

Wood, Overby elected to lead county

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors elected Jonathan Wood, of the Peter Creek District, to serve as its chairman and Andrew Overby, of the Dan River District, to be its vice-chairman for 2025.

At the start of the meeting, County Administrator Beth Simms called for nominations for the chair position.

Overby nominated Wood for the position. Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, seconded the motion. Nominations were then closed. Wood won the seat with a 4-1 vote.

Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, abstained from voting.

“I don’t object to Mr. Wood being chairman, I think it’s a good thing, but I am going to abstain. The reason for my abstention is the fact that this was already memorialized in a vote. Basically, it wasn’t even during a board of supervisors meeting, so just for ethical considerations I’m abstaining,” he said.

After taking his seat as board chairman, Wood called for nominations for vice-chairman.

Kendrick nominated Overby for vice-chairman, and Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, seconded the motion. Nominations were then closed before Overby won the vice-chairman position with a 5-0 vote.

The board also approved the 2025 supervisor committee appointments.



Andrew Overby (left), of the Dan River District, and Jonathan Wood, of the Peter Creek District, were elected to serve as the vice-chairman and chairman of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors for 2025.

Wood was appointed to the West Piedmont Planning District (WPPD) Commission, the Parks & Recreation Committee, and as a School Board liaison.

Overby was appointed to the Tourism Advisory Council (TAC), Planning Commission, and to VACO as the alternate, and Marshall was appointed to the Social Services Board, Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT) Board, and as the Patrick County-Town of Stuart liaison.

Kendrick was appointed to the WPPD Executive Committee, WPPD Commission, Virginia Association of Counties (VACO), Public Service Authority (PSA), and Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Perry was appointed to the STEP Board, Local Emergency Planning Commission, E-911 Committee, to the Planning Commission as the alternate, and as a School Board liaison.

The entire board is on the Facilities Committee.

The board also approved disbanding the Budget Committee as only having two supervisors on it and replaced it with the entire board with a 3-2 vote.

Marshall made the motion, which was seconded by Perry.

“I think this will eliminate quite a lot of confusion both from people that are on the committee, on the board as well, and in the public,” Marshall said.

Marshall, Perry, and Wood voted yes, while Kendrick (See Wood, Overby p.2)



Patrick County Administrator Beth Simms commented at the January 13 meeting, as county attorney Chris Dadak, of Guynn Waddell, P.C. (far left) looks on.

County Administrator Defends Actions, Addresses Criticism During Public Comment

By Taylor Boyd

Patrick County Administrator Beth Simms took the floor during the public comment period at Monday’s Board of Supervisors meeting, addressing criticisms and clarifying several issues raised by the public.

Visibly upset, Simms responded to accusations ranging from the use of a county credit card to purchase lunch to claims about her character. Near the end of her more than seven-minute speech, Simms said, “It is completely out of the realm for a county administrator” to speak during public comment but noted she felt compelled to respond to what she described as “complete lies” affecting her personal and professional reputation.

“Just so everyone is aware in this room, defamation still applies to public comment,” Simms said. “Yes, I am a public figure, yes I am supposed to have a thick skin, but lies are not exempt.”

The “first comment tonight about Patrick County paying for my lunch – I have been an employee of this county for 15 to 16 months now. I have never once used my Patrick County credit card to pay for my lunch,” she said.

However, it would be “a completely acceptable use” when local government officials have a work meeting, Simms said, adding that most of the

(See County Administrator p.4)

Community mourns the loss of a devoted advocate and family man

By Taylor Boyd

Tom Bishop, a steadfast advocate for Patrick County and a beloved member of the community, passed away on Thursday, January 9, at the age of 81. Known for his tireless dedication to family, friends, and his adopted hometown, Bishop leaves behind a legacy of service that touched many lives.

After retiring to Patrick County to build his family’s dream home in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Bishop worked as the General Manager for Brintle Enterprises, Inc. in Mount Airy, N.C., for nearly five years.

Following this, he worked as the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director for seven years from January 2005 to March 31,



Tom Bishop

2013. During this time, he managed two visitor centers, promoted local businesses, and promoted tourism all over Patrick County.

“I know he was also at that time the tourism” person “because

the county had not established a Tourism Department,” said Rebecca Adcock, the current director at the chamber. “I always saw him out at events, and he worked tirelessly”

(See Community p. 12)

Supervisor accuses colleagues of misconduct in ‘confidential’ emails

By Debbie Hall

Steve Marshall, the Blue Ridge District representative on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, sent two emails to fellow board members alleging potential legal violations and addressing personnel matters. The emails, sent on January 13 and January 16, were marked “confidential,” according to documents obtained by this newspaper.

In the group emails, Marshall instructed recipients, “Do not share with employees, press or members of the public. I Cc’d this to the board clerk for record keeping purposes only.”

The county attorney also was listed as a recipient of the emails.

In the January 13 email, Marshall wrote:

“Gentlemen, As you know I am an outspoken proponent of employee rights and have noted on several occasions that I object to the treatment of some employees. My concern is that there have been attempts, at times successful, at constructive termination,” Marshall wrote.

Constructive termination is a modified claim of wrongful termination.

“It is my belief that supervisors have actively engaged the assistance of members of the public and colluded with them to this end,” he wrote, adding, “While researching what action I should or am required to take regarding this issue I came across the following VA law.”

He cited statute 8.01-379.2:1, which addresses the duty to preserve evidence in anticipation of



Steve Marshall

litigation. Marshall emphasized the potential legal risks of the board’s alleged actions:

“I believe it is reasonable to conclude that given the leadership behavior noted above that litigation by any employee impacted would be reasonably foreseeable,” Marshall wrote. “I have already begun collecting evidence myself and I do believe that my prior protestations and this email would bind each of you to do the same and treat any existing evidence as just that.”

“It should also be of interest to each of us that in Virginia a County Supervisor can be sued individually in some cases such as creating a hostile work environment or discriminating against an employee,” Marshall wrote, and then explained, “This means that not only does the county face exposure but each one of us does as well. Any present or past supervisor could loose (sic) their own personal assets under the right circumstances.”

On January 16, Marshall wrote,

(See Allegations p. 12)

Residents raise concerns at first meeting of the year

By Taylor Boyd

Several residents spoke at the Monday, January 13 Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting on topics largely focused on the Berkley Group, LLC (an outside consulting firm), the county’s need for protection against forced solar energy, and finances.

Karen DeCapp said the median family income in Patrick County is \$41,130, and out of 134 counties in Virginia, Patrick County ranks as the 119th poorest.

“The comprehensive spending and concern for the welfare of the citizens seem to be lost. When the County Administrator salary is three times the family income, has a \$500 allowance for a vehicle and paid travel, yet believes and authorizes the taxpayers of the 119th poorest county in the state should also pay for her lunch while the food pantry has to appeal for a dime, something is amiss in this county,” she said.

When a six-figure salary is paid to someone who becomes flummoxed by the word redacted, while the county lacks a hospital and the board balks at



Karen DeCapp

funding an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and rescue squads, DeCapp said something is amiss.

(See Residents p.3)

Wood, Overby

(cont. from page 1)

drick and Overby were the dissenting votes.

In other matters, the board:

*Had a discussion about the clerk position. Currently, Amy Walker serves as the board of supervisors’ clerk and administrative assistant.

In the Rules of Procedure, Overby said it’s stated that the county administrator is appointed as the clerk by the board.

“I don’t see why we should not continue with that. That’s what our Rules of Procedure say,” he said.

Marshall said down further in the Rules of Procedure it also reads that any appointee by the county administrator can fill the role.

“Yep, well aware,” Overby said.

County Administrator Beth Simms asked what the requested change would be. Overby replied it was to have her be the clerk of the board.

“In Virginia, a lot of times County Administrators are listed as the clerk, but we delegate those duties, and those duties were already delegated once I was hired. So, we have a joint position of a board of supervisors’ clerk and an administrative assistant. Her job, you know, is based on those roles and responsibilities,” Simms said.

She also asked if the board was talking about changing roles and responsibilities.

Overby said yes.

“Okay. Sorry, I wasn’t prepared for this discussion,” Simms said.

Overby said he believes Walker has a conflict of interest because she also serves as the chairman of the Patrick County School Board.

Marshall asked Overby to speak specifically on what Walker’s conflict of interest is.

“I don’t think it’s appropriate for the chairman of the school board to sit in executive session on the board of supervisors because she is privy to information that she would not normally have access to as a school board chairman,” Overby said.

Marshall asked Overby if he thought the Patrick County Sheriff’s Office was a completely different thing and if the board shouldn’t interfere with their operations.

Overby replied that he doesn’t know what that has to do with it.

“Well, you have a sheriff on the board of supervisors, he’s privy to other information. We’ve already discussed this, it’s perfectly fine by law,” Marshall said of Doug Perry, who is a senior Deputy in the Patrick County Sheriff’s Office.

While it’s fine by law, Overby said it’s not appropriate.

“Not appropriate for the sheriff’s deputy to be a board of supervisors member,” Marshall asked.

“I didn’t say that,” Overby replied.

“Sure you did,” Marshall said.

“No, I didn’t,” Overby said.

“I’m confused,” Marshall said.

“Don’t put words in my mouth, Mr. Marshall,” Overby said.

Marshall said he wasn’t, and that he was trying to figure everything out.

“I’m not understanding why this is so hard to understand. It’s not appropriate for the chairman of the school board to sit in executive session or have access to...,” Overby said.

“My point is the school board is a separate authority, just like the Sheriff’s Department,” Marshall said.

Overby said he understands this. Marshall said it would be the same thing.

Chris Dadak, of Guynn Waddell, P.C., the county’s attorney, said he believed the discussion centered around Rules of Procedure.

“Outside of executive session, we may allow (or) disallow anyone who you so wish,” Dadak said.

“Personally, I’m not comfortable with her being on the school board, being privy to information that is not even given to the board of supervisors from administration,” Overby said.

Wood said he believes there are two different conversations going on at the same time and asked the board to stick to one or the other.

With the clerk being the county administrator, he asked Overby what he wanted to change.

Overby said he wants Simms to function as the clerk and not to delegate the responsibility to someone else.

Simms said that was why she was asking from a staff perspective.

“That position was in place when I was hired in October 2023. The adopt-

ed budget by the board of supervisors includes a position of clerk of board of supervisors and an administrative assistant, it’s a shared position. As I said, her pay, benefits, and everything is based on her roles and responsibilities,” Simms said.

If the board wants to take away some of those roles and reassigns them to her, Simms said she needs direction from the board.

“I think that’s what we’re trying to establish right now,” Overby said.

Overby made a motion to adopt the Rules of Procedures as amended.

Before voting, Marshall said he wanted to speak to the multiple times major issues have been added to the agenda by supervisors the night of board meetings.

“The issues that were added have very obviously been planned and discussed” by a “minimum of two supervisors prior to the meeting. These are major issues with major ramifications to both the operations of and expense to the county. I believe this practice violates our Rules of Procedure, so I’d like to draw the board’s attention to several areas of rules that should be followed going forward or amended here and now,” he said.

Marshall then cited four sections of the Rules of Procedure that focused on supervisors adding items to the board meeting agenda.

“There is no way that a board member can be afforded their right to debate on a complex subject when no time has been allowed and they’re effectively negated from studying the issue. This disenfranchises large segments of Patrick County from the representation that is their right. These practices while great political theater are unethical and a great disservice to the county,” he said.

Kendrick seconded the motion already on the floor. The motion failed in a 2-3 vote. Overby and Kendrick voted for the motion, while Marshall, Perry, and Wood voted against.

