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# Hospital renovations advance, Braden Health prepares for regulatory review



Kyle Kopec, co-founder and COO of Braden Health (foreground), and Revenue Cycle Director Larry Henson (background), said the curb blocking EMS vehicles has been removed.

#### By Taylor Boyd

Braden Health continues to make progress on reopening the former Patrick County Community Hospital, after purchasing the facility at auction. The company is actively working on renovations and regulatory requirements to bring the hospital back into operation.

opening date remains internal – for now.

"The reason why we do that is with construction and with certifications, timelines shift forwards and backwards," Kopec said. "We don't



Braden Health Revenue Cycle Director Larry Henson said work on the facility's new roof should be completed soon.

date, or open early and have EMS (Emergency Medical Services) not be ready."

As construction nears completion, Braden Health will provide more specific updates on the timeline.

"It's just still early on with construction and certification ... we're not within a margin of er-Kyle Kopec, co-founder and COO, said the ror or comfortable enough to say this date or that date," Kopec said. "In a few months, a few weeks, that may change, but we're not announcing anything at this time."

Instead of making early public commitments,



Company officials said several parking spots will be designated exclusively for EMS vehicles.

want to say, 'Here's a date,' and then move the Kopec said Braden Health prefers to focus on delivering results.

> "We'd just rather work and then pleasantly surprise everybody with it being ahead of schedule—or if we need a little bit more time, doing it the right way," he said.

> Braden Health's decision to reopen Patrick County's hospital came after the facility had been on the company's watchlist for rural hospitals in need of assistance.

> "An opportunity presented itself for us to be able to provide the services," Kopec said. "We

(See Hospital p. 2)

### Frustrations aired as company seeks support for grant

#### By Taylor Boyd

A local telephone and internet company addressed concerns about service issues affecting some Patrick County residents and received a letter of support to pursue Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program fund-

Brightspeed Government Affairs and Public Policy Director Chris Dillon said the company, a two-and-a-half-year-old five years. startup, purchased Cennow serves localities in 20 and businesses," he said.

Brightspeed has built infrastructure to reach 1.8 million residents in 2024, making it the third-largest fiber builder in the United States, Dillon said.

"So that puts us behind giants like AT&T, Verizon, and above people like Google and other huge providers," he said.

Dillon acknowledged that aging copper lines



Brightspeed Government Affairs and Public Policy Director Chris Dillon discusses the company's BEAD application.

County. He said the industry is transitioning away from copper, which will no longer exist within

"That is a great thing turyLink's assets and for you and your residents service calls were expect-

> Brightspeed has also increased fiber installation efforts. Since acquiring CenturyLink's infrastructure, the company has seen a 49 percent increase in 48-hour repairs, a 38 percent increase in 96-hour repairs, and a decrease to fewer than three trouble tickets per 100 customers within a year of ownership.

However, Hurricane Helene impacted the comare a problem in Patrick pany's services and fiber

projects, Dillon said.

"That has impacted service for all companies and utilities in this part of the region," he said.

The company's out-ofed to be resolved within 48 hours, Dillon said at the meeting. "If you call before a certain time, I think it's 2 p.m., we can get same-day repairs on most trouble tickets to your home. We are fully

staffed. To transition from copper to fiber, Brightspeed has partnered with Verizon Wireless to launch a fixed wireless voice and data solution for its remaining copper cus-(See Frustrations p. 3)



Candy Elliott, LeeAnn Seeley, Dana Jones, Debbie Sayre, Lynn Chipkin, Amber Rakes at the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter for the holiday food treat for the shelter cats and dogs.

### Animal Welfare League Expands **Efforts to Support Animals**

By Taylor Boyd

welfare volunteers is working to support the animals of Patrick County through adoptions, pet food assistance, and spay/neuter programs.

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League (BRAWL), founded last year, aims to provide resources to pet owners while helping reduce overcrowding at the Patrick County Animal Shelter. The organization assists in finding homes for animals, ensuring they are spayed/neutered and healthy, and offering other services as needed.

Dana Jones, BRAWL's president, has decades of experience in animal welfare, including managing an SPCA in Norfolk for seven years.

