



Several local officials visited Richmond, with many stopping by to see Del. Eric Phillips (far right), including Sandra Stone, Patrick County Treasurer, and Glenda Morse, Commissioner of the Revenue.

Legislators stand firm against solar bills, defend local control

By Taylor Boyd

As multiple bills make their way through the 2025 General Assembly, local officials are reaffirming their opposition to solar energy projects and efforts to shift decision-making authority away from local governments.

As of Feb. 3, 12 solar-related bills had been introduced, with only three failing. As of this writing, the remaining nine were in various stages of the legislative process, including the House, Senate, subcommittees, and incorporation into other measures, according to the Virginia General Assembly website. The proposed legislation primarily focuses on solar energy facilities, interconnection policies, local decision-making authority, photovoltaic equipment, and the Solar Interconnection Grant Fund and Program.

Local Authority vs. State Oversight

Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, said he opposes any legislation that removes localities' ability to determine where solar farms are located. "Those localities are elected by

their people, so if the people don't like the decisions that their elected officials are making, then they'll have to replace their elected officials," Williams said. "Otherwise, the localities are the ones that are going to get to decide where these solar farms go."

Williams acknowledged concerns among local officials and residents that the state could take over site selection for solar projects.

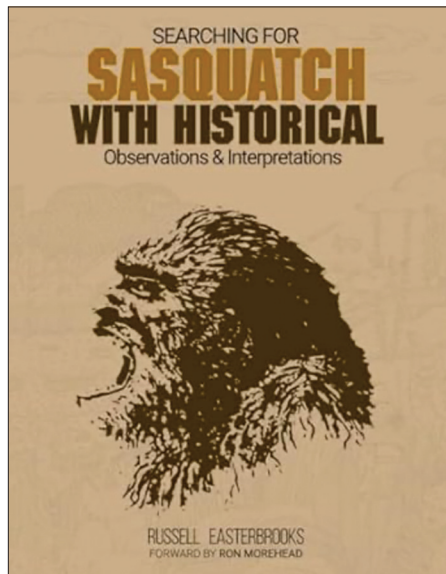
"I think that the only way that concern is going to be addressed is if we see some people break from the solar pack and vote against this so that their own localities can have those decisions instead of the State Corporation Commission (SCC)," he said.

Williams also suggested that some of the proposed legislation could pass both the House of Delegates and the Senate, even with opposition from many Republicans.

"But I think that ultimately it might come down to the governor having to veto the decision," he said.

Concerns Over Local Control
(See Legislators p. 2)

Exploring the Legend: Author Chronicles Sasquatch History in New Book



The 2023 book is available on Amazon and eBay.

By Taylor Boyd

Russell Easterbrooks' recently published book, "Searching for Sasquatch with Historical Observations and Interpretations," delves into the history and lore surrounding sasquatches in North America. Released in December 2023, the book serves as a reference guide for enthusiasts and skeptics alike.

Years of research inspired Easterbrooks to compile his findings into this comprehensive work.

"I started out doing a high school report on the sasquatch, and that kind of got me interested in the subject," he said. "I did a lot of research over the years and always wanted to try to put it together into a book, but just never did. Life kind of got in the way and so forth, so I just didn't get it done."

That changed last year when Easterbrooks finally completed the 125-page book.

"I'm glad I did," he said.

Easterbrooks emphasized that his



"Searching for Sasquatch with Historical Observations and Interpretations," by Russell Easterbrooks, chronicles the history of sasquatches in North America, incorporating historical accounts and research findings.

book isn't written to convince skeptics.

"It's not like that. It's just a book filled with information and information on a lot of different things," he said.

However, he firmly believes sasquatches are real.

"They are very real, I can assure you of that," he said. "Uwharrie National Forest in North Carolina has a family unit, for sure. The Smokies also have some. I worked with the forest service and worked out in the Smokies quite a bit. I never did get to see a sasquatch, but I have some footprint impressions and plaster casts that I was able to collect. The Jefferson National Forest also has a family group living there."

Easterbrooks' fascination with sasquatch history stems from a gap he observed in existing literature.

"For me, I felt like a lot of the books that I have read on sasquatch—I

(See Sasquatch Chronicles p. 2)

Fulk responds to recent remarks, urges focus on county business

By Taylor Boyd

Former Patrick County Board of Supervisors interim member Jane Fulk is calling on current board members to shift their focus to county affairs rather than referencing her in discussions.

Following the Nov. 18 board meeting, Fulk no longer serves as interim and has returned to private life. However, her name surfaced in a recent interview with former board members regarding emails sent by Steve Marshall, who represents the Blue Ridge District.

During the discussion, Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, mentioned a past controversy he attributed to Fulk.

"The whole debacle (sic)... and how she (Fulk) got ahold of or took some contract wordage, twisted things around, misrepresented them, and started the whole rumor control and misrepresented facts," Perry said.

After reading the remarks, Fulk questioned their relevance to the emails in question.

"I am tired of Doug Perry and Steve Marshall attacking my reputation and talking about a controversy," she said. "The only controversy that I'm aware of happened while I was on the board is my belief that EMS (Emergency Medical Service) providers should be paid a fair wage according to their certifications."

Fulk said she repeatedly raised concerns about cuts to EMS salaries before the board's October meeting.

On at least three occasions before that meeting, Fulk said she addressed her concerns with then-chairman Perry about reductions in pay for EMS personnel.

"I was informed by Mr. Perry that it would be okay. They would work more hours for the same pay. This did not make any sense to me," she said.

Fulk said she specifically questioned the reduction of EMT wages from approximately \$18 to \$15 per hour.

"The last time I spoke to Doug Perry about the EMTs' pay being cut... he advised me that it would be taken care of at the board of supervisors' retreat," she said.

That retreat, originally discussed in October, is now scheduled for late March.

"That did not compute in my brain as a help for the county itself since EMS personnel were quitting to go where they were being paid an amount in keeping with their training," she said. "I believe I informed Doug Perry that EMTs could go to Walmart and make \$15 an hour."

Fulk said she may have also voiced her concerns during an earlier board meeting but could not recall specific details. However, at the October meeting, she formally

(See Fulk Responds p. 2)

Grant Writer Expands Passion into Small Business to Help Others

By Taylor Boyd

A local grant writer has transformed her passion for helping others into a small business aimed at helping organizations secure funding.

Kirsten Smith Beasley, founder of Granting Solutions, LLC, said she was inspired to start her business after receiving numerous requests for grant-writing assistance.

"Obviously, it's something I love to do, but I can't do it with my full-time job. This was kind of a way where I could go out and dabble into some other sectors and help others out on the side," Smith-Beasley said.

In her full-time role, Smith-Beasley works as a grant writer for the Martin Tyrrell Washington (MTW) District Health Department in North Carolina. Over the past seven years, she has helped secure more than \$10 million in funding.

"I just love it. Once you start and you start getting awards, it's like you don't want to stop writing," she said.

Smith-Beasley specializes in public health and rural communities but also writes grants for nonprofit organizations, the public sector, the criminal justice sector, schools, and, more recently, small businesses.

