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**VOICE OF THE PEOPLE SINCE 1876** | **Dedicated to serving the communities of Patrick County** 

# Overby mounts reelection bid as board faces legal threats amid transparency push

By Debbie Hall

Since taking office in December, Patrick County Supervisor Andrew Overby said he has worked to fulfill his campaign promises of increasing transparency and engaging with residents. However, those efforts have put him and other board members in the crosshairs of a col-

Over the past few weeks, Overby, of the Dan River District, said another board member has attempted to "threaten, bully, silence, and intimidate" supervisors while also trying to restrict public access to government proceedings. He accused the supervisor of controlling information by labeling emails as confidential and claiming AI-generated statements as copyrighted material. Overby made these remarks in his official reelection announcement last week on Facebook.

At the most recent board meeting, matters as a reason to reenter a Overby said the supervisor "threatened the county, board and multiple individual supervisors with a lawsuit in hopes of achieving a payday, at your expense. Rest assured, I will not bend to this supervisor's malicious attempts to silence and obstruct transparency. We all must stand together against this corruption and expose it wherever it is

Overby's comments referred to a document titled "Notice of claim and intent to bring civil and/or criminal action," which was delivered to the county attorney, county administrator, and board members on February 10.

While distributed during the closed session, the notice was not part of that initial closed meeting. The board returned to the public session long enough to cite legal closed meeting.

During that subsequent closed meeting, Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, remained in the hall.

A copy of the notice obtained by The Enterprise indicated it was distributed by Stephen D. Marshall. In it, Marshall outlined his intent to file legal action against Patrick County, the Board of Supervisors, and Supervisors Jonathan Wood, Clayton Kendrick, and Overby. Marshall alleged violations of his constitutional rights in both their official and individual capacities.

Marshall cited emails he marked confidential on Jan. 13 and Jan. 16 that involved matters of public concern including government operations, and "issues of public importance. ... The emails were leaked and subsequently published" in this



Andrew Overby is seeking his first full term to the Dan River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

newspaper on Jan. 22.

Marshall alleged that Wood, Kendrick, and Overby retaliated against him through "malicious official comments" in a Jan. 29 fol-(See Re-Election Bid p. 2)



Kyle Kopec (left), co-founder and COO of Braden Health, along with other representatives, gave an update on the work to restore and reopen the hospital.

# Braden Health updates supervisors on hospital restoration progress

By Taylor Boyd

efforts at the Patrick County Board of Supervisors meeting on Feb. 10.

Kyle Kopec, co-founder and Chief Operating Officer (COO), said the company has made significant progress since acquiring the hospital. Construction work is well underway, and officials invited county leaders to tour the site and learn more about ongoing projects.

The company has nearly completed replacing sections of the hospital's roof. Medical gas lines, including oxygen and vacuum systems, have been relabeled and plumbed in preparation for the installation of external oxygen tanks and pads, which are required on the facility's exterior.

"As far as sewer systems and

mold, the sewer system is being Representatives from Braden overhauled currently as far as our Health, the company working to plumbing and things that lead to reopen the former Patrick County that," Kopec said. Mold mitigation, Community Hospital, provided an "we're proud to report that the folks update on the facility's restoration that we've hired to do that have taken care of it and isolated it, so we're feeling pretty good, doing a lot of renovations and things," he said.

Kopec thanked officials at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), which is ensuring Braden Health is meeting the necessary regulations as different phases of work are completed. Kopec added that the VDH is expected to tour the facility in late February or in March.

While construction continues, the company is not yet prepared to announce an official reopening date. Asbestos assessments and final determinations on sewer system piping remain key factors in the project timeline. Kopec emphasized that these elements, along with ongoing

(See Braden Health p. 3)

## Residents raise ongoing transparency, and spending concerns at recent board meeting



Numerous residents attended the February 10 Patrick County Board of Supervisors

By Taylor Boyd

Several speakers addressed the February 10 meeting of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, highings and voice opinions.

Noting the recent spate of negative publicity facing the county, izens," he said. Kurt Bozenmayer said numerous residents have spoken at board vided answers, either through the meetings and on social media re- administrator's office or by stategarding issues including county ments from supervisors, Bozenmayfinances, employment issues, toxic er said he believes it would go a past few months.

"Lately that has spilled over into a major finger-pointing exercise be-

tween individual supervisors that has extended into the weekly reporting of The Enterprise newspaper. I believe that a major contrilighting transparency concerns and bution to this growing hostility, the encouraging others to attend meet- inability, or unwillingness, of the county administration to provide answers to questions raised by cit

If the county administration prochemicals, and the hospital in the long way to dispel the growing hostility. He added the answers could be provided on social media or in a weekly

(See Residents p.2)

## **Envision Critz seeks** funding to advance community center project

By Taylor Boyd

Envision Critz, a local nonprofit organization, is working to establish a community center in Critz, across the street from Hardin Reynolds Memorial School. organization has been developing the project for about two and a half years and has partnered with Reynolds Homestead and Virginia Tech to gather community input on the center's potential offerings.

The primary focus now is securing funds to pay off the mortgage on the property, according to Envision Critz President Tom Steele. The organization needs to raise approximately \$70,000 before it can begin developing the center and implementing requested community features.

"We've kind of got the bones in place to do this. What we're working on now is paying for the

AT REYNOLDS HOMESTEAD, CRITZ VA \$15 PLATES INCLUDE: PORK OR CHICKEN SANDWICH, SLAW, BAKED BEANS, CHIPS, DRINK, AND A DESSERT

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club will hold a Barbecue Fundraiser on Saturday, February 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Reynolds Homestead. Plates are \$15 each and include a choice of pork or chicken sandwich, slaw, baked beans, chips, a drink, and dessert.

property that we have a need to raise to pay off the mortgage on. We have

roughly \$70,000 that we (See Envision p. 3)

# Williams announces reelection bid as 2025 races take shape stands up for the rule of

By Staff Reports

Incumbent Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, is among the state candidates seeking reelection in November, along with candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General.

"In three years, I have proudly stood up for rural Virginians who are struggling with rising healthcare costs and limited accessibility to adequate healthcare rea strong conservative voice" for traditional Southwest Virginia val- one



ues, Williams said when sources while remaining announcing his reelection bid.

"Our record has been that

law while defending the rights of hardworking Virginia families. From protecting our Second Amendment to securing medical resources for Patrick County to standing up to utility companies and delivering reduced rates for Southwest communities, our office has been a voice for Southwest and Southside Virginia," Williams said.

He added that he remains committed to "being a conservative

(See Williams p. 3)

#### Residents

(cont. from page 1)



The Patrick County Board of Supervisors heard from several residents at a recent meeting.

newspaper column.

"Social media and the press are not going away, and the longer the county takes the ostrich approach, or the supervisors fight amongst themselves. the more distrust is going to be expressed by the citizens," Bozenmayer

\* Expressing her concerns about the county's spending practices, and residents being viewed as an annoyance and not an importance, Karen DeCapp said residents "want and seek truth, transparency, fairness, and respect. This should not equate to 'bad treatment' by those who are asked. While I have only spoken out in five meetings, six counting this one, in 10 years, I've had several people shake my hand and thank me," she said.

There's a sense among the county that a few people in powerful positions have a thumb on them, DeCapp said, "Addressing the taxpayer's problems are addressed as 'the taxpayers are the problem' and 'make them shut up, sit down, and accept whatever they deem is beneficial to the county' is taking place.' Some employees even feel their job is at stake. Hostility and comments, which could be construed as intimidation or threats, only fuels the mantra that is happening," she

She added that the conduct, and 'unwise' spending is a familiar path she and her husband have seen before, and added their concern has always been on struggling taxpayers who get lost in the noise of investments and

The theory that government spending and the addition of high-paying jobs to a county government will bring prosperity and raise the 20 percent living below the poverty line has been tried over and over, she said.

"In all of history, it has never worked. The exact opposite happens. It's a fairy-tale scenario which ends in a nightmare. And as Einstein said, 'Doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results is insanity.' Many people in this countv feel they are living in the asylum, and after the January 13 meeting, the question deepens - who is running the asylum," DeCapp asked.

payers to speak freely with questions, concerns, disappointments, and requests, she said, adding that she believes some supervisors listen with an open mind, give thought and consideration to the concerns outlined, and understand hardships.

"To them, it's not about control, power, and running the county how they see fit. I pray these common-sense leadership roles will prevail. This wonderful county and people deserve cool heads and intelligent decisions," she said.

DeCapp said she stands by her previous suggestion to make the county administrator position an elected position and encouraged supervisors to hold town hall meetings because residents' concerns and questions often are ignored or unanswered.

Mike DeCapp raised concerns about the county's financial status, noting that "before we moved here 10 vears ago, the assessed value of our home in Illinois, and we lived clear across the state from Chicago, was almost the same as our home is assessed at today in Patrick County. Our 2024 tax bill in Patrick County was around \$1,100, and I'm sure as all of you on the board know, there's plenty of people madder than mad about paying that," he said.

In 2015, Mike DeCapp said their tax bill was almost \$4,100, which is almost four times what they currently pav. That breaks down to \$342 a month for property taxes. While it doesn't happen all at once or overnight, he noted it can also happen in Patrick County.

"Taxes are going to go up, that's the nature of things. Costs increase, wages increase, but we need to be diligent on how we spend. We need to prioritize needs and not wants, necessities not luxuries, that's one reason why I speak," he said. "I speak because I'm concerned we may be heading down a misguided path where we think to compete for business investments with our larger neighboring counties, we have to have all the governmental bells and whistles they have. I speak because I don't want us to confuse good government with big government. I speak because I think it's reckless to put 100 acres of solar panels in heav-Public hearings and the public com- ily forested mountain areas where we ment period are designed to allow tax- have a history of wildfires."

> \* Galen Gilbert said a fire and EMS study pre-

county are really true to my heart," and some issues surrounding those "makes agencies madder than a hornet. Times are hard, everybody has a hard time," he said, adding that

volunteer fire departments — Patrick Springs, Ararat, Fairystone, and Woolwine — saved the county more than \$600,000 recently by getting new Self Containing Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment.

"Six hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money that got saved of this county having to come up with, and we're always digging and looking for grants, and that's what we'll do. But quit rocking the boat, quit messing with Station 8, quit messing with Jeb Stuart Rescue," he said. "I was rereading the paper the other day, and without saying names, I reread it and 'if you don't know me.' Well, from what I've seen, I don't want to know you at this point because you tried to take one of the biggest squads in this county down. We were running 1,200 calls in that final year that we were wide open, and there's no way this county can absorb that many calls through Station 8. We're coming back and we're very proud of it. We want to be there for our citizens," Gilbert said.

Ed Pool discussed the current litigation with Energix Renewable Energies, a solar company, in Henry, Sussex, Chesapeake, and Prince William counties. "We're trying to do a statewide assessment, but they're presently involved in 24 civil litigations within the Commonwealth, just as it stands within those counties alone,"

In Wytheville, Pool said a suit has moved off the court dockets to arbitration. "I think it's a pretty good example of a moratorium that's been put in place. Why it's a good moratorium until we can get things figured out, possibly with a toxic chemical ordinance or other means and methods," he said.

\* Jamie Clark addressed a board member who concludes his online comments by stating that he represents both his district and the entire county. "He also uses a disclaimer in his correspondence between himself and other board members that it is protected information, yet he publishes them on his website and Facebook. I have news for him, in Virginia we have the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) laws, and those laws protect us the citizens of Patrick County, so board members like you can't do our public business in private or behind your keyboard. Keep on trying to hide behind the keyboard and we the citizens, our local newspaper, the Enterprise, will keep digging on what you sir are trying to hide or do behind our backs," Clark said.

\* Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, read a prepared statement regarding emails he marked "confidential and do not share" and sent to the other board members, which "addressed concerns about potential legal risks stemming from what in my view were instances of employee harassment and steps taken toward constructive termination," he said, adding his intent was to foster a private discussion about protecting the county from legal exposure and ensuring a respectful workplace for all employees.

Instead, he said that at least one of his colleagues disregarded that confidentiality and shared the emails with the press. "This breach of trust was a reckless stunt that jeopardized our county's interests. Let me be clear: these emails were never meant for

public distribution. They were internal communications aimed at addressing concerns and reminding my fellow supervisors of our ethical and legal responsibilities, as well as the potential consequences of failing to uphold them," he said, adding that the action "exposed the county to costly litigation and undermines the trust essential among elected officials. It also creates unnecessary turmoil for our employees, who deserve a workplace free from fear, harassment, and political gamesmanship," Marshall read.

Marshall said his fellow supervisors must act in the best interests of the county, which includes protecting taxpayer dollars, maintaining a professional workplace, and respecting the confidentiality of sensitive discussions. The unauthorized release of his emails violates these principles and sets a dangerous precedent, he said. "The subsequent public comments

about me by my fellow supervisors have further breached trust and created a hostile environment. Instead of addressing concerns directly, they were aired publicly - an unprofessional approach that hinders resolution. This damages our collective credibility and erodes public trust," he said.

"Moving forward, I hope you can all recommit to a spirit of integrity and honest collaboration. Our county deserves nothing less," Marshall read.

\* Rebecca Adcock spoke about the need to support the Blue Ridge Regional Library.

\* Steve Ferring inquired about the times and dates of the board's budget sessions. County Administrator Beth Simms said the first one will be Monday, February 24.

In other matters, the board:

\*Approved the Jan. 13 meeting min-

\*Approved the bills, claims, and ap-

\*Gave a resolution of appreciation to the Department of Social Services (DSS) for Benefit Programs Specialist

\*Tabled hearing from ZiTEL Chief Operating Officer Rodney Gray about a BEAD grant letter of support.

\*Scheduled a public hearing for the March 10 meeting to set the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Rural Rustic Roads and Secondary Six-Year Plan.

\*Approved a resolution initiating an amendment of the Patrick County comprehensive plan to address policies for solar facilities and amend the county's solar ordinance.

\*Heard the 2023-2024 Blue Ridge Regional Library report from Director Rick Ward and Branch Manager Gar-

\*Approved adopting the Public Service Authority (PSA) - VDOT land-use permit renewal.

\*Approved a resolution opposing Appalachian Power Company's (AEP) rate increases.

\*Approved the two grants brought to the board by Grants and Communi-

cations Manager Beth Morris. \*Approved the funding request for three family service specialist posi-

tions for DSS.

\*Approved changing the public comment aggregate speaking time to five minutes to 10 minutes in the board's Rules and Procedures.

\*Adopted the Rules and Procedure.

## Pets of the Week



These three sweet dogs were picked up on Unity Church Road. If you recognize them, please help us get them back home.

Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter ortheir Facebook page, find information about these other available pets food assistance and in need of a forever information home. Adoption fees low-cost are \$10 and include ter services, email spay/neuter and ra-blueridgeawl@ bies vaccination.





Blue Ridge Animal Welfare and League provides pet about spay/neupared for the county by the state and began last year should be complete at the end of the month.

"Fire and rescue in the

#### $Re ext{-}election\ Bid$

(cont. from page 1)

low-up article. He ac- discrimination." cused Overby of either personally releasing or enabling the release of the emails and alleged that was a "clearly retaliatory" act.

Marshall's document also alleged that Wood, as board chairman, "led the retaliation" in the article, with Kendrick and Overby contributing through their statements. Marshall pointed to Wood's quote in the story-where Wood dismissed the allegations as being based on "beliefs" rather than facts—as an example of "malicious viewpoint

Marshall contended that the actions of Wood. Overby. Kendrick amounted to retaliation unlawful and violated his First Amendment rights. He requested a formal investigation, monetary damages, injunctive relief, and coverage of attorney's fees/costs.

"I am prepared to resolve this matter amicably if the county and its officials take appropriate corrective action," the notice stated. If a resolution is not reached, Marshall said he would proceed with a lawsuit.

Despite the controversy, Overby remains focused on his platform, campaign emphasizing fiscal responsibility and efficient governance. He accountability,

said he is committed to keeping government "as small as possible" while maximizing tax- ers. payer value.

Overby, the board's vice-chairman, was elected last year to fill the unexpired term of Brandon Simmons in the Dan River District. That term ends this year, and he is now seeking his first full four-year term in November.

"Public service has been central to my career, and I am proud to work for the betterment of our county," Overby stated in his campaign announcement. "In my short time on the board, I have already identified several areas where we can create efficiencies to save money, improve

build relationships to ensure our government is working for taxpay-

"Now. more than ever, we need people in our local government that are going to fight for the taxpayers, ensure transparency, and stop special interests and self-serving egos from turning Patrick County into something it is not," Overby wrote. "I will fight for you, the taxpayer, at all costs."

On Monday, he said that he would appreciate support in November, and "I appreciate everybody's support to ensure transparency in the county."

His campaign page, "Andrew Overby for Dan River District Supervisor," is available on Facebook for updates.

gmail.com. 1500 Kings Mtn Rd. Martinsville, VA, **Memorial Services** 276-638-2778 Visit our website for pricing: www.norrismemorialservices.com JOHNSON

# Thank You for reading The Enterprise

### Braden Health

(cont. from page 1)

contracting work, could impact scheduling.

"Until we get the final reports back on asbestos and a final conclusion on the piping for sewer, we won't be making any announcements on a timeline — as far as what date doors will be open — just because those two items are very big on our list, and can fluctuate the most," Kopec said.

Acknowledging past efforts by other groups to reopen the hospital, Kopec said Braden Health is committed to making tangible progress rather than offering empty promises. He stressed that restoring hospital services is a complex process involving strict regulatory

requirements, construction codes, and inspec-

"Hospitals are not flip a switch and suddenly services are restored. There is a very long regulatory process that we go through. Things have to be built to specific codes, and we're following those very closely," he said.

Braden Health has also been in communication with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The regional CMS office in Atlanta has been notified of the acquisition — "we notified them along with the public once it was all complete," he said, adding CMS representatives will conduct inspections

as part of the certification process.

In addition to regulatory coordination, Braden Health representatives have met with local Emergency Management Services (EMS) personnel and visited the Blue Ridge Airport to consult with helicopter crews. Discussions focused on the role of air transport when hospital transfers are critical and how emergency services were handled when the hospital was previously operational.

Braden Health plans to provide further updates as construction progresses and regulatory milestones are met.

#### Envision

(cont. from page 1)

mortgage so we can get started developing the center and all of the things that the community has asked for," he said.

Many grants that could help fund the project require full ownership of the property or prohibit using grant money for property purchases, Steele said. As a result, paying off the mortgage is a critical step before further progress can be made.

"So, it's really important that we get that taken care of so that we move forward with developing the community center," he said.

To support this effort, the Patrick Springs Ruritan Club is hosting a barbecue fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Reynolds Homestead. Plates, priced at \$15 each, include a choice of pork or chicken sandwich, slaw, baked beans, chips, a drink, and dessert.

Steele noted that several Envision Critz members are also involved in the Ruritan Club, and the fundraiser idea emerged during a club meeting. The event aligns with the Ruritan Club's focus on community service and will also contribute to the organization's recognition for service-based awards.

"One of the things that we do with the Ruritan Club is community outreach and service work and just thought it would be a good idea to do that and raise money because we try and get awards for doing community service and it helps the Envision Critz group as well," he said.

In addition to the barbecue, Envision Critz will raffle off a generator purchased at a discount from Tractor Supply. Steele said the group chose a generator as a raffle prize because it is a practical item for many Patrick County residents.

"We're going to raffle off a generator. We thought that's something that almost anybody in Patrick County would enjoy having," he said.

Julie Walters Steele, director, said the Reynolds Homestead is providing its property for the fundraiser at no cost to support the initiative.

Beyond fundraising events, Envision Critz plans to seek contributions from community members and the Hardin Reynolds Memorial School Alumni Association. Tom Steele emphasized that the project relies entirely on donations and outreach efforts to secure necessary funding.

"We're 100 percent driven by donations, so just got to hit any and everybody that we can to try and help us get this paid off so we can get started developing something that will make Critz proud," he said.

Once funding is secured, plans for the 12-acre property include a playground, picnic shelter, gardens, an environmental outdoor classroom, and three walking trails. The trails will vary in difficulty, with one meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, a second for moderate hikers, and a third designed for more advanced hiking.

In addition to recreational features, the trails will include informational placards detailing Critz's history and notable historical figures from the area.

The property also contains two vacant houses. The organization hopes to restore a brick house on the site, while a nearby wooden house is believed to be beyond repair. The brick house, originally built by Vance Martin, played a key role in Critz's history, as Martin developed the area into a commercial hub. According to Martin's granddaughter, the house was initially constructed to attract a doctor to the community.

Steele said one idea under consideration is transforming the brick house into a historical center, possibly recreating a doctor's office and incorporating exhibits about the Dick & Willie Railroad, which once played a vital role in Critz's economy. The railroad's removal during the war effort contributed to the area's decline, Steele noted.

"One of the things we kicked around is recreating

the office because the office room is still on the house, and then maybe having a room that gives the history of the Dick & Willie Railroad system. That's kind of what we've been kicking around just to have a place that Critz can help with some tourism to the area to get people interested in what Critz was," Steele said. "Because Critz has a rich history, it just kind of

withered away when the railroad tracks were pulled up for the war effort. It was just kind of there without the access of the Dick & Willie to get to where it needed to go."

The organization is also considering repurposing the wooden house's façade to create an outdoor stage or classroom area.

"We want it to be just a nice gathering place for folks in the community. Our goal is just to make a special place in Critz that will serve the community and Patrick County, and hopefully, it entices people to come to the area to see what's going on in Critz and down at the Reynolds Homestead as well. We just want to make a place that will attract people," he said.

Donations can be mailed to Envision Critz P.O. Box 156 Critz, VA 24082.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/Envision-

## Williams =

(cont. from page 1)

champion and advocate" for President Trump's America First agenda. "There is a lot at stake this year ... I look forward to hitting the campaign trail and listening to voters' concerns" throughout the 47th District, which includes Carroll, Floyd, and Patrick counties, part of Henry County, and the City of Galax.

Williams also is the president of Schneider & Williams, P.C. in Stuart. He and his wife, Britt, have two children.

#### In Patrick County

Four local seats will be on the November 2025 ballot, with at least half of the incumbents planning Patrick County Board of Supervisors and the Patrick County School Board.

#### **Board of Supervisors**

Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, said he is currently unsure whether he will seek reelection, but he probably won't.

"I'm going to have to wait and see. Right now, we got a lot going on, and I really haven't focused on that. Just focusing on the task at hand," he said, adding that he and the rest of the board are busy identifying the issues and solutions. "Right now, that's what's important."

Andrew Overby, of the Dan River District, currently plans to seek reelection for his first full term. Overby, who was elected in November to finish out the remaining year of a four-year term.

"I want to continue to try and make Patrick County better," he said. (See related story)

#### School Board

Rob Martin, of the Dan River District, plans to seek a second term and said he feels he's done a good job during his first term.

"I feel that I've done a good job for my constitu-

ents in the school system as well as students and ing, and an electrical certification program created, staff in the county. With the county finances being the way that they've been the last several years, I've been able to help, I think at the end of this year, it will be close to \$1.4 million that we've been able to give back to the county, whether it be funding for SRO positions or donating property back to the county," he said.