*Heard a Planning Commission work update from Berkley Group Director of Planning and Community Development Michael Zehner, who said the group has significant concerns about the comprehensiveness of the county’s policy, the structure and some of the processes in its current solar ordinance.

“Because you don’t have zoning, it is imperative, in my opinion, that your Comprehensive Plan is robust. Because the only review that you have for solar facilities is the 2232 review under 15.2 2232 of the state code, which basically allows the Planning Commission first and principally whether a project is in accordance with the county’s comprehensive plan,” he said.

What the group understands from the state code, Zehner said, is that a county is locally enabled through zoning to regulate solar facilities.

“Absent that authority that you’ve elected not to use, you have to rely on the 2232 review process. Procedurally in your current ordinance it talks about an application coming to the Planning Commission then going to the board for final action – that’s not what the 2232 review statute describes,” he said.

Zehner said the statute describes the Planning Commission receiving that application and voting on it. Applicants can appeal to the board of supervisors and the Planning Commission has to issue a report to the board.

“You all can do nothing. You can receive that report, or you can elect to overturn the decision of the Planning Commission. But that’s not the process that’s described in your current ordinance, so that’s one thing we want to focus on and fix,” Zehner said.

He also said the group is working to tackle ensuring that the objective standards in the ordinance today are put into the comprehensive plan as evaluation factors. “That’s why you may end up with a comprehensive plan section that is longer, appears to have more content that you more normally would have in there, appears to have more content that looks regulatory in nature, because we have to put it in there as an evaluation point for that application under the 15.2-2232 review process. We want the ordinance to focus on how to make an application, what’s the content of that application, and what’s the process, period that’s it,” he said.

Zehner said he believes there were some differences in opinion with the Planning Commission about that, and that he wants to make sure the group



The 2025 Patrick County Board of Supervisors. From left to right: Steve Marshall, Clayton Kendrick, Andrew Overby, Jonathan Wood, and Doug Perry.

got direction from the board, and that it understands the group’s perspective and how its proceeding in drafting the policy.

If the ordinance and comprehensive plan aren’t precise, Perry asked if that could open the door for solar companies to come in and go through the court system, resulting in the county losing the ability to control which companies are prohibited.

“I am not an attorney. I would defer to the county attorney, but I think in my experience the state of your current ordinance and the processes and procedures don’t align with our understanding of how they should be. That would be concerning to me as somebody that’s practicing land use at the local lever for over 22 years,” Zehner said.

Perry asked if that would leave the county vulnerable.

“I would be concerned about it, yes,” Zehner replied.

Wood asked Zehner what the best move would be to not allow utility scale solar in the county.

Zehner said it would be to give him direction to work in that fashion.

“You know, go back to the Planning Commission with that direction, and we would certainly work with the county attorney on the best approach there with respect to the comprehensive plan and the ordinance,” he said.

One thing the board needs to do procedurally, Zehner said, is to adopt a resolution to actually initiate an amendment of the comprehensive plan.

Looking back at the public input the board received from a March 2024 meeting, Wood said the majority of speakers spoke out against solar.

“We had 22 people against solar and one for it. I think it speaks volumes about how most of Patrick County feels right now,” Wood said.

Zehner also addressed resident concerns about the group’s relationship with the solar industry and its contractual relationship with the county.

*Heard a broadband update from Riverstreet Networks Director of Engineering Zach Church, who said the project is almost \$50 million and passes almost 8,400 locations.

“When you look at the project the way we have it designed now it’s not only passing those 8,376 locations that were funded, it does come up to about 8,802, what we’re looking at right now with our design and everything that’s been completed for that project,” he said.

Regarding the project’s timeline, Church said some key takeaways include Appalachian Power (AEP) having about 31 percent of construction completed in the Stella location. He added Riverstreet meets with AEP at least every other week and recently changed the engineering group over the project.

“We’ve went through the biggest part of these areas identifying where AEP’s going to leave us slack holes, been working through all of those and then the splicing on this is another one,” he said.

Riverstreet is also working with a contractor to help it secure some additional locations for some small electronic cabinets and things of that nature, Church said.

*Approved having a letter of support written for Riverstreet Networks to seek Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding for broad-



Michael Zehner, Director of Planning and Community Development for the Berkley Group, LLC.

- band expansion in the county. Church said Riverstreet estimates there are 1,540 locations that would qualify for BEAD funding inside of Patrick County.
- “If you look at the area we’re building, somewhere between 1,200-1,300 of those locations are pretty close to the proximity of that project, and about 240-340 a little bit further out,” he said, adding the letter of support doesn’t require funds from the county.
- *Approved moving the welcome for public input as section nine to be under the Board’s Rules and Procedures.
- *Approved changing the time limit of the public comment period to allow each speaker six minutes. At the five-minute mark, speakers will be alerted that they have one minute to finish speaking.
- *Received Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) training from Dadak.
- *Approved the 2025 meeting schedule.
- *Approved the December 9 meeting minutes.
- *Approved the bills, claims, and appropriations.
- *Approved Kofile as the vendor for a Circuit Court Records Preservation Grant, contingent on accurate costs.
- *Adopted a resolution to support the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation’s Blue Ridge Rising Initiative.
- *Requested an extension from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the \$726,641 25 percent match for the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Award for the Critz Community Center.
- *Approved directing the Planning Commission and its staff to look at ways to serve as an intermediate to help with dilapidated houses at no cost to the county.
- *Discussed Brightspeed internet service speed and the state of broadband in the county.
- *Appointed Randall Collins to the Building Board of Appeals as the At-Large member.
- *Thanked Jane Fulk for serving as the interim Dan River District supervisor for some months in 2024.
- *Scheduled the annual board retreat for Tuesday, February 25, and tentatively planned for it to be held at the Reynolds Homestead if there is availability.
- *Heard the County Administrator’s report.
- *Heard the supervisors’ reports.

Pets of the Week



These adorable three-month-old puppies are available for adoption. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter (PCPAS) at (276) 694-6259; visit the shelter or its Facebook page to find other available pets in need of a forever home. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination.

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League provides pet food assistance and information about low-cost spay/neuter services; contact blueridgeawl@gmail.com.

Norris

Memorial Services

Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com

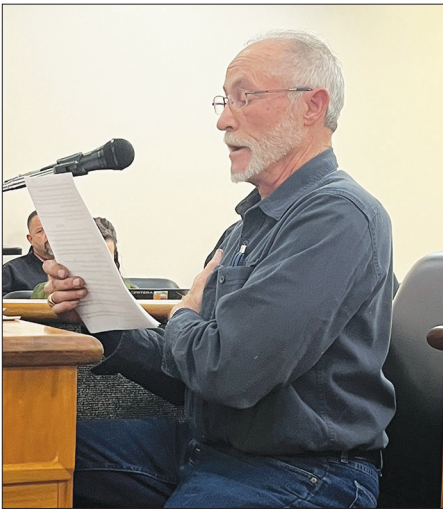
1500 Kings Mtn Rd.
Martinsville, VA,
276-638-2778

Residents

(cont. from page 1)



LeeAnn Seeley



Vance Agee



Ed Pool



Trena Anderson

“When actual, accurate internal texts are exposed by FOIA (Freedom of Information Act), and the (now former) chairman believes the reporting is slanted, something is amiss in this county. When a board member suggests having a PR (Public Relations) liaison to assist with a problem which the board created along with an unelected County Administrator who thinks and is allowed to control communication between The Enterprise, the citizens, and other employees, this only underscores how the county is on a runaway track of misguided leadership and unwise spending while ignoring and discounting the devastation its causing the county and the citizens,” DeCapp said.

As the term “rumor mill,” misinformation, and an outage of social postings and reporting are still being spoken by the BOS (Board of Supervisors) suggesting a mediator is the answer to the lack of trust and communication, DeCapp said this only highlights the lack of comprehension and frustration felt by residents.

DeCapp noted many boards of supervisors hold town hall meetings where residents are allowed to express their concerns and receive a response in a direct forum. It also allows the supervisors an opportunity to be transparent.

“Instead of playing a PR game, town hall meetings would be a direct and concise question and answer discussion between the BOS and the Patrick County citizens. Removed as the go-betweens, unelected position and businesses being an obstacle in secretly influencing an unwanted direction. It would also show and restore BOS leadership quality and dignity, which is amiss in this wonderful county,” DeCapp said.

LeeAnn Seeley said she has great concern with the county’s direction, especially with the role of the outside consultants and related costs.

“I have reviewed the agreement originally between Patrick County and the Berkley Group and understand they were used to find us a candidate for Coun-

ty Administrator. Now our County Administrator is using the Berkley Group for Third Party Land Use Review Support to Patrick County, principally for the review of solar facility projects,” she said.

Seeley noted the cost of hourly rates are up to \$900 an hour for the Berkley Group “at least for the review of solar projects,” and \$3,600 is paid per month for planning services with \$120 per hour paid for on site trainings.

Seeley also had a few questions she hopes and expects to be answered at the next meeting including liability assumed by the group for its recommendations concerning any solar projects or any land use review, if there a vote taken by the Planning Commission or the board of supervisors concerning the group’s role, if the county administrator acted alone to execute the contract for third party review and support without the approval of the Planning Commission or the board, and if the county has a toxic waste ordinance or resolution.

“As a citizen of this county, I don’t trust the way our money is being spent or being run. Most of the people ... live paycheck, or are living on Social Security. Have any one of you, including the County Administrator, gone to the food bank on distribution day, and seen the line of people who need food. I have. This county is not rolling in the dough, but we spend as though we are,” Seeley said.

On multiple occasions, Vance Agee said county residents proposed that a toxic chemical control resolution should be established by the county.

“As our business sector evolves, clear and concise guidelines must be in place to manage commercial endeavors in Patrick County. The establishment of toxic chemical guidelines must meet or exceed state and federal regulations,” he said.

Agee said he believes these restrictions should be at the sole discretion of county residents and taxpayers.

“Our goal is to prevent any catastrophic risk and

liability that are present in all industrial scale operations. Protecting human health and the environment should be the highest priority goal to any rational thinking administration,” he said.

Agee then listed 11 documented lawsuits involving toxic chemicals, per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), (also known as forever chemicals), chemical spills, dumping, and pollution.

Ed Pool said the foundational principle of a risk management analysis is to determine the value of a contract that does not perform.

“If the contract does not perform for any reason, default, bankruptcy, mismanagement or an act of God as defined – who experiences the financial loss or liability including injury,” he asked.

Pool said it’s imperative that the county establish the terms of a contract for toxic chemicals and establish the risks for all industrial projects.

He believes the Planning Commission must establish a non-negotiable policy for the production of documentation certified by sellers declaring the content of the registered Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) chemicals or compounds and other chemicals that the county deems to be threatening to environmental resources and assets.

“The county must demand that safety data sheets be provided establishing known toxic hazardous risks from manufactures, assemblers and sellers to conclude a risk management analysis. Alternatively, certifications of warrant of fitness or warrants of safety executed by corporate signatories may be provided in lieu of SDS sheets solely at the county’s discretion,” Pool said.

As Agee stated, Pool noted that private, county, state, and corporate entities are now involved in serious litigations to clean up hazardous materials that have been known for decades but not acted upon by the governing bodies who should have been protecting the public.

He added that these governmental operations are faced with enormous financial losses, which will be paid for by the public and could have been avoided by prudent risk management analysis.

