

# Breast Cancer Survivor Creates Support Group to Help Others Navigate Their Journey

**By Taylor Boyd**

To provide guidance and encouragement to fellow breast cancer survivors, Angela Owens has launched a local support group for those affected by the disease. The group, which began meeting earlier this year, gathers on the first Thursday of every month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Therapy Direct in Stuart.

Owens, recognizing the need for a space where individuals can share their experiences, said the time and location may change depending on the group's needs. If attendance grows, she is open to finding a larger meeting space.

"We can change the times to meet the needs if we need to do that. If we outgrow that building, we'll go somewhere else bigger. Right now, that's just where we're starting," she said.

The first meeting, held on Jan. 2, attracted five participants. Owens described the gathering as a relaxed, open discussion where individuals could ask questions and share their experiences.

"It was just people sitting down, talking, and asking questions. I think that's very helpful," she said.

To further connect members, Owens plans to create a Facebook group in the future. The meetings are open to anyone affected by breast cancer, regardless of when they were diagnosed.

"There's no pressure for anyone to speak, but it's an opportunity to talk about their experiences," Owens said. "Whether someone was just diagnosed today or has been living with breast cancer for 20 years, it doesn't matter. Everyone is welcome."

Owens believes hearing from individuals at different stages of their journey can be beneficial, particularly for those recently diagnosed. She hopes the group will provide reassurance and practical insights, helping members determine what is normal and when to seek medical advice.

"Also to give them hope that it's not always going to be this tough. Things will get better," she added.

Owens believes people don't openly talk about breast cancer as it's viewed as a private subject.

"I think people don't talk about it as much, especially for people who have had mastectomies, because that is very private. I think it's very emotional too and I think that's another reason

(See Cancer Survivor p.3)



Cornbread Revival will headline the Saturday, February 22 Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) show.

## Cornbread Revival to headline PCMA show

**By Taylor Boyd**

Cornbread Revival will headline the Saturday, February 22 Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) show.

The event will be held at the Rotary Building in Stuart with doors opening at 5 p.m. and the music starting at 6 p.m.

PCMA President Denny Alley said the show will primarily be bluegrass music with a few gospel songs mixed in, and performed by what he believes are two of the best groups PCMA has hosted.

Cornbread Revival is composed of members who performed in different groups over the years, Alley said.

"They're really good. They were there last June and tore the place down," he said.

Tobacco Road, a group led by Ron Inscore of Ararat, will be the show's special guest. Alley noted the group's fiddle player and singer is a woman.

## Burning Law goes into effect on Feb. 15

Virginia's 4 p.m. Burning Law is in effect statewide from Feb. 15 through April 30, restricting open-air burning until after 4 p.m. each day. The seasonal restriction is intended to prevent wildfires, which are more common during late winter and early spring due to increased wind speeds, lower humidity levels, and dry vegetation.



While the law applies statewide, localities may have additional burning ordinances or restrictions. During prolonged drought conditions, some areas may also impose temporary burn bans to further reduce fire hazards.

### Why the 4 P.M. Burning Law Exists

The 4 p.m. Burning Law, originally enacted in the 1940s, was designed to mitigate the risk of wildfires, which historically increase during Virginia's spring fire season. Debris burning remains the leading cause of wildfires in the state, followed closely by intentionally set fires.

Wildfire risk is highest in late winter and early spring, when trees are bare, leaving the forest floor exposed to direct sunlight. As a result, dry leaves, grass, and other vegetation become highly

flammable. During this period, winds are typically stronger, and humidity levels are lower, creating conditions that can cause a fire to spread rapidly. After 4 p.m., wind speeds tend to decrease, and humidity levels rise, reducing the likelihood of uncontrolled fire spread.

### What the Law Covers

The 4 p.m. Burning Law applies to all open-air fires, defined as any outdoor fire that is not enclosed within a non-flammable barrier and does not have smoke passing through a chimney. This includes campfires and debris fires.

However, a fire is permitted under the law if it meets the following conditions:

- It is fully contained within a fire ring, such as a circle of rocks, cinderblocks, or a metal ring.

• It is covered with a metal screen with openings no larger than ¼ inch to prevent embers from escaping.

Even when these conditions are met, safety precautions must still be followed. The fire must be attended at all times, a 20-foot area around it must be cleared of flammable material, and water, a rake, and a shovel must be readily available.

### Exceptions and Exemptions

Certain types of fires and equipment are not subject to the 4 p.m. Burning Law:

Charcoal and gas grills are exempt from the law. However, open-air charcoal grills, such as those found in public parks, must comply with the burning restrictions. Grill users are encouraged to remove flammable material.

(See Burning p. 3)

## New counseling agency provides outpatient mental health services



Terry Catoe Hodges



Kristen Eaton

**By Taylor Boyd**

MountainView Counseling, LLC, a private practice in the Patrick Springs area, offers outpatient mental health services for anxiety, depression, and trauma in Patrick County and surrounding areas. The practice, founded by Terry Catoe Hodges in November 2022, provides therapy for individuals and families, along with specialized services such as sex offender treatment and parenting support.

Hodges, a licensed professional

counselor and Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider, has more than 23 years of experience in the field. She is also certified in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy, both of which are used to treat trauma. Her approach focuses on helping clients set and achieve their therapy goals so they can ultimately transition out of counseling with the skills they need to move forward.

(See New Counseling Agency p. 3)

## Park seeks to reestablish citizen support group

**By Taylor Boyd**

Fairy Stone State Park will hold a public information meeting on Saturday, February 22, to discuss the recently launched Friends of Fairy Stone initiative. The meeting will be held in Fayerdale Hall at 2 p.m.

Park Manager Adam Layman said the park hopes to restart its volunteer-based citizen support organization to assist with new projects, special events, and other ways to develop community support for the park.

"There used to be a friends group for the park, but it hasn't been active for a while. We're trying to revitalize that," he said.

The initiative will assist Fairy Stone by hosting interpretive events and special entertainment events such as Music in the Park, planting and maintaining native gardens, and advocating and promoting the park and its natural beauty.

"Any other projects in the park that people would have an interest in helping with like maintaining trails, litter cleanup, lakeshore cleanup - anything that folks would have an interest in giving us a hand with - we'd love to have that opportunity," Layman said.

'Friends' groups in other parks across the state are able to provide support in ways the parks themselves can't always do, Layman said.

"If we have issues with staffing or finding funding for projects like receiving grants and that sort of thing, the friends groups are able to help with that a lot and really support the park," he said.

For more information, call Fairy Stone State Park at (276) 930-2424, or go to its website at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/fairy-stone](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/fairy-stone).



# Financial Literacy Sessions Benefit P&HCC Student-Athletes

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) student-athletes are excelling beyond the classroom and the playing field thanks to Student-Athlete Financial Literacy Workshops hosted by ValleyStar Credit Union. During the Fall 2024 semester, 87 student-athletes—nearly 70% of all P&HCC student-athletes—participated in the workshops, gaining essential financial skills to prepare for success both on and off the field.

The workshops provided hands-on guidance in critical areas such as budgeting, saving, credit management, and financial planning, offering student-athletes the tools they need to make informed decisions about their financial futures. This initiative aligns with P&HCC’s broader mission of preparing students for lifelong success.

“We are committed to developing well-rounded student-athletes who can succeed in every aspect of life,” said Brian Henderson, assistant vice president for student engagement, adding, “These workshops empower our athletes to take charge of their financial futures and build strong foundations for whatever comes next—whether that’s continuing their education, entering the



ValleyStar representative Kathleen Penn works with a student-athlete to complete account documentation.

workforce, or pursuing their athletic dreams.”

The program’s success highlights the value of community partnerships, with ValleyStar Credit Union playing a key role in making the workshops impactful and engaging.

“This initiative reflects the power of what can happen when we invest in our students. By partnering with ValleyStar Credit Union, we are giving our student athletes the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions that

will benefit them throughout their lives. This is just one example of how we prioritize the success of our students in and out of the classroom,” said Tiffani Underwood, executive director of the P&HCC Foundation.

Student athletes responded positively to the workshops, with many citing increased confidence in managing their personal finances. Laila Rodriguez, a women’s softball player, described the program as “a game-changer,” adding, “It’s helping me better manage my finances now,

and I know these skills will carry over into every part of my future.” ValleyStar Credit Union’s commitment to financial education demonstrates its dedication to the local community and the next generation of leaders.

“At ValleyStar, we’re proud to partner with P&HCC to invest in their student-athletes,” said Mike Warrell, CEO of ValleyStar Credit Union. “Financial literacy is a critical life skill, and we’re thrilled to see so many athletes taking this opportunity to prepare for a successful future. Education and training are the foundation of overall corporate strategy. ValleyStar’s continued investment in furthering education and knowledge in the communities we serve, and each of our wonderful employees aligns perfectly with our future success.”

With plans to expand the program in the coming semesters, P&HCC continues to lead the way in providing holistic student development opportunities.

For more information about P&HCC’s Student-Athlete Financial Literacy Workshops or to learn more about the college’s innovative student engagement initiatives, visit [www.patrickhenry.edu](http://www.patrickhenry.edu).

# P&HCC Foundation Scholars Application Now Open

The Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) Foundation is now accepting applications for the Patrick & Henry Scholars and Commonwealth Legacy scholarships. Each year, up to ten local high school graduates are chosen to become Patrick & Henry Scholars. These scholars receive a scholarship to cover tuition, textbooks, and fees for up to two academic years.

“Becoming a Patrick & Henry Scholar is a distinguished honor that is both an experience and an opportunity,” said Tiffani Underwood, Director of the P&HCC Foundation, adding, “The application process is rigorous, but the reward of being P&H Scholars is invaluable both while on campus here at P&HCC and beyond.”

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must have a high school grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. They must be graduates from an area high school or have completed a homeschool program of study. Scholars are chosen for their superior academic achieve-



2024 Patrick & Henry Scholars display their award notices at Patrick County High School.

ment, civic involvement, and leadership potential. Graduates of homeschool programs must be seventeen years of age or older at the time of the application and must reside in the P&HCC service region.

Once accepted, Patrick & Henry Scholars must maintain a 3.0 grade

point average and be full-time students (enrolled in at least 12 credit hours) at P&HCC. They also will be expected to participate in two extracurricular activities per semester and accrue ten volunteer service hours each semester.

Students who apply for the Pat-

rick & Henry Scholars award will automatically be considered for the Commonwealth Legacy scholarship. One outstanding student from each community college in Virginia is selected to receive this award, which was created by the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and is sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education.

The funds from this scholarship can be used for tuition, textbooks, and fees. Eligible students are full time, associate degree-seeking students attending college for the first time. As a merit-based scholarship, it will be awarded to a student who has demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to develop leadership skills.

To apply, students should visit [www.patrickhenry.edu/scholarships](http://www.patrickhenry.edu/scholarships).

For additional information, contact Letitia Pulliam in the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation Office at (276) 656-0250 or [lpulliam@patrickhenry.edu](mailto:lpulliam@patrickhenry.edu).

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK

## Pets of the Week



Shelter dog Carter is such a sweet boy. He came to the shelter as a stray, and has been waiting for a kind soul to rescue him.

The sweet grey cat is a very young female, and has that gorgeous Russian Blue look. It is heartbreaking seeing them waiting for someone who will love them.

Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter or their 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](mailto:blueridgeawl@gmail.com).



## Tourism Talks

Greetings Patrick, How do you like this roller coaster ride? The ups and downs, the highs and lows! I guess you are wondering what in the world he is talking about—what else; the weather! On February 2, 2025, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, a sign that winter would last another six weeks. You may be sitting in snow or covered in ice when you read this. Whether he is correct or not, we can be planning for your next ride! Let’s talk about a ride.

The Red Rooster Amusement Park and Café, located at 2741 Friends Mission Road in Ararat, will re-open in April. It will offer an array of classic family rides that are sure to delight everyone in the family. Experience the timeless joy of the Allan Hershel carousel, take flight on the sky-fighter jets, or ride the Sun and Moon Kids Ferris Wheel.

You can also try your hand at old fair games that will bring laughter to your day.

The Park and Café is situated at the base of the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains. You can immerse yourself in the rustic farmhouse, barns, and an old post office turned restaurant. Experience exhilarating rides, encounter friendly animals like goats and turkeys, explore walking trails, and you can look forward to their future glamping campground.

The café offers you a culinary journey through time. It is housed in the historic Gates building erected over 130 years ago, once the bustling post office and hub of Ararat, Virginia. So, make



your way there after winter’s grip loosens in April.

Patrick, we are blessed to have so many “destinations” outside your door. Look at our lake at Fairystone, the Blue Ridge Mountains, and the scenic Parkway that passes through us—the shops, the artisans, the music that fills the air. Patrick County is a “destination” to behold.

Check out [www.redroosteramusementpark.com](http://www.redroosteramusementpark.com) as you prepare for the warm-up that is soon to come. Put on your jacket and maybe a coat, but don’t forget your shorts! Whatever! Just come get lost and find yourself here!

Love you, Patrick County!  
James Houchins,  
Director of Economic Development and Tourism  
[jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us](mailto:jhouchins@co.patrick.va.us)

# 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](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork).

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# Cancer Survivor

(cont. from page 1)

that people don't talk as much," she said.

**A Personal Journey Inspires a Community Effort**

Owens understands the emotional and physical challenges of breast cancer firsthand. Her journey began in January 2019 when a colleague at Patrick County High School was diagnosed. That experience motivated her to get her first mammogram, something she had never prioritized before.

"Because of her I got the mobile unit from UVA (University of Virginia) to come to the high school so that we could screen more people more effectively. Because of the time it takes to get off work, and go do it, and all of that stuff," she said.

A few weeks after getting her mammogram Owens received the results, which indicated there was something abnormal. She then went in to have a biopsy done.

"In May 2019, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. There weren't a lot of people around that I knew of that had breast cancer for me to talk to, but the few that I knew of helped me tremendously with questions and fears and just understanding all of it," she said.

Almost four years to the day after she was diagnosed, Owens said her sister Michelle Belcher was also diagnosed with breast cancer. Their shared experience reinforced the need for a space where individuals could connect, ask questions, and support one another.

"I had seen the need for a place where people could just come and talk and ask questions and that kind of thing. But after she was diagnosed the two of us were talking more and more and just how helpful it would be to have a place for other people, newly diagnosed or that's been through it for a while, to just sit and talk.

"Breast cancer is a journey that never really ends," Owens said. "There are always side effects, fears, and ongoing challenges. Cancer of any kind changes your life."

Although statistics show that one in eight women will develop breast cancer, Owens was surprised by the number of individuals in her community affected by the disease. Many, she noted, do not openly discuss their diagnoses.

"It's like people, I don't know, want to talk about it, I guess. I guess now just seemed like the time to go ahead and do it," she said.

**Expanding Awareness and Access to**

**Screenings**

In addition to leading the support group, Owens hopes to arrange another visit from the UVA mobile mammography unit to Patrick County. The unit provides critical access to screenings, particularly for those with limited time or resources to schedule traditional appointments.

"They are more than willing to, you just got to have somebody to request it. I would love to be able to get them to come back again as it does make it very easy for people to be able to get screened," she said.

Owens credits her own early diagnosis to the mobile unit's visit. Because her tumor was positioned against her chest wall, it was undetectable by touch. Without a mammogram, she believes her cancer would have progressed to a much more difficult—if not untreatable—stage.

"Because mine was up against my chest wall and you couldn't feel it. So, mammograms definitely save lives," Owens said.

For those interested in joining the breast cancer support group, Owens can be reached via Facebook Messenger or by email at [owens2125@msn.com](mailto:owens2125@msn.com).

# Burning Law

(cont. from page 1)

mable materials from around the grill and ensure fires are fully extinguished before leaving.

Commercially available fire pits and chimineas are not considered open-air fires if they are fully enclosed and covered with a ¼-inch or smaller metal screen. They must be in good condition to prevent fire spread.

Fires set more than 300 feet from wooded ar-

eas or flammable vegetation are exempt from the law.

Certified Prescribed Burn Managers may apply for exemption permits to conduct controlled burns during the restricted period.

Vineyard and orchard owners may set fires to protect crops from frost damage under a specific exemption in the law.

**Local Regulations and Safety Remind-**

**ers**

While the 4 p.m. Burning Law establishes statewide restrictions, localities may have additional ordinances or temporary bans in place. Residents should check with local officials before conducting any open-air burning.

For more details on Virginia's burning laws and exemptions, visit the Virginia Department of Forestry or consult the Code of Virginia.

# New Counseling Agency

(cont. from page 1)



MountainView Counseling, LLC, is a former home, which was converted into a private practice.

While some clients may require longer-term treatment, Hodges strives to provide effective therapy that leads to eventual discharge. She emphasizes that clients can always return for additional support if needed.

"My goal as a therapist is for someone to come in and work with them, work on their goals, work on the things they want, and then discharge them," she said. "Of course, you're going to have some that may need more than a year, but most of them we can set their goals, work on what they need to, and then are able to discharge them. Give them the skills that they need and then set them out into the world and see how they do. Then later, if they need additional of course they can always come back," she said.

In addition to individual therapy, Hodges is a certified Positive Discipline Parent Educator, offering guidance for parents who need additional support. The practice provides both group and individual sessions focused on parenting strategies and child behavior management.

"We do like groups and individuals with parents that just need a little extra education as far as parenting strategies, different things they can do with the children," she said.

Hodges currently sees between 30 and 40 clients and is accepting new patients. After getting married a few years ago, she turned her former home into the new agency, making only minimal modifications to meet requirements. The practice offers a home-like environment, something Hodges believes helps clients feel more comfortable during sessions.

"I didn't have to do a whole lot for it to become an agency. I had to add




Hodges said many of her clients like the home-like environment of MountainView.



For more information, go to [www.mountainviewcounseling.clientsecure.me](http://www.mountainviewcounseling.clientsecure.me).





**MOUNTAINVIEW COUNSELING LLC.**  
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## MountainView Counseling LLC

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Providers, Hodges serves multiple counties across Virginia, including Patrick, Albemarle, Amherst, Carroll, Grayson, Franklin, Giles, Harrisonburg, and Rockingham.

Hodges is also actively involved in community support efforts. She serves on a child abuse response team for Patrick and Henry counties and is a member of the Virginia Critical Incident Stress Management Team, which assists emergency responders—such as law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel—who experience traumatic events in the line of duty. When responders encounter incidents such as the death of a child, the team helps them process their experiences and offers individual counseling if needed.

"It's just extra support for them so they can be better at their jobs," she said.

Hodges moved to Patrick County in 2008 and began working with Family Preservation Services, where she provided therapeutic day treatment, outpatient services,

and mental health skill-building in school systems. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted in-person schooling, the organization had to scale back its services. During this time, Hodges observed significant changes in mental health needs and began planning her transition to independent practice.

Between November 2022 and December 2023, she completed her work with Family Preservation Services while obtaining the necessary credentials to launch MountainView Counseling. Looking ahead, Hodges hopes to eventually train Eaton to become a Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider and provide her with additional training in EMDR and TF-CBT. Eventually, she plans for Eaton to take over the day-to-day operations of the agency.

For more information about MountainView Counseling, call (276) 358-1624 or (276) 693-6165, or visit [www.mountainviewcounseling.clientsecure.me](http://www.mountainviewcounseling.clientsecure.me).



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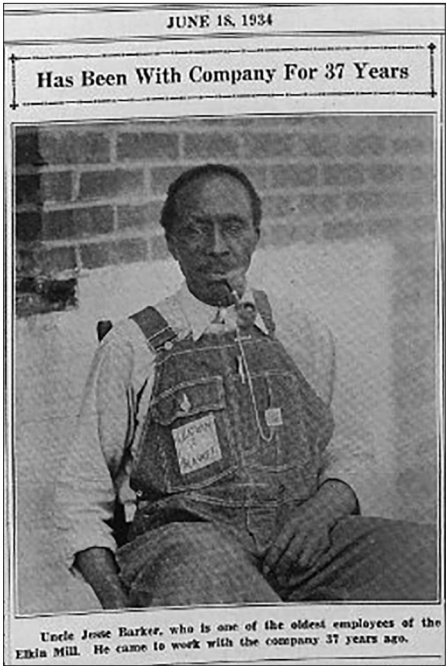
# Patrick Pioneers

*Elizabeth Bernice Barker Johnson, Part I*  
**By Beverly Belcher Woody**  
For the next couple of weeks, we are going to look at a truly remarkable woman, Elizabeth Bernice Barker Johnson. During WWII, Mrs. Johnson was a member of the elite “Six Triple Eight”-the 6888th Postal Service Unit who made history as the only all-African American, all-female unit to serve overseas in the European Theater of Operations.  
Our story begins even further back in time, on an antebellum farm in Elkin, North Carolina where Mrs. Johnson’s father, Jesse Barker, was born on November 19, 1854. According to a 1934 article in the Chatham Blanketeer, Mr. Barker was born on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Howell Barker of Jonesville in Yadkin County, North Carolina.  
In the 1870 United States Census, Jesse Barker was listed as a 15-year-old laborer living at home with his 20-year-old brother, Benjamin and parents, Jonas and Ellen Barker. On November 6th, 1875, Jesse married Miss Carolyn McMichael in the community of Knobs in Yadkin County, North Carolina.  
In the 1880 census, Jesse and Carolyn had two children, Leroy and Ada. By the 1900 census, the family had added Maggie, born in 1883; Ina, born in 1885; Ella, born in 1887; Berla, born in 1891; Effa, born in 1892; Marvin, born in 1894; and Etha, born in 1897.  
On December 12th, 1914, sixty-year-old Jesse Barker married thirty-year-old Marzella Jeannette Hill, the daughter of Nathan and Harriett VanEaton Gwyn of Surry County, North Carolina. The following year, Jesse and Marzella’s first child, Joseph was born, followed by Samuel in 1918; Elizabeth