Noting the learning curve to being an effective school board member, Martin thinks his knowledge will benefit the county.

Martin said covered walkways were installed at Blue Ridge Elementary School to prevent bus riders to seek reelection. The local seats are the Dan River from having to wait in the rain for the bus and lock-District and Smith River District positions on the er rooms will be renovated. The locker rooms have the board of supervisors. not been useable" for many years, he said. "Since the gymnasium was built, we're finally getting the project started that will get the locker rooms back where the kids can use them."

At Patrick County High School (PCHS), Martin said he helped get the support of other board members for new tennis courts and replaced the lighting on the football field, which he felt was a safety con-

"The woodpeckers were drilling nests in the poles," he said, and explained that when one of the poles was "cut free at the bottom, the pole split in half because of a massive woodpecker's nest. Thank goodness that never fell during an event there at the school, but we were able to replace those lights,"

If re-elected, Martin will continue to pursue the expansion of Career & Technical Education (CTE) at PCHS. By next year, he hopes seniors who are at least 18 years old can take the linemen's course through Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

He also wants to see a HVAC program, plumb-

so high school students can graduate and enjoy a lucrative career without having to attend college.

"Of course, we have the welding program. That is tremendous, and the auto mechanics, cosmetology, all those programs are great, but I want to try and add to the programs that we have to give our kids the best opportunity to succeed in adulthood with a good, steady job. HVAC, plumbing, electricians, that is all jobs that kids can remain in Patrick County," he said.

Walter Scott, of the Smith River District, is not sure whether he will seek reelection to the school board or try his hand at representing his district on

"I'm running for one of the two seats, but I'm not sure which one. At this time, I'm still weighing the options. I'd love to be on both boards," he said.

Scott said his indecision about which seat he plans to run for stems from not wanting to give his place on the school board to someone who could potentially cause damage. He is also considering how being on each board will affect his family and his ability to be there for them.

As of February 10, Patrick County Registrar Susan Taylor said she had not received packets from any candidate. June 17 is the final day for interested candidates to submit the necessary paperwork for inclusion on the ballot. Those who don't meet that deadline may run in the election as a write-in candidate.

# **Congressional Staff** to Visit Localities

U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith's staff will be in Pat-sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office hours may be rerick County and Martinsville on February 26. Staff will be in the City of Martinsville from 10 –

11:30 a.m., in City Hall, Room 208, 55 W. Church will be cancelled. St., Martinsville.

Staff will be in Stuart from 12:30-2 p.m., in the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow,

scheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If a county or city's schools are closed, then office hours

Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions or to schedule an appointment time in the event of office hour closure.

# **Chapter Celebrates** Milestone Anniversary



Colonel Abram Penn Chapter NSDAR members Julie Brannon, Lucy Rudd and associate member Caroline Harnsberger, assembled birthday cake kits to donate to the Patrick County Food Bank. This project was in recognition of the Chapter's 75th Anniversary.

# CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

# **VIEWPOINTS**

# Men in Women's Sports and Other Executive Orders

The fast-paced work of President Trump is headlined by a series of his Executive Or-

One of his Orders coincided with National Girls and Women in Sports Day, an annual observance dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of female athletes.

President Trump hosted an event at the White House to mark the occasion.

Keeping Men Out of issued by President Trump to protect opportunities for women safe and fair sports.

many Americans, biological males have been permitted to play in women's sports at various levels.

In Southwest Virginia, Roanoke College was considering welcoming a biological male to the women's swim team.

This news prompted members of the a ball into her. women's swim team to speak out and object to the move.

Another female swimmer been an outspoken activist on this issue is former University of Kentucky athlete Riley Gaines.

Gaines had to compete in freestyle events swimming championships against a biological male.

Riley Gaines spoke at a recent event I ata female athlete when in support of the Prothe locker room with Girls in Sports Act. an anatomical male.

Further, when she legislation on the block, they were logical females. at least size 13.



## Morgan Griffith

Representative

officials gave the only to keep men out of 5th place trophy they had to the male.

trophy "will be coming in the mail."

She was not even Women's Sports was allowed to pose on the Virginia High School place trophy.

In my opinion and and girls to compete in that of most Americans, female athletes To the dismay of in this swimming meet were denied an opportunity to have a fair competition.

In other spaces, female athletes are getting physically injured. In North Carolina, a high school volleyball player sustained a concussion, head and neck injuries as a result of a biological male spiking

Despite years progress in advancing women's athletics and equality in sport, through acts like Title IX, too many institutions have allowed fair utive Order. competition to falter.

ress means biological to reflect this order. women are left with Under fewer opportunities at the 2022 NCAA for achievement. Their potential is discarded no longer have to go on the side of the road through what Gaines like a half-eaten apple

tended. She said she unfairness, this Janufelt totally violated as any I was proud to vote she had to change in tection of Women and

This commonsense prohibits got up on the blocks in federally funded edthe same heat with the ucation programs or male, she could see the activities to allow a bilarge bulge in his groin ological male at birth area. She said when to participate in proshe looked at his feet grams meant for bio-

While it awaits con-In that race, Gaines sideration in the U.S. and the male swim- Senate, I appreciate mer tied for 5th place. President Trump for However, the NCAA issuing this directive

women's sports.

Some groups have They told Gaines her decried the directive and threatened not to comply.

Virginia, podium with the 5th League (VHSL) is the governing organizathat regulates tion athletic competitions among public schools.

> VHSL, which bucked Governor Youngkin's 2023 "model policies" to prohibit biological males competing in girls sports, initially claimed to not know about any Trump Executive Order vowed to following the current VHSL policy of allowing transgender student-athletes to participate in girls sports.

> Just a few days later, VHSL reversed course. They will now comply with the Trump Exec-

The NCAA This erosion of prog-changed its policies female guidelines, student-athletes will

This success follows To put a stop to this a string of wins stemming from Trump Executive Orders.

As discussed in a previous newsletter, a slew of border security immigration-reenhanced resources to our southern border and crack down on illegal immigration, human trafficking, etc., which resulted from Biden's open borders.

Trump also signed a series of military Executive Orders that terminate woke policies and reinstate service members discharged from the military for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine.

Such respect for our soldiers and our defense is fueling a rise in interest among Americans to join the U.S. military.

Just as Trump prepared to return to the White House, the U.S. Army reported its most productive December in 15 years.

President Trump's leadership in just a month has given many prospective student-athletes and soldiers hope.

I will continue to advocate for common sense policies that deliver unbiased, fair environments to our student-athletes and our soldiers.

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

tions or comments.

### Letters to the Editor

#### Why We Need DOGE

Newsweek, Epoch Times, Office of the Inspector General, The Federalist, The Center Square, Yahoo News, WFIN, Todd Starnes)

DOGE was created to get fraud, waste and abuse out of our federal government. It is estimated our federal government has squandered some \$700 billion taxpayer dollars per year on fraud and more than a trillion dollars on waste. Consider the following examples.

USAID: \$1.5 million for DEI in Serbia, \$70,000 for DEI in Ireland, \$47,000 for a transgender opera in Colombia, \$32,000 for a transgender comic book in Peru, \$20 million to create an Iraqi version of Sesame Street, \$1,999,900 for Guatemala for gender-affirming health care, \$45 million for DEI in Burma, \$400,000 for Honduras for LGBTQ, \$520 million for consultant-driven investments in Africa, \$969,821 to D.C. for LGBTQ activism and \$11 million to radical groups for gay and lesbian advocacy in Ecuador, Honduras, and Guatemala,

FAR-LEFT CHURCHES: Catholic Charities \$1.4 billion in tax money, the Lutherans \$100 million, Church World Services \$20.5 million and the National Cathedral \$53 million.

SOCIAL SECURITY: From 2015 to 2023 SSA paid 1.1 billion improper payments

GRANTS: \$100,000 for Palestinian girls wellness, \$1.5 million to Florida State to fund "Black Feminist Programs, \$119,520 for a conference titled "Re-imagining Biology Education Through Social Justice, \$717,000 to Ohio State to study insect proteins as food sources, \$399,930 to Montana State for DEI, \$352,799 to the University of Wisconsin to examine their play programs for DEI and \$634,856, for equity ,\$54,981 to the University

(Fox, MRCTV, Daily Signal, of North Carolina to support queer studies, \$600,000 to Southern University A&M to study menstrual cycles for transgender men, \$229,637 for Brazil Forest gender consultant services, \$10 million in 2024 to the White Coat Waste Project to create transgender mice, rats, and monkeys ,\$1,929,783 to the American Bar Association to "shield" members of "the LGBTQ population in the Western Balkans, \$445,600 to Ohio State to increase DEI in the STEM program, \$600,000 to the University of Virginia to measure structural ableism, and \$112,000 to Rutgers to study the process of social control.

PBS, NPR, VOICE OF AMER-ICA: In 2024 PBS received \$367 million of taxpayer funding, NPR \$126 million, and for 2023, Voice of America received \$268 million. All three organizations have become leftist propaganda outlets.

LEFT WING MEDIA OUTLETS: Associated Press received \$37.5 million taxpayer funding over the last 15-plus years, Politico has received \$34.3 million taxpayer funding for subscriptions since 2015, Reuters received \$10.6 million taxpayers funding for subscriptions starting in 2020, The Washington Post received \$1.7 million taxpayer funding in 2014 for advertising and subscriptions, The New York Times has received \$2.7 million taxpayer funding since 2008 for subscriptions and CNN received nearly \$220,000 in taxpayer for 2015 and 2016 which was used to smear Trump's first presidential campaign

MISC: \$50 million to purchase condoms for Gaza and \$1 billion for humanitarian support for Africa.

The DOGE is proving to be a pretty powerful MRI. Sunlight indeed is the best disinfectant.

Pray for our country. William Salser, Stuart

#### Patrick County Needs Solutions, Not Division

raise concern among all fair-mindprospect of economic development ernment programs that serve or effective governance offered.

There is no question that the county faces serious problems, nor is there any debate that poor decisions by successive iterations of elected leaders brought our community to this point. I do not believe that the finger can be pointed at any individual or group. Rather, Patrick County's decline has been a group effort - either through misguided actions or apathetic inaction. I am most saddened, however, that the ugliness we have seen play out in national and state politics over the last ten years has now arrived at our own doorstep.

Much of the public commentary seems to revolve around reckless accusations based upon rumors peddled on social media, including the serious allegations of public corruption. Making these allegations without evidence is contrary

The recent articles covering the to the principle of due process on events at the January meeting of which our system is based, and the Board of Supervisors should otherwise completely inappropriate. Defaming civil servants will ed citizens of Patrick County. It has not advance the interests of our long been my belief that the coun- county one inch. Shouting down ty's silent majority is being done a any business that dares to set foot great disservice by a vocal minority in our borders will not restore our that seem bent on destroying any economy. Cutting funding to govportant purposes and hoping that will balance the budget is wishful thinking. Bluntly, the behavior of both the public and elected officials at Board of Supervisors' meetings is embarrassing. The treatment of the County Administrator is particularly shameful - and I believe she is owed an apology. If things in this county, our home, are going to improve, we and our elected representatives are going to have to think critically and work together to develop evidence-based solutions.

Building a community takes much more than showing up to a monthly meeting and airing grievances. Finally, I would kindly remind my neighbors that Washington and Richmond are not likely to lift a finger to help us. The only people who are going help us – is us.

Nicholas Hughes, Stuart

## Student Briefs

William & Mary Dean's List

Kali Craig and Caroline Vernon, both of Stuart, were recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2024 semester.

To achieve Dean's List status, ing in the United States.