"There, I opened a low-cost spay/ neuter clinic and transitioned the shelter to no-kill during that time," Jones said. "I have about 30 years of nonprofit management experience."

in the position until

the end of the year,

mainder of the seat's

term. He has already

announced his inten-

tion to run for the posi-

Pittis said his deci-

tion in the election.

Vice President Lynn Chipkin, a li-

censed veterinary technician, has vol-A coalition of experienced animal unteered in animal rescue for many years, including 25 years with the Floyd County Humane Society. She also worked at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Virginia Tech.

Jones said meeting Chipkin and working on BRAWL's mission answered her personal call to volunteer.

"Out of the need to really establish an organization, we created this nonprofit," she said. "There's just so many opportunities we feel that we have to offer this community - not just the pet food pantry and the spay/neuter program, but a real partnership with Animal Control and the Patrick County Animal Shelter."

Jones noted that the Patrick County Animal Shelter's euthanasia rate is nearly twice the state average.

Addressing Shelter Overcrowding Noting that the shelter has a euthanasia rate that's nearly twice the state (See Animal p.3)

### Board donates cell tower lease funds to Promise program

#### By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County School Board approved using funds it receives from the cell tower at Patrick County High School (PCHS) to help further local education.

Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said Milestone Towers, a Virginia-based telecommunication provider, recently completed all the necessary permits, and the school system deposed the \$25,000 lease agreement.

"We're thankful for that revenue and that is for the board's determination on how we want to utilize that fund. It is not earmarked for any project in our budget yet, it was additional revenue," he said at the board's meeting on February

The company that's leasing the tower will begin paying its lease on March 1, and a second cellphone carrier is also interested in conversations with Milestone about using the cell tower, Wood said.

"They're just in negotiations right now with the second carrier to see if this is a good prime location, but



presented Board Clerk Sara Leigh Collins with a certificate for School Board Clerk Appreciation Month.

(See Board p. 2)

#### Pittis tapped to fill vacancy on council By Taylor Boyd The Stuart Town Council recently appointed Robert "Bob" Pittis as an interim council member, during a meeting earlier this month. Pittis, 65, will serve

with a special election scheduled for Novem-Bob Pittis will serve as an interim member of Stuart ber to determine who Town Council. will complete the re-

im role stemmed from a long-standing interest in politics and a desire to contribute to the town.

"I thought it would sion to seek the inter- be nice to be on council

and just maybe be part of making the town even better," he said. "I know we're doing fantastic now, the council's doing an excellent job and everybody, and I'm so proud to live here. I just want to get on there and maybe see if I can't add a little bit more to it too." Pittis emphasized

that while the town council governs, its focus remains on serving the residents of Stuart.

"We have so many great people within our town here, and that's who we work for is the

(See Pittis p. 4)

### Hospital =

(cont. from page 1)

monitor all of the rural hospitals in the United States, and when an opportunity presents itself, we're able to act on it."

Compared to other hospital revitalization projects, this one is relatively straightforward, Kopec said.

"A lot of rural hospitals are in much worse shape than this one," he said, adding much of the credit for that is due to uninterrupted electri- The hospital's laboratory is undergoing a full overhaul, and work on other interior spaces continues, with walls being removed and cal service and that the building was winterized.

Kopec does not anticipate any single major challenge during the construction process but emphasized the importance of thorough inspections and allowing contractors the time needed to complete their work prop-

"As far as regulatory landscape, that's been fairly straightforward. The state has given a great amount of attention, and as far as things like movable equipment, our vendors are aware of this project and are keeping an eye on things," he said.

Braden Health Revenue Cycle Director Larry Henson will serve as the hospital's acting CEO when the facility reopens.

"It will be a temporary position, but we want to make sure that we get the first CEO for the job to permanently take over this location," Henson said.

Kopec said Braden Health has a transition team to support new hospitals until they become self-sufficient.

We're not announcing a CEO or anything right now, but he'll sort of be the onsite person that can help Braden Health resources make sure we're providing the proper training and things," Kopec said.

As staffing needs arise, the company plans to hire local doctors, nurses, and other hospital personnel.

Kopec said physician interest has already been high, and lack is not a concern.

"It's not very unusual for us to go into a community, open a hospital, and have a lot of difficulty in bringing physicians in," he said. "It's just



equipment repositioned. something that's not really a concern

for us."