Bernice in 1920; Frances Ophelia in 1922; and Margaret in 1923.  
Jesse Barker went to work for the Chatham textile mill in Elkin in 1897, spending over forty years toiling away in the boiler room. His final years with the company, he worked as a custodian. According to Jesse Barker’s 1944 obituary, Mr. Barker established a record during the forty-two years that he was employed by the Chatham Blanket Company, by walking back and forth to work-fourteen miles in all-every day in all kinds of weather, and in all those years, he was absent only once, when he was down with the influenza. When he passed away in 1944, his son was serving in the Army and his daughter, Elizabeth Bernice, was in the Women’s Army Corps. After Mr. Barker passed away at the age of eighty-eight, Marzella married William Kennedy and lived until the age of eighty-one, passing away in 1966.  
I wanted to provide some background about Elizabeth Bernice Barker’s parents to give an idea of the tremendous work ethic and fortitude that was instilled in Elizabeth and her siblings. Elizabeth began making history right away when she graduated from Atkins High School in Winston-Salem. Atkins was the first use of Rosenwald funds for an urban high school for African Americans in North Carolina.  
On March 11th, 1943, twenty-three-year-old Elizabeth enlisted in the Women’s Army Corps at Camp Butner in Durham, North Carolina. Elizabeth joined the elite group of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. According to the website, <https://www.womenofthe6888th.org/list-of-6888th-veterans> , Elizabeth was one of only twenty women from North



Elizabeth (Barker) Johnson



Chatham Blanketeer 18 June 1934

Carolina who joined the group.  
The all-female, all African American 6888th achieved great success during World War II by clearing a massive mail back log of 17 million pieces of mail in three months, despite poor working conditions and discrimination. The 6888th’s motto was “No mail-low morale” and its’ mission was to get mail to the soldiers to raise morale.  
After the war was over, Elizabeth returned to North Carolina where she enrolled in Winston Salem Teacher’s College and was the first woman at the school to use the GI bill to pay for her education. Elizabeth graduated with her teaching degree in 1949 and began teaching just over the line in Patrick County, Virginia. Elizabeth’s first teaching position was at the Red Hollow School in Spencer where she taught children in grades one through seven and she boarded with the Frank Martin family.  
I had the pleasure of speaking with Elizabeth’s brother-in-law, Bernard Johnson, who was taught by Elizabeth when he was a young boy. In fact, Elizabeth would go on to teach three of her future in-

laws, Bernard, Robert, and Katherine. Mr. Johnson stated that Elizabeth taught many children of local families, including the Johnsons, Martins, Edwards, Reids, Penns, Scales, Sheltons, Vias, and Hairstons. Children walked two to three miles to attend the Red Hollow School which was located near the Red Hollow Primitive Baptist Church in Spencer.  
Next week, we will follow Elizabeth’s teaching career to Patrick Central School and learn more about her from her former students. I want to thank Mr. Bernard Johnson, Regina Watkins Brim, Mary Frances Sawyers Davis, Lillian Penn Manns, Larry Tatum, Linda Redmond, and Gary Hill for sharing memories for this week or the coming week. If you would like to share stories about how Elizabeth Bernice Barker Johnson impacted your life, you may add your memories to the Facebook page for Patrick Central School-Stuart VA for publication or reach out to me this week at [rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com](mailto:rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com) or (276) 692-9626.

## Social Security Matters

**By Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens**  
**Ask Rusty – Why was Social Security money moved to the General Treasury?**  
**Dear Rusty:** Why were the Social Security funds moved from the Social Security account to the General Fund with the government? Is it not then called a tax making it an entitlement? That then gives the government control of our retirement. Most of us feel that someone should be in charge and use the Social Security fund with investments that grow our savings.  
I invested my 401K and savings, and the original amount made me money during the Trump years, and I’m now trying to catch up. I make this statement because I draw more from my investments than I receive from Social Security.  
Signed: *Questioning Senior Citizen*  
**Dear Questioning Senior:** I’m afraid I must inform you that no Social Security funds have ever been moved from the Social Security account to the government’s General Fund – this is a pervasive myth which we have refuted many times over the years. For information, here is

one of many articles I have published on this topic, which I hope you find interesting: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-about-repaying-social-security-money-taken-by-politicians/>.  
Someone actually is charged with monitoring our Social Security funds – a board of Social Security Trustees consisting of the Secretaries of Treasury, Labor, and Health & Human Services, as well as the Commissioner of Social Security plus two Public Trustees. Each year the Social Security Trustees do a complete analysis of the Social Security program, especially its financial status and outlook for the future. If you have interest in the Trustee’s latest annual report, here is a link to the 2024 analysis: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/tr-24summary.pdf>.  
What you will find in the Trustees’ report is that Social Security will run out of reserved funds in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% for everyone, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program and restore it to fiscal solvency. The Trustees have warned Congress about this problem for many years, but Congress has yet to find the bipartisan cooperation needed to fix the problem. AMAC

(the Association of Mature American Citizens) has steadfastly offered proposals to Congress which would restore Social Security to solvency and will continue to do so with the new 119th Congress, which convened on January 3, 2025.  
Please know that we appreciate your feedback and commend you for the wise use of your 401k investments, something that many of our members find necessary to supplement their Social Security. Remember, Social Security was never intended to provide all your retirement income, so earlier saving to supplement your retirement financial needs was a very wise move on your part.  
*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org).*

# Ways to Avoid Heart Disease

Risks are everywhere. Every time you drive, you’re risking a car accident. Each time you have a conversation with someone, you risk a misunderstanding. In nearly everything we do, we taking a risk. Risks are unavoidable – they’re just a part of life – so the question boils down to what you do with those risks.  
Let’s talk about health risks (we are Life & Health, after all). It might be easy to brush risks in this arena aside, given that everything seems to be a health risk. But really, more than anything else, is your health something you should be risking? Risk-taking health can lead to costly, lifelong issues, most commonly with your heart. That’s why we’re here to help guide you to lessen your risk for coronary heart disease (CHD).  
You might be relieved to hear that the risk factors related to coronary heart disease are preventable.  
The four major risk factors are:

- Diabetes
- Smoking
- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol

It’s been shown that, if you have any of the above risk factors, the possibility of having CHD is extremely high. In fact, around 80-90% of CHD patients have one of the four above health problems. Out of patients who have had a fatal outcome from CHD, 95% of those patients had one of those four major

risk factors.  
Risk #1: Diabetes  
Exactly how much does CHD risk go up when we have diabetes? A study of cardiovascular risk of patients with diabetes showed that diabetes can increase the risk of both CHD and ischemic stroke, a blood vessel blockage in the brain, by two to four times.  
Risk #2: Smoking  
The most preventable major risk factor for CHD is smoking. Just by not smoking, you can lower the risk of CHD, as well as lessen the risk of other diseases, especially lung diseases like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and cancer. Never smoking in the first place is a great way to avoid one of the “big four” risk factors of heart disease. If you already smoke, don’t sweat it. It’s never too late to quit and the benefits are literally immediate.  
Risk #3: High blood pressure  
High blood pressure, or what clinicians call hypertension, is usually a diet-caused disease. High sodium in the diet, lack of exercise, and stress, all combine and result in high blood pressure. High blood pressure is the most common risk factor in the U.S. for death among females and comes in as the second leading risk factor for death in males. In short, the risks associated with high blood pressure are far too high to ignore. Blood pressure is very manageable by maintaining

a diet low in sodium, refined sugars, and fats. Also, regular exercise will keep the heart in good shape and lower the risk of high blood pressure.  
Risk #4: High cholesterol  
When we screen for cholesterol, too often we get numbers above where the levels should be. There are many ways we can address high cholesterol, with diet playing a significant role. When we shop for groceries, we can lower our cholesterol levels by cutting out meats, dairy, and processed foods that contain unhealthy fats. Instead of those high-fat foods, choose heart-healthy foods such as fresh fruit, seeds, and tree nuts. These contain vitamins, essential minerals and the healthy fats that our hearts and various cells need.  
The American Journal of Cardiology estimated that if just 5% of diabetes was prevented by lifestyle and diet changes, close to 30,000 incidents of heart failure could be avoided yearly. These smaller steps to lower risk can pay off when it matters. So what’s the consensus? Take less risks with your life and health so you can enjoy taking risks in other ways, like going on adventures, traveling to unknown places, and forming new relationships.  
(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Justin Leal, MPH. Used by permission from [www.lifeandhealth.org](http://www.lifeandhealth.org) Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)



# Cougar wrestlers take 2nd at Three Rivers District tournament



Josh Jimrusti finished in 1st place in the 285-pound class.



Paul Pascale finished in 1st place in the 215-pound class.

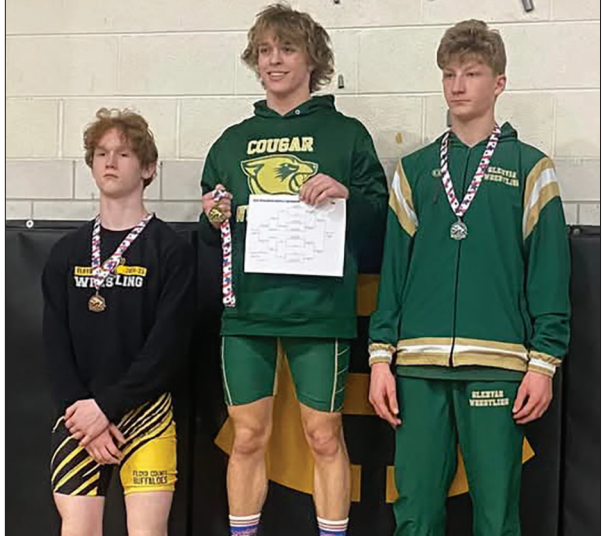


Adin Geiger finished in 1st place in the 157-pound class.

The Patrick County High School Wrestling Team earned 2nd place in the Three Rivers District Wrestling Tournament on February 8th at Radford High School. They were gunning for their 4th consecutive District Championship but came up a little short behind a strong, more experienced Alleghany Team. “We wrestled hard and gave ourselves a chance but we came up a little short in some key match-ups. We even had a couple Alleghany wrestlers on their backs but couldn’t finish the pins. A few of those matches here and there would have made the difference. This group of young wrestlers have come a long way this season and improved tremendously. Our coaching staff is really proud of this group. If they stay with it and continue their hard work there is a lot of potential for them to accomplish great things before they graduate,” commented the coaching staff.

Logan Rakes (150), Adin Geiger (157), Paul Pascale (215), and Josh Jimrusti (Hwt.) earned first place honors in their respective weight classes. Landon Moles (126) and Ben Knight finished 2nd in their weight classes. Ricky Cox (120) and Wheeler Helms (165) finished 3rd in their weight classes. Tyler Cobbler (175) finished 4th, Mason Spencer (138) finished 4th, while Aedan Frazier (144) and Caleb Lancaster (113) finished 5th.

Team Scores  
Alleghany - 200  
Patrick County - 180  
James River - 141.5  
Radford - 136.5  
Carroll County - 132  
Glenvar - 131.5  
Floyd County - 23



Logan Rakes finished in 1st place in the 150-pound class.

# Lady Cougars win big on senior night



Senior Lilly Hazelwood comes out of her final home game.



Senior Kimora Wimbush walks off the court at her last home game.

