weight.

From my experience, people actually have much more depth than they know and it’s my job to remind them of that. So, when we come to that point, I refer to something we’d talked about before. “When you first came to see me, you said you wanted to be able to chase your grandkids around. Isn’t that your main reason?” When I remind patients of their “why”, they become inspired again to commit to their resolutions.

The truth of the matter is, we don’t want to lose weight or regain health “just because”. No, those things are just what are required to get what we really want.

Deep down, what people truly want is to be able to play football like they did in high school.

We want to feel the wind in our hair again without knee pain while riding a bicycle.

Or, like my patient, we want to chase around two precious grandchildren and give them a big kiss.

We want those sweet, intangible things that give so much meaning and beauty to our lives.

Viktor Frankl was a Jewish psychologist and Holocaust survivor. Throughout the Holocaust, he noticed that:

- \*Those who held onto a meaning,
- \*Those who went on with a purpose,
- \*Those who remembered their “why”...

These were the people who endured a little bit longer and, in some cases, were able to survive.

If remembering our “why” can help us in times of extreme suffering and sadness, I can say with certainty that it can also help us keep our resolutions. In fact, it’s crucial to our survival.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Rolando Fulgencio, ND. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)







# Crossing the Lines

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

### Adams, Bryant elected to fill top slots



Jim Adams

The Henry County Board of Supervisors selected its chairman and vice-chairman for the upcoming year during its 2025 Organizational Meeting on Jan. 6.

Jim Adams, of the Blackberry District, was chosen to serve as chairman and Joe Bryant, of the Collinsville District, was elected as vice-chairman.

“I am grateful for the continued trust and support of my fellow supervisors,” said Adams, who was selected to lead the board for the twelfth time during his 23-year tenure.

“This board has always worked together with a shared commitment to the betterment of our community,” Adams said. “Together, we have faced challenges and celebrated successes, and I look forward to



Joe Bryant

another year of collaboration and progress. Thank you for your confidence in me, and I am excited to continue working alongside such a dedicated group of individuals.”

Bryant will serve his fourth term as vice-chairman after he was selected for the position following his 2021 re-election bid.

“I am truly honored to accept the nomination as vice-chairman,” Bryant said. “Over the years, I’ve witnessed our county grow and evolve in ways that fill me with pride, and it’s been a privilege to serve in a leadership capacity during such an exciting time. The progress we’ve made is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone on this board. I look forward to continuing our efforts in the coming year.”

### County Fair wins ten state awards



The Henry County Fair won ten media awards at the Virginia Association of Fairs Annual Conference.

The Henry County Fair won a record 10 media awards at the Virginia Association of Fairs Annual Conference that was held in Williamsburg, Va., on January 2-5. The awards were in recognition of excellence in production, promotions and operations of county fairs and festivals throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“Winning 10 media awards at the Virginia Association of Fairs Annual Conference is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in the Henry County Fair,” said Roger Adams, Director of Parks and Recreation. “This recognition highlights our commitment to excellence in putting on an event that brings our community together. We are incredibly proud of this achieve-

ment and look forward to continuing to set the standard for county fairs across Virginia.”

The awards won by the Henry County Fair include:

- 1st Place for Fair Poster
- 1st Place and Best of Show for TV Commercial (FOX 8)
- 3rd Place for Fair Shirt
- 1st Place for Fair Logo
- 3rd Place for Radio Commercial (Spirit FM)
- 1st Place and Best of Show for Fair Website
- Creativity Award for our division
- Overall Creativity Award for all fairs

The fair entered the contest for the past two years, but not for its first year. Each year, it received a total of four awards.

### Supervisor, businessman charged with assault

A warrant was served on Joe Bryant on December 30 alleging assault and battery, according to Bryant and Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis.

The warrant “was citizen generated” was not in connection with his office, Davis said.

The sheriff said the complainant, in this case Cecil Handy, a former employee, did not call or visit the sheriff’s office when the alleged incident occurred on Friday, December 20, to file a report.

On Saturday, “December 21, he drove himself” or had someone else drive him to the Magistrate’s Office, and sought the warrant, Davis said.

The document then made its way through the court system, and the sheriff’s office received and served it on December 30, he said, and added the warrant was permitted.

Davis explained that a magistrate makes the decision to permit

or not permit the document when it is initially filed. Essentially, a permitted warrant means those served promise to appear, and is not taken to the Henry County Adult Detention Center (HCADC) to be booked or have a mugshot taken.

The process differs for non-permitted warrants, in which the person is placed under arrest, booked into the HCADC, and has a mugshot taken.

“We serve dozens of permitted warrants every week,” Davis said, and underscored the fact that the magistrate makes that determination.

Bryant, of Bryant Radio Supply, Inc., said he has retained an attorney and declined to comment.

The Collinsville District representative on the Henry County Board of Supervisors, Bryant was reelected to serve as its vice chairman on January 6.

### High-Energy Community Meeting Packed With Updates, Community Matters



Pam Cobler, Scott Grindstaff, Tiffany Hairston, Matt Tatum and JR Powell were among those to address concerns and field questions at a recent Reed Creek District Community Meeting. (Photo by Mary Quirk)

Reed Creek Supervisor Pam Cobler led a fast-paced, information-packed community meeting Tuesday at the Dyer’s Store Fire Department. A capacity crowd showed up to hear county updates from five county officials and had their questions answered, all within an hour.

The meeting was opened by Dyer’s Store VFD Chief Randy Smith and Assistant Chief John Chitwood.

Deputy County Administrator J.R. Powell said that citizen input on the Comprehensive Plan which the county is working on is important. The plan would outline “where we want Henry County to be 20 years from now and what does it take to get there from where we are today.” Topics it addresses include land use, land development, community amenities, transportation and the economy.

An online survey was conducted for a couple of months, “but there are still many ways to be involved,” such as to read about the plan through handouts and on the website, make comments and read drafts of the plan, he said.

Powell described the county’s budget. The 2024 budget was \$216 million, he said, with the majority – 62.2% -- going to ed-

ucation. Sixteen percent goes to public safety.

“If there’s a (funding) need, we address it. That doesn’t mean we always get what we want ... but there’s a plan,” he said.