He said the consulting groups “who has no financial liability for their work product, should clearly communicate instruments such as confirmed and irrevocable letters of credit, bonding terms backed up by executed letters of intent from bonding underwriter operations and how to negate the Western District of Virginia Danville Divisions March 9, 2011, ruling in case No. 4:20 – cv 00057 to the” county’s advantage.

A little over a year ago, Trena Anderson recalled the county was in need of a new county administrator and the consulting firm was hired to search for candidates.

The board hired one of the candidates, and was then hired by the county administrator “to assist in writing our comprehensive plan and solar ordinance,” she said, and alleged financial relationships with various solar companies.

Noting the county also is a member of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO), Anderson said, “By now I think that everyone in the room tonight gets it.” She added that templates provided for local governments to write their own ordinances also can be found all over the internet.

“There is no financial benefit for us, only additional expenses. Patrick County is paying for personnel and consultants that don’t benefit us. The county administrator is spending money that we can’t afford on services, additional county employees and creating new positions,” she said.

The county is currently in a precarious financial position, Anderson said, adding the spending must stop immediately.

“We need a county administrator with experience and a proven track record. An administrator who is not engaged with all of these consultants. This board and taxpayers are being taken advantage of,” Anderson said.

Malcolm Roach spoke about the need to move the Ayer’s Orchard voting precinct to meet the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards.

Galen Gilbert discussed Brightspeed – a telephone and internet provider, the county’s budget, and Jeb Stuart Volunteer Rescue Squad.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION OF APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR REVISION OF A RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1 A 6 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA WITH RESPECT TO THE DRESDEN GENERATING PLANT CASE NO. PUR-2024-00168

On November 26, 2024, Appalachian Power Company (“APCo” or “Company”) filed a petition (“Petition”) with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia (“Code”) and the Commission’s Final Order in Case No. PUR-2022-00150 for approval to recover costs associated with APCo’s Dresden Generating Plant (“Dresden”) through its generation rate adjustment clause (“G-RAC”).

On December 10, 2024, APCo supplemented the Petition with a filing of schedules in accordance with 20 VAC 5-204-60 of the Commission’s Rules Governing Utility Rate Applications and Annual Informational Filings of Investor-Owned Electric Utilities, 20 VAC 5-204-5 *et seq.*

Through its Petition, APCo proposes an annual revenue requirement of \$33.3 million for the 24 months following implementation of the revised G-RAC. The Company states that this proposed annual revenue requirement is composed of: (i) an actual underrecovery of approximately \$11.3 million of the Company’s G-RAC costs for the period ended August 31, 2024; (ii) a projected overrecovery of \$3.3 million for the period of September 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025; and (iii) a projected base annual revenue requirement of \$29.3 million for the period of November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026. APCo seeks to collect the combined under-recovery balance of approximately \$8.1 million over 24 months, resulting in an annualized under-recovery amount of approximately \$4.0 million. The Company stated that its projected base annual revenue requirement would be updated through the course of this proceeding to reflect a return on equity of 9.75%, which the Commission authorized in the Company’s most recent base rate case.

APCo requests approval to implement the proposed G-RAC on and after November 1, 2025, and to recover the requested annual revenue requirement for 24 months, consistent with its request in this Petition to file its next G-RAC Petition in 24 months. The Company asserts that if approved, the proposed revenue requirement will result in a decrease of \$0.01 to the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per month when compared to rates effective November 1, 2024.

Interested persons are encouraged to review APCo’s Petition and supporting documents in full for additional details.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Petition and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company’s Petition and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo’s Petition. On April 30, 2025, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned to this matter will hold the telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before April 23, 2025, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filing out a form on the Commission’s website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on April 30, 2025, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On April 30, 2025, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene the evidentiary portion of the hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission’s Staff (“Staff”).

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings unless they contain confidential information and will require electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

Electronic copies of the public version of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the public version of the Petition and other documents filed in this case from the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before April 23, 2025, any interested person may file comments on the Petition by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00168.

On or before March 7, 2025, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company, any other respondents, and Staff electronically as described above. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* (“Rules of Practice”), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00168.

On or before March 7, 2025, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness’s testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneously with their filing, as described above. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00168.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The public version of the Company’s Petition, the Commission’s Rules of Practice, the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in this case may be viewed on the Commission’s website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY



Personal Property Auction

January 25, 2025 • 10am
923 Liberty St., Martinsville, Va.

List of Personal Property on Auctionzip.com.

276-632-7653 • 276-340-5151
Selling for Chappell

Evans Real Estate & Auction
VAAR 433/028

Unwelcome Delivery: The Hike in Electric Bills

Electric rates in the Southwest Virginia region have gone up considerably.

I have long warned the policies of the Left, including Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Joe Biden, would make electric rates skyrocket.

The policies forcing electric rates higher are hurting regular families. Families who are managing grocery bills, gas charges, and other essential expenses.

I understand the frustrations with the rises in the costs we are seeing. And some legislators in the Commonwealth of Virginia are joining the fight and trying to address the issue.

Senators Travis Hackworth (R-Tazewell) and Todd Pillion (R-Abingdon) are the lead patrons of a bill in the Virginia Senate known as the AEP Accountability Act.

AEP is the American Electric Power company that serves a majority of the Ninth Congressional District through its Appalachian Power Company (APCo).

Other electric providers in our part of Virginia include Dominion Power and Old Dominion Power (ODP), which is owned by Kentucky Utilities, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) affiliated local power companies, county and city-owned public power companies, and electric cooperatives like Craig-Botetourt.

Dominion Power's Virginia Electric and Power Company not only supplies power to some residents of the Ninth District, but also supplies power to much of Virginia, including many localities closer to Richmond.

Across the board, customers of these power companies have seen hikes in their electric bills. In the APCo service area, State Demo-



Morgan Griffith

Representative

dramatic increases.

Because of our region's proximity to coal reserves, APCo and ODP both historically built many coal power plants to produce electricity as it was cheap to transport fuel to the plant.

At one time, prices were so low that the APCo footprint in Southwest Virginia had some of the lowest electricity prices in the country. That was a major selling point for attracting companies and investments. But then the Obama Administration started the War on Coal.

The Glen Lyn plant in Giles County, for instance, closed its doors in 2015. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) forced many plants to shutter their doors with an onslaught of interlocking rules that were impossible for many coal-fired power plants to comply with.

After the Trump Administration relaxed some of these regulations, President Biden reintroduced regulations that put more pressure on coal. The Biden Administration's message: either comply by making costly changes to your plant or face permanent closure.

In accordance with pressure from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), whose members are appointed by the president, public companies and investors have reduced fossil fuel and coal-related financing.

EPA regulations resulted in the shutdown of the Glen Lyn plant.

State Democrats and Governor

Northam passed the Virginia Clean Economy Act, which initially required, among other things, Dominion Energy and APCo to retire most fossil fuel plants in Virginia by 2024.

One exemption is Virginia City, the hybrid energy center in St. Paul, which is allowed to operate until 2045.

I attended the opening of Virginia City in September of 2012. The plant had immense potential, as it was a model for clean coal-fired power plants employing technological innovations and protecting the environment in the process.

Further, it had a useful life expectancy of 50 years or more! Even with the exemption until 2045, the facility would be forced to be closed prior to the useful time the ratepayers are paying for.

Electric power plants forced into retirement despite years of life left in them are stranded assets.

When they shut down ahead of schedule, the ratepayer still has to pay for the stranded asset.

As a result, customers are paying for the existing fossil fuel electric generation facilities, on top of paying for the new and more expensive green energy projects.

The rush to green energy is going so quickly that electric utilities are leaving behind numerous assets. Once mothballed, they cannot easily be used again.

Unfortunately, many out-of-touch officials do not understand the real-world consequences of imposing costly regulations that drive up energy prices.

There are lots of questions to be answered on Senator Hackworth and Pillion's legislation, but I commend them for the effort.

I myself am committed to work to find solutions for federal energy policies that use all of our natural resources while improving our ability to produce affordable electricity.

I will continue to fight against radical, so-called "Green New Deal" policies. Policies that threaten your pocketbook.

Call the Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405, the Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, or email by visiting www.morgangriffith.house.gov with questions or comments.

Editorial: No Affiliation with Telemarketing Company

It has come to our attention that a Connecticut-based company, That's Great News, LLC, has been reaching out to businesses, organizations, and individuals featured in The Enterprise. In at least one instance, the company reportedly has falsely claimed to be affiliated with our publication.

We want to make it clear: The Enterprise is not, nor has it ever been, associated with That's Great News, LLC. We are unfamiliar with the company and its operations.

Our research indicates it is a direct telemarketing company that specializes in creating customized

plaques for individuals or entities featured in newspapers and magazines. While such services may appeal to some, repetitive unsolicited contact from any business can be frustrating or misleading.

If you encounter persistent or suspicious contact from this company—or any telemarketer—you are encouraged to report it to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov or the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint Center.

As always, we remain committed to transparency and protecting the trust of our readers.

Letters to the Editor

Blood Drive Results

There were twenty-four equivalent blood units, eighteen whole blood units and three power red units, collected with twenty-six as a goal.

Hundreds of blood drives have been cancelled across the nation since January 1 because of the winter weather. But the Red Cross can count on Patrick County each month.

A big thank you to the dedicated volunteers who take time out of their day to assist all donors and to make your donation a positive experience. Volunteers who worked

this month were Debbie Boswell, Denise Clark, Bill Hines, Betty Holt, Carol Martin, and Ann Sheppard.

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

The next blood drive is scheduled on Tuesday, February 11, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the John D. Hooker Building. We hope to see you there!

Gene Stirewalt,
Stuart

County Administrator

(cont. from page 1)

time, county credit cards are used, just like businesses would when engaging in a work meeting.

"But knowing the challenges with Patrick County when I applied for and accepted this job, I have never paid for a lunch with my Patrick County credit card," she said.

Simms said she applied for the county administrator position when it was posted "just like anybody else in the room could have." She had a virtual interview with members of the Berkley Group LLC, then an in-person interview with the board on August 28, 2023.

"My interview was at 12 p.m. that day. I got a call at about 10 minutes after 5 p.m. getting offered the job with the salary of \$120,000 a year, a car, stipend, couple of other things. My contract was recently in The Enterprise, so everybody should be familiar with that. I did not negotiate my number up, I pretty much accepted what they sent me. Mr. Kendrick (Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District) then signed my contract, I signed it, we both signed it here on September 11, 2023," she said.

Simms noted The Enterprise also covered her contract signing when it occurred, and added "Not really sure why this is coming up as an issue now. But it is what it is. I just wanted to clarify all of those things."

Regarding the kind of insinuation or some conspiracy she has with the consulting firm, Simms explained the group is an executive search firm and a community development consulting firm.

"As everyone knows, or should know, Patrick County does not have a community development department. They did not have one when I came here. We have had some community development issues come up," she said, noting that solar, dilapidated buildings, a VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) project and other items were on the agenda to be considered by the board.

"These are all community development projects that we have no staff nor budget for," she said, adding consultants are used to fill staff gaps. She noted such practices are not taboo, but rather common in local government or organizations which lack staff for specialty items.

The funds to pay the consulting firm were in the budget that was adopted by the board on May 28.

Addressing what she said was the insinuation that she's creating positions or spending money, Simms said it's not allocated to her.

"Once again, false. The Director of Facilities was in the budget (that was) approved by the board of supervisors. The bills, appropriations, claims is all in the packet tonight. There is nothing

in that packet that I spend that is not approved by the Patrick County Board of Supervisors," she said.