**By Pat Delaney**  
After being honored in a Senior Night pregame ceremony, Patrick County High Lady Cougar seniors Kimora Wimbush and Lilly Hazelwood led their team to a 52-27 win over Carroll County on February 5. After falling behind 0-4 early, it was the Lady Cougar seniors combining for their team’s first 8 points to take an 8-5 lead with 2:30 to go. The Lady Cougars would finish out the first quarter with a 10-6 lead. A Carroll County three-point shot in the opening minute of the second quarter closed the gap to 10-9. The Lady Cougars responded, holding Carroll County to just two more points in the second quarter. Defensively, the Lady Cougars got tougher throughout the second, giving Carroll County very few good looks at the basket. A 17-2 run by the Lady Cougars gave them a 27-11 lead at halftime. In the third quarter, both teams

played tough defense, not allowing either side to get much going offensively. The Lady Cougars maintained their 16 point lead and went into the last quarter up 35-19. The Lady Cougar offense got going in the fourth, outscoring the visitors 17-8. Kendra Worley and Gracen Conner hit three-point shots, and Kimora Wimbush brought one of the loudest cheers of the night, driving to the basket and hitting the shot despite being fouled and falling to the court. Her free throw extended the Lady Cougar lead to 25, which they would hold, finishing the game with the 52-27 win. Senior Lilly Hazelwood led the Lady Cougars with 16 points, 10 rebounds and 2 assists. Fellow senior Kimora Wimbush added 13 points, 10 rebounds and 4 steals. Lady Cougar head coach Tony Mosley was very proud of his seniors. “They did everything they



Lilly Hazelwood and Kendra Worley go for a steal.

were supposed to do. They showed great leadership and great intensity and I’m really happy to have a win as their final home game.” “It’s like I’ve told everyone, they’re probably two of the best athletes in this district. They’re pretty much unstoppable when they get the ball in the right spot. They’re both great competitors.”

# Martinsville Speedway Announces Date for 2025 ValleyStar Credit Union 300

Martinsville Speedway will once again host NASCAR’s biggest, richest and most prestigious Late Model Stock Car race, the ValleyStar Credit Union 300, on Saturday, Sept. 27. The famed short track will continue to be the setting for the finale of the Virginia Late Model Triple Crown, where one driver will be named champion under the lights of Martinsville Speedway. “The ValleyStar Credit Union 300 is a race both our fans and all of us here at Martinsville Speedway look forward to each year,” said Clay Campbell, President of Martinsville Speedway. “It’s years of tradition, toughness and determination all wrapped up into one event, with the opportunity to crown not only a race winner, but a Virginia Triple Crown Champion too.” 2025 marks 10 years of the longstanding partnership between ValleyStar Credit Union and

Martinsville Speedway, dating back to 2015 when the company was first named entitlement sponsor for the ValleyStar Credit Union 300. “Our partnership with the racetrack is a natural extension of our 72 years of dedicated support to the Martinsville community” said Mike Warrell, CEO, ValleyStar Credit Union. “By partnering with Clay and his exceptional team, together we can provide a positive impact on the residents of Martinsville and surrounding areas. We look forward to continuing this tradition of excellence and community support.” After coming close in his first two attempts at winning the biggest and richest Late Model Stock Car race, two-time CARS Tour champion Carson Kvapil secured the victory last year, earning his first ValleyStar Credit Union 300 win in an overtime shootout. Kvapil drove from the front row after winning

his qualifying race and stayed towards the front of the field nearly the whole competition, taking control with around 70 laps to go and besting fellow drivers Mike Looney and Treyten Lapcevich. While Kvapil kept busy in the lead, Peyton Sellers bid his time and eventually secured his fifth Virginia Late Model Triple Crown Title under the lights in Martinsville. Fans can see more racing action at the famed short track in just a couple short months when all three NASCAR national series return to Martinsville Speedway for the spring race weekend, taking place March 28-30. For more information about the upcoming race weekends at Martinsville Speedway or for details on the ValleyStar Credit Union 300, please visit [www.martinsvillespeedway.com](http://www.martinsvillespeedway.com). Tickets are also available for purchase via phone at 877-RACE-TIX.



# Crossing the Lines

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

### Residents Raise Concerns About Uptown Dumpster Ordinance

City officials hosted a public meeting to discuss a proposed Uptown refuse ordinance that would change how trash is handled. The ordinance is designed to reduce street litter and streamline waste disposal by requiring businesses and residents to use city-designated dumpsters, accessible via key fobs. Failure to comply could result in misdemeanor charges.

City officials initially considered providing individual trash cans for each business but struggled with storage logistics. The dumpsters will be placed in city-owned or leased parking lots within half-block radiuses to improve accessibility.

"The locations of these can still be determined," said Greg Maggard, director of public works. "But we hope that everyone in Uptown will start using the dumpsters."

Maggard assured residents that the dumpsters would not incur additional charges. "They are painted, and they are pretty, and they look real good," he said. "You are getting trash removal service now; it's the same thing."

Businesses currently using private dumpsters will be allowed to keep them. The city's new dump-

### Reynolds Announces Bid for Blackberry District Post

Local business owner Ray Reynolds has announced his candidacy for Blackberry District supervisor, challenging longtime incumbent and current board chairman Jim Adams, who has held the position for 24 years. Adams is seeking reelection.

Reynolds' campaign will focus on cleaning up the district, restoring resident's pride in the community, supporting the effort to reopen the long-closed Bassett Community Center, and addressing water quality issues on Fairmont Drive.

Reynolds highlighted areas in the district that have fallen into disrepair, with abandoned homes contributing to an unkempt appearance. "I've had people reach out and say it's like a third-world country when they go through that neighborhood sometimes," Reynolds said, displaying photos of deteriorated homes, including one severely damaged by fire. "They have funds to take care of this," he added, referencing the county's financial resources.

Community involvement, Reynolds emphasized, will be key in cleaning up the district. He acknowledged that the county does not have a dedicated department for trash cleanup but believes residents will step up. "If we live here, we want to keep our place clean," he said.

One of Reynolds' priorities is helping the effort to reopen the Bassett

### Draper to Seek Reelection in November

After serving the community for 30 years, Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper has announced his intention to seek reelection in November.

Draper expressed gratitude to the citizens for allowing him to serve, calling it a "great job" and noting that he has enjoyed the role. He said his decision to run again came after careful consideration, particularly following encouragement from several citizens who asked if he



Public Works Director Greg Maggard explains the ordinance and speaks with citizens about garbage solutions.

sters will be accessible via key fobs, which can be deactivated if a bill goes unpaid or if a business opts out of the service.

Some residents raised concerns about the potential burden the new system would place on businesses and individuals.

"It would be a transition to us fully doing the service," said one resident, worried about taking on more responsibility for garbage disposal. Currently, trash is collected five days a week, but inefficiencies in pickup times have led to inconsistencies.

Community Center, which has been closed for several years. He expressed



Ray Reynolds

a willingness to collaborate with groups advocating for the center's reopening and help secure grants for renovations.

Reynolds believes revitalizing the community center and removing dilapidated homes would significantly improve the district. "You could do tiny houses on these properties if you had to. You could do duplexes," he suggested, adding that increasing affordable housing options is another priority.

planned to seek another term.

Reflecting on his tenure, Draper said he is proud of the work accomplished and the team he has built. He credited his staff, describing them as dedicated professionals who care deeply about the people they serve and the community as a whole. He also emphasized the diversity within his office, saying it reflects the broader community and its values.

### Adams to Seek Seventh Term on Board of Supervisors

Jim Adams announced his candidacy for a seventh term as the Henry County Board of Supervisors' Blackberry District representative in the upcoming November election against challenger and local businessman Ray Reynolds.

Adams, who has held the position since 2002, is currently serving his 13th year as the board's chairman. He previously served as vice chairman for four nonconsecutive years.

He said he is seeking reelection to continue work on several ongoing projects that he hopes to see through to completion.

"I feel we've got a lot of positive things that we've worked toward...." including "a good, strong fund balance. Henry County's strong financial position allows it to participate in economic development, match grants, and solidify infrastructure that puts us in front of other localities," Adams said.

He said the board prioritizes securing grants to fund infrastructure projects in order to minimize the need to draw from the county's reserves.

"It's also used as an economic incentive on occasion," he said.

Adams noted that ongoing site development at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre will provide space for expansion and create

### Lawless Announces Bid for Collinsville Supervisor Seat

Chris Lawless has announced his candidacy for the Collinsville District supervisor seat currently held by Joe Bryant in the upcoming election. Bryant has not yet said whether he will seek reelection.

Lawless, a 39-year-old business owner, made his bid official on Jan. 28, emphasizing his commitment to the community and acknowledging his potential opponent, Joe Bryant, who initially encouraged him to run.

A Collinsville resident, Lawless lives near the post office and founded Lawless Welding in 2016. Since its inception, the business has grown from two employees to 30. He said his motivation for seeking office stems from a desire to give back to the community that has supported him.

"Ninety percent of my business is in Martinsville, Henry County, and I want everybody to know that my community has been good to me and it's time to give back to my community," he said.

Lawless has been involved with several local charities, a commitment he attributes to his wife's work with the United Way. He has supported initiatives such as the Warming Shelter, local food pantries, and Boy Scouts programs, offering welding classes for young participants. He has also made contributions to the Henry County Sheriff's Office and assists members of the community whenever possible.

In June 2024, Lawless spoke with Bryant about running for the supervisor seat. At that time, Bryant indicated he had no plans to seek reelection in 2025 and advised Lawless to secure his place on the ballot early. Taking that advice, Lawless used the recent snowfall as



Jim Adams

opportunities for new businesses.

"The two that we have been game changers. Press Glass, of course, liked the work ethic of people, liked the location. In August 2023, they announced another addition to it that was a \$155 million addition," he said.

The presence of Press Glass and Crown Holdings at Commonwealth Crossing has contributed to economic growth, Adams said, as local businesses have increased wages to remain competitive.

"So, that's a good thing. Wage levels are up, jobs are still plentiful, our unemployment is low, and as with anything else, there are always opportunities month in, month out," he said.



Chris Lawless

an opportunity to gather signatures while Collinsville residents were home.


During his outreach efforts, Lawless said he received a warm reception, with some residents inviting him into their homes. He noted that his biggest concern while going door to door was not the people but the dogs behind the doors.

Although Lawless initially believed Bryant would not seek reelection, he later learned that Bryant was reconsidering after being encouraged by influential supporters. Lawless questioned Bryant's level of commitment to the race, stating that a candidate should be fully invested in serving the community.


Regarding Bryant's legal issues, Lawless said they do not factor in his campaign.

"In my personal opinion, a person is innocent until proven guilty, that's number one. Also, that's a personal matter. We're here for business," he said.


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



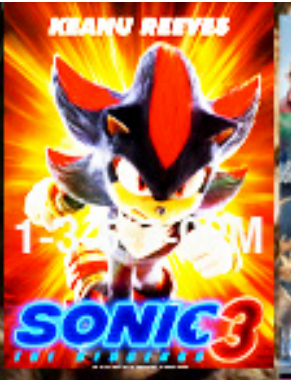
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# Billy Ray Collins

Mrs. Sheppard is survived by one daughter, Donna Nickel (David) of Mineral Springs, N.C., one son, Steve Sheppard (Mattie) of



Pawleys Island, S.C., four grandchildren Dan Nickel (Melody) of Indian Trail, N.C., Susan Nickel Wilson (Casey) of Locust, N.C., Megan Sheppard Price (Garrett) of Boone, N.C., A.J. Hice (Martha) of Raleigh, N.C., and seven great-grandchildren Grant, Ella, and Richie Nickel, Micah Wilson, Hazel Price and Groves and Graham Hice. Mrs.