The county has secured an agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation to extend the Patriot Centre’s main roadway “to give us access to another 200 acres of land to continue economic development” there, Powell said.

Meanwhile, the \$28 million improvements at Commonwealth Crossing “already has some really good prospects,” he said. It’s “just a matter of time and there’s going to be a really good industry coming to that locality in the Ridgeway area.”

The county’s 5-page Legislative Agenda, which is posted to the county’s website, outlines the county’s aims for this session of the General Assembly. They include increased funding for industrial recruitment incentives; transportation funding to improve the U.S. 220 corridor coming from Greensboro, N.C.; funding for School Resource Officers; improvements in the new Mayo State Park; housing; and public safety funding to support local fire departments and EMS squads.

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



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**Thomas Franklin Bishop**

Thomas Franklin Bishop, Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Sunday School teacher, and Community Leader, 1943-2025

It is with profound sadness and heartfelt gratitude that we announce the passing of Thomas (Tom) Bishop, a highly esteemed member of the Patrick County community, on January 9, 2025 at the age of 81, Tom lived a full and impactful life, leaving behind a legacy of service, kindness, and unwavering dedication to his family, friends, and neighbors.

Born on February 25, 1943 in Caretta, West Virginia, Tom was a pillar of strength and inspiration to those who had the privilege of knowing him. After completion of his college education at WV State College and West Virginia University Tom began his career in Charleston, WV at Union Carbide. Tom mainly worked at Union Carbide's Tech Center in South Charleston but also traveled extensively in his various roles of project management and team leadership in accounting for this international corporation for 30 years (from June, 1966 - June, 1997). When Tom retired, he and his wife, Connie moved to Patrick County, VA to find land to build their dream home in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Tom worked as General Manager for Brintle Enterprises Inc. in Mt Airy, NC from June, 2000-April, 2005. Following this, for the next 7 years semi-retired, Tom was the Executive Director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce from January, 2005-March 31, 2013 where he managed two visitor centers, promoted local businesses, and promoted tourism all over Patrick County.

Outside of his professional life, Tom was passionately involved in church and community groups as a leader and volunteer. In recent years, Tom was a strong leader with the Jeb Stuart Birthplace



Preservation Trust and fulfilled various Board Member roles for the Red Bank Ruritan Club. He most recently received the President's Award for 2024 from the Red Bank Ruritan Club. Tom was known for his hand-crafted bird houses and was a weekly vendor and promoter of the Farmer's Market of Stuart, Virginia. Tom served as the Adult Sunday School Class teacher and Men's Fellowship Leader at Mountain View Pentecostal Holiness church in Claudville, Virginia.

Throughout his life, Tom lived for God and people. Tom served on church boards, the Miracle Acres Housing Corporation, taught Sunday School his entire adult life to his last Sunday present in church, evangelized, and even drove the church van to pick up children from a nearby housing project to bring them to church. Tom is loved and remembered by all those who came to know him as Tom never met a stranger. Tom received numerous accolades for his contributions, but his greatest reward was the love and respect of those he served. Whether through the River Run fundraiser, annual Civil War Encampment and Living History Weekend at Jeb Stuart's Birthplace, Stuart Farmer's Market promoter, men's mentor at church, and loyal friend to many, Tom exemplified the values of integrity, compassion, and selflessness.

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather Tom cherished his family above all else. If you knew Tom - you knew his beloved wife,

daughters, sons in law, and grandsons. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Connie Wyllie Bishop of the home, daughters: Lisa and husband Chuck Allen of Stuart, VA, Lena and husband Tony West of Coats, NC, grandchildren: Luke West and his fiancé Kylee Cowart and John West all three college students at Liberty University, and Matthew Allen college student of Emmanuel University, and Tom's oldest brother, Herman and wife Carmen Bishop of Albuquerque, New Mexico and many additional loving relatives. He was preceded in death by parents Barzy and Essie Bishop, longtime residents of Claudville, Va and his brother Vernon Bishop of Lake Toxaway, NC.

A celebration of Tom's extraordinary life will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Mountain View Pentecostal Holiness Church, 497 Hatcher's Chapel Road, Claudville, Virginia. Family and friends are invited to attend and honor the legacy of a man who touched so many lives. Family Visitation opportunities will be both 5:00-7:00 pm on Friday, January 17, 2025 and 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 18, 2025 just prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Mountain View Pentecostal Holiness Church, the Red Bank Ruritan Club, and the Jeb Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, Inc. reflecting Tom's passion for God and people by improving communities and building a better America through fellowship, goodwill and community service. Thomas Franklin Bishop will be deeply missed but forever remembered. His light continues to shine in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him

Norris Funeral Services in Stuart is serving the Bishop family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norrisfuneralhome.com](http://www.norrisfuneralhome.com).

**Patricia "Pat" Vipperman**

June 14, 1939 - January 11, 2025

Patricia "Pat" Vipperman, beloved teacher, adventurer, and devoted mother, passed away on Saturday, January 11, 2025, in Roanoke, VA.

A native of Stuart, VA, it was there she met her soulmate and future husband, the late Joseph Vipperman, with whom she shared 59 years of marriage.

Pat earned her biology degree from the College of William and Mary, launching a fulfilling career as a seventh-grade biology teacher. Her classroom was a place of wonder and discovery, where students could always expect the unexpected - from rescued baby bunnies to visiting snakes. Her creative "Science lessons of the day" not only educated



but inspired generations of students, making her a perpetual favorite among those lucky enough to pass through her classroom.

Following their retirement, Pat and Joe embarked on a series of remarkable adventures, fulfilling their dream of visiting all seven continents. Pat found particular joy in her life at Smith Mountain Lake, where she was an active member of the GRITS (Girls Raised In The South) group, creating

lasting friendships and memories.

She leaves behind her loving daughter, Jody Vipperman Saarmaa of Boston; her son, Robert Vipperman of Hickory, NC; and her grandson, Mac Paine of Roanoke, VA.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held at Trinity Ecumenical Parish in Moneta, VA on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in honor of Pat can be made to Trinity Ecumenical Parish Memorial Fund, 40 Lakemount Drive, Moneta, VA 24121. Condolences may be shared with her family by visiting [www.Oakeys.com](http://www.Oakeys.com).