Stuart Residents Named to a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

> William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learn-

If you enjoyed the recent columns by Ben Williams and Holly Kozelsky, they are available weekly in the Henry **County Enterprise** Get your print or digital subscription today by calling (276) 694-3101 or visiting henrycountyenterprise.com\_

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## **Patrick Pioneers**

Elizabeth Bernice Barker Johnson,

By Beverly Belcher Woody

I am sure we have all heard the old saying or heard the gospel song, "May the work I have done speak for me.' This could not fit anyone better than Elizabeth Bernice Barker Johnson. Last week, we began a look at the life of Mrs. Johnson, a WWII veteran; schoolteacher; school bus driver; wife; and mother in Patrick County. This week, the story has pretty much written itself from all the love and memories shared from former students at Patrick Central School.

When we left our story last week, Mrs. Johnson had just begun her teaching career at Red Hollow School in Spencer, Virginia. She was boarding with the Frank Martin family and was teaching children from the Johnson, Martin, Edward, Reid, Penn, Scales, Shelton, Via, and Hairston families.

On the 31st of May 1952, Elizabeth Bernice Barker married sawmiller and truck driver James Henry Johnson; she was twenty-six years old, and he was twenty-three. The Martinsville Bulletin recorded the event, "A program of wedding music preceded the wedding of Miss Elizabeth Bernice Barker and James Henry Johnson, at the home of Reverend and Mrs. R. T. Anderson, Fayette Street, Saturday afternoon. Miss Barker is the daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Jesse Barker of Winston-Salem, NC. She wore a blue lace gown with matching accessories. Miss Barker is a graduate of the State Teachers' College and teaches at the school in Stuart. Mr. Johnson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Johnson of Spencer. Given in marriage by Mrs. Mary Lee Warrington, the bride carried a white Bible. Her bouquet was of carnations. Her maid of honor was Miss Mamie Johnson. Wallace Johnson served as Mr. Johnson's best man. A reception followed the ring ceremony at the home of Mrs. Pearl Johnson of Spencer."

I had the great pleasure of speaking with Mrs. Lillian Penn Manns, who is a retired schoolteacher herself, about her time as a student under Mrs. Johnson. Mrs. Manns grew up in Spencer and had to ride eighteen miles past several schools to attend the segregated Patrick Central School off Route 8 near the North Carolina line.

The following are memories that Mrs. Manns shared with me, "Mrs. Johnson was my fourth-grade teacher when I was at Patrick Central School. She was very nice and so concerned about her students. One of the things that impressed me the most about Mrs. Johnson was the time she spent in the military and that she was the bus driver for the children that lived in Spencer. I remember in 1960, when I was in the 7th or 8th grade, it was snowing really bad. Mrs. Johnson was trying to get us home down that steep hill near Cooper's Mill. Mrs. Johnson could handle that big bus with that long shifter sticking up out of the middle of the floor. (We figured she probably learned to drive those big mail trucks in the military.) The school bus was sliding down the hill and Mrs. Johnson was so scared for her students. Mr. Bill Reynolds, a fellow bus driver from Patrick Central School, came back to help her get the bus up the hill. Mrs. Johnson was such a devoted person to her students, whether they were in her classroom or on her school bus. She wanted all of us to do well and to follow the rules and regulations."

Linda Redmond shared the following story on the Patrick Central School Facebook page, "Mrs. Elizabeth Bernice Barker Johnson was my fourthgrade teacher. I never knew about her military service, but as I reflect back on my experiences in her classroom, I can remember how disciplined and strict she was. I can also remember her as one of the school bus drivers, for either the Critz or Spencer area. My classroom was a combined 4th and 5th grade classroom, and I remember being cocky and always ready to compete with the 5th graders. Mrs. Johnson did not chide me for my cockiness, but I do remember when I was gloating about my 100 % paper, Mrs. Johnson found a minor reason to give me less than 100%. Her quiet unspoken demeanor taught me then that humility produces better character than cockiness.

Many former students of Mrs. Johnson shared their memories on the Patrick Central School Facebook page started by Mary Frances Sawyers Davis...Elaine Thomas, "Mrs. Johnson taught both me and my husband



Patrick Central School Bus Drivers

Charlie in 7th grade. I remember her as a very disciplined teacher. We never heard her mention her military service." Gwendolyn Robinson, "Mrs. Johnson was one of my favorite teachers." Larry Tatum, "I felt so proud because she was my seventh-grade teacher. Even to this day, her teaching is still impacting my life." Vera Smith Reynolds, "I remember her teaching me in the third grade on my return from Chicago." Daisy Roberts-Hatcher, "She was a great teacher and my seventh-grade teacher. I was very proud to have been her student. I wish she had shared some of her experiences while she served in the military overseas."

Rhonda Brown, "I am writing this for my father, Gary Hill. Mrs. Johnson was his seventh-grade teacher. He remembers her as his favorite teacher who inspired him tremendously. She was a great teacher and treated everyone the same." Angela Tatum-Morning shared that Mrs. Johnson was her father's seventh-grade teacher. Carolyn Anderson stated that Mrs. Johnson was also her seventh-grade teacher. Wavie Payne stated that Mrs. Johnson was her teacher at Patrick Central School. Melvin Clark said that Mrs. Johnson was his fourth-grade teacher. Dianne Redd, "I loved her. I have very special memories of her." Rayford Loggins, and Deloris Smith shared that Mrs. Johnson was their fourth-grade teacher.

closed and consolidated into other Patrick County schools, Mrs. Johnson taught for the Statesville City, Elkin City, and Surry County, North Carolina school systems. Mrs. Johnson also volunteered for the Catawba County school system for fifteen years.

After Patrick Central School was

Regina Watkins-Brim shared the following memories of Mrs. Johnson, "I,



Elizabeth Barker Johnson, Patrick Central School

too, attended Patrick Central School in Patrick County, Virginia from the first to the third grade. I am related to several of Mrs. Johnson's former students and attended/graduated WSSU as well as worked in Enrollment Management at Winston-Salem State University (formerly Winston-Salem Teachers College). By being blessed to be assigned as a WSSU Staff Commencement Volunteer, I met ninety-nine-year-old Mrs. Elizabeth Barker Johnson at the 2019 WSSU commencement where she was honored with walking across the stage to "turn her tassel." She couldn't attend her actual commencement from then Winston-Salem Teacher's College because she wasn't able to find anyone to cover her classes at Patrick Central School. She was dedicated to her job as a teacher and leaves a legacy of service for us all to celebrate."

Mrs. Johnson's graduation story was featured on the NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt in 2019. One year later, Mrs. Johnson passed away at the age of 100 on the 23rd of August 2020; she was survived by a son and a daughter, two granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren. What a remarkable legacy Elizabeth Barker Johnson has left for her family, former students, and anyone who hears her story! A very special thank you to Mrs. Lillian Penn Manns, Mr. Bernard Johnson, Regina Watkins Brim, Mary Frances Sawyers Davis, and all those who shared their memories of Mrs. Johnson on the Patrick Central School Facebook page. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

# Social Security Matters By Russell Gloor, National Social Secu- but the taxes and IRS penalties concern me. What y

rity Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty - About Claiming Social Security when I have a Health Savings Ac-

Dear Rusty: I have reached my full retirement age (66 plus 8 months) and plan to apply for Social Security this month, but I've seen I am continuing to work and am covered by my employer's health insurance (a high deductible plan). I contribute bi-weekly into an Medicare back dates Part A coverage by 6 months, which suggests I would have had to stop contributing to my HSA six months ago. If this is true, will I need to pay penalties and such to the IRS? I'm not able to find anything else about this topic, and I'm wondering what you might have to say. I have my wife and two children on my employer's HDHP. We contribute \$6,000 annually to our HSA and my employer contributes \$1,250 on January 1st each year. We can live without the HSA, to pay income tax on those contributions.

after 65. Medicare and your employer's plan months longer to claim SS. will coordinate healthcare benefit payments.

HSA (Health Savings Account). I've read that Savings Account (HSA) will be affected be- or financial guidance. It presents the opincause, as you have found, Medicare will backdate your Part A coverage by 6 months. And 6% excise tax on any contributions made af- grams/social-security-advisory) or email us ter your Part A effective date, and you'll need at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

What you may wish to consider is stopping Signed: Wanting to Claim SS (but concerned) your HSA contributions now and waiting an Dear Wanting to Claim: I'm afraid that additional six months or so to claim your Sowhat you've read is correct – it is mandato- cial Security benefits (to get beyond the HSA ry for you to take Medicare Part A (inpatient penalty phase). This would have the advanhospitalization coverage) when receiving So- tage of avoiding the IRS penalty on your HSA cial Security benefits after age 65. Medicare contributions and would also increase your Part A is free to you, and even though you are Social Security benefit due to Delayed Restill covered under your employer's credit-tirement Credits (DRCs). You earn DRCs at able high deductible healthcare plan and can the rate of .677% for each month beyond your articles which say that when I apply, I must delay taking Medicare Part B, you must take FRA that you wait to claim, which means an also take Medicare Part A. This, even though Medicare Part A to collect Social Security SS benefit about 4% higher if you wait six

> This article is intended for information That does, however, also mean your Health purposes only and does not represent legal ions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the because Part A is not a high deductible plan (a National Social Security Association (NSSA). requirement for HSA), any contributions you NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its make after the effective date of Part A will be staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the subject to an IRS penalty, and your HSA con- Social Security Administration or any other tributions won't be considered tax-exempt. governmental entity. To submit a question, This will mean the IRS will likely assess a visit our website (amacfoundation.org/pro-

# Top 10 Tips for Your Heart Health

health every day. Patients frequently ask me what changes they can make to improve their heart health. I know that many of my patients are not ready for big changes in their health habits, but that's ok! Here are 10 small changes that can make a BIG difference for your heart.

- 1. Eat 1 more fruit or veggie a day (than you normally do). This alone will benefit your body in so many ways. Diets high in fruits and vegetables improve overall nutrition, helps manage weight, can lower blood pressure, improve blood sugar control, prevent some types of cancer, and reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke. As you get used to eating more of these foods, your eventual goal should be to fill half of your plate with fruits and veggies each
- 2. Eat less meat. Reducing meat consumption reduces your risk of many diseases and can greatly improve your heart health. (It also leaves more room on your plate for the fruits and vegetables we talked about earlier.) Besides being good for your heart and body, eating less meat is also the single best thing you can do for the environment. You don't need to go vegan immediately. But consider starting out with a
- Meatless Monday each week. 3. Eat a balanced breakfast. This is one I think many people would like to do; they just run out of time. I understand, when we get busy it is tempting to let our health slide. But consider this: A study pub-

lished in the journal Circulation followed over 26,000

As a cardiologist, I talk about lifestyle and heart initially healthy men for 16 years. After adjusting for you to resist making bad choices at other meals since age, they found that those skipping breakfast were at 33% greater risk of developing coronary heart disease than those who ate breakfast daily.

- 4. Drive by the drive through. In this tip, I'm lumping processed foods and sugary stuff in with the fast food. These foods are full of empty calories and laden with salt, sugar, unhealthy oils, and other additives. If you are in a hurry eat simple things like sandwiches, fresh fruit, or healthy granola bars. After a few weeks your cravings will start to change, and you will be left with healthier habits.
- 5. Eat whole foods, not supplements. Save your money. The best pills available cannot compete with what nature provides for us. Sticking to fresh, whole foods is also a way to ensure you are getting what you paid for. If you didn't hear the news, the New York State attorney general's office found that many supplements did not contain their advertised ingre-
- 6. Drink (more) water. DON'T drink your calories. This is another easy one. Sugary drinks like sodas and fruit juices have a terrible effect on health and are a sure way to pile on the pounds. Also, be sure you are drinking enough water throughout the dayat least 8 glasses. Studies have shown that people who drink more water have less death from coronary
- heart disease than those who drink very little.

you know you're going to reward yourself sometime in the near future. Why eat that so-so desert when you know you're going to get something you really like later in the week?