Kopec also noted that he does not anticipate staffing Registered Nurses (RN) to be a challenge either. In Tennessee, Braden Health was the only healthcare company that didn't experience a nursing shortage or require temporary travel nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, local plumbers, electricians, and workers are being used whenever possible for hospital construction and renovation projects. Henson said the emergency room

(ER) entrance is being cleaned and reorganized to enhance efficiency. "The layout is already a good layout, so we're happy with that," he

Beyond the nurse's station, registration area, and trauma rooms, the medical surgery wing will house pa-

tients needing extended care. The hospital contains 50 rooms in its medical surgery wing. Braden Health will initially license only 25 beds. There are currently no plans to

"The utilization of the hospital was never that high with medical surgical," Kopec said.

obtain licensing for 50 rooms.

Henson said one room is being converted into a medicine room, where staff will store and distribute medi-

Regulatory updates are also being made to ensure compliance with nursing and pharmacy laws.

Several structural improvements are underway, including:

Plumbing updates to replace hundreds of patch-repaired pipes.



Asbestos mitigation to com-

ply with safety regulations.

Electrical rewiring to modernize outdated systems.

IT infrastructure replacement to remove old, unused wiring.

"The vacuum lines have all been cleared and marked," Kopec said. "Information Technology (IT) working on removing all of the wires you see in the roof. None of them are within any of the current use of any medical equipment, so they're all being pulled out, and we're going to have people put in new" equipment.

The hospital's roof replacement project is well underway.

"We peeled off about seven or eight inches of tar roofing before starting the new roof," Henson said.

The new system includes:

- Six inches of insulation to meet R-Value standards.
- A thick plastic coating for added protection.
- Redone drainage systems.

Company officials are working closely with local officials and EMS personnel to ensure the hospital's exterior and emergency access points meet safety standards.

EMS Coordinator Scottie Cassell reported issues with ambulance access due to a curb near the ER entrance.

"He said getting the EMS vehicle in was a challenge, so we took out this curb," Henson said. "He said the lighting was terrible, so we updated the lighting."

Additionally, some parking spaces near the ER entrance will be designated exclusively for EMS vehicles.

New lighting will be installed around the hospital's exterior to improve visibility and safety.

"We don't want anybody hurting themselves going into the actual hospital, so we'll get some new light poles in here and update this exterior area as well," Henson said.

The hospital parking lot will also receive repairs before the facility reopens.

'We won't be opening the hospital with the parking lot's current state," Kopec said.

The company is evaluating the feasibility of adding a helipad for critical patient transport.

"The Virginia Aviation Office is going to play a role in it, just like they did the last time when the hospital opened," Kopec said. "We are on one of the published approaches for the Blue Ridge Airport, so we need to see if that needs to be updated or not with the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration)."

Kopec emphasized that even after construction is completed, the state must conduct regulatory inspections before the hospital can begin operations.

"They come through and tell us everything they want us to change, then we do that, then there's another inspection," he said. "It's a very choreographed dance."

The first state inspection is scheduled for late February or mid-March.

'We're looking forward to them coming out, hopefully pointing out things preemptively if they see anything that we can already work on adjusting," Kopec said.

### **Board**

(cont. from page 1)



certificates during School Board Appreciation Month.

the carrier reached out of \$5,000. to them. It's not like calls and asking someone here's a tower with lease space, so the second carrier is interested because they must cal students. know there's a need here." Wood said.

initial lease agreement the board approved of \$25,000, the school contributing \$25,000 division will receive from the cell tower for its first three years. \$1,000 per month from to the Patrick Couneach carrier. If a second carrier comes on funds from the month-

Milestone said it was there will be a onevery promising, in that time lease agreement

Discussions Wood they were doing cold has had with board members indicate the board wants the funds used in the best way possible to impact lo-

by Walter Scott, of the had been raised for the In addition to the Smith River District, Promise, which was ty Promise, and any

& Henry Community College (P&HCC) also be sent to the Promise in June of each fiscal

ck County Education said he agreed Foundation, the Patrick County Promise is aimed at increasing the post-high school credential attainment rates and the economic attractiveness and workforce development potential of the Patrick County region and decreasing population migration from Patrick County.

As of early Decem-In a motion made ber, about \$160,000 about \$110,000 shy of being able to launch

> "Right time wrong time, I'd like

ly lease not used for to challenge the Patcurrent students du- rick County Board of al-enrolled at Patrick Supervisors to do the same when they get the opportunity," Scott said.