Arrangements by Oakey's Funeral Service - South Chapel, Roanoke, VA (540) 989-3131.

**Jim Allen Lawson**



Mr. Jim Allen Lawson, age 76 of Claudville, passed away on January 8, 2025 at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston Salem, North Carolina. He was born in Patrick County on April 7, 1948, to the late Jesse Allen Lawson and Rachel Beasley Lawson. In addition to his parents, Mr. Lawson was preceded in death by one brother, Bennie Lawson; and two sisters, Patsy Willard and Evelean Gammons; his former wife, Laverne Light Lawson. Jim was a brick mason for many years. He loved to coon hunt, fish, and relax on the creek bank. He loved his family dear-

ly and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Lawson is survived by three daughters, Deborah Lynn Vipperman, Angela Dawn Vipperman, and Kristie Leigh Church (Kenny); five grandchildren, Ashley Vipperman, Haley Crocker (Brent), Bran-

don Church (Leah), Breanna Church, and Tyler Vipperman; one great-grandson, Brent Junior; one step-great-granddaughter, Kimmie Walker; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be held Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Jimmy Willard officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Wednesday afternoon. Burial will be private. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Miles Sylvester Harris**



Mr. Miles Sylvester Harris, age 86, of Stuart, VA passed away on January 10, 2025, at The Landmark Center in Stuart. He was born on April 20, 1938, to the late Elder Oscar Allen Harris and Linda Belle Surratt Harris. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, James Dale Harris.

Miles began his working career with VDOT in Salem, VA in the Drafting Room in 1959. He then enlisted in the Army and served in Turkey and Germany until his discharge in August 1965 as SP5. Later, he worked in construction from 1964 to 1977, and owned Patrick Home Center from 1978 to 1987. He was self-employed in construction and was a licensed electrician and plumber until retirement. Miles served

as a Deacon at New River Primitive Baptist Church until the church was dissolved. He was a member of Jacks Creek Primitive Baptist Church.

Mr. Harris is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Shelby Jean Conner Harris; his children, Wanda Carr (Jerry), Sandra Belcher (Robert), Michael Belcher (Teresa), Bobby Harris, and Eddie Harris (Alison), six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren;

brothers, Leon Harris (Beverly) and Marvin Harris (Crystal); a sister, Linda Hatcher (Bert); and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Mr. Harris will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. at Slate Mountain Evangelical Presbyterian Church with Elder David Kamoda and Elder Dan Puckett officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery with full military rites. The family will receive friends two hours prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Jacks Creek Primitive Baptist Church, c/o Lloyd Harbour, 130 Winding Stair Road, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Douglas Holt**



Douglas Holt passed away at his home in Stuart Virginia on Saturday January 4th at 82 years of age. Funeral services will be held at 1pm, Friday January 10th at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart. Douglas is survived by his wife Judith Holt, sister Julia Head, daughter Sally Baker (Jacob), son Richard Holt (Sabine) and three grandchildren, Philip, Alyssa and Fiona. Douglas is preceded in death by his father John Hardman Holt, mother Mary Whitter Holt and sister Anne Caldwell.

Douglas was born November 4th, 1942, in Bolton, United Kingdom. In 1964 Douglas married the love of his life Judith Boy-

dell, whom he would go on to have two children with, Sally and Richard. As a young professional, Douglas began his career as an apprentice working for his father in a textile mill in Bolton. Having found success and a passion for the field, in 1983 Douglas and his family make the move to Roscrea Ireland where he became a plant manager

for a textile mill. After working several years in Ireland another opportunity presented itself. Douglas accepted a position as a plant manager in South Carolina, United States in 1987 where he remained until he retired.

In his free time and during retirement, Douglas enjoyed visiting his children in Georgia and in Switzerland. Douglas loved spending time with Judith, enjoying dinners, as well as reading and gardening. Douglas was known for his friendly demeanor, sense of humor and will be greatly missed by all those who were lucky enough to know him.

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Terri S. Wood, Manager



PATRICK PULPITS

The Assessment

By Evonne Wimbush, PhD  
Fresh Harvest Christian Church  
(D.O.C.)

It is the end of 2024 and time for a year recap. The purpose of the recap is to assess what things happened in 2024 that we either choose to not repeat or choose to make better. It is written in 2 Corinthians 13:5a, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” Here we go.

What challenges have you had? What heartaches and heartbreaks did you experience? What disappointments did you endure? How many “last straws” did you have? How was your body healed? What distresses were alleviated? What words did you say that bruised or broke someone’s spirit? What lies did you tell? Who did you intentionally hurt with your words, deeds, or actions? Who did you forgive? Who did you offend? What works went undone? How were you disobedient? How did you trespass against your family, friends or enemies? How did you dishonor your parents? How did you steal or commit acts of injustice? How did you dishonor God? Did you fast?

It is difficult to trust in someone whom you have never seen. It is difficult to give up your normal and try something different. I get it. I have been there, but I also know that God is merciful and that he wants only that which is good for us (Jeremiah 29:11). From the beginning, God wanted us to live in peace, have hope and joy and experience and give love (Romans 15:13). He proved this by sending His son Jesus. His Son performed miracles, saved souls, and healed the blind, the lame, and the broken-spirited (John 10:24-25; Luke 8:22-56). Jesus comforted the downtrodden and the least (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). He paid the ultimate price for us on Calvary’s cross. I get it. If you don’t believe and you are skeptical, it is hard to embrace these words. If you have endured a pain that has

created skepticism in your heart, mind, and soul, it is almost impossible to forgive and move forward (Psalm 34:18; Psalm 147:3). Even if you are a believer, there may have been an issue in your life that has driven you away from the Father, away from faith (Isaiah 59:1-2). If you have tried alcohol, overeating, drugs, sex, disconnection, and revenge, why not try or retry God (Romans 10:9-19)? Let us continue with the assessment.