- 8. Sleep. Try to get 30-60 more minutes a night. Sleep is essential for a healthy heart. In fact, not getting enough sleep greatly increases an individual's risk of cardiovascular disease, heart attack and
- 9. Get more active. Even 10 minutes a day makes a difference. Your body was designed to be active. Although it may not be possible to move all the time at your desk job, you can still get up and walk around for a few minutes every hour. This will help you avoid sitting disease (also called hypokinetic disease).
- 10. Schedule exercise time each day and protect it. If you make exercising a habit, it will be easy to keep it up. Exercise is known to reduce the incidence of heart disease and stroke, besides many other health benefits. Exercise also improves your concentration, gives you energy, and helps you get better sleep. Even walking is good exercise; not being a triathlete

is no excuse. Just get up and do something. Think of food and exercise as your "medical therapy," because it is. Your body and your doctor will

thank you for it. (Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Harvey 7. Schedule "cheat days" day (or perhaps one meal) Hahn, MD. Used by permission from www.lifeanda week, to not use up all of your willpower. This will health.org Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for give you something to look forward to. It can also help Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

**6** - Wednesday, February 19, 2025

# Seniors lead Cougars to victory



The Cougar seniors head back onto the court.

#### By Pat Delaney

The Patrick County High Cougars finished out their regular season with a big win on senior night, beating James River 67-55 on February 10.

The Cougars tipped off the game with a starting lineup of their five seniors, Cameron Collins, Seth Geiger, Easton Harris, Noah Jessup and Tyler Marshall. Noah Jessup got the Cougars going with a 3-pointer just seconds into the game. Seth Geiger hit a 3-point shot with 5:10 to go in the quarter, giving the Cougars an 8-1 lead.

James River answered with an 8-1 run of their own, tying the game at 9-9 with 3:37 to go. The Cougars went up by 5 points with a minute to go, but a James River 3-pointer at the buzzer closed the gap to 2 points, 16-14, heading into the second

James River took their first lead of the night a minute into the second quarter on a 3-point shot, and built up their lead to seven points with an 11-0 run, going back to the late first quarter. Even with shots not falling, the Cougars kept James River within reach, trailing by four at halftime, 12-25.

Once again, the Cougars started with an all-senior lineup, and they came up big. Shots by Noah Jessup and Cameron Collins early in the third

made up the deficit, and they took a 3-point lead 90 seconds into the quarter. Another Noah Jessup 3-pointer capped a 10-1 run, giving the Cougars the 31-26 lead with 5:50 to go. The Cougars didn't let up. 3-pointers by Easton Harris, Cameron Collins and Noah Jessup helped them outscore James River 21-9 in the third quarter, taking a 42-34 lead into the last quarter.

Cougar head coach Brian Chitwood challenged his seniors at halftime to lead the team to the win. "I got on their case pretty hard. I said, "Guys, here we are sitting with 21 points again at halftime. Forty points doesn't beat anybody.' I said, 'at the end of the day, effort does not require talent.' I'm going to give my seniors that opportunity one more time. They came out, laid it all out on the line and they produced."

In the fourth quarter, Collins and Jessup each had a 3-pointer early on to help extend the Cougar lead to 16 points. The Cougars would once again outscore James River in the quarter, this time 25-18, giving them the 67-55 win.

"I'm so happy and so thankful for our seniors that they were able to go out with a win," said Chitwood after the game, adding about his seniors, they're "great kids. I would take them any day."



Cameron Collins hit several big 3-point shots in the second





# Cougar Wrestling Team Finishes Third at Regionals, Several Wrestlers Qualify for State Tournament

The Patrick County Wrestling Team had six wrestlers qualify for the State Wrestling Tournament to be held in Salem, Virginia on February 21 and 22.

The Cougars competed in the 2C Wrestling Tournament on February 15 at Liberty High School in Bedford, Virginia. The team came up short of their goal of winning a Regional Championship, finishing third as a team. However, the Cougars had some wrestlers earn individual honors.

Ricky Cox (126), Logan Rakes (150), Paul Pascale (215), and Josh Jimrusti (Hwt) finished second in their respective weight classes earn-



The Cougars finished third in the 2C Regional tournament.

ing them a trip to the State Tournament. Adin Geiger (157) and Tyler Cobbler (175) finished third and also earned an opportunity to compete next weekend. Landon Moles (126) finished 4th and will be an alternate if needed. Caleb Lancaster (113), Ben Knight (132), Aden Frazier (144), and Wheeler Helms (165) all finished fifth for the Cougars.

"We wrestled hard but came up a little short on what we had hoped for. This is a young group and if they continue working hard and improving they will accomplish big things before they graduate. We are proud of their improvement and effort," the coaching staff said in a release.

# Wood Brothers Racing Family Named Honorary Starter for the DAYTONA 500

Daytona International Speedway announced last week that the family behind the iconic Wood Brothers Racing team was named the honorary starter for the DAYTONA 500 this Sunday. Celebrating their 75th anniversary this season, they'll wave the green flag for the 67th running of The Great American Race.

"It's truly a special year for Wood Brothers Racing as they celebrate 75 years of racing in NASCAR and it's our privilege to recognize their contributions to the sport by naming them as the honorary starters for the DAYTONA 500," said Frank Kelleher, President of Daytona International Speedway. "Wood Brothers Racing has an incredible legacy in our sport and at Daytona International Speedway over their famed history. We look forward to celebrating them throughout the weekend and can't wait to see them wave the green flag for The Great American Race on Sunday.'

Eddie Wood, Len Wood, Jon Wood, Keven Wood

and Jordan Wood Hicks will all participate in the honorary starter duties, with Eddie dropping the green flag as the field charges through the trioval to start the race. The moment will be especially poignant for the family, as 15 years ago the late Glenn Wood waved the green flag for the 52nd running of The Great American Race – with his sons Eddie and Len alongside him on the starters stand.

Wood Brothers Racing, founded in 1950, is the oldest active team in NASCAR while being one of the winningest organizations in league history. The Wood family's connection to Daytona goes all the way back to Glenn Wood racing on the beach. The Wood Brothers have run more points-paying races (138) at Daytona than any other track they've raced. Wood Brothers Racing has a historic 16 wins at Daytona, more than any other track.

The team currently has 100 career wins in the NASCAR Cup Series, including five DAYTONA 500 victories, which puts them eighth on the alltime wins list. The Wood Brothers won their first DAYTONA 500 in 1963 with Tiny Lund and their fifth with Trevor Bayne in 2011.

Harrison Burton drove the famed No. 21 car to Victory Lane in the Coke Zero Sugar 400 last August for their milestone 100th win.

As the Wood Brothers celebrate their 75th anniversary season, there will be special paint schemes, merchandise, digital content and more to honor their accomplishments.

"Kicking off our 75th year in NASCAR this way is truly an honor—something beyond words," said Jon Wood, president, Wood Brothers Racing. "For much of those 75 years, my dad (Eddie) and Len have been in the background, never seeking recognition or credit—that's just who they are. This is an experience few get to have, and I'm so grateful they're being recognized for their contributions and dedication. You won't find two better men, and they deserve every moment of this."

## Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis

#### Varsity Loses Close GirlsGame

The Girls Varsity Basketball traveled to Alleghany, Thursday, February 13, where they lost a hard-fought battle, 38-40. PC ended the 1st quarter leading 15-7. The Lady Cougars went into halftime with a 6-point lead.

Alleghany came out strong in the 2nd half, outscoring the Cougars 32-15 to take the win. Lilly Hazelwood led Patrick County with 14 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 deflection, and 1 steal. Kimora Wimbush had 11 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists, 6 deflections, 2 steals, and 1 block. Kendra Worley had 7 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 5 deflections, and 2 steals.

#### JV Girls Get Road Win

The JV Lady Cougars traveled to Alleghany on Thursday, February 14, pulling off a 37-36 win. Kenzie Sanchez led the team with 9 points, 8 rebounds, 2 steals, and 1 assist. Martina Hubbard had 9 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals, and 1 steal. Meredith Wood had 7 points,

5 rebounds, 1 steal, and 1 assist.

Tiffany Eckrote had 7 points, 4

points, and 1 steal. Bella Wright had 2 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals, and 1 assist. Shianne Townsend had 2 points, 1 rebound, and 1

"The ladies had a great game, and I am so proud of their hard work and composure tonight," said Coach Grace Helms. "They pushed through the adversity and stayed

# Crossing the Lines=

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

County Superintendent Steps In As Substitute Amid Flu Outbreak, School Board Addresses Safety And **Budget Concerns** 



Members of the Henry County School Board were honored for their service at the February meeting, which coincides with School Board Appreciation Month.

cently as a substitute teacher.

Teddy Martin II, chairman Board, said Blake-Lewis spent achievements, discussed budmost of February 3 substituting at Fieldale-Collinsville Mid-concerns. dle School for a 7th grade science class. He explained that key topic of discussion through-18 teachers and staff and more out the meeting. During the than 154 students in that one public comment session, Mary school were absent due to flu Martin, a former school board and flu-like illnesses.

staff absences across the entire administration and flu was kicking us."

about at the point of closing for fair-minded and open-minded." deep cleaning" due to the num-

Henry County Schools Super- ber of cases in that division, he intendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis said after the February 6 school returned to the classroom re- board meeting at Bassett High School.

During the meeting, board of the Henry County School members recognized student get adjustments, and additional

Student safety emerged as a member, discussed open com-"There were more than 100 munication between the board, "anyone division, and additional student who has an issue." She suggestabsences too," Martin said. "The ed "that perhaps if you have something you're really unhap-Martin, who represents the py with, get with your school Reed Creek District, added the board member" and Blake-Lewhigh number of absences were is to discuss issues and "address not confined to local schools. them directly. I'm very comfort-"I know Franklin County was able that Dr. Blake-Lewis is

#### SPCA revamps volunteer programs, apologizes to former helpers

The SPCA of Martinsville and Henry County is restructuring its volunteer program to improve training and support for participants. The updated program aims to provide quicker education for volunteers, ensuring they feel prepared and supported while working with the shelter's animals—an issue that staff previously encountered.

The changes come as animal shelters nationwide face difficulties in securing adoption placements, increasing the need for well-trained volunteers to assist with daily operations.

"We are completely revamping the volunteer program," said Director of Development and Communications, Caroline Cicilese. This change came after management and staff discussed their staffing issues.

have the staff to stop each vol- injuries. Cicilese said that many unteer that's here and tell them, times animal body language can 'Hey, we need your help with this or if you're looking for something to do, here is an option," she out the dog" from the cage.



Farrah's adoption fee is sponsored. She is the Martinsville Henry County SPCAs longest

Dogs will also be color coded to indicate how difficult it is to walk them, and volunteers will be given a key to access them.

The agency's new training former program, and looked at manual focuses on the body language of animals, which is a crit-"The intakes never stop. I don't ical tool for volunteers to prevent be misinterpreted without proper training.

"We are going to teach them said. Going forward, "this will be all the cues in dogs' body ranghands-on training for volunteers. es, and even cat language." This We have a lot of volunteers that helps with leashing and walking come in and want to walk dogs, dogs, as well as helping the feline but we don't have the staff to pull residents of the facility, she said.