A private graveside service will be held at Patrick Memorial Gardens in Stuart, Va. Memorial donations may be made to Smith River Church of the Brethren, 2282 Bob White Road, Stuart, VA 24171 or to a charity of the donor's choice. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

Billy was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He loved the Lord and attended Oak Ridge Baptist Church. Billy began working at a very young age in his early high school years. He started working on cars and tractors and developed a love for being a tractor mechanic. In 1975, he opened Billy's Garage and began his career as a diesel mechanic. In years to come, Billy and his loving wife, Lee Ann opened Collins Tractor Company. Here they worked side by side selling Massey Ferguson Tractors and hay equipment. Billy



Mr. Collins is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Renee Collins; a daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Jason Fix; two grandchildren, Austin Collins and MaKayla Fix; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Katherine Mchone, Darlene Bowman, and Inez and Mike James; a brother, Wilbert Collins; a sister-in-law and her husband, Sharon and Johnny Coleman; several nieces and nephews; and a community of friends that

The family of Billy Collins would like to thank all his special loved ones, church family and friends for their kindness, prayers, and love during this time. A special thank you to all the staff at Ravenel Oncology Center, Mountain Valley Hospice, and Billy's angel and caregiver in the home, Debbie Corns, who took remarkable care of him.

## A photograph showing a perspective view of a commercial egg production facility. Multiple rows of brown hens are housed in metal cages. The cages are equipped with blue plastic egg collection belts. Numerous brown eggs are visible, some hanging from the sides of the cages and others on the floor. The lighting is bright, and the overall scene depicts a large-scale industrial egg production environment.

"The big challenge is that the GAO has been giving advice to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for a number of years now, that they need to -- pardon the pun -- literally clean up their act and make sure that they are doing their job to make our food safe," Hanson em-

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported nearly 3,000 people die from foodborne illnesses each year.

Mrs. Pilson is survived by three children, C.L. Pilson (Kathy) of Stuart, Davis Pilson (Pauline) of Woolwine, and Jerry Pilson of Stuart; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grand-



Carleene was a member of the Ross Harbour Methodist Church in Stuart, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, memo-

rial donations may be made to Ross Harbour Cemetery Fund, C/O Cathy Adams, 32 Goblintown Rd., Stuart, Virginia 24171. Funeral services for Mrs. Pilson will be held Saturday, February 8, 2025, at 11:00 A.M. at Ross Harbour Methodist Church in Stuart, with Pastor Dewey Hatcher officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

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PATRICK PULPITS

The Glory of God

By Pastor Wayne Moore  
High Point Baptist Church,  
2381 Big A School Road

After God delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt, He instructed them to build a tabernacle where they could meet with Him throughout their journeys. When the Tabernacle was completed, God demonstrated His approval in a powerful way. “Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.” (Exodus 40:34–35)

The cloud is associated with God’s presence throughout the Bible. Here, the cloud protects the people from the glory of God. The glory of God on this occasion was more extraordinary than anything experienced thus far. Moses experienced God’s glory more than anyone else. He saw God’s glory in the burning bush. (Ex 3) He entered the cloud on Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God. (Ex 19:16-20) He spoke to God face to face. (Ex 33:10) He experienced the glory of God passing by while he was shielded in the cleft of the rock. (Ex 33:12-23)

In all the instances above, Moses was allowed to enter the presence of God. But, in this instance, not even Moses could enter. Why? Because God’s glory was too heavy. Glory means heavy, as in weighty. To give something weight is to consider it important and take it seriously. To treat something lightly is to consider it unimportant and not take it seriously. There is nothing weightier than God’s glory. How do you treat your relationship with the Lord? Do you give it the most weight or take it lightly?

Ultimately, the glory of God is indescribable and unimaginable. We have nothing with which to fully compare it. As Solomon said later, “Heaven and earth cannot contain God, much less a building.” (my paraphrase). Yet, God can make His presence known anywhere, anytime, by any degree. Eventually, God limited His glory to the most holy place. This allowed worshipers to bring

their sacrifices into the court of the Tabernacle, the priests to offer prayers in the holy place, and the high priest to enter the Holy of Holies with the atoning sacrifice once a year. Without God limiting His visible glory, no one can stand in His presence. Even the seraphim, who are always in His presence, must have three sets of wings: one to fly, one to cover their faces, and one to cover their feet. See Isaiah 6:2.

Future manifestations of God’s glory took place at significant times in Israel’s history. When Solomon dedicated the Temple, God filled it with His glory as He had the Tabernacle. Ezekiel witnessed God’s glory leaving the temple before it was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. Peter, James, and John witnessed God’s glory shining through Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. John later wrote, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14) Before Jesus died, rose again, and ascended back to heaven, He promised, “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:2-3) So, one day, those who believe and follow Jesus will be with Him in glory.

Where is God’s glory manifest today? Ephesians 3:20–21 tells us, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Today, the Lord has given His church the responsibility to manifest His glory. How do we do that? Simply by trusting and obeying Him. Do not think you would do better if you could visibly see the glory of God. The first generation to experience the glory of God on a daily basis failed to enter the promised land. We are to walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Our Information is Already Out There

If we really want to keep ourselves - and our money - safe from fraud, we must all come to terms with one thing: our personal information is likely already out there. In a time where data breaches are increasingly common, safeguarding yourself from fraud has become more important than ever. Here are three steps to help protect yourself from the risks associated with data breaches and other identity fraud risks:

1) Place a security freeze on your credit accounts with the three big agencies (Experian, Equifax and

Transunion) so no one can open a new credit line in your name.

2) Establish online access to your financial accounts and monitor regularly (you can set up text alerts for activity on these accounts as well).

3) Use strong and unique passwords for every online account; consider using a password manager that creates complex passwords and stores them securely.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork).

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BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Jeremiah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What’s the finish to this Proverbs 14:23 verse: “In all labor there is ...”? Profit, Righteousness, Grace, Rewarding
3. At whose well did Jesus meet the Samaritan woman? Joshua’s, Jonah’s, Jacob’s, Judas’
4. From Revelation 21, how many gates does the New Jerusalem have? 1, 4,

12, 16

5. Who was king during Zechariah’s time of prophecy? David, Daniel, Darius, Saul

6. How long did Aaron’s followers mourn him? 3 days, 13 days, 30 days, 3 months

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Profit, 3) Jacob’s, 4) Twelve, 5) Darius, 6) 30 days

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).

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**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](http://www.stuartbaptist.org)



9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship Service  
office@stuartbaptist.org



**Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
220 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 1078, Stuart, VA 24171  
276-694-7677 • [www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org](http://www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org)

**SATURDAY SERVICES:**  
Sabbath School - 9:20; Worship 11:00 a.m.  
*Come visit our Bible-believing church*

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

Super Crossword

TYKES IN THE  
SADDLE

ACROSS

- 1 Milk-Bone products
- 10 Legend-ary masked swordsman
- 15 "Getting out of it is not possible for me"
- 20 Stat for a baseball pitcher
- 21 Mountain nymph of Greek myth
- 22 Can't get out of it
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Santa's little helpers
- 26 "Delicious!"
- 27 Insect snares
- 28 Told fibs
- 29 Attempts to hit, as a fly
- 31 Hair fixative
- 32 Ryder Cup org.
- 33 Manipulator
- 34 Prefix with angle
- 35 Felt concern
- 38 Riddle, part 2
- 43 Supreme Norse deity
- 44 California vineyard valley
- 45 Joust verbally
- 46 Words before "dream" or "be different"
- 47 Jazz pianist Allison
- 48 Loft
- 50 In a very uncordial way
- 52 City in Iowa
- 53 Riddle, part 3
- 57 Not docile
- 58 Serpentine fish
- 59 Above, in poetry
- 60 Gabrielle of volleyball
- 64 Vietnamese New Year
- 65 Grad's gala
- 68 Flop
- 70 Indian royal
- 72 Camera — (Cannes award)
- 73 Wear down
- 75 Actor DeLuise
- 77 Space
- 79 Big city in Ontario
- 81 Riddle, part 4
- 86 Utah winter vacation spot
- 89 From Tehran or Tabriz
- 90 Ladle, e.g.
- 91 Concerning
- 92 Iris coverer
- 94 With 108-Down, "Piece of cake!"
- 96 Memorable periods
- 97 Squint
- 98 End of the riddle
- 101 Cottage cheese bits
- 102 Hit the slopes
- 103 Alternatives to coffees
- 104 Part of LAPD
- 105 Perp catcher
- 106 Like fishes without appendages
- 108 Casino fixture
- 110 Holier-than- —
- 112 Rock's Reed
- 115 Make irate
- 116 Riddle's answer
- 120 Crouch down
- 121 Fill with panic
- 122 Vacant elected positions
- 123 1,000-kilo metric unit
- 124 Conical tent
- 125 Analyzed to detect the presence of

DOWN

- 1 Like a wet lawn at dawn
- 2 Waikiki locale

- 3 Protein unit
- 4 Blasting stuff
- 5 Kept in check
- 6 1950s Ford
- 7 "I smell —!"
- 8 Yanks
- 9 — -cone
- 10 Astrological diagrams
- 11 Writer Sarah — Jewett
- 12 Scan or skim
- 13 Aries animal
- 14 Ukraine port
- 15 "Tell me about it!"
- 16 Ale grain
- 17 Generalized rivalry situation
- 18 Zinc — (cosmetics ingredient)
- 19 Brand of tortilla chips
- 24 Gymnast Korbut
- 30 Competitor of McDonald's and Burger King
- 31 Big Swiss city
- 32 Extol
- 33 Toward a stream's source
- 35 Calculate
- 36 Ornament hanger, e.g.
- 37 Italian rice dish
- 38 Lot in life
- 39 Makes the decision
- 40 Sheriff Andy Taylor's boy
- 41 PC shortcut code
- 42 Barter
- 44 Consumer advocate Ralph
- 49 Signaled, as an actor
- 51 Pre-euro Italian money
- 54 Bank of China Tower architect
- 55 Power connectors
- 56 One of the Muses
- 61 He played Santa in "Elf"
- 62 Recoiled in fear
- 63 Blackboard clearers
- 66 Baltic Sea feeder
- 67 Tile designs
- 69 Blocks up
- 71 — Hopkins University
- 74 Clog-clearing brand
- 76 Year division
- 78 Writing assignments
- 80 Cause to stumble

- 82 Keaton and Sawyer
- 83 Not yet final, in law
- 84 Folk stories
- 85 Bank offering
- 86 Gets on it right away
- 87 Investigate
- 88 Checking the fit of
- 93 One of the Muses
- 95 1984 comedy starring Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin
- 99 React to with a quick breath
- 100 Inflict upon
- 101 Meal division
- 105 Tally up
- 107 Boxer Spinks
- 108 See 94-Across
- 109 Apollo's instrument
- 110 Variety
- 111 Gardening tools
- 112 Bread unit
- 113 Film director
- 114 Khrushchev's fed.
- 117 Corrida cheer
- 118 Decay
- 119 Actor Danson

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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 cus-

tomers 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.



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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, 2025**

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.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Town of Stuart will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stuart Town Office located at 100 Patrick Avenue in Stuart, Virginia, to discuss a Special Use Permit for a nonconforming Sign Permit Application. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager, at (276) 694-3811 or bryce.simmons@stuartva.org.