Supervisor member Started by the Pat- attended the meeting, demic growth in the amended. Scott.

that and put it out there I think three or four times already," Marshall, who represents Blue the Ridge District, said.

Rob Martin, of the Dan River District, said he first heard of the Promise last year.

"I think that's excellent for our kids that want to extend their education beyond our doors to Patrick & Community Henry College," he said.

In other matters, the board:

\*Approved the con-

sent agenda.

tendent's report. \*Heard an update on the 2024-2025 school

\*Heard the superin-

board budget. \*Heard a presenta-

"I've been arguing cates to board mem- Ridge District, did not bers for School Board attend the meeting.

Appreciation Month.

\*Presented a certificate to board clerk Sarah Leigh Collins for School Board Clerk Appreciation Month.

\*Approved Steve Marshall, who tion on student aca- personnel report as

\*Presented certifi- Harrell, of the Blue

### Pets of the Week



These beautiful girls are friendly and only two years old. They are so deserving of a loving home. Free spays and rabies vaccinations. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter or their Facebook page, to find information about these and other available pets in need of a forever home. Adop-



tion fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination. The Blue Ridge

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

1500 Kings Mtn Rd.

Martinsville, VA,

### Initial unemployment claims down

employment insurance weekly initial claims sistance (1,535); and Manufacturing (1,382). were filed during the week ending February 15, 2025, which is 9.5 percent lower than last claim and who has experienced a week of unweek's 3,202 claims and 27.6 percent higher

than the comparable week of last year (2,272). Nearly 74 percent of claimants self-reported top five industries (64 percent) were Manufacturing (400); Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (378); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (255); Health Care and Social Assistance (181); and Retail Trade (162).

Continued weeks claims (17,579) were 1.7 percent higher than last week (17,288) and were 11.1 percent higher than the comparable week of last year (15,817). Nearly 92 percent of claimants self-reported an associated industry; of those reported, the top five industries (58 percent) were Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (2,622); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,181); Con-

Virginia Works announced that 2,899 un- struction (1,592); Health Care and Social As-

or

A person who has already filed an initial employment files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. On a weekly basis, continued claims reflect a good an associated industry; of those reported, the approximation of the current number of in-

sured unemployed workers filing UI benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.

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### Frustrations =

#### (cont. from page 1)

tomers. Dillon said only 9 percent of ing within 48 hours." Brightspeed's copper infrastructure remains in use, yet maintaining it is more expensive than running its entire fiber network.

As the company stops maintaining copper, customers will have a wireless device installed on their homes to maintain service.

"This is going to take the place of their landline," Dillon said. "Your phone number doesn't change, you don't have any different functionality—you pick up the phone, and you have a dial tone. The customer does not see any difference in their service, but it is extremely more reliable."

Mayo River District Supervisor Clayton Kendrick asked the audience how many were dissatisfied with their service. About a dozen residents raised their hands.

"I'd hate to dispute what you're being told," Kendrick said. "You had a supervisor named Scott Strader... when he was up here, I went with him one dav. almost a whole day, showing him problems, and he got them took care of."

However, he questioned whether Brightspeed's wireless solution would work in areas with poor cell coverage. If there isn't already cellphone signal, "it's just got terrible," Kendrick said.

Vice chairman and Dan River District Supervisor Andrew Overby agreed.

"Unless you live in the Town of Stuart, that's probably the only place you're going to get Verizon at all," he said. "I live two miles from a T-Mobile tower, and I get no signal. So, in my area, that would not do any good."

Overby also asked why residents report waiting up to a month for repairs, despite the company's stated 24- to 48hour response time.

Dillon said Brightspeed could verify records to determine whether service requests were rescheduled, missed, or impacted by hurricane disruptions.

"I'm not saying anybody's lying, and we did have disruptions because of Helene," he said. "We can go in and pull a file... They said 28 days, we came (within) a week, and nobody was there. It shouldn't be a week; we should be roll- for a phone repair.

To help expand its coverage and work to replace its copper lines with fiber, Brightspeed requested a letter of support from the board to apply for its BEAD grant application, which the board approved in a 3-2 vote.