If the board or county residents don't like something in the budget, Simms said concerns need to be directed to staff to amend the budget. "But I do not spend money outside of the budget. I was in economic development, and still consider myself an economic development practitioner, for years. We keep talking about how poor Patrick County is. Patrick County is going to stay poor if every time our elected body wants to invest in Patrick County, we are met with just gut everything, cut everything. Who wants to invest here if we do not invest in ourselves," Simms said.

The next time that subject arises, Simms said the county needs to think about what it's doing to remedy that.

"The insinuation that I am disconnected, or against the citizens – you all know nothing about me. You all have no idea how hard - not just me County administrators do not do this to get rich. We do it to solve problems that quite frankly nobody else wants to touch," she said.

Simms said she'd appreciate anybody that has a question about her, her character, her background, or anything else to set up a meeting with her.

"I'm pretty open. I have my phone numbers public, my email's public, I'm in my office. Set up a meeting, ask me a question, I'll be happy to talk to you all, to anybody, but this whole us versus them, I'm corrupt, I'm stupid, I'll be honest I am sick and tired of being humiliated," she said.

Simms said the board votes on a budget and policy, while she's charged with accomplishing it. For example, she said the county shares a building with Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

"We're in the process of working out what that looks like, a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), lease, whatever you want to call it. I have to represent their interests in an executive level type capacity. I meet with the president of the college, their CFO (Chief Financial Officer). I can't go in and do these things when this is what I'm constantly worrying about, and I'm constantly getting accused, of being corrupt, or dumb, or disconnected," she said.

While she recognized that it's completely out of the realm for a county administrator to speak during public comment, Simms said as everybody knows she recently had children. "I am not going to continue to let their mother be humiliated for no reason by people that know nothing about me. And if we want to become unpoor, then we need to have good governance," she added.



THE ENTERPRISE
Established in 1876
USPS 523-500
P.O. Box 348 - Stuart, Va. 24171-0348
Phone (276) 694-3101 Fax (276) 694-5110
www.theenterprise.net

PUBLISHER
Michael Showell

EDITOR
Debbie Hall

ADVERTISING
Wendi Craig
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

The oldest continuously operated business in Patrick County
*Published each Wednesday by Virginia Media, Inc.,
P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901.*

The Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

Postmaster: send address changes to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 348, Stuart, VA 24171-0348. Subscription Rates: \$32 per year in Patrick County; \$42 per year in State, \$43 per year out of state. Single copies \$1.00.

References: [1] <http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/common/cold.html>; [2] <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/antibiotic-use/URI/colds.html>.
(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Rachel Nelson, MD. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

A basketball player in a white jersey with "SOUTHERN" and the number "2" is dribbling a Wilson NCAA basketball while being defended by a player in a dark blue jersey. The game is taking place on a polished wooden court.

A basketball game in progress. A player in a white jersey is jumping to shoot the ball, while a player in a blue jersey is jumping to block. Other players are visible on the court and in the background.

University

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law. For more information, visit patrickmastergardeners.org.

Crossing the Lines

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

Parents express concern about teacher shortage and retention



Teddy Martin (far left) and Ben Gravely (second from left) were reelected to serve as chairman and vice chairman of the board.

The Henry County School Board met on January 9 to reorganize and hear about the program of studies in middle and high schools.

Teddy Martin and Ben Gravely were elected as chairman and vice chairman, respectively; the meeting schedule for next year was finalized and the board adopted a Code of Conduct for members.

During the meeting, several concerned parents and community members expressed their thoughts on teacher retention in the community.

Willie Martin, a concerned resident, discussed teacher hiring and retention practices in the county. He said that several of his former students ended up leaving the county to teach elsewhere after just a few years.

“Turnover has been staggering, why is this?” said Martin, and added that he understands

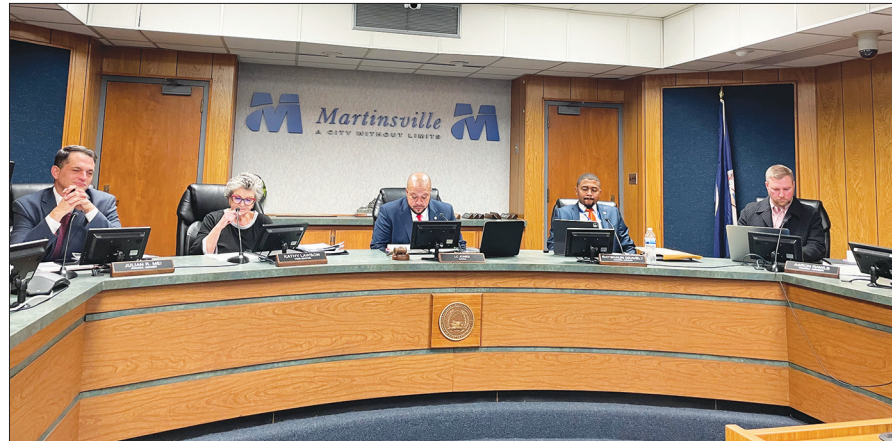
teachers are afraid to speak their minds in fear of retaliation. He said that several teachers left last year after a “shake-up” occurred at an unnamed county elementary school.

“Changing principals in the middle of the school year is never good for our students,” said Martin, criticizing an unnamed principal for the amount of time they spend at their school. “One principal is the last to arrive and the first to leave,” he alleged.

Martin also brought up the lack of exit interviews for teachers departing the county. “Why don’t you do exit interviews when these teachers are leaving?”

If the board asked, Martin said that he would give particulars. He also urged the board to do what’s necessary to get great results. “A good education can change anyone, a good teacher can change everything,” he said.

New refuse ordinance would streamline system



Council Members Julian Mei (far left), and Rayshaun Gravely (second from right) participated in their first regular meeting since being elected to the Martinsville City Council.

The Martinsville City Council convened on Jan. 14 to discuss the first reading of a proposed refuse ordinance and the appropriation of funds for a new water main on Commonwealth Boulevard. The meeting marked the first regular session for newly elected council members Rayshaun Gravely and Julian Mei, after the Jan. 2 reorganizational meeting.

Greg Maggard, the city’s public works director, introduced the refuse ordinance, which aims to streamline trash collection in Uptown Martinsville by replacing curbside pickup with strategically placed centralized dumpsters.

“This will add strategically located centralized dumpsters

and will help with pick-up in Uptown,” said Maggard. “It also talks about some requirements for trash cans—the size, keeping them in good condition, and having lids.”

The dumpsters will feature Bluetooth-enabled padlocks, ensuring access is restricted to Uptown residents and business owners. “Those will be only given out to those in the Uptown area,” Maggard confirmed.

While most residents and businesses already using dumpsters will not be affected, those relying on curbside trash pickup will be required to adapt to the new system. “They are all going to be in a public parking lot,” said Maggard.



STAR NEWS
Mayor LC Jones, Council Member Rashawn Gravely, and Chris Lawless distribute water and soup to tenants of Northview Gardens Apartments amid the water outage.

Community Helps Tenants Amid Winter Storm

Residents of Northview Gardens Apartments once again faced challenging living conditions when a water main burst on Jan. 9, leaving tenants without running water during a winter storm. This latest incident follows similar issues last summer, when a pipe burst and prompted widespread condemnation of the apartment complex’s living conditions.

During the summer crisis, Martinsville Mayor LC Jones and city officials intervened to expedite repairs and distribute bottled water to residents. This time, Jones, Council Member Rashawn Gravely, and Chris Lawless, president of Lawless Welding, stepped in to provide water and soup to affected tenants over the weekend.

“Friday in the snowstorm we

were unloading water and handing them out to tenants,” said Lawless, who has been actively involved with local charities, including the community’s warming shelter.

Gravely worked with the Salvation Army to secure a hotel room for a family with a special needs child and coordinated with Ann’s Kitchen to distribute soup. “We couldn’t fix the problem, but we did what we could,” said Gravely.

Jones and Lawless partnered to address the immediate needs of the residents, visiting God’s Pit Crew in Danville to obtain additional water. “We basically just had a good community, we talked to one another. Those people don’t get a lot of attention, and they need it,” Lawless said.

City School Board hears first reading of proposed budget



Members of Martinsville School Board heard the first reading of the FY 2026 budget.

The first draft of the proposed budget for the 2026 school year was presented to the Martinsville City School Board at its meeting last week.

“Keep in mind it’s a working document. Nothing is final,” said Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley, Jr.

The working document also is in keeping with the school division’s annual goals, which include integrity/academic excellence, safe and supportive schools in which discipline is reduced by 10 percent, and family/community engagement, encouraged by several family nights in schools. “We have great support, and the people turnout” and attend various school functions, he said, and thanked parents and the community for the support. He also explained the goals feed into the division’s six-year plan.

This year’s budget proposal is


built on a projected enrollment of 1,675 students in K-12, 110 preschool students, and 80 students in adult education, which is free, Talley said, adding that it a total enrollment of about 1,865 students.

The increase in students would provide the division with a revenue increase of about \$43,000, he said.

The primary cost factors include a 3 percent raise — the second part of the state’s biennial budget, plus a step increase, which is estimated at \$636,172. Including a \$570,200 budgeted request from principals and central office staff, the total is \$1,206,372, Talley said.


The anticipated revenue is \$28,093,421 with budgeted expenses totaling \$28,929,625, for a total variance of \$836,204, Travis Clemmons said.

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




MUFASA
THE LION KING
THE PRINCE OF EGYPT
DECEMBER 20

1-3-5-7-9PM



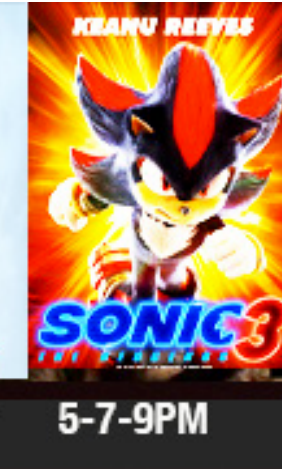
2
MOANA

1-3PM




MARK WAHLBERG
FLIGHT RISK

1-3-5-7-9PM




SONIC 3

5-7-9PM



ONE OF THEM DAYS

1-3-5-7-9PM



WOLF MAN
1-3-5-7-9PM
HOLLYWOOD CINEMA beside WALMART
Martinsville 278-858-3458

Larry Randolph Corns

Left to cherish

She was born to John and Dorothy "Wilhelm" Sauerzopf on January 20th, 1939, in Catskill, NY. After graduating from high school, Barbara married and together had 3 beautiful daughters; Kimberly-1958, Jill-1960, and Michele-1962. Barbara worked hard to provide for her family after a short marriage ended and she went on to work for Farm Family Life Ins. Co. where she completed 30 plus years working as a policy processor, while making many friends with co-workers. Ms. Snyder was known to have a pleasant singing voice, so much, that her employer would have her sing a special song at certain employee events. (A little unknown fact to her daughters)

Barbara is preceded in death by her sister-in-law; Elizabeth Sau-
erzopf, her husband; Robert E. Snyder, her

Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Larry is survived by his wife of 45 years, the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Donna Hutchens Corns of the home. He is also survived by two sons; Jonathan Corns and wife Tashia, and Matthew Corns and wife Kayla, all of Stuart. Six grandchil-

Mr. Young was a loving husband and friend. He was a member of Calvary Assembly of God in Mount Airy, NC. He was also a member of Ararat Ruritan Club and Willis Gap Community Center. By was a man of quiet strength and humility. His kindness, compassion, and loyalty were gifts he shared with everyone around him. His humility was natural, woven into the very core of who he was. It's a quality we often took for granted, but now, without him, it stands out as something truly special. By's love for God and his love for studying the Word shaped the way he lived—with faith, humility, and grace. To his wife, Robin, By was the definition of love and loyal commit-

dren; Madison, Em-
 malynn, Sawyer, Na-
 talynn, Hunter, and
 Colton Corns. Four
 step-grandchildren;
 Shine, Ethan, Tyler,
 and Leia Cobbler. One
 honorary grandchild
 Alexander (Bug). Two
 great-grandchildren;
 Harper and Xavier.
 Two sisters; Linda
 Corns and husband
 Anthony of Lawson-
 ville, NC, and Loretta
 Sheppard and hus-
 band Roger of Stuart.
 Special mother-in-law;
 Effie Hutchens of Stu-
 art. Sister-in-law De-
 bbie Kendrick (Chester).
 Brother-in-laws; Dale
 Hutchens (Lisa), Leon

Norris Funeral Services in Stuart is serving the Corns family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

Left to cherish the memory of By is his loving wife, Robin D. Young, of the home;

Mr. Wyatt is survived by two daughters, Melissa Ann Wyatt of Patrick Springs, Amanda Wyatt Nester (Gary) of Martinsville; six grandchildren, Ashley Nicole Wyatt, William David Fain, Kelsey Leann Fain (Thomas Turner), Jessica Nicole Frazier (Nathan),

Funeral services for Mr. Wyatt will be held Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Mark Wright and Pastor David Bishop officiating. Burial will follow the service in Patrick Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends Monday, January 20, 2025 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the funeral home. Flowers will be accepted. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is serving the Wyatt family, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moody-funeralservices.com.