Board Addresses Impact of Snow Days on Calendar



Kelly Williams is Recognized as VFW Teacher of the Year.

board met on February 10 to dis- days will not be added to the cuss the upcoming to the school school calendar to make up for year calendar and learn about the snow days that have already the school wellness plan to get happened. in line with Virginia's plan.

snow days and noted it has extra the city schools for Martin Ludays scheduled in case of snow. ther King Jr. Day. King's "life pecially at the high school level, ley said, and encouraged anyone that the students get their re-traveling to Atlanta to visit the quired hours," Schools Superin- Martin Luther King, Jr. Nationtendent Dr. Zeb Talley said.

two more weeks, students are and his impact on modern day still in "great shape," he said, civil rights.

The Martinsville City school adding that means that extra

Talley also said that he appre-The board addressed the recent ciated the efforts that he saw in We "will have to make sure, es- and his legacy will live on," Talal Historical Park to learn more Unless the schools are closed about the historical figure's life

#### Rail photography thrives in Martinsville and Henry County



A photograph captured by Dean Steele, a local rail enthusiast.

byists, Martinsville and Hen- Norfolk Southern Winston-Sa-With several active tracks crisscrossing the area, train ern North Carolina. photography is alive and well, and visitors alike.

Dean Steele, a local rail enthusiast, discovered his passion for photographing trains tory of railroad photography. while working near a track in ty. "I have an older brother who was always into trains, shared.

ter a passing train near his you try to do, is get a picture workplace prompted him to of those engines," Steele excall his brother and ask about plained. the numbers on the side of the

Rail photography thrives in locomotive. That curiosity led Martinsville and Henry Coun- him to take a video of a train and share it on Facebook. For rail enthusiasts and hob- Soon, he connected with the ry County have become a hub lem District, a group of rail for capturing images of trains. photography enthusiasts from southern Virginia and north-

"They kind of give a heads drawing the attention of locals up of what trains are coming down," Steele said, noting that the group's members share a deep appreciation for the his-

The group often focuses on the southern part of the coun- locomotives with unique paint schemes, such as the heritage units painted to commemorate you know, model trains. He the 30th anniversary of the had layouts and stuff. He merger between smaller railkind of influenced me," Steele roads that formed the Southern and Norfolk railroads. Steele's fascination grew af- "That's one of the things that



## **OBITUARIES**

#### **June Carol Smith Martin**

Mrs. June Carol Smith Martin, 86, of Ararat, VA, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 7, 2025, at her home, surrounded by family. Mrs. Martin was born June 1, 1938, in Patrick County, VA, to the late Waller Harden "Buster" active member Elizabeth had a love of antique Claudette shows, where they Waller their antique cars. Wendy



ment to care for her Martin; four grand- and church choir. She two sisters-in-law, Maxine cars, bluegrass mu- and Maxine Smith; Tammy sic, Boston Red Sox, three brothers-in- Dorothy eled extensively in Dennis Martin, and Jasmine S. They also attended wright (Jeff), Lin-heimer's could see June and tion to her parents, alservices.com. Jake. She had a pas- June was preced-

ed in death by her ers-in-law, Alton and Gladys Epper- sion for her Boston Jones, Roscoe Epper-Smith. June Red Sox baseball son, and Stuart Margraduated from Blue team. June made tin; and a nephew, in death by his sib- vived by his loving church. Burial will Ridge High School in several trips to Fen- Jeff Epperson. The lings, George Leon- wife of 56 years, follow in Providence 1956, where she was way Park in Boston, funeral service will ard Trent, Aaron Linda Faye Clay- Community Cemean outstanding bas- MA, and to spring be held Thursday, Eugene Trent, and brook Trent of the tery. In lieu of flowketball player. Af- training in Florida to February 13, 2025, Nancy Ruth Trent home; two children, ers, memorial donater high school, she see them play, and if at 2:00 PM at Moody Greer; three neph- Mark Trent (Kim) tions may be made worked as a secre- they were playing on Funeral Home Chap- ews, Steve Greer, of Patrick Springs, to Patrick Springs tary at Adams-Mil- TV, she was there to el in Mount Airy, Ricky Trent, and and Kim Conner Pentecostal lis until she decided cheer them on. Most with the Rev. Mark Stacy Trent, and one (Michael) of Buffalo ness, Church Buildto further her edu- of all, she loved her Collins and the Rev. brother-in-law, Jim- Ridge; two grand- ing Fund, P.O. Box cation. She entered entire family. She Buford E. Jessup my Claybrook. Ce- sons, Levi Trent 55, Patrick Springs, the school of nursing was always there for officiating. Buri- cil was a member of and Rylan Trent; VA 24133. Moody at Surry Community them during sick- al will follow in the Patrick Springs Pen- one College and received ness or health. Her Unity Church Cem- tecostal her nursing degree family always appre- etery. The family Church; he loved his one brother, May- trusted with the in 1974. She worked ciated her and loved will receive friends Lord and Savior Je- nard "Hoss" Trent arrangements as a registered nurse her dearly. She will Thursday from 1:00 sus Christ. He loved (Vernel) of Patrick online condolences at Patrick County certainly be missed. until 2:00 PM at the playing golf and Springs; two broth- may be sent by vis-Hospital and North- She is survived by funeral home. The even made a hole- ers-in-law, ern Hospital of Sur- a son and daughter- family wishes to ex- in-one at Gordon Greer of Patrick neralservices.com. ry County until she in-law, Anthony Lee press their gratitude Trent Golf Course. Springs and Johnny took an early retire- and Yauna Branner for the love, care, He enjoyed watch- Claybrook of Rich- like to express their ailing husband un- children, Mark Rob- shown by the staff dren play baseball in-law, Arlene Trent mary care provider, til he passed away ert Martin, Hannah at Mountain Valley and basketball. He of Patrick Springs Jaime Whitlow, and in 2002. June was Carol Martin, Sarah Hospice and Palli- loved his children and Bonnie Clay- Home Health Care Martin, ative Care and all of The Fellowship and Everett Samu- her caregivers, in- his grandsons and ture; several nieces Light and Jennifer Church, where she el Martin; a sister, cluding Brenda Butwas a generous sup- Marie S. Epperson; ner, Tammy Milette, porter of the church a brother, William Betty Smith, Tamra and a member of the Harden "Bill" Smith; Smith, Taylor Smith, Smith, Smith Claudette and travel. She trav-law, Michael Culler, Sheila Secrest, and ruary 9, 2025 at the United States Felix Martin (Car- In lieu of flowers, Hospital in Mount and parts of Europe. ol); her nieces and memorial contribu- Airy, North Caro-She and her special nephews, Sheila S. tions may be made lina. He was born friend, Jake Brewer, Brown (Rick), Ter- to Mountain Valley in Upshur County, attended many car ry Smith (Tamra), Hospice and Pallia- West Virginia on Chadwick tive Care, P.O. Box May 4, 1932 to the entered several of "Chad" Smith (Erin), 325, Dobson, NC late Ernest Tamblyn Cart- 27017; or the Alz- Curry and Mary Lubluegrass festivals, da J. Newton, Chip tion, Patrick County addition to his par- Nebraska; Raymond officiating. especially at Myrtle Jones, and Gary Ep- Chapter, P.O. Box ents, Mr. Curry was Dale Curry and Alan will follow in Stuart

**Machel Conrad Biggs** 

Mr. Machel Conrad Biggs, age 88, of Patrick Springs, passed Virginia away at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection on February 11, 2025. He was born in Patrick County on September 14, 1936, to the late Isom Dalton Biggs and Nellie Taylor Biggs. In addition the United States Providence Army Reserve. He Methodist gent and inquisitive and caring person. by nature. He was always deep conversations daughters, joyed playing sports, liam) of Champaign, Moody



to his parents, he is tem, which led to Home in Stuart with preceded in death teaching in several Rev. Keith Vernon by a sister-in-law, community colleges officiating. Thyra Yates Biggs. where he retired. will be private. The Mr. Biggs served in He was a member of family will receive was very intelli- and a very loving the funeral home on

Left with learning, derful memories of memorial reading and having Machel are his three tions may be sent with friends or any- Anne Godfrey (Wal- Church, 1021 Provione who was inter- ter) of Chaska, MN, dence Drive, Patrick ested. Machel en- Sarah Zanelli (Wil- Springs, VA 24133. dancing, IL, Natalie Rouland Home in Stuart is being outdoors and (Michael) of Arling- serving the Biggs most of all teaching ton, VA; four grand- Family, and online math and science. children, Ethan and condolences may be He started his ca- Nick Godfrey, Re- sent by vising www. reer in education in bekah and Stephen moodyfuneralserthe Patrick County Zanelli; two broth- vices.com.

Public School Sys- ers, Norman Biggs

of Patrick Springs, VA and David Biggs (Betty) of Patrick Springs, VA; one nephew; four nieces; several great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

A memorial ser-

vice will be held on February Monday, 17, 2025, at 2:00 pm at Moody Funeral United friends one hour pri-Church or to the service at Monday afternoon. won- In lieu of flowers, Leigh to United Methodist Mr. Cecil Leon Trent

Mr.Cecil Leon loving and faithful Trent, age 76, of Pat-Everett rick Springs, Virgin-Lee Martin; an in- ia, passed away on fant daughter, Me- February 13, 2025, lissa Carol Martin; at his home. He two sisters, Bonnie was born in Patrick Smith Culler and County on February Allie Smith Jones; a 19, 1948, to the late brother, Wendell G. George Goode Trent Smith; three broth- and Ivory Myrtle Shough Trent. In addition to his parents, Cecil was preceded compassion ing his grandchil- mond; two sisters- gratitude to his priand being "Papa" to brook of Horsepas- Nurses, great-grandson.



Holiness son, Cooper Trent; Stuart has been enand nephews.

for Mr. Trent will be held Sunday, February 16, 2025, at 3:00 P.M. at Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church, with Pastor Samuel Leonard officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service on Sun-Mr. Trent is sur- day afternoon at the great-grand- Funeral Home in Perry iting www.moodyfu-

Funeral Services

The family would Hartman.

#### Raymond Howard Curry



Mr. Curry is sur- (Ryan) Michael Lee Curry Nathaniel Curry of



daughters-in-law, olina, Sarah Prok- Guard. The family Amy Curry, Beverly sel (Dave) Omaha, will receive friends He served Peatross (Carter) of service at the funerin the United States North Oaks, Minne- al home. In lieu of Navy during the Ko-sota, Ben Curry of flowers, rean war. He loved Mt. Vernon, Wash- als may be made to in the sun, and tell- of Kansas City, Mis- School Road, Stuing stories about his souri, Thad Curry art, Virginia 24171. childhood in West (Tyger) of Stuart, Online condolences Kimberly vived by three sons, North Carolina and neralservices.com.

Stuart; and eleven great-grandchildren, Will, Evann, Nick, Abby, Annie, Jack, Grace, Joey, Tessa, Ruthie and Lottie.

A funeral service for Mr. Curry will be held Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pas-Mickey ducted by the Pat-Katie one hour prior to the Steele may be sent by visof King, iting www.moodyfu-

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## PATRICK PULPITS

# **Movers And Shakers Change The World**

By Van Yandell

2 Corinthians 11: 24-26 "Of the night and a day I have been in the for everyone. deep; In journeyings often, in perin the city, in perils in the wilderamong false brethren."

In the New Testament, especrucifixion, the Pharisees and Romans saw Jesus as a troublemaknothing uncommon for many to see fice for the sins of the world. the movers and shakers as troublemakers

good as they could be. Being motivated to mention these discrepancies, at times they have been classified as trouble makers or movers and shakers.

If one is prone to pointing out dream of. what they see as problems, they helping solve those problems. Being classified as a complainer is often the result.