Psalm 90:12 (KJV), “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” Psalm 90:12 (NLT), “Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.” Did you pray? Did you read and study God’s written Word? Did you attend in-person worship? Did you ask for forgiveness? Did you break a promise? Were you sluggish? Did you show kindness? Were you arrogant or prideful? Did you sow discord? Did you deny the Father? Did you have contempt in your heart? Were you grateful? Did you give thanks? Did you say thank you? Did you show love? Did you exhibit patience? Did you harbor unforgiveness and bitterness? Were you mean and surly? Were you anxious? Were you doubtful? Were you boastful? Did you get tired and give up? Did you provoke your children to wrath? Were you hurt physically or mentally? Did you mistreat others? Were you mistreated? Are you ready to change your circumstances? Are you ready for greater in 2025?

“He has put a new song in my mouth- Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the Lord.” Psalm 90:3(NKJV). We have been given another chance to help change lives, particularly our own. New mercies we see and shall see every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). For 365 mornings in 2025, we will have a chance to make wrongs right and to make things and situations better. Thank you for completing the assessment.

Chamber’s Membership Drive Underway

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce has started the new year with the annual membership drive. To those businesses, organizations and individuals who have been past members, “Thank you!” Without your support, the chamber would not have been able to achieve all that it did in 2024 from hosting the Economic Summit, Pick Up Patrick Campaign, continuing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, be part of the Appalachian Regional Commission’s Appalachian Gateway Community Initiative, as well as hosting its annual Lunch with Community Leaders, hosting ribbon cuttings and representing the county in local, regional and state meetings. The chamber looks forward to continuing this work in 2025 with your support, help and membership.

Its partnership with Patrick County Tourism produces a wonderful magazine that has won awards and is the pride of our county. I hope that each business,

organization, and individuals will continue to join to support our work promoting Patrick County. To those businesses or organizations who have not been members in the past, we invite you to join. We would love the opportunity to talk to you about all the benefits we can offer and how we can work together. The chamber’s motto is “Community is Our Business” and community has never been so vital as it is now. It is the chamber’s business to help the community with business assistance, tourism-related activities and events such as Stuart Spooktacular and Hometown Christmas.

Its staff are working on the new Lunch and Learn programming schedule for 2025 as well as the informal coffee talks around the county and continuation of our popular events and programming.

Check out its website for more information about joining at [www.patrickchamber.com](http://www.patrickchamber.com) or call the office at (276) 694-6012.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Hebrews (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Matthew 16:23, to whom did Jesus say, “Get thee behind me, Satan”?
3. Who was stoned to death for preaching that Jesus was the Savior?
4. How many men did Nebuchadnezzar see walking in the fiery furnace?
5. According to Luke 2:4,

what village was known as “The City of David”? Nimrod, Antioch, Bethlehem, Babylon

6. From the Bible, who could be called “Mr. Patience”? Naaman, Jairus, Philippi, Job

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Peter, 3) Stephen, 4) Four, 5) Bethlehem, 6) Job

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy). FREE TRIAL!

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

**Risen Lord Catholic Church**  
59 Mountain View Loop  
Stuart  
(actually in Patrick Springs)  
276.236.7814  
Office Hours (Tue-Thu 8 am-3 pm)  
**Mass Schedule**  
Sundays at 8:30 a.m.  
**Reconciliation**  
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

**Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness**  
260 Spring Rd., Patrick Springs, VA - 276-694-6357  
  
Sunday Worship 10:45 am  
Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am  
Wednesdays  
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm  
Food Distribution Ministry:  
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*Bringing the World to Christ*  
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276-694-3440  
[www.stuartbaptist.org](http://www.stuartbaptist.org)  
9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship Service  
office@stuartbaptist.org

**Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
220 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 1078, Stuart, VA 24171  
276-694-7677 • [www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org](http://www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org)  
**SATURDAY SERVICES:**  
Sabbath School - 9:20; Worship 11:00 a.m.  
*Come visit our Bible-believing church*

**Join the Church Page!**  
Call (276) 694-3101 Today

Super Crossword

JOINED FOR A PURPOSE

- ACROSS**  
1 Wish-granting spirits  
7 Greek vowel  
12 Records file  
20 Punch combo  
21 Splotchy GI garb  
22 He played AI Bundy on TV  
23 Planners of campus events  
25 Often-pickled red vegetable  
26 Atop, in poems  
27 Lena of "The Reader"  
28 Latin "I love"  
30 Patron saint of sailors  
31 Brotherhood  
39 Capital of a Mexico state  
40 Hard to find  
41 Burdened  
42 Travail  
44 Political campaigners for a particular issue  
50 Wonderment  
53 Dragon in "The Hobbit"  
57 Suffix with racket  
58 Not at all tight

**DOWN**  
11 Hit — (run into some trouble)  
12 Urbane  
13 Fruity drink  
14 Foot part  
15 Busy crawler  
16 Artsy cap  
17 Garlicky mayonnaise  
18 Replay speed, briefly  
19 "Your Song" singer John  
24 Whole lot  
29 Ice cream drink  
32 "Tsk!"  
33 — -friendly  
34 She was Mrs. Gorbachev  
35 Stephen of "Still Crazy"  
36 Nuptial oath  
37 Buddhism branch  
38 Point of view  
43 K-O linkup  
45 Toon frame  
46 Fish eggs  
47 Seep out  
48 Wields  
49 Crime doer  
50 French bud  
51 Join nuptially  
52 Pitching stat  
54 Sharp as —

**ACROSS**  
59 Medieval protectors of trade  
63 Icebox  
65 Boise's state  
66 Gel in a lab  
67 By means of  
68 Claimed psychic gift  
69 Regulators of a moral code  
76 Bath fixture  
79 Printer fluid  
80 Years on end  
81 More devious  
85 Surfs the internet, e.g.  
88 Fighters of animal cruelty  
92 Madison Ave. contact  
93 Sea, in Paris  
94 Corrective eye surgery  
95 Pitching star  
96 It consists of 13-player football teams  
100 Aspirin target  
103 Japanese alternative to massage  
104 "Carpe —!"  
108 Newspaper of the USSR  
112 Managers of houses in a subdivision