Under BEAD, Virginia will receive \$1.48 billion to expand broadband access statewide.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the broadband office want every home to have fiber or an affordable alternative, Dillon said. "Virginia's deadline for applications is March 1. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This is FDR building out the phone system in the '30s and '40s. This is building out highspeed internet to areas like Patrick County."

Brightspeed's proposal includes 3,000 addresses in Patrick County, with 621 classified as unserved or underserved by DHCD.

provide 3,000 addresses with highspeed, fiber internet, Dillon said, adding that fiber is not susceptible to disruptions like copper lines are. "We have to order parts from Vietnam because nobody's making these parts for copper networks anymore. Fiber is the only fix for copper, there is no other option," he said.

"We're going to pay to build past 2,230 other addresses. The grant won't come to those addresses; we'll pay out of our pocket for that," Dillon said. "We're making significant investments in western Patrick, southeastern Patrick, and the eastern area south of Fairystone State Park.'

of the Peters Creek District, questioned the company's commitment to existing

it should be."

Wood said his grandparents, who rely



Regina Wood shares her



concern over phone service.



unreliable

maintenance.

tired. Nothing," she said. Regina Wood's husband eventually had to get in his car and drive about a mile down the road to summon a fire department. "There's no sense in that. That's unacceptable. You're not doing your job!"

Galen Gilbert criticized the company's infrastructure maintenance.

"If you ride down Route 8 from the high school, there are probably eight or nine places where there's trees on the lines," he said. "You see the pedestals that are laid over with an orange bag on top. That must be a new way of fixing your phone lines—cover it up and forget about it."

Jamie Clark said his mother's pacemaker relies on landline monitoring, but her phone service is unreliable. "She does not have internet and does not want it, but would like to have a reliable telephone service that doesn't go out at least once a month," he said.

When an outage occurs, Clark said he calls in the work order and is told it will be a minimum of 21 days before a repair technician is available.

"Ironically, the last time that a repairman was physically at my mother's house was about a year ago. He told her then that the problem was in the main line between Roanoke and Stuart, and none of the outages were caused by problems at her house, they were all infrastructure problems with equipment,"

Noting he addressed his issues about two years ago, Clark said, "honestly, the service has not gotten any better. In 2025, I can't believe we're still talking about phones not working. How can we expect any company to invest here when we can't even get reliable basic services?"



service issues.

That's just the way I see it."



Gilbert Brightspeed's infrastructure

"Our proposal for Patrick County will

Jonathan Wood, board chairman and

"At almost \$99 per month, 3,000 potential customers would pay Brightspeed nearly \$3.6 million annually," Wood said. "Right now, I don't believe the taste in everybody's mouth is where

on a full-time caregiver, waited 21 days



"Thankfully, we have good cellphone signal. Verizon might work great for a few people but it's not going to fix" a lot of people, Wood said, and estimated the company is the fifth provider to request a letter of support for the BEAD program. "It seems like what you have needs to be repaired and

Smith River District Supervisor Doug Perry noted that fiber investment is necessary to replace copper.

maintained before we add more to it.

"In order to fix the copper, you got to run the fiber-optics, and of course, that takes money," Perry said. "That's why they're here tonight to request the support of the BEAD grant."

Dillon said copper will be retired nationwide within five years.

"If we don't get BEAD or fiber, or somebody doesn't get it, there will be a hole there where people will have to get Starlink or something," he said. "What's key is this money is to fix the copper problem. It is not I don't like your company, it is there's a copper issue and we have to fix it," Dillon said.

Several residents spoke about persistent service outages.

Regina Wood said her landline and internet were out from Dec. 10 to Jan. 25. She and her husband, both disabled, could not make emergency calls.

we could get out an emergency call. Had no idea we could not," she said.

On Jan. 24, a logging crew's equipment caught fire near her home, but no one could call 911.

"They were trying to use their cellphones - would not work. We live down in the Patrick Springs area. They came to the house; we thought we could get out an emergency call. Tried, tried, and



"We had a cellphone that we thought

### Animals

(cont. from page 1)



pictured at distribution day at the food bank.

average, Jones said the group works to promote shelter animals available for adoption, the \$10 adoption fee, with spay/neuter services funded by an anonymous donor.