She registered Granting Solutions last summer but took time to reflect before taking on her first client in November.

"Actually, I've gotten a few clients so far already in North Carolina and Virginia," she said.

Among her clients are a nonprofit assisting individuals and families affected by Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and another nonprofit providing equine therapy for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"Honestly, when I do get a grant, especially when you get the award notification, it's so much more than just getting money. That is money that is making a true difference in people's lives and in the communities, and that's why I do it," she said.

Kirsten Smith-Beasley founded Granting Solutions, LLC, in 2024 to assist organizations with grant writing.

The Grant Writing Process

Smith-Beasley's process begins when individuals or organizations contact her with an idea of what type of funding they need.

"I go out into my data systems and start looking for grants that I think would be a good fit. Then I send them that list and say, 'I am here to help you—I can write it for you, I can do whatever you need me to do, or here's the resource if you want to do it on your own,'" she said.

For most projects, Smith-Beasley can compile a list of potential grants within a few days. If clients request her assistance in writing an application, the timeline varies based on deadlines, but she can typically complete a grant in one to two weeks.

Once she completes a draft, she reviews it with the client and makes any necessary revisions before submission.

"I'm basically the resource to help make their grants more competitive and stand out," Smith-Beasley said.

She also helps clients navigate match requirements and budget planning.

"Most of the time, you can use in-kind services and time as a match. That's always my go-to first instead of cash, leaving more money in organizations' pockets to use for other needs they may have," she said.

Affordable and Impact-Driven

Pricing varies based on grant complexity. Local grants typical-

(See Grant Writer p. 3)



Legislators

(cont. from page 1)

Del. Eric Phillips, R-Martinsville, said he is strongly opposed to any bill that would override local ordinances restricting the number or size of solar farms.

“Whether it be a certain amount of acreage or a certain amount of land in that certain district, or something like that. Pittsylvania County and Henry County both have ordinances on the books” that impose such limits, Phillips said.

He vowed to vote and speak against any effort to strip away local land-use control.

“I think that is a terrible law, and I think it sets a terrible precedent to take away local control over land use issues,” he said. “That should be something that is debated between neighbors, constituents, and their member on the board of supervisors. The board of supervisors ultimately is the closest representation that our people have, and they have to account for their votes when they live in that community.”

Turning such decisions over to

a three-judge panel in Richmond, which only reviews project plans rather than visiting proposed sites, is a flawed approach, Phillips said.

“They will never have to answer for their vote, and so I think it’s a terrible idea to do that,” he said.

Solar’s Role in Virginia’s Energy Future

Phillips also questioned the long-term viability of solar energy.

“A lot of them have 30-to-50-year leases, and I think by the time those leases are up we won’t even be building solar because we’ll have moved on to fusion energy and nuclear energy and other types of energy,” he said. “The reward versus the usage, because it takes up so much land to produce a fairly insignificant amount of electricity, it’s just a terribly inefficient way to generate electricity.”

He added that officials in his district strongly oppose any attempt to limit local authority, “as they should. Because it may be solar today, but let’s say they don’t like

something else tomorrow. Are they going to come in and say, ‘You know what? We don’t like the way you do that there, so we’re going to come in and take over and we’re going to decide it for you’? I think top-down government is the worst government, and it doesn’t represent best the people in those areas,” he said.

Phillips further argued that solar energy does not benefit the rural areas where most solar farms are being built.

“The power’s sent back to power data centers in Northern Virginia and to really help them. It doesn’t help our ratepayers one bit,” he said. “Most of the ones I know send their power to a Microsoft data center or even to other states. It does nothing for our area, and it certainly is not really beautiful to look at.”

If Virginia is to continue expanding solar, Phillips said he believes solar farms should be built in Northern Virginia counties such as Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William.

“All these places where they use



Del. Wren Williams giving a recent live update on his social media page.

our power from these solar farms, but they don’t have any solar farms. That’s what really irritates me because we get the crappy, ugly stuff while they get rich off of using it,” he said.

State Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, did not respond to requests for comment.

Fulk Responds

(cont. from page 1)

moved to reinstate EMS wages to their previously approved levels.

“I have no regrets about putting the pay for the county EMS back to the amounts that were passed in the budget for 2024-2025,” she said.

Fulk also questioned Perry’s and Marshall’s continued focus on the October meeting rather than county priorities in 2025.

Among the other issues discussed at that meeting was the creation of a fire chief position.

“As to the EMS Chief, I found out the night of the board meeting from the public, and other EMS

volunteers, and the paid service, that the person had already been hired, had worked that day and was given a car to drive back and forth” to their home in the Smith Mountain Lake area, Fulk said.

She said the lack of transparency surrounding the hiring process raised concerns both for her as a taxpayer and for others who spoke with her about the matter.

Fulk also said she was not made aware of any applications or that the county was conducting interviews before the hiring decision was made.

“Mrs. Shough (Assistant Coun-

ty Administrator/HR Director Donna), maybe at the direction of” someone else, “refused my request to look at the applications before any hiring was accomplished. I don’t even know how many (applications) they had,” she said.

Going forward, Fulk urged the board to move forward with county business.

“Do they still resent the fact that I wanted the EMS people to be paid what they needed to be paid? Do they have a grudge against EMS? I don’t know. I don’t understand it,” she said.



Jane Fulk

Sasquatch Chronicles

(cont. from page 1)

have a huge library— but those books don’t talk about a lot of the history going back. It’s more about sightings and things that are happening today, and I felt like there was a lot of good information that should be saved from the history,” he said.

The book explores historical accounts from the Hudson Bay Company, the gold rushes in California and Alaska, and even the Native American perspective.

“Native Americans were very familiar with sasquatches, going as far back as you could go in your research,” he said.

Written in chronological order, the book contains numerous short chapters ranging from two to four pages. Topics include encounters involving notable historical figures such as Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone, as well as the diverse names Native American tribes have for sasquatches.

“Almost every Native American tribe has a name for sasquatch, which is interesting,” he said.

The book also delves into how diseases like smallpox may have impacted sasquatch populations, as well as historical accounts of sightings and interactions.

One particularly notable chapter recounts Albert Osterman’s story of being kidnapped by a sasquatch in his sleeping bag and held hostage for four days.

“He got to see a lot of things and describe a lot of actions— things that they were eating, how they reacted to him, and so forth before he escaped. So that’s a really interesting observation, and it’s an interesting chapter,” Easterbrooks said.

The book also includes a chapter on a sasquatch sighting near Meadows of Dan about 25 years ago. Easterbrooks noted that the names of witnesses are omitted to protect their privacy.

“There were actually three people together at the time at a hunting camp, and they saw it briefly. Then they saw the footprints in the snow before the snow melted the next day,” he said.

Easterbrooks’ goal was to create a book that could serve as a reference for enthusiasts and researchers.

“One person described it as a patchwork quilt, which I thought was a good analogy because it is like that. I have a lot of different things that I speak about that are all connected about these creatures,” he said.

While he finds it difficult to pick a favorite chapter, Easterbrooks said the Osterman encounter stands out.