**DOWN**  
9 One-sharp musical key  
10 Sticky gunk  
11 Hit — (run into some trouble)  
12 Urbane  
13 Fruity drink  
14 Foot part  
15 Busy crawler  
16 Artsy cap  
17 Garlicky mayonnaise  
18 Replay speed, briefly  
19 "Your Song" singer John  
24 Whole lot  
29 Ice cream drink  
32 "Tsk!"  
33 — -friendly  
34 She was Mrs. Gorbachev  
35 Stephen of "Still Crazy"  
36 Nuptial oath  
37 Buddhism branch  
38 Point of view  
43 K-O linkup  
45 Toon frame  
46 Fish eggs  
47 Seep out  
48 Wields  
49 Crime doer  
50 French bud  
51 Join nuptially  
52 Pitching stat  
54 Sharp as —

**ACROSS**  
55 Popular Aussie boots  
56 Avocado dip, for short  
60 Fidel's cohort  
61 Sweltering dreary everywhere  
62 "... sad and kudzu  
70 Go in haste  
71 Electees, e.g.  
72 Diner offering  
73 — Lisa  
74 PC key  
75 Gin inventor Whitney  
76 Ski lift type  
77 Pakistani language  
78 Tennis Björn  
82 Positive vote  
83 And so on: Abbr.  
84 Dark loaf  
86 Fly trapper  
87 Jazz's — Gyra  
88 Mecca-to-Medina flight  
89 Country east of Arg.  
90 Little drink  
91 Giraffe's kin  
93 Be certain

**DOWN**  
97 Actor Ayres  
98 A, in Berlin  
99 Self-help author LeShan  
101 Lyric-penning Gershwin  
102 Ballplayer of D.C., in brief  
105 Apple computer camera  
106 Bible book before Job  
107 Mark with multicolored spots  
109 Optical  
110 Exact look-alike  
111 Licoricelike seeds  
112 Listens to  
113 Classic song  
114 Actress Shearer  
115 PC key  
116 Dutch painter Jan  
117 Dove's call  
123 Roman 1,200  
124 Biblical verb suffix  
125 — de plume  
127 Figure skater Midori  
128 To's partner  
129 Company VIP  
130 Timothy Leary's drug

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CLASSIFIED

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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LEGAL

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF  
485 HARDIN REYNOLDS ROAD  
CRITZ, VA 24082

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust to Tanya Jones, Mitch Smith and Charles M. Aaron, P.L.C., Attorney at Law, Trustees, dated July 20, 2017, recorded July 20, 2017, in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court, Patrick County, Virginia, as Instrument Number 170001316, (Lafayette, Ayers & Whitlock, PLC, a Virginia professional limited liability company, having been appointed as Substitute Trustee by instrument duly recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office), default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby, and being required so to do by the Noteholder, the undersigned, in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid Deed of Trust, and after having given at least sixty (60) days prior written notice to the owner of the real estate of the date, time, place and terms of the sale, will offer for sale to the highest bidder at public auction the property described in and conveyed by said Deed of Trust being known and designated as: "ALL that certain tract or parcel of land, together with the improvements thereon, lying and being in the Mayo River Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, being on the northerly side of Hardin Reynolds Road, Virginia Secondary Route 694, being shown as Lot 1, containing 15.838 acres, as shown on survey entitled "Subdivision of the Property of Darian R. Tatum at Hardin Reynolds Road in the Mayo River Magisterial District of Patrick County, VA", prepared by Donald B. Abele, dated October 2, 2016, and recorded as Instrument Number 160001632, of the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's Office" Tax Map #5211-()-100E; Account #83083 (herein "the Property"). The sale shall take place on **January 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** at the front steps of the building housing the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, 101 Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171.

**TERMS OF SALE:** All cash at settlement. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, in cash or certified check, shall be required at time of sale from all bidders except the holder of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust. The balance shall be paid at settlement, to be held within twenty (20) days from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower(s) did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale. In such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to: (i) waive the deposit requirement; (ii) approve the creditworthiness of any bidder and final purchaser; (iii) withdraw the Property from sale at any time prior to the termination of the bidding; (iv) keep the bidding open for any length of time; and (v) reject any and all bids. In the event that the purchaser fails to go to settlement as required, the aforementioned deposit shall be forfeited and the Property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. All closing costs, including preparation of the deed and the grantor's tax, shall be borne by the successful bidder. Real estate taxes shall be prorated to the date of sale. Rents and other expenses of the Property, if any, shall not be prorated. The Real Property shall be conveyed by special warranty deed. The Property shall be sold "AS IS" without representation or warranty of any kind, and **SUBJECT TO** conditions, restrictions, rights-of-way, easements, and reservations, if any, contained in the deeds forming chain of title thereto, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any. Delivery of possession of the Property will not be performed by the Substitute Trustee but will be the responsibility of the Purchaser. The Purchaser will be required to execute a Memorandum of Sale and Contract concerning the purchase of the Property, a copy of which will be available immediately before announcing the sale. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. LAFAYETTE, AYERS & WHITLOCK, PLC, SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, 10160 staples Mill Road, suite 105, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060. Telephone: (804) 545-6256. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: EDWARD S. WHITLOCK, III, ESQ., Lafayette, Ayers & Whitlock, PLC. Telephone: (804) 545-6256 or (804) 545-6258.



## Meetings

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**  
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the town office.

**Tuesday, Jan. 21**  
The Patrick County Department of Social Services (DSS) Advisory Board meeting will be held at 4 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

The Patrick County Planning Commission will have a regular business meeting at 6 p.m. in the Community Room of the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Stuart site.

## Events

**Thursday, Jan. 16**  
The Patrick County Republican Committee will meet at 6 p.m. at the Motorsports Hall of Fame Auditorium.

**Friday, Jan. 17**  
The community food truck will be at Fairystone VFD from 3-4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 18**  
New Hope Church of the Brethren, 2007 New Hope Road, Stuart, (Elamsville area) will hold a Free Community Breakfast from 7:15-9:30 a.m. The breakfast will include eggs, bacon, sausage patties, apples, pancakes, biscuits and gravy.