LEGAL

**Meeting Notice**  
**Patrick County Public Service Authority**  
**Special Business Meeting**

The Patrick County Public Service Authority Board of Directors will hold a Special Business Meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Court Room of the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building. The purpose of the special meeting will be to consider approval of the purchase of general liability and property insurance. Petitions and requests from the public to address the Board shall be submitted in writing to the PSA located in the Patrick County Administration Building at 106 Rucker Street, Suite 218, Stuart, VA. Petitions and requests to address the Board shall be submitted no less than five (5) business days prior to the scheduled meeting and placed on the official meeting agenda in order to be considered. Persons wanting to address the Authority's Board not having submitted a pre-request to do so may only be heard after a majority of Directors agree. The Directors encourage public attendance at all meetings.



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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.

**Thursday, Feb. 13**  
The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the School Board Office.

**Tuesday, February 18**  
Patrick County Planning Commission's regular business meeting, 6 p.m., Community Room at Patrick & Henry Community College, Stuart site.

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

Events

**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 and beverages will be provided to all attendees. The menu is potluck, so attendees are requested to bring their favorite meats, vegetables, and/or desserts to share with the group.

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

Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a country breakfast from 6:30-10 a.m. Dine-in prices are \$10 for adult plates and \$5 for child plates. All take out plates are \$10 each. Call in orders can be made by calling (276) 930-2113.

**Friday, Feb. 21**  
The community food truck will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 22**  
The Friends of Fairy Stone State Park group will meet at 2 p.m.

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 Facebook page.

**Through 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. 26**  
The Patrick County Lodging Association will meet at the Stuart site of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) in the community room at 2 p.m. The meeting is for overnight lodging entities who rent on a short-term, vacation type basis. The aim is to share information and ideas to support the lodging in Patrick County.

Women Impact Virginia Virtual Event. Join the Reynolds Homestead and women across the commonwealth via Zoom at 10 a.m. to hear from Women Impact Virginia advisory board member Natalie K. Hodge. Sign up at forms.office.com/r/ghLMGbjYVD.

**Monday, March 3**  
A vendor meeting for the 2025 season of Monday Market at Fairy Stone State Park will be held at Fayerdale Hall at 1 p.m. All interested vendors are invited to attend.

Ongoing

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.

Thank You for reading

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# Students honored with academic awards

Local schools released the names of students honored with academic awards.

Students in elementary schools include:

## Blue Ridge Elementary School 3rd Grade

Academic Awards: Ayla Acacia Bowman, Thomas Levi Chaney, Edward Juan Diego, Jaxton Ryker Lee King, Arthur Malone, Emerie Mayes, Kayley Petty, Noelle Tomkinson.

Principal's Award: Elijah Monroe Paredes, Kenzie Radford, Stella Lane Turner.

## 4th Grade

Academic Awards: Jase Bowman, Lydia Clement, Grayson James Guynn, Kara Hiatt, Arabella Mae Lee Noonkester, Hunter Grace Reynolds, Kasen Rupert, Brooklyn Charity Stanley.

Principal's Award: Marlee Aspen McKenzie Dailey, Landree Bryn Simmons.

## 5th Grade

Academic Awards: Jase Evan Brim, Cash Burnett, Mackenzie Grace Cain, Taylor Carson, Jack Stryker Dupstadt, Eastyn Tinley Handy, Early G Hill, Loca Holland, Robert Edward Lawson, Staci Emery Martin, Chloe Ann Quesinberry

Principal's Awards: Olivia Pearl Chaney, Raven Skye Hernandez, Renesmee Lynn Moody, Karleigh Paige Saunders, Evan Glenn Seal

## 6th Grade

Academic Awards: Emily Beth Adams, Amelia Bowman, Arieanna McKenzie Crews, Dilan Juan Diego, Lucas Cameron Hall, Jade Marie Hedgepeth, Austin Marshall, Matthew Morales, Tobin Reggie Simmons, Bentley Stanley, Wyatt Alexander Thompson.

Principal's Awards: Kaylee Mae Bowles, Sadie Jayne Bowman, Montana Rae Elaine Cain, Jay William Hill, Lincoln Garnett Puckett, Kaya Reeder, Ariella Grace Valerio, Olive Lola-Mae Waycaster.

## 7th Grade

Academic Awards: Haylee Grace Bowman, Elijah Justus Brown, Mason Reid Epperson, Maddox Kent Frye, Kimberly Gutierrez, Grayson Carter Holland, Reese Elizabeth Horton, Brody Thomas Hunger, Brody Thomas Lawrence, Brigham Lee Meredith, Beckham Kane Terry, Briella Faith Terry.

Principal's Awards: Bronx Davidson Beasley.

## Hardin Reynolds Memorial School Academic Awards 4th Grade

Academic Awards: Adalye Bowman, Syrina Bowman, Riley Collins, Adalyn Dehne, Mia Hagwood, Abigail Hall, Caleb Hankins, Nathaniel Jones, Hunter Keen, Caden Kendrick, Randy Kingsley, Natalie Lawrence, Bobby Lawson, Cam'rom Lopez, Jacob Martin, Jace Newcomb, Cassandra O'marra, Jeremiah Penn, Cameron Redd, James Stowe, Averie Stowe-Holt, Addison Triplett.

Principal's Award: Landon Correll, Londyn Goff, Ryan Graham, Rebecca Handy, Amarilis Hernandez, Sophia Hylton, William Keffer, Kayleigh King, Avery Lawrence, Emma Nelson, Etta Owens, Destiny Plaster, Trinity Plaster, Carter Quesenberry, Taylor Ragsdale, Korbin Salda, Arianna Slate, Samuel Slate, Harlem Smith, Kaiden Valentine, Caroline Whitlow, Taelyn Wilson, Sarah Wyatt.

## 5th Grade

Academic Awards: Colton Blackard, Bentley Brooks, Johnathon Burks, Ella Dollarhite, Olivia Epperson, Natalie Ferguson, Julianne Harmon, Jaiden Knox, Kaiden Knox, Amya Stephany, Carter Trent, William Trent, Aubree Triplett.

Principal's Award: Scarlett Dobbins, Paisley Holt, Timothy Hough, Holly Lawrence, Hannah Miller, Zoey Pickering, Jase Puckett, Jessica Schroeder, Levi Sumner.

## 6th Grade

Academic Awards: Braiden Brooks, Wesley Burge, Matthew Callahan, Averi Cruz, Harper DeHart, Raylan Foster, Nataley Graham, Mackenzie Harman, Amilya Lawson, Andrew Nelson, Ethan Nelson, Leila Stephany, Linnea Tankersley, Elena Turner, Mason Whitlow.

Principal's Award: Taelyn Blankenship, Dylan Clark, Colston Collins, Riley Epperly, Aiden Hagwood, Avalynn Huffman, Lucas O'marra, Savannah Pendleton, Jada Stump, Alice Terry.

## 7th Grade

Academic Awards: Kira Barker, Michael Blevins, Caitlyn Collins, Eli Collins, Mason Collins, Ronald Davis, Ariana Hagwood, Caden Harris, Evelyn Hayes, Ben Hudson, Ariel Humphries, Noah Jenkins, Gabby Johnson, Arianna Lemons, Alaina

McBride, Brinlee Mills, Levi Montgomery, Dane Orton, Noah Putnam, Savannah Sanchez, Jennifer Stowe, Asher Vaughn.

Principal's Award: Aleah Bowman, Brayden Conner, Kenneth Craig, Alexa Diaz, Addyson Foley, Sarah Lawson, Novie Rutledge, Mia Spangler, Maci Whitlock.

## Meadows of Dan Academic Awards 3rd Grade

Academic Awards: Zoe Hill, Dakota Lee Proffitt, Tanner Whitt

Principal's Award: Jackson Boyd, Dorsie Harrell

## 4th Grade

Principal's Award: Banner Davis, Carter Puckett.

Academic Awards: Hayden Hall, Jennings Hatcher, McKinley Lewis, William Manner, Wednesday Mashburn, David Procuro, Emersyn Wood.

## 5th Grade

Academic Awards: Easton Hall, Gabriel Helms, Angel Ojodeagua, Jayce Pascale, Hayleigh Phillips.

Principal's Award: Lexi Proffitt.

## 6th Grade

Academic Award: Daylin Blevins, Kenzie Lewis, Happy Martin, Fedir Pitovol.

Principal's Award: Paul Procuro.

## 7th Grade

Academic Awards: Robert Burger, Ayden Garcia, Allysa Jordan, Savanna Knowles, Solo Piatovol.

## Patrick Springs Primary School Principal's Award

Brennen Cox, Carlynn Hancock, Kellen Mills, Dylan Motley, Camden Penn,

Academic Award: Michael Blankenship, Noah Bowman, Alex Cumpston, Jessely Diaz, Mason Fain, Ellenor Ferguson, Jacob Harbour, Aiden Hooker, Eli Hughes, Kylie Marshall, Forrest Nester, Avalyn Rathbone, Chase Styers.

## Stuart Elementary School Academic Awards 3rd Grade

Academic Award: Colton Bogle, Teagan Combs, Madilynn Dempsey, Malaki Edmonds, Brennan Fox, Jakob Glenn, Natalie Gonzalez, Odyssey Hagwood, Oliver Hall, Christian Johnson, Natalia Juarez-Luna, Carson Lunsford, Penelope Maddux, Patrick Martin, Nylah Peery, Gian Roman-Miranda, Lyndon Slate, Cooper Trent, Macie Turney, Carter Williams.

Principal's Award: Emma Black, Lilly Briley, Jourdyn Cassell, Scarlett Foley, Jazzmin Glenn, Lucas Hartman, Emory Hughes, River Rakes, Thomas Reasor, Josie Snow.

## 4th Grade

Academic Award: Adley Black, Hunter Briley, Carley Rae Fain, Brooklyn Fulcher, Raelynn George, Landon Hall, Adalyn Hutchen, Milili Juarez-Luna, Alana Morris, Skilynn McDonnell, Ehtan Parsons, Nora Post, Isabella Queen, Jocelyn Stevens, Bella Terry, Reina Tucker, Zion Turner, Bradley Wheeler.

Principal's Award: Avery Brown, Wyatt Fain, Preslie Hall, Olivia Morrison, Korbin Puckett, Canon Rakes, Wesley Whitener.

## 5th Grade

Academic Award: Peyton Adkins, Nella Bembry, Braeden Campbell, Kaythan Gray, Cooper Hall, Adrian Hodges, Conner Martin, Dallas Martin, Leah Minter, Kenneth Neace, Ainzleigh Pack, Paige Ragsdale, Harper Russo.

Principal's Award: Caleb Allison, Lucas Black, Aiden Brown, Easton Conner, Tomias Devers, Carter Foley, Kay'Cee Glenn, Emily Hawks, Lyric Houchins, Emma Hutchens, Courage Jackson, Hadley Jones, Parker Jones, Jose Matias, Lucas Wheeler.

## 6th Grade

Academic Award: Brooklyn Bocock, Skyler Bohannon, Easton Childress, Sofia Gonzalez, Milayna Helms, Alex Leon-Cisneros, Ethan Lester, Sophia Martin, Hana Martinez, Addyson Minter, Chandler Moles, Keller Muse, Karoline Walton, Ivy Witt.