“I’m probably as familiar with that encounter as anybody in the country based on the amount of time I’ve spent researching that and so forth,” he said.

Easterbrooks frequently discusses his research on podcasts and has spoken at events, including the Virginia Bigfoot Conference in 2016 and the Reynolds Homestead, where one of his talks drew over 100 attendees.

Although he has no immediate plans for a sequel, Easterbrooks said readers have expressed interest in a follow-up.

“Searching for Sasquatch with Historical Observations and Interpretations” is available on Amazon. Signed copies can also be purchased on eBay.

Pets of the Week



Shelter dog Nina is a sweet, gentle and loving girl, approximately 2 years old.

Beautiful kitty-cat is a long haired, very friendly female, that would love to have a forever home.

Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259 or visit the shelter or its Facebook page to find information about these



and 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.

Chamber Chat

By Rebecca Adcock

Greetings on day 283 of January 2025. Well, at least that is what it feels like. January felt like it was never ending with snow and cold temperatures, school delays and world events. We have decided that February will be the beginning of the new year, and it will be a good one!

The chamber kicked off its annual Membership drive and Spring Magazine advertisement sales in January. If you have been a member in the past, “thank you” and if you have not joined, we encourage you to talk with us about the benefits of joining. We are working every day to support and grow our business community. We are excited to start working on the Spring 2025 Patrick County magazine. It is always fun to sit with our team at Patrick County Tourism and SilverLining Design to discuss the articles and pictures.

We are also busy planning lunch and learn seminars. Our first one will be on April 2nd. The topic will be Succession Planning. With so many small, family-owned and operated businesses in Patrick County, we know this will be a great presentation to help ensure the continuation of those businesses with the next generation. We do have a survey out for more input from you, our local businesses, on what topics you would be interested in learning. Please take a moment and fill out that survey so we can work to plan the rest of the year.

Other events we are working on for the first half of the year are a round table discussion with our “cottage” industry businesses in the county. These businesses are home-based or use local outlets and/or the



internet to sell their products. We will be partnering with the Reynolds Homestead to bring them together and work on supporting their needs. And, in March, we will be doing a Leprechaun decorating contest, similar to our annual Scarecrow contest.

With the cold temperatures, recovering from the holidays, and the snow, many of our local businesses have seen a decline in visits. We encourage everyone to come out and support our local community.

We hosted a ribbon cutting for KAM’s Corner, LLC on January 22nd. This business is located at 797 Woodland Drive in Stuart. It offers substance abuse case management and mental health skills building programs. We are thankful that they are here helping our community.

Stay up to date with all the events the chamber and our local businesses are doing by following us on Facebook, sign up for our email newsletter or check out our website at www.patrickchamber.com.

Welcome to new businesses joining the chamber in January: Harvest House Emporium, LLC, Terre a’ Terre, and Snow’s Land Maintenance.

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

Norris

Memorial Services


Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com

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

Grant Writer

(cont. from page 1)

Granting Solutions, LLC

HOME SERVICES STORE CONTACT 


Dr. Kirsten Smith

Transforming Dreams into Funded Realities

Empowering organizations and people to drive lasting community impact by providing comprehensive grant writing, strategic planning, and effective evaluation services.

REQUEST A FREE CONSULTATION

VIEW SERVICES →



Granting Solutions, LLC, helps individuals and organizations in Virginia and North Carolina secure funding.

ly range from \$150 to \$350, while state and federal grants, which require more work, range from \$750 to \$900.

“I just have to estimate my hours. I am not here to break anyone’s bank; it’s my passion, not my livelihood, so I’m extremely affordable. It’s more than the money to me—it’s about making a difference and kind of leaving that legacy behind to show my kids, ‘This is what

you’re supposed to do,” Beasley said.

In her full-time role, she has successfully secured funding for programs such as the District Two Recovery Court, which serves five counties, an infant mortality reduction program providing free education and supplies, a children’s community garden, re-entry programs, and substance abuse prevention initiatives.



GRANTING Solutions

TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO FUNDED REALITIES

 granting-solutions.com

 kirsten.smith@granting-solutions.com

 facebook.com/grantingsolutions

As a grant writer for the MTW District Health Department, Smith-Beasley has secured more than \$10 million in funding.

Beasley recently met with Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rebecca Adcock to discuss reviving the PCVA Business Builders program. She hopes to play a role in securing funding to bring the program back later this year.

“There are some internal changes coming up with retirements at the community college (Patrick & Henry Community College), which

is a major partner in the program. After those changes take place and everyone is acclimated, then we are hopeful to bring that back to the forefront of opportunities for our small businesses in PC,” she said.

For more information, visit www.granting-solutions.com or [Facebook.com/GrantingSolutions.LLC](https://www.facebook.com/GrantingSolutions.LLC). Beasley can be reached at [Kirsten.smith@granting-solutions.com](mailto:kirsten.smith@granting-solutions.com) or (276) 952-8311.

Farmers are encouraged to plan for upcoming planting season and cover crops

The Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation District office has received state funding to assist Patrick County Farmers with cover crops on their farms. Cover crops can boost an agricultural producer’s bottom line by increasing moisture retention and drought resistance, reducing soil erosion caused by wind and water and improving soil structure. Now is a great time to be thinking about and selecting the ideal cover crop to reap the best econom-



ic and environmental benefits. State funding comes from the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program. With over 45 years’ combined service to Patrick

County, Tony Collins and Sandra Heath want to help you with this great opportunity. To sign up or to set up a field visit, please contact Patrick SWCD office at (276) 694-2911.

KAMS Corner now providing services



A ribbon cutting was held recently at Kicking Addictive Mentalities (KAMS) Corner, a new agency which helps with substance abuse disorders. The agency is located at 797 Woodland Dr., Stuart (in back of the building, below PC Eye Associates and Liberty Home Health). It provides case management, peer support, mental health skill building, outpatient services, and partial hospitalization. For more information, call (276) 734-3421.



Green Team cleans Poplar Drive

The Patrick County Green Team picked up over 260 pounds of roadside trash from Poplar Drive on Sunday Jan 26. Join the Green Team for the next cleanup on Feb 22.

Spelling Bee winners at HRMS



Hardin Reynolds Memorial School announced the winners of the annual Spelling Bee. They are:	1st place: Ronald Davis 2nd place: Kira Barker 3rd place: Carter Trent
---	--

Retired Teachers Busy with Christmas Projects

Members of the Patrick County Retired Teachers made mesh Christmas wreaths with individual embellishments at their December meeting held at Landmark Center. Betty Perry, Joyce Grooms, and Phyllis Eastridge led the project.

Retired teachers have been busy sponsoring several Christmas activities. Phyllis Eastridge provided a musical program at the Developmental Center and retired teachers provided Santa sacks of gifts made by Norma Bozenmayer and a monetary donation to the Developmental Center. Donations were also made to several programs, including Christmas Cheer, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and PARC

Workshop. Retired teachers prepared birthday bags for residents at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection who celebrate a December birthday.