**Thursday, Jan. 23**  
Stuart Baptist Church will hold an evening of food and fellowship at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The community dinner features

baked spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert.

**Saturday, Jan. 25**  
New Hope Community Church, 1863 Clark House Farm Road, Stuart, will hold an evening of music and fellowship featuring the Wayside Church Singers. The event will start at 7 p.m. and refreshments will follow the music.

## Ongoing

The Patrick County Patriots Turkey Shoot will be held Saturdays in January, and Saturday, February 1 and 8 at the Smith River Wildlife Club. Practice rounds start at 12:30 p.m. Shoot starts at 1 p.m. Rules are factory chokes only, no sleeves or re-chokes, and no modified gun barrels. Food will be available for purchase.

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

The Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at the Alzheimer's office at 109 Buena Vista Ave in Stuart. New members or volunteers are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

The Patrick County Quilters' Sit-N-Sew is held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Quilted Colors. For more information, call 276-694-3020 or email patrickcountyquilters@gmail.com.

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

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial

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

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

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Honey Pot, 106 N. Main St., Stuart (across from The Coffee Break). Call (276) 694-2356 for more information.

The Carroll County Genealogy Club is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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

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

# Marked increase in initial unemployment claims recorded

The 2,314 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims were filed during the week ending January 04, 2025, are 57.6 percent higher than last week's 1,468 claims and 16.8 percent lower than the comparable week of last year (2,782), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 81 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Administrative and Support and Waste Management (224); Construction (217); Accommodation and Food Services (207); Manufacturing (192); and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (188).

Continued weeks claims (15,983) were 1.7 percent higher than last week (15,712) and were 24.6 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (12,827). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (57 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,332); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,030); Manufacturing (1,447); Health Care and Social Assistance (1,369); and Retail Trade (1,159).

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

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**Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.**

Buying Logs

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

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# AARP Virginia January Online Workshop Schedule

Virginians wanting to expand their horizons with lifelong learning opportunities, get grandparenting or decluttering tips, or improve their smartphone photography skills can do so without leaving home by taking advantage of AARP Virginia’s free online workshops throughout January.

All webinars are free and open to the public, but registration is required to receive the Zoom link to participate.

The schedule of January workshops includes:

- January 16 – 1 p.m.: Intro to Smartphone Photography - Interested in learning more about your smartphone camera? Come to this webinar to explore your smartphone’s camera and other features like recording a video, adding filters to pictures and using your camera’s timer! Sign up: <https://events.aarp.org/SP0116>
- January 21 – 3 p.m.: Lunar New Year – The Snake is Coming! - Celebrate the Lunar New Year with us as we welcome the Year of the Snake! Sign up: <https://events.aarp.org/TE0121>
- January 23 – 1 p.m.: Intro to Photo Editing Tools - Blurry vacation photos? Random people in the background? Come learn about photo editing tools and how they can enhance your photos! Sign up: <https://events.aarp.org/SP0123>
- January 28 – 3 p.m.: Together We Give: The Power of Giving Circles - Discover the transforma-

tive power of Giving Circles! Sign up: <https://events.aarp.org/TE0128>

- January 28 – 5:30 p.m.: Dynamic Grandparenting: Musical Connections - Music provides opportunities for intergenerational connection, gaining skills, expanding learning, and fun! Sign up: <https://events.aarp.org/event/DG0128>

- January 30 – 1 p.m.: Smartphone Camera Uses Beyond Photography - Join us to learn about additional ways you can use your smartphone’s camera beyond photography! Sign up: <https://events.aarp.org/SP0130>

- January 30 – 7 p.m.: From Cluttered to Clear: Downsizing Made Easy - Unlock the freedom of a clutter-free home! Keep your new year’s resolution and start decluttering. Sign up: <https://events.aarp.org/event/DD0130>

AARP Virginia offers a variety of lifelong learning opportunities. The full list is available at <http://aarp.cvent.com/VALLL>. In-person and virtual events in your area can be found at <https://www.aarp.org/local>.

With 1 million members in Virginia, AARP is the largest organization working on behalf of people age 50-plus and their families in the Commonwealth.

To learn more about AARP Virginia, like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia](http://www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia) and follow @AARPVa on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/aarpva](http://www.twitter.com/aarpva). Find AARP events in your community at [aarp.org/nearme](http://aarp.org/nearme).

# Stay cozy and safe during winter weather

With ice, sleet and snow sweeping through Virginia, residents are urged to safeguard their homes and families while staying warm this season.

From fire hazards to frozen pipes, the season can pose significant safety and financial risks. According to the National Fire Protection Agency, house fires occur more during winter than any other season. Home heating equipment accounts for one out of every six reported home fires and one in every five home fire deaths.

Scott DeNoon, vice president of underwriting and policy services for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co., advises homeowners to take precautionary measures.

“Steps such as having your heating system and chimneys professionally inspected, making sure pipes are properly insulated, and ensuring that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working order can go a long way toward keeping you and your property safe,” DeNoon said.

If using heat-producing appliances like space heaters, plug them directly into wall outlets—never power strips—and keep them at least 3 feet away from combustible materials like drapes, furniture and bedding. Additionally, always be mindful of children and pets around heat-producing appliances.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is another serious risk during colder months. Known as the ‘invisible killer,’ the colorless, odorless and toxic gas can be emitted by fuel-burning generators, heating systems and portable heaters. According to a Consumer Product Safety

Commission report, non-fire carbon monoxide deaths have trended upward over the last decade, with over half occurring between November and February.

Protect your household by installing carbon monoxide detectors on each level of the home and near sleeping areas. Ensure detectors are functioning properly and have fresh batteries. When using gas-powered generators and portable heaters, make sure there is proper ventilation and never operate one inside a home, basement, shed or garage.

For more information on generator and home heating safety, visit [bit.ly/41EHCDL](http://bit.ly/41EHCDL).

Additionally, frozen pipes are a common winter hazard that can cost homeowners thousands of dollars in repairs. Help prevent pipes from freezing by keeping the thermostat set in the 60s, open cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around pipes, and let faucets drip slightly during extreme cold. It’s also wise to insulate pipes in unheated areas, inspect the roof and ensure gutters remain clear throughout the winter to prevent ice dams.