MOODY 
Funeral Services, Inc.



*"We appreciate the confidence you have
shown in us for over 60 years."*

202 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA
Phone 276-694-3145
www.moodyfuneralservices.com

Terri S. Wood, Manager

Obituaries

(cont. from page 8)

Vera Lois Barnard Seigler

Mrs. Vera Lois Barnard Seigler, age 93, of Meadows of Dan, VA passed away on January 11, 2025 at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born on May 1, 1931 to the late Alvin Barnard and Ettie Terry Barnard. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband; Clarence Edward “Buddy” Seigler; and siblings, Bill Barnard, Hazel Helms and Inez Hylton. Vera was a member of Meadows of Dan Baptist Church. She was a graduate of Carson Newman College where she sang and toured with their choral program. After college, Vera shared her accomplished music skills by teaching Music Appreciation at North Greenville College.

Mrs. Seigler is survived by her sons, Steve



Seigler (Debby) of Barboursville, VA, Bill Seigler of Ruther Glen, VA and Mike Seigler of Panama City, FL; a daughter, Terry Seigler of Meadows Dan, VA; grandsons, Mike Seigler, Jr. (Colleen) of Leander, TX, Matthew Shank (Lindsay) of Williamsburg, VA, Joshua Seigler (Sara) of Southbridge, MA, Taylor Seigler (Kelly) of Blacksburg, VA, Justin Seigler of Superior, WI and Lincoln Seigler of Kill Devil Hills, NC; great-grandchildren,

Aria Seigler, Jaxon Seigler, Isabella Shank and Savannah Shank; and a sister and brother-in-law, Jessie Morrison (Claude) of Williamsburg, VA.

Funeral services for Mrs. Seigler will be held on Friday, January 17, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church with Pastor Shawn Carter officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Meadows of Dan Fire Department, c/o 2925 Jeb Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Tressie Cassell Cooper

Tressie Cassell Cooper, 93, of Stuart, VA passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at The Landmark Center in Stuart. She was born in Patrick County on August 5, 1931 to the late Lucy Turner Cassell and Charlie David Cassell. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Leon Cooper, grandson, Darren Martin, two sisters, Vera Keffer, Luna Hazelwood, six brothers, Fred, Ellis, Henry, Irving, Ken, Archie Cassell.

She was a member of Stella Christian Church and attended Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church, volunteered at the food bank and was very active in her church at Stella. She taught children and adults at Sunday



School and Vacation Bible school. She volunteered at Mountain Valley Hospice for several years and she loved to travel. She loved working outdoors and as long as Leon kept the lawn mower running she would mow. She retired from Patrick County High School. She was a loving mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her three daughters, Deborah Cooper Martin of Critz, VA, Karen Cooper Roberson

(Larry) of Stuart, VA, Greta Renee Cooper of Spencer, VA, two grandchildren, Landon and Travis Roberson and great grandson Karter Roberson.

A funeral will be held at 2:00 pm on Monday, January 20, 2024 at Stella Christian Church with Pastors Steve Hayes and Jim Stanley officiating. Burial will follow at the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

In Lieu of Flower Donations can be made at Mountain Valley Hospice P.O. Box 325 Dobson, NC 27017.

Norris Funeral Services in Stuart is serving the Cooper family. Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Ezra (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Proverbs 29, “But whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be ...”? Made whole, Blessed, Safe, Wise
3. What does God want us to keep as the apple of our eye? His law, Brotherly love, Faithfulness, Righteousness
4. Upon which mountain did Balaam build seven altars? Olives, Sinai, Pisgah, Carmel
5. What did David do to Go-

liath once he slew him? Stole his armor, Robbed him, Cut off his head, Buried him

6. Which is known as the “First Book of the Kings”? Judges, 1 Kings, 1 Samuel, 1 Chronicles

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Safe, 3) His law, 4) Pisgah, 5) Cut off his head, 6) 1 Samuel

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey’s latest book, “Test Your Bible Knowledge,” available in bookstores and online.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

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:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
“To Ignite a Passion to Follow Jesus Christ”

Stuart Baptist Church
Bringing the World to Christ

108 W. Blue Ridge St.
276-694-3440
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
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

EXPANSION TEAM

ACROSS

- 1 Horse house
7 Talked about
16 iPhone buys
20 Medieval weapon
21 Stimulus
22 Garbanzo, for one
23 Kids' writer who was a frequent flier?
26 North Carolina university
27 Ca++ or Cl-
28 Make up (for)
29 Architect who loved internet chatting?
38 “Oh yeah? — who?!”
39 That man
40 In a chair
41 Rural tract
42 Helper
43 Not round-trip
47 Three, in Italy
48 1999-2004 Oldsmobiles
50 Mystery writer who was a constable?
57 Give the right
58 Actor Arnaz
59 Old Japanese governors

- 60 Classic toothpaste brand
63 Org. supporting sober motorists
65 Env. alerter
66 Novelist who had a law degree?
73 Pear center
74 Litigant
75 Extensive, informally
76 Vehicle often traded in
80 Actress
82 Chess plays
87 Showman who rehabilitated injured people?

- 103 Comedian who did plumbing work?
108 Soda giant
110 Obama health law, for short
111 Camp shelter
112 Actor who was always providing precedents?
122 Casino cubes
123 Has as a goal
124 Really must
125 Suffix with novel
126 Sticks firmly to a decision
127 Prized violins, for short

DOWN

- 1 Health club
2 Actor Cruise
3 Part of IPA game system
4 Visorless cap
5 Boxer Ali
6 Former inmate
7 Awful racket
8 — jiffy (PDQ)
9 — fi
10 Bright red
11 Remove the cargo from
12 Bee attack

- 13 Moral lapse
14 Actress Best
15 French article
16 Slightly
17 Nancy in the House
18 Gave a lousy review of
19 “Gesundheit” elicitor
24 Kitchen pests
25 — tai
29 “God willing!”
30 Curtain fabric
31 Fuse, as ore
32 Dole (out)
33 Sheriff Wyatt
34 Ending for bed or home
35 Vogue rival
36 Hammerhead ends
37 Sun orbiter
42 Jokingly
44 Nintendo game system
45 Second part of a play
46 Barks of pain
48 In the thick of
49 Eye, in Spain
51 Extinct
52 Deep regret
53 Old autocrat
54 Tone down
55 —’acte

- 56 ID for the IRS
61 Rejections
62 Keenness
64 “Lah-di —!”
66 Joke around
67 Harold of the Manhattan Project
68 Boston team
69 Keyboardist John
70 Dull and heavy
71 Ex-Yankee Hideki —
72 Shortstop Garciaparra
73 Half-pint
77 The Bengals, on score-boards
78 Fast Amtrak train
79 Morocco’s capital
81 “Am not!” rejoinder
83 “I’ll return very shortly,” in texts
84 As a whole
85 Fixed the pitch of
86 Actor Jimmy
88 Brain section
89 — and crafts
90 Part of IPA
94 Hamper
95 Withdrawal of the U.K. from the E.U.
96 Await
98 Printed circuit board, as for a laptop
99 Brings joy to
100 Comics’ Kett
103 Reddi- — (dessert topping brand)
104 — to go (fired up)
105 Plants with fronds
106 Map extra
107 Old-time anesthetic
109 Captain Hook henchman
113 “Deck the Halls” syllables
114 Suffix with novel
115 Transcript fig.
116 AOL or MSN
117 — low ebb
118 Pithy remark
119 Toothpaste box inits.
120 “Inc.” relative
121 — Alamos

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19		
20							21										22					
23							24									25						
				26						27						28						
29	30	31						32	33	34				35	36	37			38			
39							40							41				42				
43				44	45	46		47					48				49					
50							51					52	53						54	55	56	
57										58						59						
					60			61	62		63			64				65				
		66	67	68						69					70	71	72					
73								74					75									
76					77	78	79		80			81			82			83	84	85	86	
87								88					89	90								
				91								92				93						
94	95	96				97					98	99				100				101		
102																	105	106	107			
108																						
				109						110						111						
112							113	114	115					116	117	118				119	120	121
122							123															
125							126															

Puzzle answers page 11

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS & COUNCIL MEETING REGARDING VACANCY ON STUART TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Stuart will hold two meetings to address the vacancy on the Stuart Town Council:

1. Public Hearing

- Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: Council Chambers, Stuart Town Office, 100 Patrick Avenue
- Purpose: The Town Council will announce the names of all individuals being considered for interim appointment to fill the vacant Town Council seat.

2. Regular Council Meeting

- Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: Council Chambers, Stuart Town Office, 100 Patrick Avenue
- Purpose: The Town Council will appoint a qualified voter to fill the vacancy.

Important Information:

- These meetings are being held in accordance with Section 24.2-228 of the Code of Virginia.
- Public Comment: You can submit comments in writing to the Town of Stuart at PO Box 422, Stuart, VA 24171 until 4:00 PM on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, or by emailing information@stuartva.org.
- Accessibility: If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please call 276-694-3811.

For additional information, please contact:
Bryce Simmons, Town Manager
Phone: 276-694-3811

Your relationships are why Ashbrook Audiology has corrected hearing issues for 20 years. Your relationships are more important than anything else in your life. Correcting your hearing issues positively improves every relationship you have. People just like you regain and strengthen their relationships with their family and friends everyday because they discovered Ashbrook Audiology. Come in today and experience first-hand the incredible and affordable increase in your quality of life these communication systems can bring you, and from professionals who wear hearing instruments themselves.

WE TAKE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS SERIOUSLY! DO YOU!



WHERE RELATIONSHIPS MATTER



Cynthia M. Jones, AA, AS

1111 Spruce Street
MARTINSVILLE, VA
(276) 666-0401

4500 Riverside Drive
DANVILLE, VA
(434) 792-2182

1-877-610-HEAR (4327)

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY AT NOON
Call (276) 694-3101

SERVICES

KENDRICK PAVING & TRUCKING, PAVING, Sealing, Line Striping, Gravel Hauling and Mulch. Rodney Kendrick 276-629- 3913 or 276-340-7786. Email at kendrickpaving@gmail.com Carrying on the tradition of quality.