The PCRTA continues to hold its book club on the third Wednesday of each month at the library. Members lead interesting discussions on books of choice. Following the book club, members gather for a singing at Landmark Center or Blue Ridge Therapy Connection. Everyone is invited to join.

You are invited to join the Patrick County Retired Teachers Association if you are a retired teacher from anywhere. Contact Betty Perry Bwperry7@yahoo.com for details.



(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Harvey Hahn, MD. Used by permission from www.lifeand-health.org Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

Crossing the Lines

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

Council terminates agreement with Martinsville Solar

The Martinsville City Council approved the termination of the Solar Development Power Purchase agreement at its Tuesday, January 28 meeting.

In July 2020, City Attorney Eric Payne said the city entered into an agreement with Martinsville Solar for power purchase. The company was authorized to develop a solar facility on the former Linwood Golf Course, situated on DuPont property.

“Now the company has decided they do not want to move forward with the project. Our agreement that was executed almost five years ago gave us two rights in the event of termination,” he said.

The first right is the city can purchase the property for \$1. The second right is in the event of termination by the company, the city would receive \$320,000 as liquidated damages.

“So, this is additional monies that are going to come back to the city as well as provide us with some substantial property that we can use for future development activity for the collective and beneficial use of the city of Martinsville,” Payne said.



Rick Ward, director of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, discussed the Summer Reading Program.

Vice-mayor Kathy Lawson said the city amended their contract with the solar company once. “They still didn’t do their part. We did our part, we ran our infrastructure down there four years ago, so the infrastructure is in place. We just need a reputable solar company,” she said.

Blackberry native honored with 2024 Jack Dalton Community Service Award



Clifford Stone, flanked by members of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, received the 2024 Jack Dalton Community Service Award for his dedication to the community.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors presented Clifford Stone with the 2024 Jack Dalton Community Service Award during its Jan. 28 meeting, recognizing his extensive volunteer work and lifelong commitment to the Bassett community.

“This prestigious award is a tribute to the legacy of Mr. Jack Dalton, whose exemplary public service set a standard of commitment and selflessness that continues to inspire our community,” said Board Chairman Jim Adams.

“Mr. Stone’s tireless dedication to improving the lives of others, from his leadership with local organizations to his involvement in community projects, embodies the

spirit of service that this award was created to recognize,” Adams said. “We thank Mr. Stone for his invaluable contributions to Henry County and encourage all of our citizens to follow his example of giving back for the betterment of our community.”

Stone, a lifelong Blackberry District resident, has dedicated decades to serving his community. His extensive volunteer work includes involvement with the Sanville Ruritan Club, the Bassett Area Jaycees, Bassett Kiwanis, the Martinsville Moose Lodge #2003, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, the Adult Day Care Board, and the Clean Community Commission.

Woody named Martinsville’s Division-Wide Teacher of the Year

Sixth-grade history teacher Beverly Woody was named the City of Martinsville’s Teacher of the Year. Woody, who has been deeply involved in civic groups and has authored books, was praised for her commitment to students.

“You put your heart into your classroom every day. The kids are smiling, and you go above and beyond,” said Principal Ama Waller.

Woody, who writes letters to

many of her former students, was visibly moved by the recognition. “This is such an amazing honor, it really is,” she said.

Barry Nelson of Nelson Automotive presented Woody with a Honda Prologue, which she will be able to drive for several months.

Woody also writes the popular ‘Patrick Pioneers,’ a weekly column published in The Enterprise.

YMCA Requests \$500K from Henry County for New Facility, Splash Pad



YMCA Director and CEO Brad Kinkema requested \$500,000 from the Henry County Board of Supervisors to support the YMCA’s new building and splash park. The proposed facility will feature childcare services, two swimming pools, a splash pad, and multiple sports courts. It will be located on a seven-acre site near the intersection of Memorial Boulevard and Fayette Street.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors received a \$500,000 funding request from the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA for its proposed new facility, along with an update on the project, during its Jan. 28 meeting.

YMCA Director and CEO Brad Kinkema said the funds would support the construction of a splash

pad, designed as a recreational space for both YMCA members and the broader community.

“We hope to make that not only an amenity for ‘Y members, but for city and county residents,” Kinkema said. “In most municipalities, if you do a study on what they want in the community as far as parks and rec, a splash park is the number one thing.”

Kinkema also plans to request \$500,000 from the Martinsville City Council at its February meeting. He noted that the funding does not have to be provided in full upfront and could be distributed over several years.

“Certainly, we need to frontload things because we would like to start construction in a year and a half and need to have the funding, but we have spread some investments out over time,” he said.

Board Chairman Jim Adams, of the Blackberry District, said the request will be considered during the upcoming budget season.

The new YMCA facility, to be located on a seven-acre property on Memorial Boulevard, will include:

An early learning childcare center licensed for up to 94 children, including infant and toddler care.

A full-service YMCA with two swimming pools to accommodate youth swim lessons and local swim teams.

Ridgeway recognizes longtime volunteer for legacy of community service



The Ridgeway Town Council honored C.D. Prillaman for his volunteer service to the community on January 7. From left to right: Councilmember Tim Wood, Mayor Craig O’Der, C.D. Prillaman, Vice Mayor Mike Bass, and Councilmember Maeve McCulloch.

The Ridgeway Town Council honored C.D. Prillaman, a longtime volunteer, business owner, and community advocate, with a resolution recognizing his years of dedicated service to the town. The resolution, passed on January 7, acknowledges Prillaman’s contributions through his company, Prillaman Landscape Dimensions, Inc., and his involvement with local civic projects.

Prillaman serves on the Ridgeway Volunteer Rescue Squad Board of Directors as a citizen member and plays an active role in the town’s Special Events Committee. His landscaping company also serves as the town’s public works contractor, handling maintenance and beautification projects.

Mayor Craig O’Der Jr. praised

Prillaman as a visionary and dedicated leader.


“He lives right outside the township; I wish he actually lived in the town so he could serve on council because he’d be an excellent councilmember,” O’Der said.

From the moment O’Der took office, Prillaman was eager to share ideas and propose solutions to enhance the town’s quality of life.


“He’s just really great to have around and always offers a great idea,” O’Der said. “A lot of times when you’re the elected person, everybody expects you to come up with the vision of how to make things better, but I’ve always tried to adopt the philosophy that there’s never a bad idea, and C.D. has certainly given me a lot of great ideas.”




Beverly Woody (holding bouquet), a Martinsville Middle School teacher, was named the City of Martinsville’s Teacher of the Year. Woody is pictured with Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley Jr., and other administrators.




MUFASA
THE LION KING
DECEMBER 20




2
MOANA



KRAVEN
THE HUNTER



SONIC 3



RED ONE

\$5 tickets

HOLLYWOOD CINEMA beside WALMART
Martinsville 278-858-3458

1-3-5-7-9PM

1-3-5-7-9PM

1-4-7-9:15PM

1-3-5-7-9PM

1-4-7-9:15

PATRICK PULPITS

Reconciliation

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

Reconciliation has always been an urgent need in our world from the beginning of history. God sought to bring reconciliation with Adam and Eve when they first sinned. He promised them that a Savior would come to reconcile them back to God. This brought needed hope into their lives.