Others tend to visualize a perfect world and recommend improvements. There is no doubt in the try are movers and shakers. They minds of Christians Jesus made a definite improvement in the connection between man and God.

Jesus preached forgiveness of sin by grace and mercy. 1 John 1: 9 "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, the misconception that some in and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This was contradictory of what the Pharisees believed and taught.

John 1: 17 "For the law was giver; He shook up the world!

scription or definition of how Jesus would stop. changed the world more than any other passage in the Bible. Before er is not safe at times. Stephen Jesus' death on the cross and then preached the gospel of Jesus and His resurrection, the world sought became the first martyr for Christ. atonement for sin by making a Acts 7: 59 "They stoned Stephen, blood sacrifice on the altar.

Hebrews 9: 22b "without the shedding of blood there is no reand shed blood provided the world with remission of sin that nothing else could provide. He became that blood sacrifice for every one of us.

The connection between the Old the Gospel. and New Testaments is made prithe blood sacrifice. The Old Testament Jew took an animal to the was on Mt Moriah where God told Abraham to take his son Isaac and sacrifice him.

not sacrifice unto the LORD thy is blemish, or any evil favouredness: for that is an abomination." The sacrificial lamb must be with-

out blemish; it had to be perfect.

For Jesus to have been the per-Jews five times received I forty fect blood sacrifice for the sins of lashes save one. Thrice was I beat- mankind. His life had to be withen with rods, once was I stoned, out sin (1 Peter 2: 22). Only then thrice I suffered shipwreck, a could He serve as the atonement

Many are today promoting that ils of waters, in perils of robbers, Jesus was not born of a virgin. in perils by mine own countrymen, Matthew 1: 23 "Behold, a virgin in perils by the heathen, in perils shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his ness, in perils in the sea, in perils name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

Had Jesus not been born of a cially during the week before the virgin and fathered by the Holy Ghost, He could not have lived a perfect sinless life and would not er. Throughout history, it has been have sufficed as the atoning sacri-

Movers and shakers are people that have power and influence and Some have an inclination to see make things happen. Throughout things that are not right or not as American history we have had many movers and shakers. The signers of The Declaration of Independence were movers and shakers. Because of them we have freedom that many in our world only

Several American presidents should be willing and capable of were movers and shakers while other were figureheads only and mostly worthless. Others created a state of chaos and poverty for the people they represented.

> Leaders in business and indusget things done! Many object and even protest against the higher paid CEO's of industry but without them, no one would have a job and multitudes would be in poverty.

> Capitalism has been a victim of management are being paid excessive salaries. But without them the factories would close and the masses would starve.

The shakers job is to shake en by Moses, but grace and truth things up and make things hapcame by Jesus Christ." Yes, Jesus pen. Whether in current day definitely was a mover and a shak- business and industry or in Bible times, without these that are bold, John 1: 17, gives us a better deassertive and innovative the world

Being a mover and a shakhe called upon God saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Acts 17: 6b "These that have mission of sin." Jesus' suffering turned the world upside down are come hither also." Paul and his fellow missionaries were movers and shakers. It is time to turn the world upside-down once again for

As we saw in the leading scripmarily because of the concept of ture (2 Corinthians 11: 24-26) the Apostle Paul suffered many hardships and sufferings to the extreme altar to sacrifice for his atonement. to go into the (known) world and The most known place of sacrifice testify Jesus. To be a mover and a shaker is not always easy and certainly not safe or simple. But for a better world and to get the truth to Deuteronomy 17: 1 "Thou shalt the masses, they must be.

Yandell is a retired Industrial God any bullock, or sheep, wherein Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email is vmy2121@ outlook.com.

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#### BIBLE TRIVIA

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.

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#### **Super** Crossword 41 Coffee type

**ICKY ENDING** 

90 Cary Grant

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19 Starchyielding plant 21 They may disturb sleep 22 — -Seltzer

23 Nut acquired with great effort? 25 Nail salon job, in brief box (TV)

27 Cathedral in London 28 R&B's Brown 29 Prohibits 30 Erfurt article 31 Sprinkle sofa

shams with water drops? 35 Calf-roping event 37 Link with

38 Casino cube 39 "Boo!" shouter 43 French city on the Rhone

47 Tax org. 48 Stan of jazz saxophone 49 Catholic dignitary's

vigorous strength? 52 West African country 54 Juneau

native

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123

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**55** Directives 103 Class 57 Like Stoker's "Dracula" 61 Steal from 62 Liking a lot 64 Overly crooked? 108 Marcel 66 Quite dry

68 Stock debut, for short **70** "Nope" 71 Often-twisted cookie 72 Long-billed wading bird

that loves 116 Chicago perching on flexed arm muscles? 78 Testing stage **81** Early 1960s atty, gen.

engineer 122 Indian bread sav 85 Liken (to) 87 Joan of folk 89 Climate that

promotes the growth of powdery fungus? 91 Pale-looking

94 "Get 'em. Fido!" 96 Model X carmaker 97 Runs after 98 Aussie

**101** "You're

pal!

leaper 99 Grand house

4 Big fusses 5 "... Mac -PC?" teaching the techniques 6 Goofed of Civil War photographer (around) 7 Quebec city 8 Stair unit

Marceau's 9 At just the right time 10 Author Dahl Cherry (Ocean Spray 11 Actress Jacqueline

flavor) 113 Pretty good 12 "Kinda sorta" grade 13 Golf peg 114 Antennae 14 Detroit-toand tentacles Memphis dir. 15 Crawford of the NBA

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**32** 2006

airport 16 In style 117 Unlatch, e.g. 118 Baseballer 17 "Told ya so! Rod when 18 — faire 20 Soggy not using a chauffeur? 24 Pat gently

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83 Made airtight, 123 Literary afterthought 124 Great skill 125 Small vortex 126 Literary

journalist Gay 127 Syringe 128 "Iliad" city DOWN

1 Polite title man 2 Luxury handbag

Hatch

Nintendo debut 33 Salon service 34 "We have for an Indian the OK" 35 Japanese

"energy healing' 36 Thereabouts 3 Longtime 39 Egyptian

53 Lav. to Brits 56 Sailor's mop 58 Victory cries **59** Lacking frost **60** Snug-fitting necklaces 63 Artistic work 65 "Riverdale" network

**42** Ave.

crossers

44 Old Italian

money

46 Look for 48 U.S. naval

for short

50 Crazy caper

51 Small bird

base in Cuba.

45 Stops

67 "You Light Up My Life" Loud" singer. singer Boone 69 City in Utah presidential 73 Stir-fry tidbit

74 Teeter-totter 75 Café au 76 Macpherson or Fanning **77** Gets hitched

79 Protective 115 Spacewalks shoe tip 80 "- and **116** Mo. #10 the Night Visitors' 84 Oscar Hoya

element

118 Tennis unit 119 Air quality gp. **120** — Mama 86 School org. 88 Galvanizing (rapper) 121 School stat

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#### **LEGAL**

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

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

#### LEGAL

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1683 WILLIS ROAD, MEADOWS OF DAN, VA 24120. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 12, 2012, in the original principal amount of \$120,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 120001901. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on March 31, 2025, at 3:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THOSE TWO CERTAIN TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE BLUE RIDGE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PAR-

TICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: CONTAINING 36.980 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND 1.00 ACRE, MORE OR LESS; AND BEING THE SAME TWO TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND CONVEYED TO MICHAEL RAY BRIDGES AND SUSAN CAROL RAINES BRIDGES, HUSBAND AND WIFE, BY DEED FROM MICHAEL RAY BRIDGES, DATED OCTOBER 6, 2010, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERICS OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 1001737, TO WHICH DEED REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit often percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555,

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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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• State Graded Feeder Sale every Saturday For directions to our facility, weekly

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Wednesday, February 19, 2025 - 11

#### Meetings

Monday, Feb. 24

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a budget session at 6 p.m. in the third-floor court room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a board retreat starting at 10 a.m. at the Reynolds Homestead.

The Patrick County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will meet at 4 p.m. in the Patrick County School Board Office. The meeting is open to the public.

Thursday, Mar. 13

The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the School Board Office.

Wednesday, Mar. 19

The Stuart Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. in the Town Office.

#### **Events**

Thursday, Feb. 20

The Patrick County Republican Committee will meet at 6 p.m. at the Motorsports Hall of Fame Auditorium in Stuart.

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.

The Patrick County Democratic Committee will meet at 11 a.m. in the Patrick County Library in Stuart.

Collinstown Stateline Community Building in Westfield, NC, will hold a chicken stew fundraiser starting at 4 p.m. Donations only. For questions call (336) 407-1450.

Through Monday, Feb. 24

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 from the yard sales are used to purchase supsoftball (grades 6-7). Games will be played in plies. Members meet on the first Monday of April and May. Parents can complete a sign- every month at 6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's ofup form at any of the elementary schools, on fice, located on Wood Brothers Drive, in the 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.





#### Friday, March 1

Community Breakfast at Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad, 7:30-10 a.m. Plates are \$8 each and dine in, take out, and curb service options are available. Orders can be placed by calling (276) 694-6171.

Poor Man's Supper hosted by CCDF Fire & Rescue, 4-7 p.m. at the CCDF Fire & Rescue Building, 2086 Dry Pond Highway. Plates are \$6 each and include pintos, cornbread, chowchow or slaw (option to add onions) dessert and drink. Call (276) 694-6025 with questions and or to place orders.

#### 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.

#### Tuesday, March 4

The Stuart Church of the Living Water will hold an All-Day Pancake meal at Stuart Volunteer Fire Station from 7 a.m.- 6 p.m. Adults \$10, children (10 years and under) \$5. To place an order, dial (276) 694-3322.

#### Saturday, March 8

meet from 2-4 p.m. at the Star Theatre. Learn about Patrick County's colonial history from is free and open to anyone interested in our music and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m. local history.

The Patrick County Master Gardeners will hold its 15th annual Spring Symposium: Master Your Garden at Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC). Guest speakers are Jim Mitchell of Mitchell's Nursery and Stesha Warren, an Agroforestry Technical Trainer and owner of Eliana's Garde, LLC. The symposium will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and vendors and light refreshments will be available. Registration is \$10 per person, and pre-registration is encouraged due to limited seating. Send fee and information for each person attending (name, full address, email address, and contact number) to Ms. Glenda Cobbler, 932 Palmetto School Road, Stuart, VA 24171.

#### Ongoing

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

Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC is The Patrick County Recreation Department open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During opening hours an inside yard sale is open to the public. Proceeds basement of Hills Tax Service. New members 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,

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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

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.

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 Wednes-

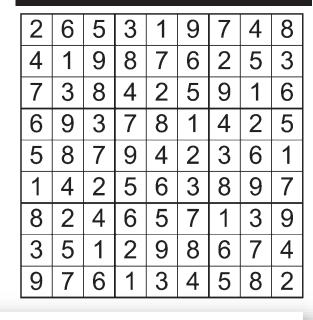
The Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Monday of the month The Patrick County VA250 Committee will at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food. The music and dancing are 6:30-9 p.m.; Goldlocal historians, and about the upcoming local en Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday Semiquincentennial celebrations. This event of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food,

> 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.

> Patrick County Senior Citizens is sponsoring two upcoming trips — three-days, twonights to Lancaster, Pa., June 18-20, and a one-day trip on August 2 is planned to Narro-Way Dinner Theatre, Fort Mill, South Carolina. For more information, call (276) 694-3917.

# Thank You for reading The Enterprise





## Probation reform is moving through the General Assembly

By Del. Wren Williams

Criminal justice reform has become a key focus in Virginia, with lawmakers embracing policies that emphasize rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and give individuals second chances. These reforms are essential to creating a more effective and humane justice system that helps individuals reintegrate into society, fosters personal responsibility, and promotes public safety.