CLAYTON KENDRICK PAVING (Original Kendrick Paving) Gravel hauling and spreading, grading, mulch, dirt, pavement maintenance and striping. 42 years experience. Reasonable prices. Call (276) 694- 7786 (office) or (276)- 340-8786 (cell) Email: ckendrick@embarqmail.com or claytonk81@gmail.com

WOODWRX, INC. Est. since 1988 Carpentry/Cabinetry - fine woodworking, design, tile, closet & garage organizers, repairs, etc. Originally based in Palm Beach County- References Bob Morehouse Phone: 276-930-1703 Cell: 561-881-8292 E-Mail: Bob@Woodwrx.net Website: Woodwrx.net

THOMAS LAND SOLUTIONS LLC Forestry mulching, overgrown property cleanup, bush-hogging, pasture & field reclamation, ATV & walking trails, hunting lanes, skid-steer, tractor and mini-excavator work. Free estimates. Call 276-229-9410 or Facebook Thomas Land Solutions LLC

Morris Construction LLC Home remodeling & repairs, carpentry, roofing, siding, painting, fencing, tree work & more! Contact Nick @ 276-224-4623 or 757-621-5219.

HYDRO AIR SYTEMS Heating, Cooling & Electrical Contractors, SALES & SERVICES, Licensed in VA & NC, 276-694-7308

FOR RENT

For Rent: 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom apartments available. Located near Walmart in Stuart. Call 540-493-9835 for information.



VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET



ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Vinyl Replacement Windows Installed! Starting at \$350 Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

PETS, DOGS, CATS

If veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® prod-



ucts to treat yeast infections, hook & round worms. At Southern States®.

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. **WILLS**-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver,



Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorney-va.com.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a

Student Briefs

Mitchem Named to SNHU President's List

William Mitchem of Stuart, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2024 President's List. The fall terms run from September to De-

cember. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the

President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Stegall Named to SNHU Dean's List

Kimberly Stegall of Stuart, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2024 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December. Full-time undergraduate students

who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week

terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

I will clean out basements, garages, etc. and haul away anything, brush also, Free Estimates! Call Scott 647-5563 or 276-806-4433

Guaranteed Paying the Most - Buying CARS & TRUCKS. Running or not, ATV's, tractors, stamps, old coins, jewelry & fire arms. 647-5563 or 806-4433

"We Feed What We Sell"

Economically priced and more feed value for your money.

AVAILABLE IN BAG OR BULK

- Horse Feed
- Chicken Feed
- Beef Grower Feeds
- Corn Gluten Pellets
- Sheep & Goat Feed
- Hay Stretcher
- Calf Feed
- Soyhull Pellets

Whole Beef Hamburger \$5.75/lb.
HAMBURGER PATTIES \$6.00 LB.

We buy Corn, Oats, Wheat & Barley. Call for price.



Mark Pendleton

Call for prices today!
888-777-5912

Jason Pendleton



LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS
EVERY SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.

- We sell cattle, goats, sheep & pigs.
- State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday

For directions to our facility, weekly updates of upcoming events and current sale prices, please visit our website: www.springlakeauctions.com.

Please feel free to call us at
(540) 297-1707.

We appreciate your business!

1069 SICKLE COURT, MONETA, VA 24121



discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 www.dental50plus.com/virginia #6258

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-844-216-5028.

Switch and save up to



\$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564.

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-844-268-4773

Max Kendall
Lumber & Tin
Price Reduced
Metal Roofing

Now Made In
Axton, Va.

276-650-2825

Free call 1-888-434-2825

Lynchburg, Va.

434-821-3251

Free Call 1-833-593-3251

Reidsville, NC

336-348-1600

Free call 1-833-205-1600

20 COLORS

Classic Rib - PBR Panel
Standing Seam - 5V

Buy Direct
and Save!

American Made
Top Quality
Low Prices
Made Same Day
40 Year Warranty

WE FINANCE
METAL
ROOFS ON
YOUR HOME

Snow Guards
Lumber

Rough - Dressed - Treated
PACKAGE BUILDINGS
Contractors Welcome

maxkendalllumber.com
8261 Mountain Valley Rd

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

Meetings

Monday, Jan. 27
The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) Board will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Exhibit Hall of the Frith Economic Development Center.

Events

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

Saturday, Jan. 25
New Hope Community Church 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.

The Star Theatre will hold a musical comedy adaptation of Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice” at 2:30 p.m., in partnership with Clark Gas & Oil. Tickets are available at bit.ly/rhprideandprejudice.

The Patrick County Democratic Committee will meet at 11 a.m. in the Patrick County Library in Stuart to discuss plans for this year’s election. Committee members are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, Jan. 26
The Star Theatre will hold a musical comedy adaptation of Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice” at 7 p.m., in partnership with Clark Gas & Oil. Tickets are available at bit.ly/rhprideandprejudice.

Saturday, Feb. 1
A JEB Stuart Birthday Celebration will be held at the Ararat Ruritan Club from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be music, cake, refreshments, door prizes, and items for sale.

Community Breakfast at Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad from 7:30-10 a.m. The squad is located at 1258 American Legion Road, Stuart. Plates are \$8. Dine in, carryout, and curb service options are available. Orders can be placed by calling (276) 694-6171.

Friday, Feb. 7
A Pop-Up Farmers’ & Artisan Market, “Buy your Love Local,” will be held at Calliope Circus for the Arts in Downtown Stuart from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in partnership with Bull Mountain Arts, the Stuart Farmers’ Market and the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.

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.

The Parks and Recreation Department is offering free Tai Chi Flow classes for seniors. The gentle, low impact exercise can help improve balance, coordination and mobility. Classes meet on Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart, through February 27. For additional information call (276) 694-3917.

Council seeks to fill open seat by end of month

By Taylor Boyd
The Stuart Town Council is working to fill a seat by the end of the month, after it became vacant when previous Mayor Ray Weiland decided not to seek reelection during last year’s election.

During the 2024 election, three current councilmembers were on the ballot for the seat which was won by Terry Dalton. Because of his victory, Dalton moved to the mayoral seat and vacated the one he held.

According to the Code of Virginia, within 45 days of the vacancy, a local governing body may appoint a qualified voter to fill the vacancy “or the circuit court does it based on some names submitted by the council,” Town Attorney Chris Corbett said, He added the vacancy period started January 1.

To meet the deadline, the council set Friday, January 24 as the deadline to accept applications from those interested in filling the empty council seat. At the January 15 meeting, Town Manager Bryce Simmons said he had already received three applications.

“It may be that council wants the applicants to schedule a time to come in and be interviewed,” Corbett said.

Simmons said interviews can be scheduled after the application deadline. “Just as part of that, we’d probably only want two councilmembers performing interviews, because if we get three in, we’d have to advertise” a council meeting, he said.

Three members is considered a quorum.

Councilmember Dave Hoback said he doesn’t like the idea of only two council members performing the interviews.

“I think we should have a called meeting with everyone, do the interviews boom-boom-boom, and then we can go into closed session to” make our decision, council member Rebecca Adecock said.

The council scheduled a called town council meeting for Wednesday, January 29 at 7 p.m.

In other matters, the council:

- *Heard a review of the Star Theatre in 2024 and its 2025 agenda from One Family Productions (OFP) Executive Director Chris Prutting and Director Sarah Wray.
- *Approved amending OFP’s current lease of \$300 per month for the Star Theatre for 2025.
- *Appointed Dave Hoback as vice-mayor.
- *Heard a breakdown of the 2024 Stuart Volunteer Fire Department call history.
- *Heard an update on public works projects.
- *Discussed receiving a presentation if the 2024 audit.
- *Approved the meeting minutes.
- *Paid the bills as amended.

Ongoing

The Patrick County Patriots Turkey Shoot will

Tired of driving to the landfill?

We'll pick it up at your curb!

Household pickup once a week - \$30 month

Dumpsters for residential and business use available.



WE ARE NOW OFFERING ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS.

Please call for pricing. 276-251-1303

RURAL SERVICES

Residential & Commercial Garbage Collection in P.C.

ruralservicesinc.@swva.net



Four Rivers Realty

(276) 694-5044

Kelsey Fain

REALTOR



Call me today!

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

S	T	A	B	L	E		D	I	S	C	U	S	S	E	D		A	P	P	S					
P	O	L	E	A	X		I	N	C	E	N	T	I	V	E		B	E	A	N					
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	A	I	R	L	I	N	E	S		M	I	L	N					
			E	L	O	N											A	T	O	N					
I	N	S	T	A	N	T	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	P	E	I		S	E	Z					
H	I	M				S	E	A	T	E	D		L	E	A		A	I	D	E					
O	N	E	W	A	Y		T	R	E			A	L	E	R	O	S								
P	O	L	I	C	E	D	E	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T		J	A	M	E	S				
E	N	T	I	T	L	E			D	E	S	I		S	H	O	G	U	N	S					
						I	P	A	N	A		M	A	D	D		A	T	T	N					
		J	U	R	I	S	D	O	C	T	O	R	S	A	L	I	N	G	E	R					
C	O	R	E			S	U	E	R			T	H	O	R	O									
U	S	E	D	C	A	R		I	S	S	A				G	A	M	B	I	T	S				
P	H	Y	S	I	C	A	L	T	H	E	R	A	P	Y	B	A	R	N	U	M					
						O	N	E	B	O	Y				E	R	A		U	R	B	A	N	I	
I	B	E	X			L	A	B			P	E	S	T	L	E					L	E	T		
M	R	X				W	A	T	E	R	C	L	O	S	E	T		F	I	E	L	D	S		
P	E	P	S	I						A	C	A				T	E	N	T						
E	X	E	M	P	L	I	G	R	A	T	I	A	M	A	R	S	H	A	L	L					
D	I	C	E			A	S	P	I	R	E	S	T	O		N	E	E	D	T	O				
E	T	T	E			S	T	A	N	D	S	P	A	T						S	T	R	A	D	S

Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.

Buying Logs

Standing Timber or Timberland

Stuart, VA

Contact Ronnie Bolt at

(276) 694-4432

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

Firewater

SERVICE CENTER

1329 Scenic Drive, Stuart, VA 24171

(276) 694-7417 or (276) 358-1580

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 to 5:30, Sat 8:00 to 2:00

VALVOLINE AND SCHAEFFER OIL PRODUCTS

Now Offering

TIRES & FRONT END ALIGNMENT



- State Inspections
- Oil Changes using Amsoil, Valvoline & Schaeffer Oil Products
- Full Brake Service for Disc and Drum Brakes
- Replacement of Belts and Hoses
- Tune Ups
- Tire Rotations
- Starter and Alternator Replacement
- Battery Replacement

10% DISCOUNT FOR VETERANS

WHEO



92.7 FM

Classic Hits

wheoradio.com

“Small Town Station with a BIG Town Sound”

Community

(cont. from page 1)

lessly to promote Patrick County at local events as well as regional events.”

Even after his retirement from the chamber, Adcock said Bishop would still stop by the office to pick up and drop off information.

“He was also still very active in the Laurel Hill and Jeb Stuart” Birthplace “Preservation Trust and helping with their events. I had just gotten an email from him last week getting the Jeb Stuart birth added to the calendar for the year,” she said.

Adcock said Bishop was also a staple at the Stuart Farmers’ Market, along with John Moorehead.

“They always vended together doing their birdhouses, and Tom with his yard art that he would cut out, snowmen and different things, then Connie (Bishop’s wife) would paint them,” she said.