When Jesus came to earth, He made reconciliation a major priority in His teaching. He wanted to give the downtrodden hope. Sin was not to be a permanent barrier between man and God.

In the well-known parable of the prodigal son, Jesus portrays the depth of God’s desire to make reconciliation possible, even to sin-hardened, worldly people. The son in the parable had wasted all His father’s inheritance by going to a far country and spending it lavishly on selfish pursuits. Soon the son shamefully returned to his father’s home, hoping to be accepted as a servant.

But his father, who had been praying for his son’s return, gave him a royal reception and reconciled him back into the family without any explanation or requirements. He was just overjoyed that the son had chosen to return. This story manifests the love and joy God has when we choose to return to Him. He doesn’t make any demands on our return, only that we accept Jesus’ sacrifice in our behalf and make Him the Lord of our life. Then, eternal life is guaranteed.

The parable also teaches us the

way to make reconciliation between individuals. When there is a desire to reconcile by one party, the other party is to remove all barriers that may be blocking it. He needs to be willing to forgive and reinstate the relationship with joy. This can only happen when both parties submit their differences to God and allow the Holy Spirit to work things out.

The desire to forgive and reconcile is enhanced as we recall God’s forgiveness and reconciliation extended toward us. Understanding God’s holiness, we quickly recognize our unworthiness. But regardless, God will welcome us with open arms, and all heaven rejoices. Such a joyous reception can only cause us to joyously receive a separated soul back into our open arms.

Nations can experience this joy of reconciliation as well. At the end of World War II the United States and its allies spent much time and money to rebuild Germany and its economy. There seemed to be a joyful spirit on both sides as this was accomplished.

Heaven is going to be a joyful place. The unfallen worlds, the angels, and the Godhead will all be overjoyed at our becoming a part of the Kingdom of God. And we humans will be full of praise for all their support in our being there. Meeting Jesus will be the prized moment when He personally gives us a warm welcome with a broad smile.

This time is approaching soon when Jesus comes to take His faithful followers home. May we all choose to be in that number.

Learning Loss Remains Persistent Amid Signs of Progress

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) was released by the National Center for Education Statistics at the U.S. Department of Education last week. Results are from the test administered last year, late January through early March. The fourth graders taking the test in winter 2024 were kindergarteners and first graders when Virginia schools were closed for the pandemic; the eighth-grade test takers were taught remotely in fourth and fifth grade while their schools remained closed.

“The learning loss suffered by extended classroom closures was deep and persistent and we went to work unleashing an extensive recovery effort that went into full effect in calendar year 2024,” said Gov. Glenn Youngkin. “The early indications of those efforts were seen in our May 2024 SOL scores. The efforts we’re taking like ALL In high-intensity tutoring and Cell Phone-Free classrooms throughout the Commonwealth show us that we’re making progress, but we have a lot more work to do.”

Virginia—like the nation as a whole—saw increases in grade 4 math scores, no change in grade 4 reading, and declines in grade 8 reading and math results. These year-old data reflect the prolonged and pervasive negative impact that school closures, unnecessary disruptions, and the shift to remote learning had on our children. They mirror the results from the more recent May 2024 Virginia’s Standards of Learning assessments that showed that learning loss had plateaued and there were signs of improvement. There are also promising signs of grade 4 gains for English Language Learners, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities.

“We are seeing fourth grade students show signs of recovery, but last year’s eighth graders

are now high schoolers. We know they missed school at critical development stages, and we need to make sure they are getting the supports they need to recover,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons. “Our ALL In recovery efforts continue to help our children catch up. Our schools are working hard to help their students recover, and we are encouraging our school divisions to see how they can provide these ALL In supports for their at-risk and non-proficient high school students.”

Independent Research indicates that Virginia students suffered the greatest degree of learning loss overall in the entire nation from their extended school closures. Over the past two years, Governor Youngkin has implemented a consistent focus on core strategies to focus on learning recovery and getting every student back on track for success. This included setting more rigorous academic standards, prioritizing literacy, creating more transparency around outcomes, rolling out programs that provided high-intensity tutoring and addressed chronic absenteeism, and establishing Cell Phone-Free Education. The January 2024 NAEP scores released today continue to show the staggering decline in student achievement and that some signs of improvement are emerging.

NAEP is designed to report results at the national and state level without requiring every student in every school to take the assessment. An estimated 12,661 Virginia students participated in NAEP Reading and Math assessments in 2024. A representative sample across the Commonwealth was selected which included students from 58 divisions and 212 schools.

The national sample size for NAEP is approximately 235,000 students in both Grades 4 and 8 Reading and Math.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

- 1. Is the book of 3 Timothy (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. Who said, “Lo, I dwell in a house of cedars but the ark of the covenant ... remaineth under curtains”? David, Nathan, Saul, Solomon
- 3. From Numbers 12, why was Miriam shut out of camp for seven days? Ungodly act, Leprous, Fasting, Lent
- 4. Who took David in as his own after the slaying of Goliath? Jonathan, Solomon,

- Saul, Eliakim
- 5. About how tall was Goliath in approximate cubits? 3, 4, 5, 6
- 6. Upon which mountain did Aaron die? Hor, Carmel, Pisgah, Sinai
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) David, 3) Leprous, 4) Saul, 5) Six, 6) Hor
- 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
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



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

CELEBRITY ANAGRAMS

ACROSS
1 Hindu music pattern
5 Captivated
13 Kellogg's toaster treat
20 Missing GI
21 Sprinted competitively, perhaps
22 One shunning something
23 Best Actor nominee for "Mrs. Miniver"
25 Maximal-ebb phenomenon
26 Trauma pro in a hosp.
27 "Knives Out" actress — de Armas
28 No, in Fife
30 Japanese wheat pasta
31 Filmed again
33 American Ballet Theatre principal dancer beginning in 2015
39 Double Stuf cookies
42 Look for water with a divining rod

43 "Juno and the Paycock" playwright Sean
44 He played Otto Octavius in "Spider-Man 2"
48 Truth bender
49 Shifts body weight against
50 Pics to click
52 Which person
55 Series-ending abbr.
56 "Yes, Yvette"
57 "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" poet
62 Jeff Bridges sci-fi film
65 Glockenspiel relative
66 Frosty film
67 Planet's path
68 Trying Jenny Craig, e.g.
70 Stands up
71 Midday time
72 Treaty result
74 Impacts
77 Apt retail establishment for 57-Across to own?
80 "Kew!!"
81 Daddies

83 Moose kin
84 These, in Spain
85 Alternative to laser tag
88 — buco
89 Apt item for 44-Across to keep files in?
92 Chief with (be favored by)
95 Garlic mayo
97 Principal
98 Apt business for 33-Across to have on the stock exchange?
101 Mimicking a crow's cry
105 Sci-fi princess
106 Alias letters
107 Pal, to Yves
110 Former chief justice Roger
111 Carrier based in Tehran
114 Apt ingredient for 23-Across to make a jiggly dessert?
119 Guevara called "Che"
120 Exhibit A, say
121 Assistant
122 Court period
123 Like the Zax and the Lorax
124 Gleeful cries