"We still have animals in the shelter that don't make it out," she said. "I think there's a misnomer that the shelter's no-kill. Unfortunately, they're the only shelter in town, so they have to take everything that comes in the front door."

To prevent animals from being surrendered, BRAWL provides resources to help with behavioral issues, food assistance, and spay/neuter services.

"We're also working to get the animals that are there to maybe another shelter in another part of the state where there's more demand," Jones said. "Lynn just recently helped the shelter transfer a puppy that had been there a while to Floyd. They were able to take that puppy in and had some really great opportunities to help get the dog adopted."

BRAWL also is partnering with the shelter to help showcase the animals it has for adoption, promote the animals through its Facebook, and help get the word out about the animals that are in need of a home.

In December, volunteers prepared a holiday meal of turkey, rice, and

pumpkin for the shelter's animals.

"We felt that would be appropriate because they are at the shelter by themselves and not with a family," Chipkin said. "We just want to bring attention to that sort of thing.'

Jones said kitten season is a growing concern as spring approaches.

Recently, the shelter saw an influx of more than 30 surrendered puppies from multiple litters in one week — an unusually high number for this time of

"It's really making us nervous about what we have coming once the warm-



For more information, go to blueridgeawl.org Facebook.com/ BlueRidgeAnimalWelfareLeague.

er months arrive," Jones said. "We're really, really trying to get our program together and secure significant fund-

ing so that we can have a real impact.'

Pet Food Bank Offers Assistance BRAWL officially launched in October 2023 after volunteers identified a growing need for pet food assistance through the Patrick County Food

"We had heard from our partners at the Patrick County Animal Shelter, Wanda and Vickie, that there were occasions where people had to surrender their pets because they couldn't afford to feed them," Jones said.

In response, volunteers began distributing donated pet food in gallon-sized bags alongside the Food Bank's monthly food distributions.

"We had such an incredible response to it. People were so thankful that we decided we really wanted to keep it going," Jones said.

BRAWL is a member of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, allowing it to partner with Gleaning for the World, a faith-based humanitarian aid organization, to procure large amounts of pet food at low costs.

Each month, BRAWL distributes 750 to 800 pounds of pet food. Volunteers package the food at the Food Bank's Stuart facility, working alongman food boxes.

side other volunteers preparing hu-"The Food Bank has been so gracious to let us have the pallets dropped off at

their Stuart building," Jones said.

Chipkin said 300 to 350 cars typically receive pet food at each distribution, with 400 cars served during holiday

"When we're doing our dividing up of the bags, we label them in the Zip-



BRAWL members prepared holiday meals bags of pet food at the Patrick County Food for shelter pets.

lock bags with either cat or dog. We also distribute canned food, so it's always labeled," Chipkin said

In addition to Stuart, BRAWL distributes pet food at the Food Bank's satellite locations in Ararat and Meadows of Dan.

Expanding Spay/Neuter Access Jones said the monthly pet food distributions have also highlighted the need for affordable spay/neuter ser-

Patrick County currently lacks a low-cost spay/neuter clinic, requiring pet owners to travel 45 minutes to an hour for services at Mountain View Humane in Christiansburg or Angels of Assisi in Roanoke.

"We're referring people out, but we know the cost is a barrier," Jones said.

BRAWL has applied for grants to help subsidize spay/neuter costs.

"An average spay/neuter can cost \$400 to \$500," Jones said. "Most of these low-cost clinics can bring it down to \$100 to \$150, but that's still out of reach for some families."

BRAWL is also exploring transportation assistance for pet owners who cannot travel.

With these clinics being kind of far away, it really can take a person's day to transport an animal," Jones said, and added the group is looking into partnering with other groups to share transportation costs or seeking funding to purchase a vehicle to shuttle multiple animals at once.

Addressing Free-Roaming Cat Pop-

"We're hearing people say they have neighbors who are feeding animals



healthy enough to breed." BRAWL plans to implement a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program, which involves trapping cats, spaying/ neutering them, administering rabies vaccinations, and returning them to

they may be exacerbating the prob-

lem because they're just making them

their colony. "It's a process — making sure we have approval to even go on the property, observing what's going on, and then getting our plans together," Jones said. "Cats can be savvy when you start trapping. You get a couple, and then the others learn to avoid it. It

gets progressively harder." BRAWL will increase its presence at community events this spring, providing educational materials and outreach.