Bishop was very active with his church, the Mountain View Pentecostal Holiness Church, in Claudville where he served as the Adult Sunday School Class teacher and Men’s Fellowship Leader.

Bishop also served on various church boards, the Miracle Acres Housing Corporation, evangelized, and drove the church van to pick up children from a nearby housing project to bring them to church.

Jeb Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust President Ronnie Haynes said Bishop will be missed.

“He certainly will be sorely missed. He was a pillar in the community, not just for the Stuart Birthplace, but for many other organizations in the county and for the county itself. He really promoted the county with the tourism, and it will be hard to replace a man like him,” Haynes said.

With the Trust, Haynes said Bishop was always there to help and was “the best PR (Public Relations) guy we ever had,” and also maintained the group’s website, Facebook page and other vital facets of running an organization.

“He was very good at it, very personable. He never met a stranger, and he was just an all-around good guy,” Haynes said.

Shelby Inscore Puckett, who knew Bishop for about 20 years, said she first met him while he was with the chamber. She also served with him on the Trust for many years. Puckett said she will miss Bishop’s enthusiasm, interest in things, and his zest for life.

“There was something about Tom. Tom was always doing something to promote something. He worked tirelessly when he was head of the chamber of commerce to promote the Ararat section, and he would visit with the businesses, the greenhouses, the orchards. He would come here to see us,” she said.

When doing the annual Civil War reenactment, Puckett said Bishop was one of the first people who showed up to help set up, greet people, help people, and take pictures.

“Tom was such a supporter. It’s not often that you find someone who

just wholeheartedly supports something and advocates for it, and does as Tom did. He was an unusual person in my opinion in that way,” Puckett said.

While there are others who are dedicated to causes, Puckett said Tom was in a league of his own.

“He was just one of these people that if he was doing the job. He did it well. He was capable, he had a wonderful personality, I thought, and he was in just so many ways a supporter and advocate for Patrick County, for Ararat. I mean, we loved him in Ararat,” she said.

Puckett noted she recently told her husband that Bishop’s death affected her personally and that she feels such a loss. She feels such a loss. She said she and Bishop also had several common interests including their love of Coalwood, West Virginia.

“My husband and I, every year we would go to Coalwood, West Virginia, and Tom couldn’t wait till I got back to tell him all the things that we saw and if we’d met anybody,” she said.

The pair also shared the pain of having bad knees.

“We would commiserate about our knees, and he had his surgery and I never did get mine. He would always tease me about when I was going to go get my knees fixed. He was just such a presence where he was,” she said.

Bishop also served in various roles for the Red Bank Ruritan Club and received the President’s Award for 2024 from the organization. Red Bank Secretary Charlie Bowman said he had known Bishop since around 2000, when Bishop joined the Ruritan Club.

“Tom was a good guy. A family man, very religious – I liked that. He worked on a lot of our projects until his knees got to bothering him real bad, and he couldn’t do as much work, but he still did” a lot. Bishop and his wife were treasurers for the club for many years, Bowman recalled.

But the thing that Bowman will remember the most is Bishop’s dedication to his family.

“He loved his family. He loved his kids, his grandkids, and he was crazy over Connie. They just celebrated a wedding anniversary right after Christmas, I think,” he said.

He noted Bishop also had a hatred for scam calls.

“I was at his house a couple of times, and he’d get in a fit. Unlike me I aggravated them to death so they don’t call back, Tom he would just hold out the phone a bit and go, ‘scam call, scam call, I don’t need your scam call’ and hang up,” Bowman said.

A jack of all trades, Bowman said Bishop enjoyed many hobbies, including woodworking, traveling the United States, his home state of West Virginia, Civil War history, and much more.

“He did just a little bit of everything,” Bowman said, adding “the county’s better because of him.”

PATRICK PULPITS

God’s Good Commandments

By Pastor Wayne Moore
High Point Baptist Church
2381 Big A School Rd. Stuart, VA

Thousands of laws go into effect across the United States every year on January 1st. It happened this year and it has happened every year for many years. There was a time in Virginia when it was against the law to wash your mule on the sidewalk. Likewise, at one time in North Carolina, it was illegal to enter Forest City in a car without permission from the town council. No doubt, these were good laws at the time, but now they are no longer necessary.

The late R.C. Sproul used to have his seminary students imagine they were assigned the task of writing a national constitution limited to ten enduring laws. What laws should they choose? Surely laws against murder, stealing, and bearing false witness would be high on the list. But what about laws pertaining to religion, family relationships, and personal morality? That’s exactly the kind of laws God included in the Ten Commandments He gave to Israel as a young nation.

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

Thou shalt not make any graven image.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness.

Thou shalt not covet.

Everyone can appreciate some of these laws but, most likely, not everyone appreciates all of them. God’s people, however, should value every one of the Ten Commandments. King David did. He wrote, “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.” (Psalm 19:7–11, NKJV)

I’m confident you can think of something good about each of God’s Ten Commandments. But why did God include “Thou shalt not covet”? To covet means to desire what belongs to another person. How can this law be enforced? How do you know when someone

is coveting unless they say something to indicate it? God didn’t explain why He included this law, but I can think of at least two reasons based on Scripture. First, it shows us that sin is more than skin-deep. Second, it convicts the moral person of sin.

Coveting is an inner thought, not an outward action. Jesus taught something similar about two other commandments. “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.” (Matthew 5:21-22) “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Mt 5:27-28) But Jesus did not say, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not steal.’ But I say unto you that whoever covets his neighbor’s possessions has already stolen in his heart.” Why? Because it was already in the Ten Commandments. God included the tenth commandment because, unlike mankind, He can see and judge what is in your heart.

The tenth commandment convicts even the most moral of people. It is the commandment that convinced the Apostle Paul he was a sinner. He confessed in Romans 7:7,

“I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet.’” Paul’s experience illustrates the benefit of all the commandments. They are all good because they tell us the truth about ourselves. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23)

Ultimately, the Ten Commandments are good because they lead us to Christ, who kept them perfectly and paid the penalty for our transgressions. “Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” (Galatians 3:24) Do not think you can be saved from sin and go to heaven because you keep the Ten Commandments. The fault is not with the Ten Commandments but with us. Thank God for Jesus, who did what neither we nor the law could do. “For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:3–4)

Allegations

(cont. from page 1)

“There has been some chatter about how we as supervisors can do and say what we please with impunity under the claim of sovereign immunity,” (a legal doctrine that the government cannot be sued without its consent). “I hope the following will clear that misconception up a bit. Please pay close attention to the following line of the code,” he wrote. “However, the immunity provided by this section does not apply to conduct constituting intentional or willful misconduct or gross negligence.”

Marshall cited the statute 15.2-1405, which states:

“The members of the governing bodies of any locality or political subdivision and the members of boards, commissions, agencies and authorities

thereof and other governing bodies of any local governmental entity, whether compensated or not, shall be immune from suit arising from the exercise or failure to exercise their discretionary or governmental authority as members of the governing body, board, commission, agency or authority which does not involve the unauthorized appropriation or misappropriation of funds. However, the immunity granted by this section shall not apply to conduct constituting intentional or willful misconduct or gross negligence.”

Marshall alleged that actions taken at the January 13 Board of Supervisors meeting were part of a deliberate effort to undermine the county administrative staff.

“My belief is that attempts to sabotage our administrative staffs jobs were presented at the 1.13.25 BOS meeting represented intentional steps taken with the ultimate goal of bringing about the resignation of our” county administrative staff, he wrote.

Marshall alleged two supervisors aligned with “loosely but demonstrably organized groups” in achieving that goal. “I believe that these actions represent intentional and willful misconduct at minimum,” Marshall concluded.

The supervisors were not identified in the email.

He signed both emails as “Patrick County Board of Supervisors Blue Ridge District. Representing all of Patrick County.”

Partners Sought for Summer Meals Program

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs is seeking partner organizations to participate in the Commonwealth’s Summer Food Service Program to help ensure children have access to nutritious meals during months when school is not in session.

The SFSP Program — funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the VDOE Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs — provides the opportunity for organizations to combine a meal program with another activity in communities where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free and re-

duced-price meals.

Approved organizations are reimbursed for meals served and associated administrative costs. In addition, all participating organizations receive training and technical assistance from the VDOE-SCNP.

The program can be operated at schools, public housing centers, community centers, playgrounds, camps, parks, and churches. Organizations that qualify to participate in the program include public and private schools, local governments, public and nonprofit private residential summer camps, and faith-based and community-based non-profit

organizations.

Organizations in areas designated as rural by the U.S. Department of Agriculture may be eligible to serve multiple days’ worth of take-home meals at once.

Approximately 130 summer meals partner organizations served almost 3.9 million meals and snacks to Virginia’s children between May-August last year.

Information for organizations interested in applying to participate in the Program — including details on application deadlines — is available on the VDOE website.

Faith groups seek to help fix housing crisis in VA

By **Zamone Perez**
Virginia News Connection

Virginia has a housing shortage of more than 200,000 units, and one legislative effort backed by a coalition of faith-based groups is trying to fill that gap. A bill introduced in the General Assembly would allow local governments to create a streamlined process for faith groups and other property-tax-exempt non-profits to build affordable housing.

Sheila Herlihy Hennessee, director of faith organizing for the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, said congregations run into many different roadblocks when trying to build housing on their land.

“Congregations don’t do this every day. A developer might do three or four big housing projects per year. A faith community might do one in a century. This is not their bread and butter, so there’s

a big learning curve with figuring out how to make that happen,” she said.

She added that other issues include resistance from neighbors to

increasing population density - and zoning laws across the state that are mostly geared toward single-family housing, and said working around those zoning laws can be arduous

and time consuming. A report by Housing-Forward Virginia and the Interfaith Center finds faith-based organizations own a substantial amount of land - more than 74,000 - in the Commonwealth. That’s double the size of Richmond. Herlihy Hennessee, who also co-authored the report, said the bill would provide the same, streamlined process now used to build affordable housing to other nonprofits. “So, this very explicitly says, ‘Yes, localities, you do have the authority to make the process easier for faith communities. Yes, localities, you can cut down on the NIMBY-ism. Yes, you can make this cost less money and move faster,” she explained.

The legislation would also create a pilot program, where faith communities can apply for funds to cover pre-development costs, such as feasibility studies, site plans, architects and more.

Understanding Seed Catalogs - Shop with Knowledge

By **Kristine Adel**

Seed catalogs overflow with information, big claims and an alphabet soup of codes. It’s enough to convince some of us that we’re better off in the grocery produce aisle.

But we all know home grown fruits and vegetables just taste better. So let’s see if we can make some sense of it starting with what we already know. Even if we don’t know the details, we almost always have a vision of the kind of garden we want.

Some of us will stay with the suppliers and varieties we grew up with. We already know exactly what we’re looking for and where to get it, although we might try a couple new items if they look interesting.

Some of us are more adventurous, always on the lookout for the newest Hybrids, promising reliable germination, disease resistance, improved yields, and more. If this sounds like you, you’ll want to check out the chart below and familiarize yourself with some of the more common disease resistance codes.

Who’s left? We know who we are. We gravitate toward old fashioned Heirloom varieties that will produce seed true to type. We want to grow all natural, Organic veggies if we can, and we would probably never even consider Genetically Modified Plants and Seeds in the garden, even if they were available.