Under Governor Glenn Youngkin's leadership, Virginia has made significant strides in advancing criminal justice reform through initiatives such as the "Stand Tall, Stay Strong, Succeed Together" Reentry Initiative. This executive order strengthens the state's commitment to supporting successful reentry for individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system. By prioritizing collaboration between state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local communities, the initiative provides critical resources such as education, job training, mental health services, and stable housing to help individuals transition successfully back into society.

Virginia's approach aligns with successful models seen in other states, such as Florida, which has implemented policies allowing individuals on supervision to earn credits toward reducing their terms by engaging in rehabilitative actions. This system, which rewards proactive efforts like completing educational programs, job training, and securing stable housing, fosters personal accountability and helps individuals move beyond their past mistakes. By offering individuals the tools to rebuild their lives while maintaining accountability, Virginia can create a similar path to success.

Moreover, Virginia lawmakers are working to bring the state's probation system in line with these progressive approaches through proposed legislation such as House Bill 2252 and Senate Bill 936. I am proud to be patroning the House version of this bill.

These bills would allow individuals on probation to reduce their terms based on their participation in rehabili- in Stuart.



tation programs, much like the systems implemented in Florida. This would not only encourage self-improvement but also alleviate the burden on probation officers and reduce the state's overall resources spent on prolonged supervi-

The push for these reforms in Virginia reflects a bipartisan consensus that the status quo — focused on punitive measures — has not yielded positive results. By focusing on rehabilitation, Virginia is moving toward a more effective and efficient system that benefits individuals, communities, and taxpayers. Reducing recidivism, offering second chances, and providing the necessary resources for reintegration help create a safer and more productive society.

The ongoing efforts in Virginia demonstrate that criminal justice reform is not an either/or between punishment and rehabilitation. Instead, Virginia lawmakers are proving that a balanced, compassionate approach can reduce crime, save money, and help individuals rebuild their lives, ultimately benefiting the entire state.

Williams represents the 47th House District, which covers Carroll, Floyd and Patrick counties, part of Henry County and the City of Galax. A Republican from Stuart, Williams also is the president of Schneider & Williams, P.C.

# **COTTAGE INDUSTRY** ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION IF YOU ARE A HOME BASED BUSINESS GROWING, MAKING OR BAKING WE WANT YOU TO PARTICIPATE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS EVENT IS TO BRING TOGETHER OUR COTTAGE INDUSTRY SECTOR AND DISCUSS WAYS THE CHAMBER, PATRICK COUNTY AND REYNOLDS HOMESTEAD CAN ASSIST IN HELPING YOU GROW YOUR BUSINESS.

# Cottage Industry Representatives invited to event

The Patrick County Chamber of ber, county and Reynolds Homewill host a roundtable discussion your business. with area Cottage Industry busi-The purpose of this event is to bring together the area's cottage industry sector and discuss ways the cham-tageroundtable.

Commerce and Reynolds Homestead stead can assist in helping you grow

The kitchen roundtable discussion nesses. If you are a home-based is set for Wednesday, March 5, from business growing, making or bak- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 410 Patrick Aveing, you're invited to participate. nue, Stuart. A light lunch included.

Access the registration through our website or https://bit.ly/pccot-

# Fraud Alert: Crypto

tocurrency scams have of a modern-day romance surged, with billions stolen annually. One of the biggest drivers of this trend? Romance scams. By building trust and forging deep emotional connections, scammers can manipulate their victims into making financial decisions they would not normally consider.

If someone you've only met online claims they are making money with you do the same, it's a scam - full stop. It does not matter how genuine they seem or what "proof" they attempt to show you; encouraging you to invest and claiming that you can make extraordinary re-

In recent years, cryp- is one of the surest signs

These criminals often pressure you to act fast, making it seem like you are about to miss out on a golden opportunity another big red flag. The safest way to invest is to opportunities research to ensure they are legitimate and that you understand the risk as well as the potential. A good place to start is at the crypto and offers to help SEC's site, www.investor.

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

ing for UI benefits, and

are a good indicator of

labor market conditions.

While continued claims

are not a leading indica-

tor, they provide confirm-

ing evidence of the direc-

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#### Arrests Reported The Patrick County Sheriff's Office re-County Jail, was charged Feb. 10 with

ported the following:

\*Emily Ann Church, 29, of Ridgeway, was charged Feb. 7 with two counts of probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Brent Russell Barnes, 49, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 7 with fail to appear. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Tyler Benjamin Brockney, 24, of Stuart, was charged Feb. 9 with shop- dress unavailable, was charged Feb. 13 lift. Senior Deputy H.R. Hylton was the arresting officer.

\*Hailey Faith Boatman, 22, of Hillsville, was charged Feb. 3 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Sgt. M.L. Harris was the arresting offi-

\*Emily Ann Church, 29, of Patrick

two counts probation violation (felony) and one count probation violation (misdemeanor). Sgt. I.R. Wood made the arrest for Henry County.

\*Shaine Scott Eckrote, 31, of Martinsville, was charged Feb. 12 with assault and battery on law enforcement officer. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

\*Cameron Samuel Santillo, 30, adwith three counts of probation violation. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County.

\*Joseph Ty Kiser, 34, of Ridgeway, was charged Feb. 13 with drive while intoxicated. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

#### Unemployment Rise

The 3,202 unemployment insurance weekly initial claims filed during the week ending February 08, 2025, is 22.9 percent higher than last week's 2,606 claims and 24.5 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (2,571), according to Virginia Works.

Nearly 73 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (61 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (426); Admin-

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• Chicken Feed

• Beef Grower Feeds

• Corn Gluten Pellets

Whole Beef Hamburger

Performance

Company

Livestock & Feed

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and Waste Management (313); Health Care and Social Assistance (275); Retail Trade (204); and Manufacturing (169).

Continued weeks claims (17,288) were 0.5 percent higher than last week (17,201) and were 11.5 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (15,511). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (57 percent) were Professional, Scientific,

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Soyhull Pellets

· Calf Feed

istrative and Support and Technical Services (2,508);Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,159);Construction (1,622);Health Care and Social Assistance (1,444); and Manufacturing (1,397).

> A person who has already filed an initial claim

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files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers fil-**Guaranteed Paying** 

and who has experienced

a week of unemployment

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

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Standing Timber or Timberland Stuart, VA

Contact Ronnie Bolt at

# **Buying Logs**

(276) 694-4432

# Top Woolwine Warrior Readers Named



Pre-K-Colton Edwards and Addisyn Vipperman (tied)

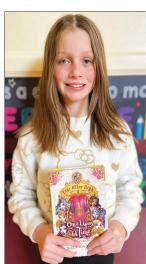
Woolwine Elementary School nounced the names of the top readers who participated in the Warrior Reading program during the second quarter. Each student who reached their grade level goal received a free snack and a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut. In addition, students who read the most books in each grade also received a free book. Congratulations!







Hughes



Grade-Lacie







Second



Grade-Sophia Third Grade-Lillian King

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

# Stuffed Animal State Service Project

By Kaydence Harman

Patrick County High School The PCHS Sr. Beta Club assisted Virginia Senior Beta's yearly service project by collecting new and "gently" loved stuffed animals to donate to the members of the Hampton Police Department. The intent of this project is to provide the Hampton Police Department stuffed animals to distribute to young children that they interact with on calls. The stuffed animals collected by PCHS Sr. Beta Club were donated to the Hampton Police Department at Virginia Sr. Beta Convention on February 7. It is hoped that these toys will bring happiness and comfort to the children who receive them. We thank everyone that contributed stuffed animal donations.



# **Coming Soon!**

Give a shout out to your favorite businesses around Martinsville & Stuart - Patrick & Henry County



# **Get Ready To Vote**

# Cast your votes from Feb. 21st to March 21st

More than 100 categories—from

- Steakhouse Wineries Pizzerias
- Event Centers Law firms Jewelry Stores
  - Ice Cream Shops and much more,

You can cast your votes in each Category

Our ballot is super simple! Don't know much about the accounting firm in your region? Feel free to skip it and move on. Fill out the entire ballot if you're feeling ambitious, or pick and choose among our categories. Select from our drop down list, or if your favorite coffee shop or spa isn't listed, write in your own winner. And, take your time. Our voting platform saves your votes, so you don't have to feel rushed. That means you can return to the ballot to continue choosing your favorites without worrying about any of your votes being lost.

Winner's will be published in The Enterprise on April 30, 2025 & The Henry County Enterprise on May 3, 2025.

# **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!









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**Keith Gunter Auctioneer/Sale Manager** 276-952-5281 VAAL#2 1310 EMS Dr, Mount Airy

336-789-2926 NCAL#685



# Edible Landscaping: Let Your **Imagination Run Wild**

By Kristine Adel

I have a friend who plants a vegetable garden every year. The perfectly square plot sits in perfectly full sun with perfectly straight rows of corn and tomatoes, peas and potatoes, zucchini and cucumber and squash and everything

But she also has cherry tomatoes volunteering in her flower even in the dappled shade under her trees. It seems that some birds really like cherry tomatoes. They like them so much, they accidentally plant them in all kinds of

strange places.

Maybe they would do better in if a sunnier place isn't available. full sun (6 or more hours daily), but honestly, they don't seem to suffer. I think the variety she grows just isn't quite as fussy as the planting instructions think they are. In fact, a lot of fruits and vegetables do fine in partial shade, dappled shade, and understory conditions.

Leafy greens may actually do beds, beside her walk way, and better with some shade to keep them cool and crisp.

> Many Herbs like parsley, mint, and lovage also like a shady gar-

Broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and the lawn mower.

places that get good sun for 4-5 hours a day.

Root Vegetables like beets, carrots, potatoes, and radishes may not get as big as others grown in full sun, but they still perform in as little as 3-4 hours of direct sun.

Rhubarb comes back year after year and grows well in partial shade. My grandmother kept hers in the northeast corner where the porch joined the house - a spot

Don't forget that anything grown on a pole or a trellis will get more sun than the same plant trailing along the ground - think cucumbers, squash, and runner beans.

Amaranth, arugula, Bok choy, collards, cress, endive, kale, lettuce, mustard greens, spinach, Swiss chard - try them in a container - as a border - or a conversation starter in an ornamental garden. The foliage can be just as pretty as the ornamentals you plant them with, adding interest,

cabbage will grow in partial shade texture and color to any garden.

There's no need to limit your Peas and beans can make do in ideas to annuals either. Choke currants, gooseberry and pawpaw are all excellent choices for the understory in a wooded area.

> Need a shade tree? Try a persimmon. Would you rather have something ornamental? Fruit and nut trees like apple, cherry and almond really show off in the spring.

Have fun and Remember to tune in to WHEO Radio, 92.7 FM or 1270 AM, February 25 when Patwith very little sun, but safe from rick County Master Gardeners will be discussing the topic of Raising Specialty Crops: Asparagus, Rhubarb and Horseradish.

Mark your calendars for the 15th Annual Patrick County Master Gardener Symposium, 'Master Your Garden' on March 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Patrick & Henry Community College, 212 Wood Brothers Dr., Stuart. Registration

Contact the Patrick County Master Gardener Association at pcmgassn@gmail.com for general questions and information.

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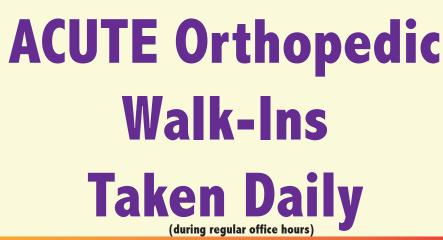
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