DOWN
1 Less refined
2 Au courant
3 Top medals
4 Valved brass instrument
5 Make a gaffe
6 California wine valley
7 Have — with (be favored by)
8 Lady's title
9 Assn.
10 "Norma —"
11 Writer Umberto
12 IHOP competitor
13 Prefix with -lithic or -zoic
14 — -lacto vegetarian
15 "Wham!"
16 From which a name is taken
17 Reebook rival
18 Made over
19 Au courant
24 Tourist destination that's "green"
29 Golf rarity
32 Ho-humness
34 Cruel Amin
35 Many an heir
36 Pan Am rival
37 Travel origin, generically

38 Virtual money
40 "— vincit amor"
41 Heavy drinker
44 Bar brew
45 "It's go time!"
46 Almanac, in large part
47 Ship's diary
48 Trent of Mississippi
50 Slushy drink
51 — Rica
52 Accessory near a mouse
53 Real estate transaction
54 Individuals
58 "It's too hard for me"
59 Brought on
60 More crafty
61 Comic Idle
63 "— I a stinker?"
64 "I'd rather — there" ("That topic is off limits")
67 A while ago
69 Loch —
70 Ketchup ingredient
72 Belittled, informally
73 Study of insects, informally

75 Many a monk
76 Some unofficial sci-fi stories
78 Two-gender pronoun
79 Prefix with center
82 Camera variety, briefly
86 Swiss mount
87 Bowled over
88 Gas ratings
89 Floor cleaner
90 Styled after
91 Writer Anaïs
92 Partners
93 Capital of South Dakota
94 Laotians and Thais
95 Just dandy
96 Likenesses
99 Leslie of "Lili"
100 "The Deep" director Peter
102 Delhi's land
103 Very poor
104 Whirls around
108 Short skirt
109 Old Peruvian
112 "Do — say!"
113 Skater Midori
115 Adam and —
116 Actress Lucy
117 TV pitches
118 Signing tool

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			
										89	90	91									
92	93	94							95	96				97							
98								99											102	103	104
105																					
111							112	113			114	115	116	117				118			
119																				121	
122																					124

Puzzle answers page 11

CLASSIFIED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

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.

HELP WANTED

HOUSING PROGRAM SPECIALIST II/III
The Housing Program Specialist II/III will be responsible for a variety of tasks required to maintain eligible households in its rental subsidy program, while observing regulatory and quality assurance requirements and offering an elevated level of customer service. As of the time of the recruitment

opening, there is one position available to fill. If the applicant's qualifications exceed the requirements of the Housing Program Specialist II position, the hiring team may choose to fill the Housing Program Specialist III position.

Early Childhood Education Director
The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Director is responsible for the management, supervision, planning, development, and growth strategies for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The ECE Director will provide leadership and direction to program managers and staff in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of Head Start services, including education, health, nutrition, disabilities, and family engagement; implement quality assurance measures, collect and analyze data, and ensure program performance and compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations, including Head Start Performance Standards, licensing requirements, programmatic guidelines, and agency policy & procedure; establish and maintain effective partnerships with community organizations, schools, government agencies, and other internal and external stakeholders to support the holistic development of children and families served by the Head Start program.

A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree preferred, in Early Childhood Education, Sociology, Social Work, Business Administration or related field is required. Ten (10) years of experience in supervision of staff, fiscal management, and program administration, preferably in a Head Start or early childhood education setting or in the administration and supervision of a social service program related to young children from various socio-economic backgrounds is essential. Knowledge of Head Start Performance Standards, federal and state regulations, and best practices in early childhood education and family services is preferred. Qualified applicants MUST complete an application to be considered for employment. https://apply.stepincva.com/

This position will run internally and externally concurrently. STEP, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

JOB OPENING
The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for a part-time Solid Waste Transfer Station Attendant. Duties of the position will include, but are not limited to, customer assistance, operation of scales, loading

trailers, and facility maintenance. The preferred candidate must be capable of performing manual labor, possess good interpersonal skills, and be able to communicate effectively with the public. Basic math and clerical skills to prepare customer tickets and perform record keeping are required. A high school diploma or GED is required. Applicants must be willing to submit to a background check and drug screen. This is a part-time position with no benefits. Hourly wage is \$15. Hours will be scheduled as required between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with rotating Saturdays. Hours are limited to 29 or less per workweek. The Patrick County employment application is available at https://www.co.patrick.va.us/Jobs.aspx. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application to be considered for the position. The position will remain open until filled. The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital

VPS Virginia Press Services
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

LEGAL

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION
The Patrick County School Board will hold a public input session on the 2025-2026 School budget on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Patrick County School Board Office, 132 North Main Street, Stuart, VA 24171. Authorized by Jason A. Wood Division Superintendent

LEGAL

Invitation For Bid (IFB)
IFB # 2025-31200-01-31
Patrick County Sheriff's Office
Night Vision Equipment and Accessories
Dated: January 31, 1025

The County of Patrick seeks the purchase of Night Vision Equipment and Accessories to fully outfit our SWAT for use at times of low or no light incidents. The intent and purpose of this invitation for Bid is to establish a contract with a qualified supplier to furnish and provide inside delivery of Night Vision Equipment and Accessories to Patrick County, Sheriff's Office, as needed and requested. To download the complete IFB package, please go to Virginia Marketplace (eVA.gov) or the Patrick County website at https://co.patrick.va.us/Bids.aspx.

LEGAL

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF
328 BOAZ POND LANE, STUART, VA 24171
In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$176,500.00, with an annual interest rate of 3.875000% dated April 29, 2005, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the Patrick County as Deed Instrument Number 050001317, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the Patrick County, at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Patrick located on the corner of Blue Ridge and Main Streets, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia on March 12, 2025 at 11:00 AM, the property with improvements to wit: S MAYO R TRACT 8 PL:279-G I#040001841 Tax Map No. 5010-8 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 24-296314. PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 (703) 449-5800.

“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



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

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://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

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



WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



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

Meetings

Monday, Feb. 10
The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building. A representative from Brightspeed is scheduled to attend.

Thursday, Feb. 13
The Patrick County School Board will hold a public input session on the upcoming budget at 5:30 p.m. in the School Board Office.

Wednesday, Feb. 19
The Stuart Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the Town Office.

(276) 930-2113.

Friday, Feb. 21
The community food truck will be at Fairys-tone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 22
Those interested in restarting the Friends of Fairy Stone State Park group will meet at 2 p.m. in Fayerdale Hall.

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club will hold a BBQ Fundraiser to support Envision Critz. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Reynolds Homestead. Eat-in or takeout plates are \$15 and include a pork or chicken sandwich, slaw, baked beans, chips, drink, and a dessert. Raffle for a portable generator. For more, visit the Patrick Springs Ruritan Face-book page.

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.