Principal's Award: Lydia Bowman, Elise Cagle, Emaline Combs, Eli Fain, Charlee Handy, Avery Hubbard, Adalee Hughes, Hannah Post, Maddox Scott, Millicent Scott, Easton Taylor, Juliet Turner.

## 7th Grade

Academic Award: Ian Baker, Eli Briley, Carles Campos, Tessa Curry, Carrie Gregory, Kiah Jackson, Adilynn Jones, Ezekiel Pack, Nathan Spencer, Danica Swisher, Mya Taylor, Izzabella Walker.

Principal's Award: Savannah Fain, Vanessa Gregory, Ashton Hall, Jada Hylton, Pagan Smith, Bryson Turman.

## Woolwine Elementary School 3rd Grade

Academic Award: Jeffrey Blecher, Lars Johnson, Lillian King, Silas Scott.

Principal's Award: Aran Moran Hill, Harper Shelton.

## 4th Grade

Academic Award: Paisley Cardenalli, Jeremiah Lester, Zoey Mabe, Asher Perez.

Principal's Award: Maelynn Jones, Talin Masselli.

## 5th Grade

Academic Award: Emmalyn Hubbard, Moncerat Joaquin-Ortega, Bjorn Johnson, Cameron Kendrick, Skylar LeBlond, Raina Newsome, Sophia Otero-Garcia, Charlie Shuff.

## 6th Grade

Academic Award: Aubree Bowman, Blake Mills, Christian Rakes, Dixie Scott, Wyatt Rodgers, Cassidy Urbach, Ethan Worley.

## 7th Grade

Academic Awards: Kaitlyn Gunter, Grant Iacovone, Jasper Lockhart, Jackson Osborne, Nathan Shuff.

## Patrick County High School students include:

## 8th grade: (88 or higher average)

Evan Alexander, Malaya Barr, Kaylee Belcher, Noah Bembry, Cali Biggs, Kobe Bogle, Ayden Bowman, Kaylee Bowman, Lilly Boyce, Cassidy Brim, Steven Brooks, Elena Cagle, Madilyn Callahan, Alexandria Cannon, Molly Cassell, Kylee Childress, Leia Cobbler, Tucker Collins, Mason Conner, Emmalynn Corns, Gabriel Delgado, Anna Dixon, Conor Dollarhite, Sky Evans, Grahm Foley, Daniel Freeman, Sarah Hagwood, Levi Hankins, Austin Harrell, Kinsleigh Harris, Mackenzie Harris, Ethan Hawks, Layla Hege, Caleb Howell, Delia Jordan, Benjamin Joyce, Conner King, Wesley Kruse, Ainsley Lawson, Jameson Lawson, Addison Leath, Allie Lewis, Anna Long, Hillary Madrid, Ean Martin, Tenley Meadows, Rosalinda Medina, Mauricio Mendoza-Gonzalez, Lemuel Newsome, Ashland Noonkester, Levi Ojodeagua, Jonathan Penn, Hannah Phillips, Elizabeth Post, Heidi Prillaman, Lily Pritt, Kash Puckett, Madison Purdy, Collin Rakes, Gabrielle Reynolds, Ava Rigney, Jenna Robertson, Mariah Scott, Dixie Sebastian, Paisley Shuff, Gavin Smith, Charlie Tabor, Samuel Tatum, Kody Townsend, Jillian Turner, Jayson Turney, Reagan Underwood, Midori Waycaster, Gage Whitaker, Cooper Wikstrom, Isabel Wilson, LaKisha Wilson, William Wood, Bella Wright, Trevor Wright.

## 9th-12th grade (3.2 GPA or higher)

## 9th grade:

Samuel Agee, Hailey Anderson, Kloe Armentrout, Rylee Barker, Benjamin Bowman, Lily Bowman, Casey Boyer, Cody Boyer, Briar Branch, Logan Brown, Jake Bryant, Ariel Clarke, Caleb Clement, Carter Cockram, Presley Combs, Gracen Conner, Hayden Conner, Oliver Cruise, Rain Davis, Eli Dillon, Jordan Draper, Thomas Eckman, Ethan Errichetti, Carson Farrar, Kaylene Garcia, Karson Gillispie, Anthony Gonzalez, Scarlett Gregory, Ashton Gurnley, Evan Hancock, Mason Hancock, Morgan Handy, Abigail Hanks, Jordan Hardee, Sierra Helms, Nathan Hodges, Lowell Hopkins, Martina Hubbard, Soledad Huerta-Dominguez, Brayden Hylton, Ivan Joaquin-Ortega, Analeigh Jones, Riley Jones, Mason Keith, Evan Kruise, Owen Kruse, Savannah Lawrence, Halo Martin, Isabella Mashburn, Peyton McBride, McKenzie Mitchell, Jayme Moose, Kinley Morrison, Christian Pendleton, Camryn Perkins, Asher Perry, Ernesto Ponce, Cameron Rakes, Mark Register, Alexa Rivero, Marion Rowe, Maggie Rutledge, McKenzie Sanchez, Brisan Scott, Eva Sechrist, Josiah Shelor, Aiden Slate, Kalix Smith, William Smith, Jared Thompson, Layla Thompson, Aiden Triplett, Caleb Vaughn, William Vipperman, Jonathan Walton, Ethan White, Haileigh Wingfield, Anna Witt, Conner Wood, Kayleen Wood, Meredith Wood, Jenna Woods.

## 10th grade:

Caleb Ashworth, Myhia Ballenger-Mijes, Melissa Barker, Brooklyn Barner, Joseph Beasley, Nathaniel Bright, Mason Cassell, Arionna Catron, Isobel Clay, Madison Corns, Dietz Crowe, , Jason Day, Leah Delgado, Adam Edwards, Jacob Edwards, Laine Errichetti, Mason Fain, Aedan Frazier, Allison Gonzalez-Barajas, Cinthia Gutierrez, Addisyn Hall, Natalie Hancock, Kaydence Harman, Lauren Hazelwood, Wheeler Helms, Ava Hiatt, Chloe Hubbard, Willow Hylton, Kyra Ingalls, Elyjah Jenkins, Allison Justice, Lily Kelly, Arabella King, Demetrious Landers, Aubreigh Large, LeMia Lemons, Joseph

Linster, Fisher Martin, Hunter Martin, Mischa McMeans, Andrew Miller, Michael Mitchell, Landon Moles, Brady Moore, William Moore, Oren Osborne, Alyssa Overby, Kalven Pack, Peyton Pascale, Emily Pearson, Kendra Penn, Anderson Philpot, Riley Pruitt, Jayden Radford, Logan Rakes, Ryder Richardson, Hayden Rowe, Alexia Shuff, Abigayl Slate, Jacob Spencer, Mason Spencer, Lacey Sutphin, Maddox Taylor, Tripp Thompson, Zachary Thompson, Karleigh Vasquez, Isabella Walker, Charles Wellbrock, Lilliana White, Paige Whitt, Evan Wood, Kendall Ziglar.

## 11th grade:

Skye Ayers, Jaxon Ayers-Rosas, Robert Bannister, Amber Barnett, Kylei Blevins, Devon Booth, Hannah Bowles, Autumn Bowman, Isaac Boyer, Rachel Branch, Reggie Brown, Abigail Bryant, Jason Burks, Lilieann Butler, Jackson Callahan, Jayden Callahan, Cameron Cassell, Ethan Casstevens, Brooke Collins, Tonya Collins, Haley Conner, Alexandra Cotoc Santos, Alexis Cox, Tristan Cox, Dylan Cruise, Nathaniel Curry, Kristopher Huerta Dominguez, Lacey Easter, Bronson Edwards, Carrington Fain, Daniel Finnegan, Adin Geiger, Camille Gonzalez, Carter Gregory, Avril Gutierrez, Jaeden Hairston, Jykevis Hairston, Johnathan Harbour, Tillee Hauser, Peyton Hazlewood, Will Heath, Joselin Hernandez, Shyanne Holt, Zachary Holt, Chloe Hostetter, Hunter Hubbard, Christian Hylton, Hannah Ingalls, Jacob Jones, Mitchell Keith, Avone Kidd, Raegen Kingsley, Benjamin Knight, Sadie Knight, William Lancaster, Hayden Lawless, David Lawson, Isabella Lemons, Kylee Leonard, Jacob Lester, Alyssa Light, Ashantis Madison, Evan Martin, Kiley Martin, Draysin Maselli, Ocean Melton, Callie Montgomery, Ellianna Montgomery, Journey Moore, Virginia Nations, Rocky Nelson, Samantha Nester, Eden Nickelston, Angela Overby, Lexus Owen, Abigail Pendleton, Michael Perez, Angel Plaster, Brandy Ponce, Braydon Priest, Haley Rakes, Nathan Register, Aailyah Reynolds, Jazmyne Reynolds, Hunter Roberts, Parker Roop, Abigail Royall, Madison Scott, Cayden Smith-Adame, Rylee Soliday, Vishal Somasundaram, Katelynn Spillman, Mitchell Stovall, Sydney Tatum, Adara Taylor, Greely Terry, Alyssa Titular, Jennifer Venegas, Wyatt Westmoreland, Dana Wilcox, Xena Wilcox, Kade Williams, Saidie Wingfield, Callie Wood, Eli Wood, Kathryn Wood, Zoe Wooden, Kendra Worley, Savanna Wright, Jed Young.

## 12th grade:

Anna Arellano, Dante Belcher, Jordan Belcher, Burke Black, Kali Bowman, Heather Brim, Mya Bryan, Paul Bryant, Emma Buchanan, Alyssa Callahan, Sasha Campos, Carrie Cassell, Haley Cassell, Bryan Clark, Amelia Clement, Eliza Clifton, Jonah Clifton, Cameron Collins, Tara Collins, Taylor Collins, Zachary Collins, Daryl Combs, Benjamin Conner, Skyler Conner, Alysha Copening, Williams Corns, Lexi Cutchins, Mason Dellenback, Emma Dellinger, Blake Dillon, Emily Eastridge, Rachel Fitzjarrald, Brett Foley, Joshua Freeman, Aaron Funes, Santa Garcia, Adrianna Gause, Seth Geiger, Haley Gillispie, Conner Goad, Nicol Gonzalez, Nicol Gonzalez, Hunter Greer, Nicolas Haden, Sammi Hall, Easton Harris, Evan Havens, Lilly Hazelwood, Richard Hazelwood, Hunter Heath, James Hensley, James Hodges, Sydney Hopkins, Jackson Horton, Caleb Hostetter, Riley Hubbard, Scottie Hubbard, Allison Hughes, Jackson Iacovone, Abigail Jackson, Noah Jesup, Tessa Johnson, Justin Keen, Alivia Kirk, Whitley Kruse, Trinity Lackey, Ryanne Lary, Chelsea Lawson, Cindy Leon-Cisneros, Zachary Letchworth, Jymasias Manns, Jude Martin, Sadie Martin, Kenzie Mize, Raeli Moran, Matthew Nester, Chase Norman, Owen Nutter, Rocio Olivares, William Overby, Dayton Pack, Sydney Peer, Hunter Pendleton, Quentyn Penn, Rhythm Poynter, Jakya Pruitt, Carley Quesinberry, Dylan Quesinberry, Samantha Register, Brayton Reynolds, Kieran Rodriguez, Lane Ross, Mason Scott, Sophie Scruggs, Jonah Shockley, Hunter Smith, Talan Smith, Josiah Spangler, Emily Stiltner, Benjamin Sutphin, Dhrithik Tanna, Lucas Taylor, Xavier Torres-Seda, Isabelle Turner, Sydne Turner, Katie Vernon, Josilene Williams, Kendall Williams, Mary Beth Williams, Kimora Wimbush, Noah Wingfield, Brayden Wolfe, Cheyenne Wood, Barry Zeigler, Allie Zwerling



# Return of Adventure Series ensures a race for every pace, adventure for every racer

Virginia State Parks’ one-of-a-kind multi-sport race series kicks off on March 8. This year’s Adventure Series, presented by Dominion Energy, consists of 20 races, including triathlons, mountain biking races, adventure races and more. The competitions will be held at 11 different parks across the state, from the coast to the mountains.