We're going to start to get more involved with community events coming up, so we'll be able to distribute information at those events in Patrick County," Chipkin said.

The group also hopes to host a community rabies clinic later this year.

"There is definitely a need in Patrick County for that," Chipkin said. For more information, visit www.

blueridgeawl.org or Facebook.com/ BlueRidgeAnimalWelfareLeague. To donate online: Click the "Donate"

button on the website. By mail: Send checks to P.O. Box 184, Woolwine, VA 24185. Pet food donations can be dropped off at Pet Provisions in Downtown Stuart.

### VIEWPOINTS

# Zeldin's Five Pillars

As I have discussed in a previous column, my Congressional calendar is going to be filled with new assignments.

THE ENTERPRISE

I still serve on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, but I was recently appointed as chair of the Committee's Subcommittee on Environment.

The Trump Administration will be pursuing a number of environmental reforms to unleash American energy dominance and lower the costs of energy consumption.

One of Trump's first Executive Orders declared a national energy emergency to facilitate domestic energy production.

Another Order rescinded President Biden's executive actions that restricted Alaskan energy development.

Alaska will now be free of regulations that hindered its ability to explore and develop liquified natural gas in the region.

A key asset to carrying out Trump's environmental agenda is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The agency is now headed by my former colleague in the U.S. House, Administrator Lee Zeldin.

After Zeldin's confirmation in January, he went right to work.

Zeldin visited disaster-impacted communities in North Carolina, Los Angeles and East

As it pertains to the wildfire recovery efforts in Los Angeles, the EPA is engaged in the agency's largest wildfire cleanup ever.

These visits come on the heels of Vice President JD Vance's visit to Southwest Virginia, where he met with Governor Youngkin in Damascus to update the region on Hurricane Helene recovery efforts.

The Trump Administration has signaled its commitment to helping these communities respond, rebuild and recover.

Further, Zeldin is heading a new initiative at the EPA.

"Powering the Great American Comeback" consists of five pillars to promote environmental stewardship without restricting economic growth.



### Morgan Griffith

Representative

Pillar One is entitled "Clean Air, Land and Water for Every American."

President Trump was committed in his first term to conservation efforts, cleanup of hazardous waste sites and reduction of emissions in the air while fostering economic growth. Pillar One reaffirms those practices.

Pillar Two is "Restore American Energy Dominance."

During President Biden's Administration, domestic energy production was hampered by 'green new deal" policies.

Biden imposed a pause on approving terminal applications for exporting liquified natural gas.

Biden's actions also shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline, which could have helped the United States prevent draining our Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

And the Keystone XL Pipeline would have kept gas prices lower.

By unleashing American energy, Trump will bolster American energy security and over time help lower the fuel costs we saw rise sharply under Biden.

Pillar Three focuses on permitting reform.

In line with the above, too many burdensome regulations undercut our ability to attract investments from able and innovative companies.

Zeldin makes it a goal of his EPA to work with state and federal authorities to ensure projects are not unreasonably harassed by the Christiansburg office at (540) 381-5671, radical left environmentalist policies, but or email by visiting www.morgangriffith. instead welcomed with appropriate environ- house.gov with questions or comments mental oversight.

By streamlining this process, companies can invest millions in our nation and promote job growth.

Pillar Four sets a goal of making the United States the world's artificial intelligence (AI) capital.

AI data centers take a lot of energy in order to operate. We need energy at a cost that is competitive, or we will lose the race to lead

Recently, Vice President Vance visited France for the global AI Action Summit.

Needless to say, AI is an emerging phenomenon with implications for economic growth, security and governance. It is critical for the U.S. to not fall behind, and I am glad that Zeldin recognizes this.

The fifth and final pillar emphasizes American manufacturing of cars and vehicles.

The auto industry faced considerable conunder the Biden Administration. Biden's "green new deal" policies promoted the use of electric vehicles and discouraged consumers from purchasing American-made gas-powered cars.

In many parts of the United States, including large segments of the Ninth District, electric vehicles are just not practical at this

Further, such policies threaten American auto manufacturing jobs and an industry that so many American families rely upon.

Protecting and bringing back these auto

jobs to the U.S. is a step in the right direction for the EPA.