Events

Friday, Feb. 7
A Pop-Up Farmers’ & Artisan Market will be held at Calliope Circus for the Arts in Down-town Stuart from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is held in partnership between Bull Mountain Arts, the Stuart Farmers’ Market and the Pat-rick County Chamber of Commerce.

The community food truck will be at the Woolwine SRRS from 3-4 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 10 - Monday, Feb. 24
The Patrick County Recreation Department will hold sign-ups for tee-ball (coed) ages 4 to 6, girls coach pitch softball (grades 1-2), girls minor softball (grades 3-5), girls major softball (grades 6-7). Games will be played in April and May. Parents can complete a sign-up form at any of the elementary schools, on Facebook, or by calling the recreation office at (276) 694-3917.

Wednesday, Feb. 13
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Roger Wells. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite meats, vegetables, and/ or desserts to share. Beverages will be provid-ed.

Saturday, Feb. 15
The Francisco FVD Ladies’ Auxiliary will hold a Souper Game Night at the Francis-co Community Building from 5:30-8:30 p.m. There will be soups and desserts.

Friday, Feb. 21
The Patrick County Patriots Turkey Shoot will be held Saturdays in January, and Sat-urday, 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 instru-ment, 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 volun-teers 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 at-tend.

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

Wilderness - Stuart, Inc.

Buying Logs
Standing Timber or Timberland
Stuart, VA

Contact Ronnie Bolt at
(276) 694-4432

SUBSCRIBE

to gain unlimited digital access to
The Enterprise

Only \$2.50 a month!

PLUS 14 local papers in your region!

www.theenterprise.net

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.0swva.net

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

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

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

WHEO



92.7 FM

Classic Hits

wheoradio.com

“Small Town Station with a BIG Town Sound”

New child labor laws on the books in VA this year

By **Zamone Perez**
Virginia News Connection
New child labor laws went into effect in Virginia at the start of the year, but some advocates say more can be done.

House Bill 100 took effect in January, raising the maximum financial penalty to \$25,000 -- up from \$10,000 -- if a child dies or is seriously injured while working in violation of labor law. Cases that do not involve injury or death will have stiffer penalties, too, with maximum fines set at \$2,500.

Nina Mast, a policy and economic analyst for the Economic Policy Institute, said it is just the start of combating illegal child labor in the Commonwealth.

“This was a really important first step in the overall goal of strengthening child labor standards in Virginia,” she said, “but

the penalty amounts are really only as effective as the enforcement can be in the state.”

Mast added that the legislation also created a group made up of youth-serving organizations and young people to explore the creation of workers’ rights education for high school students.

Going forward, Mast said new laws must keep young people from working in dangerous or hazardous work environments, including staffing agencies that are often used to fill meatpacking and construction jobs. That keeps the main company from being held liable.

Mast said state labor agencies need more employees to hold companies accountable.

“Employers know this. They know that they will largely get away with violating the law and



no one will ever enforce those violations,” she said. “Adding capacity is really important to signaling to employers that the law will actually be enforced when violations

are found.”

Before the law went into effect, there was no minimum financial penalty for business owners who broke child labor laws.

Taxpayers have many options for help filing federal returns

The Internal Revenue Service opened the 2025 tax filing season on Jan. 27 and is accepting and processing federal individual tax year 2024 returns.

The IRS expects more than 140 million individual tax returns for tax year 2024 to be filed ahead of the Tuesday, April 15 federal deadline. More than half of all tax returns are expected to be filed this year with the help of a tax professional, and the IRS urges people to use a trusted tax pro to avoid potential scams and schemes.

Taxpayers residing in a federally declared disaster area may have additional time to file and pay federal taxes.

Get free help preparing and filing taxes electronically

Taxpayers can visit IRS.gov to get answers to tax questions. IRS.gov is the quickest way for taxpayers to get help. The Interactive Tax Assistant (ITA) is a tool that provides answers to several tax law questions specific to individual circumstances. Based on input, it can determine a taxpayer’s filing status, if a person should file a tax return, if someone can be claimed as a dependent, if a type of income is taxable, if a filer is eligible to claim a credit or if an expense can be deducted.

The IRS encourages people to file their tax returns electronically and choose direct deposit

for more secure and faster refunds. According to the Treasury’s Bureau of the Fiscal Service, paper refund checks are 16 times more likely to have an issue, like the check being lost, misdirected, stolen or uncashed. Filing electronically reduces tax return errors as the tax software does the calculations, flags common errors and prompts taxpayers for missing information.

Free tax filing options

The IRS offers free online and in-person tax preparation options for eligible taxpayers through IRS Free File, IRS Direct File and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs.

IRS Free File. Taxpayers with income of \$84,000 or less last year can use IRS Free File Guided Tax Software now through Oct. 15. IRS Free File Fillable forms, a part of this program, is available at no cost to any income level and provides electronic forms that people fill out and e-file themselves, also at no cost.

Direct File. Now open in 25 participating states, taxpayers can use Direct File to file online directly with the IRS for free. It is a free web-based service – available in English and Spanish – that works on mobile phones, laptops, tablets or desktop computers. It guides taxpayers through a series of questions to prepare their federal tax return step-by-step. Direct File automatically guides taxpayers to

state tools to complete their state taxes. Get help from IRS customer service representatives through a live chat feature in English and Spanish. Interested taxpayers can go to direct-file.irs.gov, where they can determine if they are eligible.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). The VITA program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$67,000 or less, persons with disabilities and taxpayers whose preferred language is not English. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

In addition to VITA, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors.

MilTax. This is a Department of Defense program available to members of the military and some veterans with no income limit. MilTax generally offers free return preparation and electronic filing software for federal income tax returns and up to three state income tax returns.

Key Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking in the Commonwealth Unveiled

Virginia officials are ramping up efforts to combat human trafficking through Operation Silence Shattered, a statewide initiative focused on awareness, prevention, and law enforcement action. This initiative, alongside key legislative efforts in the Virginia General Assembly, aims to protect vulnerable individuals and dismantle trafficking networks across the Commonwealth.

“Human trafficking is not a Republican or Democrat issue—it is a human rights issue,” said Gov. Glenn Youngkin. “From day one, we have been committed to not just reducing but eradicating this evil, because the fight to end it has long weighed heavily on Suzanne’s and my heart. Together, we will continue making a difference, empowering survivors, and building a future free from the darkness of human trafficking. Our work is far from over, but with unwavering determination, we will bring justice and hope to those who need it most.”

Launched on January 1, Operation Silence Shattered is a collaborative effort between the Virginia State Police, the Human Trafficking Institute, law enforcement agencies, and campus police across the Commonwealth. The initiative prioritizes prevention and victim support through awareness campaigns and strategic enforcement efforts.

Since its inception, Virginia State Police and the Human Trafficking Institute have engaged over 3,700 individuals in educational efforts, including outreach at rest areas, weigh stations, and law enforcement and prosecutorial training sessions. Through partnerships with law enforcement agencies,



Gov. Glenn Youngkin meets with human trafficking advocates at an event to raise awareness on human trafficking in Richmond, Virginia on January 30. (Official photo)

the operation has resulted in 21 arrests of traffickers and sex buyers, while 12 victims have been identified and offered services.