Understanding what approach works best for us is half the battle. After we clarify some basic terms, choosing the kinds of seeds that fit into our vision should be easier

Let’s start with varieties and ‘Cultivars.’ These words are not interchangeable even though they are often used that way. A variety almost always refers to a type of plant found in nature that will produce seed, true to type, while a ‘Cultivar’ usually refers to a Hybrid plant, specifically selected and bred for one or more desired characteristics like color or disease resistance. The variety (var.) and ‘Cultivar’ (cv) are part of the plant’s Scientific, or Latin Name.

Some catalogs don’t bother with Scientific Names; but be careful, because common names often mean different things to different people in different places. The Scientific Name, however, is always the same.

Example: The common name, White Radish could mean dozens of different kinds of Radish, but there is only one kind with this Latin Name: *R. sativus* var. *longipinnatus* cv ‘Snow Belle.’ If it’s your favorite, and like me, you

don’t speak Latin, save the package.

Notes about Hybrids and Heirlooms:

Hybrids will not produce seed true to type, but will produce seed that reverts back to one of the parent plants instead. Hybridization can sometimes occur naturally through Open Pollination (OP), or be created through selective breeding.

Open Pollination occurs naturally with insects, birds, even the wind.

Selective Breeding is accomplished by cross pollinating one variety of plant with another variety of the same species, thereby creating a Hybrid ‘Cultivar’.

The term Heirloom refers to an old variety with stable characteristics that will reliably produce seed, true to type when pollinated by another plant of the same variety. Caution when collecting seeds if you plant more than one variety: Heirloom plants are Open Pollinators, so if another variety of the same species is growing nearby, they may produce hybrid seeds.

What about GMO, genetically modified plants and seeds? How is that different from a Hybrid?

Anyone with enough patience can learn to cross pollinate plants of the same species with little or no equipment. Genetic modification requires a laboratory and specialized equipment. Genetic material with beneficial characteristics is transferred from one plant, into the genetic code of another plant. They don’t have to be the same species of plant.

Different processes, same goals. Both methods try to achieve a better plant - more disease resistance, higher yields, better drought resistance, better germination rates, even better nutrition.

GMO requires a huge investment. Perhaps that is one reason why GMO is only in use with large-scale commodity crops: corn, soybean, cotton, canola, sugar beets, and alfalfa for animal consumption. While some GMO seeds for garden vegetables have been created (tomato, zucchini, and summer squash) none are available for purchase by home gardeners; and may never be available due to their unpopularity.

So, if we are looking for disease resistant varieties and ‘Cultivars’ in the garden, be sure to check the codes listed in the chart below when buying seed. Treated Seeds that have been coated with chemicals to enhance performance and resist both pests and disease may also be an option to consider.

But are they Organic? The term, Organic, is also about the process - grown from start to finish, pesticide free, herbicide free, Organic fertilizers, etc. Treated Seed is definitely not an option here. Untreated Seed may not be Organic either. We have no idea if the seed was produced Organically, even if the advertisement claims it was. Instead, we have to rely on certification. Look for certification from trusted agencies like, USDA United States Department of Agriculture, OTCO Oregon Tilth Certified Organic and CCOF California Certified Organic Farmers.


Tune in to WHEO Radio, 92.7 FM or 1270 AM, January 28, for more on seed catalogs and buying seed.

For general questions, you can also contact the Patrick County Master Gardener Association at pcmgassn@gmail.com.

Now let’s go seed shopping!

Seed Acro-nym	Disease Resistance
A	Anthracnose
AB	Alternaria (Early) Blight
ALS	Angular Leaf Spot
AS	Alternaria Stem Canker

B	Bacterial Wilt
BB	Bacterial Blight
BBS	Bacterial Brown Spot
BLS	Bacterial Leaf Spot
BMV	Bean Mosaic Virus (one or more races)
BYMV	Bean Yellow Mosaic Virus
CMV	Cucumber Mosaic Virus (“Blight”)
CTM	Curly Top Beet Mosaic Virus
DM	Downy Mildew (with specific races)
E	Enation Mosaic Virus
F	Fusarium Wilt (Race 1)
F2	Fusarium Wilt (Races 1 & 2)
F3	Fusarium Wilt (Races 0, 1, & 2)
HB	Halo Blight
L	Grey Leaf Spot
LB	Late Blight
LM	Resistant to Leaf Molds A-E
LMV	Lettuce Mosaic Virus
MNCLB	Moderate Northern Corn Leaf Blight
MR	Moderate Common Rust
MSCLB	Moderate Southern Corn Leaf Blight
MSW	Moderate Stewart’s Wilt
MT0-10	Indicates seeds have been tested for Lettuce Mosaic Virus, and that none was found in a sample of 10,000 seeds or less
MT0-30	Indicates seeds have been tested for Lettuce Mosaic Virus, and that none was found in a sample of 30,000 seeds or less
N	Nematodes
NCLB	Northern Corn Leaf Blight
PLR	Pea Leaf Roll Virus
PM	Powdery Mildew
PMV	Pepper Mosaic Virus
PVY	Potato Virus Y
PY	Pythium Resistance
R	Common Rust
S	Scab
SCLB	Southern Corn Leaf Blight
SW	Stewart’s Wilt
TEV	Tobacco Etch Virus
TMV	Tobacco Mosaic Virus
TSWV	Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus
V	Verticillium Wilt
VFN	Resistant to Verticillium Wilt, Fusarium, and Nematodes
W	Common Wilt
WR	White Rust



POWER LINE WORKER PROGRAM

Held at the P&HCC's Patrick County Site
Starting February 3rd!


Using curriculum from the National Center for Construction Education and Research, the Power Line Worker curriculum addresses the fundamental aspects of power line work to ensure workers maintain safety for both the public and electrical crews.

Training topics include:

- Truck Driving
- Safety
- Electrical Theory
- Climbing Techniques
- Aerial Framing
- Rigging
- Operating Utility
- Service Equipment



HS diploma or GED not required.

Offered in partnership with Wytheville Community College.



P&HCC has funding to pay up to 100% of your tuition!

INFORMATION: 276-656-0260



P&HCC is an EEO institution.

Blue Ridge Music Center announces summer series preview



Dirty Dozen Jazz Band - (By Noe Cugny)

The Blue Ridge Music Center announced four artists appearing as part of the annual Deep Roots, Many Voices summer concert series hosted on Saturdays in the outdoor amphitheater. The venue will welcome back two longtime fan favorites, Amythyst Kiah and the Steep Canyon Rangers, and showcase two groups appearing on the Music Center stage for the first time and representing American roots music traditions from other areas of the country, Melissa Carper who was influenced by Texas and western swing traditions, and the influential rhythm and soul brass band of New Orleans legend, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band.

Music Center favorite Amythyst Kiah will kick off the season at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 24. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger.

With a style that cuts across genres, the Tennessee native brings an unforgettable voice and unique sound to her music. Her songwriting explores the vast expanse of her inner world: her deep-rooted affinity for Eastern philosophies and spiritual traditions, a near-mystical connection with the natural world, the life lessons learned in her

formative years as a self-described “anime-nerd mall goth.”

With her new release Still + Bright, Kiah pushes into new emotional and musical terrain while exploring the struggle and joy of true self-discovery. “With all of my music, I’d love to leave people with the feeling that it’s okay to go off the beaten path and to structure your life in a way that feels right to you,” Kiah says. “I always hope that my music will be a part of the healing process for anyone who might need it.”

Kiah appeared (along with Rhiannon Giddens, Leyla McCalla, and Allison Russell) on the album Songs of Our Native Daughters. She earned a 2020 Grammy nomination for Best American Roots Song for “Black Myself,” which was featured on the album.

Melissa Carper will make her debut on the Music Center stage at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 31. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger.

Born into a music-loving family, Carper was immersed in the music of Hank Williams Sr., Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Ray Charles, Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, and other greats. Learning to play upright bass in her Nebraska school, she



Steep Canyon Rangers



Amythyst Kiah (by Kevin King)

also performed and sang with her family’s country band. Listening to Jimmie Rodgers recordings had a defining impact on her music. “He combined country and blues and jazz,” Carper recalls. “All of those elements, and the rawness of those recordings...I can’t quite put a finger on it, but I was obsessed.”

Carper’s most recent release, Borne In Ya (2024), takes its name from a quote by the late Ralph Stanley. The record showcases her long-standing influences including the pre-World War II jazz and swing featured on her debut album Daddy’s Country Gold (2021) and the R&B and soul that was the backbone of Ramblin’ Soul (2022).

Carper, along with fellow singer-songwriters Kelly Willis and Brennen Leigh, released a six song EP Wonder Women of Country which was one of the Boston Globe critics’ choice for favorite record of 2024.

American Songwriter calls Carper “The contemporary queen of Western Swing.”

The Dirty Dozen Brass Band play the Music Center for the first time at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 7. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger.

Celebrating more than 45 years since the group’s founding, the New Orle-



Melissa Carper

ans-based group has taken the traditional foundation of brass band music and incorporated it into a blend of genres including bebop jazz, funk R&B, and soul. This unique sound, described by the band as a “musical gumbo,” has allowed The Dirty Dozen to tour five continents and more than 30 countries, record 12 studio albums, and collaborate with artists ranging from Modest Mouse to Widespread Panic to Norah Jones.

“Its sway on the brass band scene has been staggering, spawning bands like the ReBirth, New Birth, Hot 8, Li’l Rascals, Soul Rebels and just about every other young brass ensemble presently performing,” according to Offbeat Magazine. In 2023, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band won a Grammy Award for Best American Roots Music Performance for Stompin’ Ground (with Aaron Neville).

Tickets for these concerts are available at BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org. Multi-concert passes are also available including Full Season (all 14 concerts), Half Season (seven concerts), and Pick 3 (three concerts) passes.

The Music Center is located at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, just south of Galax and 30 minutes from Sparta and Mount Airy, N.C.

Norris
FUNERAL SERVICES, INC. AND CREMATORY

Affordable Funerals And Cremations With Updated Facilities

www.norrisfuneral.com

129 Howell Lane
Stuart, VA
276-694-2012

SPECTRUM MEDICAL

Dr. Ruberte Thiele initially pursued a career as a biomedical engineer in the medical device industry and academia. Interested in directly impacting patients’ quality of life, he applied to medical school with the singular goal of becoming an orthopedic surgeon. After completing additional training in robotics and navigation for partial and total joint replacement as well as revision arthroplasty, returns to the area eager to help patients get back to doing what makes them happy. When not attending one of his kid’s swim meets or soccer games, he enjoys outdoor activities like biking and hiking as well as recreational basketball.

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!!!!!!

Meet Our Providers

DR. RAMON RUBERTE THIELE
Total Joint Surgeon Specializing In Hips & Knees

DR. RAMON RUBERTE THIELE
BOARD-CERTIFIED
TOTAL JOINT SURGEON

The full
SPECTRUM*of*
Musculoskeletal services in an integrated system... offering the FUTURE of Healthcare today.

- ORTHOPEDICS
- RHEUMATOLOGY
- PAIN MANAGEMENT
- FAMILY MEDICINE
- SPINE CARE
- CLINICAL RESEARCH
- SPORTS MEDICINE OUTREACH
- PHYSICAL THERAPY

SAME DAY X-RAYS

- ORTHOPEDIC WALK-INS ACCEPTED
- SHORTER WAIT TIMES
- CASH PAY OPTION AVAILABLE

2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

NO REFERRAL NEEDED
UNLESS REQUIRED BY INSURANCE

DANVILLE
109 Bridge Street • 4th Floor
434-793-4711

MARTINSVILLE
1075 Spruce Street
276-790-3233

MONDAY - FRIDAY 08:00 AM - 4:30 PM