Long-time Adventure Series participants will notice some exciting changes this year, including a broader range of race difficulties and distances to suit all levels of adventure, scoring on the best of six races instead of eight and the removal of bonus races.

While many Adventure Series favorites are returning in 2025, including the Tour de Pocahontas and New River Trail Challenge, participants have one new race option: the



New River Trail Challenge

Seven Bends Aquablaze. The 7-mile sprint combines running and kayaking and will be held on June 15 at

Seven Bends State Park.

Adventure Series participants win prizes by earning points in the

competition category or the achievement category. These prizes include Virginia State Parks gift cards, cash and REI gift cards.

“The Virginia State Parks Adventure Series, presented by Dominion Energy, is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the thrilling sporting events our state parks offer,” said Promotions Manager Steve Boyd. “This series includes something for everyone—whether you’re a beginner or an experienced athlete—with events ranging from 5Ks and adventure races to triathlons and ultramarathons. Join us for an unforgettable race weekend and experience the incredible beauty and activities our parks provide!”

To learn more about the categories and prizes or to register for one of the 20 races below, go to [virginiastateparks.gov/adventure-series](http://virginiastateparks.gov/adventure-series).

## Hybrid fire ants concerning landowners, agricultural communities

Farmers and landowners are contending with a new pest — the invasive hybrid fire ant that’s marching into fields and pastures in Southwest Virginia.

Virginia Cooperative Extension agent Amy Byington in Lee County has received calls from over 20 farmers and landowners reporting hybrid fire ant mounds on their properties. Due to their aggressive nature, the ants pose a threat to people, wildlife and livestock — particularly newborn animals. When their mounds are disturbed, the ants release pheromones that alert the colony to swarm and attack.

“You think you’re dealing with one (ant) and being careful, but then they’ll be up your pants in no time,” Byington said.

In addition to delivering painful stings, fire ants can chew irrigation tubes and electrical wiring, and sometimes feed on germinating seeds and developing flowers or fruit. Their mounds range from almost flat to 24 inches tall, and can damage agricultural equipment.

While southeastern Virginia has long dealt

with red imported fire ants, their preference for warmer climates limited their spread. However, the hybridized species — a result of interbreeding between red and black imported fire ants — are more cold-tolerant, adaptable and aggressive, and can fly up to 2 miles to establish new colonies.

Already found in Georgia, Alabama, central Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky, they were first detected in Lee County in fall 2021. And their range is expanding farther than experts anticipated.

“They’re coming to the other counties,” Byington cautioned, noting there have been reports of isolated cases in other parts of Southwest Virginia.

Lee County cattlegirlwoman Arabella Cline first encountered a hybrid fire ant mound three years ago when she hit one with her all-terrain vehicle. Since then, she’s treated multiple mounds in her pastures.

While Cline’s cattle have remained unharmed, “I think my dog got into some once, because her muzzle was swollen with stings all over.”

She now carries insecticide bait on her ATV, treating mounds on sight. Hybrid fire ants are less territorial than their parent species, and multiple colonies can coexist in the same area.

“If you have one, you need to look around, because you’ll probably find more.”

Cline, a Lee County Farm Bureau member, said “There’s no benefit to having these things around.”

Hybrid fire ants spread easily on hay bales, household items, firewood, construction materials, potted plants, plant debris and trailers. For more information on hybrid fire ants, visit [bit.ly/3WM-m70a](http://bit.ly/3WM-m70a). To report hybrid fire ant sightings, or imported fire ants outside of the current quarantine zone, contact your local Extension office.

## Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff’s Office reported the following:

\*Fritz Robert Weiss, 72, of Stuart, was charged Jan. 31 with one count each drive while intoxicated and interfere with property rights of another. Senior Deputy Douglas Perry was the arresting officer.

\*Skylar Dix, 30, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Jan. 31 with assault. Inv. R. Haynes was the arresting officer.

\*James Michael Lawson, 32, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 2 with assault. Sgt. L.K. Carroll, Jr., was the arresting officer.

\*Joseph Eugene Dodd, 29, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 1 with fail to appear. Roanoke PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Clarence Dale Hall, 47, of Floyd was charged Feb. 4 with

fail to appear. New River Valley Regional jail made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Joshua Christopher Herring, 40, of Lawsonville, N.C., was charged Feb. 4 with possess Sch. I or II drugs. Sgt. J.C. Fortner was the arresting officer.

\*Ivy Rayne Hollinger, 31, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 4 with one

count each possess ammunition by convicted felon and possess Sch. I or II drugs. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

\*Konni Nicole Howe, 55, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 4 with assault. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

\*Franklin D. Rose, Jr., 39, of Stuart, was

charged Feb. 5 with 10 counts of violation of protective order. Inv.

Tennille E. Jessup was the arresting officer.

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# Reynolds Homestead is site of First Saturday Outing

Join the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) for a one-mile loop hike on March 1, at its First Saturday Outing (FSO), at the Reynolds Homestead in Critz. DRBA’s monthly outings are free and open to the public. There are also optional tours of the historic house and grounds available.

Participants will meet by 10 a.m. at the entrance to the Continuing Education Center at Reynolds Homestead to begin the day’s activities.

An outreach campus of Virginia Tech, Reynolds Homestead features the birthplace and boyhood home of tobacco magnate R.J. Reynolds and a Forest Resources Research Center in the midst of 780 acres of fields and woodlands.

“The Reynolds Homestead and forestry-practices hike is easily DRBA’s most popular and best attended hiking outing,” according to DRBA volunteer and outing coordinator, Wayne Kirkpatrick.

The Reynolds Homestead Forest Resources Research Center (FRRC) in Critz, Virginia, was created in 1969 to study forest biology, including genetics, physiology, and soils. Specific projects include harvesting to increase forest health and productivity, site preparation, forest fertilization, loblolly pine physiology, and forest herbicide testing.

Kyle Peer, Forestry Superintendent for the Reynolds Homestead, will provide insight about the forest projects underway at the Homestead during the hike.

Along the hike route, participants will see the historic spring that inspired the name, Rock Spring Plantation, of this eighteenth-century



Photo courtesy of DRBA

tobacco estate near the face of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Views from the trail include the nearest peak, the oddly named No Business Mountain, so called, according to tradition, because visitors had “no business” looking for the family’s still.

In 2010 two major improvements were made at the Homestead. The African American Cemetery was enhanced with plantings, grave markings, fencing, signage, and a walkway

for visitors. A new gateway entrance was dedicated in October 2012 honoring the tobacco and aluminum foil legacy of the Reynolds family. Visitors to the Continuing Education Center can view drawings and a model of planned renovations to the Center.

In addition, a log tobacco barn was reconstructed near the trail from materials salvaged from three early barns, including the one on site. The

barn will help interpret the history of tobacco growing and curing that formed the foundation of the Reynolds family fortune.

Participants in the hike should supply water and lunch, wear hiking boots and layers of water-shedding artificial fabric or wool, and be prepared for rain or wind. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver. Find us on Meet Up!

Event Contact: Wayne Kirkpatrick, wynbtyk@embarqmail.com or (540) 570-3511

The Reynolds Homestead is offering afternoon tours of the state and national landmark historic site at a cost of \$4 per adult and \$2 per student, payable to the tour guide. Built in 1843, the two-story brick home was restored in 1970 to its nineteenth-century state and includes many of the original family furnishings. The son of Hardin and Nancy Reynolds, R. J. Reynolds was born here in 1853. In 1874 he moved to Winston, North Carolina and established a tobacco factory, which grew into a multi-million-dollar company. When he died in 1918 at the age of 65, he was the wealthiest man in North Carolina.

The grounds feature several outbuildings, including a log icehouse and log granary, a brick milk house, and a brick kitchen. In the kitchen hangs a picture of Kitty Reynolds, a slave who tradition says saved Hardin Reynolds’s life by distracting a raging bull. In 1880 a landmark U. S. Supreme Court decision resulting from the flawed murder trials of two of her sons guaranteed protection of legal rights of formerly enslaved persons.

# Nursing home staffing shortages key focus for VA senior advocates

By Zamone Perez  
*Virginia News Connection*

What is the quality of Virginia’s nursing homes? If you ask one advocate, he says “bad.”

Jared Calfee, state advocacy director for AARP Virginia, said nursing home inspectors are “woefully” behind.

A possible legislative fix is a bill that would update what Calfee called the outdated fee structure for medical facilities.

The Virginia Department of Health would use those extra funds to increase recruitment and retention of inspectors. Calfee added understaffing can lead to worsening health for nursing home residents.

“What we know is that understaffing leads to negative outcomes, like pressure sores, falls,

and ultimately sickness, and even death in a lot of cases,” said Calfee. “And so the best thing that we can do for nursing home residents is ensure that there is adequate staff to provide quality care in our facilities.”

The Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission finds that nearly 40% of nursing homes are in need of their biennial state licensing inspection.

And the Commonwealth has the sixth highest proportion of nursing homes that have not been inspected within two years.

Another budget proposal would include \$3.5 million to train Virginians as certified nurse aides, or CNAs.

CNAs provide the bulk of assistance within nursing facilities. Calfee said this small budget ask

could have big impacts for nursing home staff.

“This is a high-demand area where we badly need staff,” said Calfee, “so a program like this could take a relatively small amount of money, and hopefully infuse the workforce with badly

needed staff - to make sure that our nursing homes can staff adequately.”

A Virginia Health Care Association survey in 2022 found that 93% of facilities in the Commonwealth have openings for CNAs.

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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,  
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**Blue Ridge Land & Auction**

## ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

### BANK REPOSSESSION EQUIPMENT & VEHICLE AUCTION

27399 Jeb Stuart Hwy., Stuart, VA

Bid Monday, Feb. 17 - Ending Thursday, Feb. 27 at 12PM  
Preview: Feb 17 & Feb 26, 9AM - 4PM



**Featured items include:**

- (2) 2016 Dodge Ram 5500 Heavy Duty Trucks with 4-wheel drive and electric dump systems
- 2015 Dodge Ram 3500 Service Truck - 4-wheel drive
- John Deere Skid Steer Models: 325, 329E, and 323E
- (2) John Deere 35G Mini Excavators
- And a selection of additional trucks and equipment!



See Website for Terms and Details.  
**www.RogersAuctionGroup.com**



**Keith Gunter**  
Auctioneer/Sale Manager  
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