The initiative also seeks to prevent trafficking by educating communities, particularly on college and university campuses, and addressing demand for illicit sex. Its core objectives include:

*To provide awareness and outreach concerning anti-human trafficking efforts

*To focus awareness of trafficking within college and university campuses

*To address the demand for illicit sex throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia

“One of the most critical fights of our time is the battle against human trafficking,” Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears said, emphasizing the urgency of the fight against human trafficking. “Human trafficking affects every community, and therefore, it affects all of us. Together, we must send a clear message: we will always stand with victims, and we will always fight for the day when human trafficking is eradicated from our Com-

monwealth.”

Attorney General Jason Miyares reinforced the state’s commitment to pursuing traffickers and supporting survivors. “In Virginia, we are relentlessly pursuing those who exploit the vulnerable. We have strengthened our efforts at every level—coordinating, enhancing, and centralizing our fight to dismantle trafficking networks and deliver justice. Our goal is clear: to provide a victim-centered, trauma-informed response that combats human trafficking across the Commonwealth. I am proud of our progress, but we will not rest until every trafficker is held accountable and every survivor has the support they need to rebuild their lives.”

First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin highlighted the importance of survivor support. “Every survivor of human trafficking carries a story of unimaginable resilience, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they find hope, healing, and a future free from exploitation. Together, with organizations like Latiasha’s House, Operation Light

Shine, and New Creation VA, we are building a safer and more compassionate Virginia—one where every life is valued.”

Colleges and universities interested in participating can contact VSP’s human trafficking unit at humantraffickingunit@vsp.virginia.gov.

On January 17, 2024, Virginia State Police launched a Human Trafficking Hotline, allowing individuals to anonymously report suspected trafficking cases. Since its launch, the hotline has received over 333 submissions, leading to 136 active investigations and the identification of 47 victims who have been offered services as of November 2024.

To report concerns, text “VSP” followed by the tip to 847411 or submit an online tip.

Virginia officials remain committed to strengthening their fight against human trafficking, ensuring traffickers face justice and survivors receive the support they need to rebuild their lives.

**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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Norris

FUNERAL SERVICES, INC. AND CREMATORY

Affordable Funerals And Cremations With Updated Facilities

www.norrisfuneral.com

129 Howell Lane
Stuart, VA
276-694-2012



Don't Answer Calls from Unknown Numbers

Receiving a call from an unknown number may seem harmless, but it could be the start of a scam. Criminals are using increasingly sophisticated tactics to deceive you into revealing personal information or making payments. Here are three tips to protect yourself from unknown callers.

Let it ring. The easiest thing to do is not answer the call. If it is important, the caller will leave a message or call back again.

Let the caller speak first. Most scammers use an auto dialer – an automated system that calls a bunch of random numbers at the same time and connects to a live person when someone answers the phone. That brief pause or delay before the caller speaks is a red flag that the call could be a scam.

Block suspicious calls. Check with your service provider to learn about options to block spam and scam calls.

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

FEBRUARY					PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY					2025	
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
											1
Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. *Registration is required.										Family Movie 11:00 The Princess Bride	
	3		4		5		6		7		8
Yoga 10:00*		Storytime 10:30 Hibernation		Walking Club 9:00				Sit & Stitch 11:00		Castle Party 10:00	
Chair Exercise 1:30											
LEGO Club 4:00		Yoga 5:15*		Yoga 1:15*							
	10		11		12		13		14		15
Yoga 10:00*		Storytime 10:30 with Emme Valentines		Walking Club 9:00		Not Your Mother’s Book Club 5:00				Journaling Junkies 11:00	
Chair Exercise 1:30											
LEGO Club 4:00		Yoga 5:15*		Yoga 1:15*							
	17		18		19		20		21		22
Yoga 10:00*		Storytime 10:30 with the Master Gardener’s Opossums		Walking Club 9:00		Open Art Studio 1:00		Sit & Stitch 11:00			
Winter Snowflake Cake In a Jar 2:30*											
LEGO Club 4:00		Yoga 5:15*									
	24		25		26		27		28		
Yoga 10:00*		Storytime 10:30 Dance		Walking Club 9:00							
Chair Exercise 1:30											
LEGO Club 4:00		Yoga 5:15*		Yoga 1:15*							



Do You Suspect You Have Broken Something?
Skip The Primary Care, ER or Urgent Care!
Come Straight To Us!



ACUTE Orthopedic Walk-Ins Taken Daily

(during regular office hours)

SAME DAY X-RAYS

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



NO REFERRAL NEEDED
UNLESS REQUIRED BY INSURANCE

2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

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

MARTINSVILLE
1075 Spruce Street
276-790-3233

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

Snakes are celebrated at the library



ONLINE AUCTION

Building Site for Sale in Woolwine VA
Auction Ends Wednesday, March 5th at 4 PM
TBD Brammer Spur Rd., Woolwine, VA 24185
Bid NOW at VAAuctionPro.com

Check out this +/- 10.335 acre property for sale! This mostly wooded property has a small clearing making for a nice building site. It offers a peaceful setting with plenty of privacy. There are multiple old roadbeds and trails making for easy access. With access to utilities and a recent survey, this property is ready for your vision. Property is located at the end of a paved, state-maintained road. It is within a short commute of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Towns of Stuart and Floyd, VA. Whether you're dreaming of a secluded retreat, a recreational haven, or a future homesite, this land offers endless possibilities. Don't miss your opportunity!



TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 is required on the day of sale. Close on or before April 21st, 2025. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on March 5th, 2025. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT: Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Boogie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email BoogieD@yahoo.com

102 S. Locust Street,
Floyd, VA 24901
Lic#2907004059
(540) 745-2005
VAAuctionPro.com



**Blue Ridge
Land & Auction**



In honor of the start of the Lunar New Year of the Snake and the misunderstood reptile, Master Gardeners Jess Hines and Norma Bozenmayer joined the children's librarian Sam Edmundson in celebrating the snake at Storytime. Snake themed books, "The Greedy Python," by Richard Buckley; "Diamond Jim Dandy and the Sheriff," by Sarah Burell and "Knot Cannot," by Tiffany Stone were read to the children

followed by a short informational program on snake behavior, identification and the benefits of snakes taught by a snake sock puppet.

The children then made their own sock puppets. Did you know that snakes use their forked tongues to smell their environment? For more information on snakes or other library programs visit or call the Patrick County Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library.





Free Tax prep Service



For households or individuals earning under \$67,000 in 2024!



Maximize your refund



IRS-certified volunteers

Get your taxes done for FREE with STEP, Inc.'s VITA program! Our IRS-certified volunteers will help you file your taxes, maximize your refund, and claim credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Call today to schedule!

When:

January–April, 2025

Where:

STEP offices in Rocky Mount & Stuart!

Contact Us:

Franklin County Office
540-483-5142



Patrick County Office
276-694-2239