For added financial protection, homeowners are encouraged to review their insurance with an agent to ensure adequate coverage options and peace of mind in case of unexpected damage.

Lastly, winter storms can bring prolonged power outages. Families should have emergency kits on hand with flashlights, batteries, blankets, non-perishable foods, water and medications. Stay informed by monitoring weather reports and have a family communication plan in case of emergencies.

# Youth invited to apply for State Fair scholarships

Youth who participated in the 2024 State Fair of Virginia’s general and youth livestock show competitions are eligible to apply for 25 scholarships totaling over \$30,000.

Applications are being accepted through Jan. 22.

Of the 25 scholarships, 15 are open to all youth who participated in the 2024 livestock shows, and 10 are for anyone who competed in the State Fair youth competitions. The general awards include a \$1,000 scholarship from the Gatewood Holland Stoneman Endowment, a \$1,000 Farm Credit Scholarship, three \$1,000 youth development scholarships and five \$2,000 youth development scholarship opportunities.

The 15 scholarships for 2024 livestock exhibitors will be offered in three

age groups: Juniors (9-12); Intermediate (13-15); and Seniors (16 and older). Groups are based on exhibitors’ ages as of Sept. 30, 2024.

The SFVA Scholarship Program promotes positive youth development by recognizing and rewarding leadership and scholarship attributes developed through meaningful competition.

Awarded scholarships are held for the recipient and sent directly to the recipient’s educational institution to support continued learning, including but not limited to 4-year degree programs, community colleges, trade and technical schools or classes, and certification testing.

For more details and to apply, visit [bit.ly/3Pn3yvv](http://bit.ly/3Pn3yvv).

# Marriage Licenses issued in November

Three marriage licenses were issued in December, according to records in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, specifically:

Dennis Powell- Carol Branham  
Connor Patterson – Lillian Estep  
Taylor Lancaster – Caitlyn Poole

# Poll Shows Voters Favor Prior Authorization Reform, Transparency

Nearly 9 in 10 Virginia voters say they want the Virginia General Assembly to approve legislation that would establish standards for prior authorization decisions by health insurance companies and require more transparency by making information on prior authorization requirements and approval rates publicly available for customers and their doctors.

A recent statewide poll from Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy shows that 88 percent of voters support that type of policy action by state lawmakers during the upcoming 2025 legislative session, compared to just 8 percent who oppose that idea.

This is the second statewide poll of Virginia voters in recent months showing strong support for government action to reform health insurance company prior authorization decisions impacting patient access to care. An October statewide poll from Mason-Dixon showed that among those who have experienced delays or denial of need-

ed medical care due to restrictive insurance prior authorization policies, 76 percent support government intervention to limit prior authorization practices.

In addition to those findings, the poll also shows Virginia voters continue to support maintaining the Commonwealth’s certificate of public need (COPN) program, which is a regulatory system that promotes access to care through the distribution of medical services and facilities:

By a more than 3-to-1 margin (75 percent to 19 percent), voters say they favor a health system that regulates expansion of facilities and services to promote access to care and distribution of health care providers and facilities. 59 percent say the COPN system should be kept in place in Virginia, compared to just 18 percent who want to eliminate it.

About one-third of voters (30 percent) have experienced a delay or denial of recommended care due to an insurance company

prior authorization decision.

And 58 percent say that the government should take action to limit insurance company prior authorization practices, compared to 35 percent opposed to such action.

The statewide survey results are based on a poll of 625 registered Virginia voters conducted Dec. 17-20, 2024. It featured live landline and cell phone interviews with Virginians from all regions of the state representing the ethnic, gender, age, geographic, and political diversity of the Commonwealth. The poll is the latest in a series of surveys commissioned by the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) to help identify health care issues of concern to Virginians, better understand public sentiment about them, and to inform the Association’s approach to public policy engagement.

# Warner, Kaine among sponsors of bill to lower healthcare costs

U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, and Tim Kaine, a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee) joined a group of Senate colleagues in reintroducing the Health Care Affordability Act, legislation to lower health care costs for millions of Americans and make permanent the current enhanced premium tax credits (PTCs) for Health Insurance Marketplace coverage.

The PTCs were created in the Affordable Care Act and previously enhanced under the American Rescue Plan Act and the Inflation Reduction Act but are set to expire at the end of this year, increasing health insurance costs for over 20 million Americans. The Health Care Affordability Act would make the enhanced PTCs permanent, ensuring that these Americans don’t face sudden cost increases or leave almost 3.8 million Americans each year without coverage at all. Without this extension, out-of-pocket premium payments across the Commonwealth are projected to increase as much as 33%, according to the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

“For years, the ACA premium tax credits have lowered health care costs and increased access to insurance for Virginians and their families,” said the Warner, D-Alexandria, and Kaine, D-Richmond. “And through the American Rescue Plan Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, we further lowered costs for American families. But without action, these enhanced tax credits will expire. We are proud to introduce this legislation that will ensure more than 20 million Americans don’t face unfair cost increases at the end of the year.”

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# Bestway Sandwiches Inc. Recalls Frozen Products Due To Possible Contamination

Bestway Sandwiches Inc., a Valencia, Calif. establishment, is recalling approximately 24,870 pounds of frozen chicken and cheese taquito products that may be contaminated with foreign material, specifically metal, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today.

The frozen chicken and cheese taquito items were produced on July 3, 2024, and September 25, 2024. The following product, shipped to select ALDI grocery stores nationwide, is subject to recall:

- 20-oz. carton packages containing “CASA MAMITA CHICKEN & CHEESE TAQUITOS,” with Best By Dates 07/03/25 and 09/25/25 on the bottom panel.

The product bears establishment number “EST. P-40327” on the carton package.

The problem was discovered after the firm notified FSIS that it received a consumer complaint reporting that a piece of metal was found in the frozen chicken and cheese taquito product. Another consumer reported to FSIS to have a dental injury from the product.

There have been no additional reports of injury or illness due to consumption of this prod-

uct. Anyone concerned about an injury or illness should contact a healthcare provider.

The FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers’ freezers. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

The FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify recalling firms notify their customers of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers. When available, the retail distribution list(s) will be posted on the FSIS website at [www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls).

Consumers with questions about the recall can contact Bestway Foods Co. QA Department at (818) 361-1800 EXT.110. Those with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or send a question via email to [MPHotline@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline@usda.gov). For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, the online Electronic Consumer Complaint Monitoring System can be accessed 24 hours a day at <https://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda.gov/eCCF/>.



## Want to become a Virginia Extension Master Gardener?



If you enjoy sharing your passion for gardening and want to become a volunteer educator within your community, our upcoming 2025 Master Gardener training class is for you! Once certified, Extension Master Gardeners promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management education

throughout Patrick and surrounding counties.

Training to become a Master Gardener consists of 50 hours of independent on-line study combined with hands-on instructor-led workshops covering a broad range of horticulture topics. Once trained, Master Gardener certification is achieved after completing 50 hours of volunteer

service.

Training classes begin March 3.

A \$30 fee, which covers the training course and materials, is due at registration.

Registration closes on February 21.

For more details or to register, email [pcmgba-sictraining@gmail.com](mailto:pcmgba-sictraining@gmail.com) for questions.

## AARP Virginia Now Accepting Grant Applications

AARP Virginia invites local eligible non-profit organizations and governments across the country to apply for the 2025 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 5, 2025, at 5 p.m. Eastern. AARP Community Challenge grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable by improving public places, transportation, housing, digital connections, and more. Now in its ninth year, the program is part of AARP’s nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older.

“The Community Challenge is a critical part of how AARP Virginia works with local residents, advocates and policymakers to make our communities better places to live for people of all ages, especially Virginians 50 and older,” said AARP Virginia State Director Jim Dau.

This year, the AARP Community Challenge is accepting applications across three different grant opportunities. All projects must be consistent with AARP’s mission to serve the needs of people 50 and older along with other eligibility criteria.

Capacity-building microgrants are paired

with additional resources, such as one-on-one coaching from national nonprofit organizations, webinars, cohort learning opportunities and more for improving walkability, bikeability; implementing safe, accessible home modifications; and disaster preparedness training.

Demonstration grants fund projects that encourage replication of exemplary local efforts. This year’s focus is on improving pedestrian safety with funding support from Toyota Motor North America; expanding high-speed internet access and adoption with funding support from Microsoft; reconnecting communities divided by infrastructure; and implementing housing choice design competitions.

Flagship grants support projects that improve public places; transportation; housing; digital connections; and community resilience.

“AARP is committed to creating communities where people of all ages and abilities can thrive,” said Nancy LeaMond, AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer. “The Community Challenge helps cities, towns and counties get things started with small improvements that can kick-start meaningful changes that improve people’s lives and strengthens the places they call home.”

Since 2017, AARP has invested \$20.1 million toward 1,700 projects – including 36 in Virginia – nonprofit organizations, and government entities across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands through the Community Challenge. The program aims to provide support to all community types, including rural, suburban and urban communities with a special focus on the needs of those 50 and older.

AARP Virginia works in collaboration with communities across the state, bringing people together, and providing resources and expertise to help make Virginia’s counties, towns and cities great places to live for people of all ages.

The Community Challenge is open to eligible 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. Eastern, March 5, 2025. All projects must be completed by December 15, 2025. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit [www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge](http://www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge).

## Social Media Advertisement Scams

Over one-third of U.S. adults who have bought something through an ad on their social media feed report being defrauded, according to a new AARP survey. Don’t let scammers ad-vertise their way into your wallet this new year; here are three tips to stay ahead of social media shopping scams.

Don’t click on the ad. If the ad appears to

be from a known retailer, type the address into your browser or use the retailer’s app. Scammers can impersonate legitimate retailers, and clicking on the ad could bring you to a copycat site.

Read reviews and research. If the ad is from a retailer you’re unfamiliar with, verify the site’s legitimacy. Research the company and check for complaints with organizations like the Better Business Bureau.

Check the product quality. Be wary of bait-and-switch scams where you receive a product inferior to what was advertised (or you receive nothing at all). If this happens, you can contact your credit card company to dispute



the charge.

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

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# Service Project For The Landmark



**By Kaydence Harman**  
*Patrick County High School*  
Daryl Lynn Combs led a service project on December 15. This project was open to those in Sr. Beta who were seeking service hours. The Beta members created unique cards for each member of The Landmark Center.

Combs was accompanied by

Isobel Clay, Kaydence Harman, Sasha Campos, Kendall Williams, Rylee Soliday, Callie Montgomery, Ginny Nations, and Marybeth Williams. Around 60 cards were made that day; we thank all the helpers for the time and effort put into the cards, hoping that each card was appreciated.

The Landmark Center, in

Stuart, Virginia, cares and aids those who need assistance in Activities of Daily Living (ADL's). The cards are given to members to spread kindness and joy in the holiday times. In hopes of brightening their days, and providing them with a gift that shows they are thought of.

Senior Beta members have begun selling Pura Vida Brace-

lets. Members who are interested in the National Convention have been advised to participate, the funds will go towards the cost of the convention. Funds can also go to another member or a general fund in the future. Bracelets are sold at eight dollars. Bracelets were sold until January 15.

## SCC Sciences Division to Host Meadow Creek Dairy Jan. 30



As part of a series of science seminars, the Sciences Division of Surry Community College is hosting a seminar with Meadow Creek Dairy, on Thursday, Jan. 30.

Meadow Creek Dairy is a seasonal grass dairy located in Galax, Va., that specializes in farmstead cheese. In their presentation titled, "Meadow Creek Dairy: Cheesemaking and Farm Management at a Local Farmstead Grazing Dairy," representatives will speak on the process

of cheesemaking and the related management of the pastures and herd.

The presentation will be held on the Dobson Campus in room A-121 from 11 a.m. to noon. There is no fee to attend, and the presentation is open to SCC students and the public.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Jeff Jones, SCC Sciences Division Chair, at [jonesjr@surry.edu](mailto:jonesjr@surry.edu) or (336) 386-3391.



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