These five pillars will take into careful account environmental stewardship while inheriting the energy demands of the country.

As chair of the Environment Subcommittee, will explore ways to support Administrator Zeldin in Powering the Great American Comeback.

Call the Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405,

### Pittis

#### (cont. from page 1)

people of the town," he said.

At his first council meeting in March, Pittis said he plans to observe and listen before actively engaging in discussions.

"I don't want to jump in. I want to listen. I want to partake, but I want to listen too," he said. "We got two ears and one mouth, and you learn a lot by listening and watching."

While he does not have specific concerns he wants to address immediately, Pittis said he does have ideas for improving the town's annual festivals to make them more convenient for attendees.

Pittis praised the Uptown and Downtown Re talization projects, which he said have strengthened the community and added to Stuart's appeal.

"Our town has really, really come on strong," he said. "The town has so much to offer, and what's occurring is adding even more to be offered. I'm really tickled with that, I'm really excited about the hospital—that's going to be a major thing—and just so much growth here is coming. Sometimes it's hard to sit back and wait, but you know it's ent facets of government to help them get their

With Stuart's continued development, Pittis said he is not concerned about increased public safety issues, citing the Patrick County Sheriff's

"I feel the main situation that would arise would be taken care of promptly, and then the officers would definitely take care of any situation," he said.

to increase law enforcement presence in town, he would support pursuing them.

acts promptly," he said.

forts to address derelict homes, either by removing them or facilitating repairs.

"I think it should be an ongoing thing," he said. "I think if there's programs out there that's available, we can help them, you know, through differhomes fixed up, and we should look into that too."

At this time, Pittis does not have any properties he wishes to add to the town's blight abatement

An Ohio native, Pittis attended Belmont Technical College before beginning a career in newspaper printing.

He retired from the Patrick County Sheriff's Office after 20 years of service, where he worked as a School Resource Officer (SRO) and Correctional Officer. Pittis was also involved with Project Lifesaver, a program dedicated to locating individuals "I know when there's a call in town everybody with dementia or Alzheimer's who have wandered

> Currently, he works part-time at Moody's Funeral Home and enjoys helping others in his free

Pittis and his wife, Wendy, have one son, Taylor, and two grandchildren.

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coming.

Office's readiness to respond.

However, Pittis said if grant opportunities exist

Pittis also supports ongoing blight abatement ef-

# Hall tapped to lead WPHD

capacity on January 25. WPHD within the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and encompasses the counties of Franklin, Henry and Patrick and the City of Martinsville.

As director, Hall will organize, plan, direct, and manage programs to improve the district population's overall well-being. This includes managing a team of 55 healthcare professionals and administrative staff and collaborating with other government agencies, community organizations, and healthcare providers to develop and implement effective public health programs. No stranger to the district and

the communities it serves, Hall previously was the Chief Operations Officer for the West-Piedmont and Central Virginia health districts from 2019-2021 where she led the district during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing operational leadership,

guidance, and oversight to eight local health departments.

Penny Hall has been select- the Department of Social Sered to lead the West Piedmont vices at both the state and lo-Health District (WPHD) as di-cal levels, where she worked in rector and began serving in that benefit and service programs. Throughout her career in Sois one of 35 local health districts cial Services, Hall served in key leadership roles including the Executive Director of the Botetourt County Social Services, the VDSS Piedmont Regional Director, and most recently as the VDSS Associate Division Director for Local Engagement & Support.

She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in human services with a specialty in Executive Leadership. Her diverse background has allowed her to understand the challenges faced in health and human service work at all levels. Her focus remains on quality customer service and working collaboratively with local county and city governments, community partners and stakeholders to achieve optimal, healthy outcomes that best serve the residents of Vir-

"I am excited to be back working with the West Piedmont Control, Health District," Hall said. "I know that our public health She brings to the position 26 professionals have our resi-



and I take seriously our duty to make this the healthiest community possible."

West Piedmont Health District has local health departments in Martinsville (Henry-Martinsville), Rocky Mount (Franklin County), and Stuart (Patrick County). The district is home to approximately 137,000 individuals and serves residents in five major critical needs:

Women and Children,

Communicable Disease

 Health Consultation, Education and Screening,

· Emergency Preparedness, years of experience working in dents' best interest at heart, and Environmental Health.

### **Patrick Pioneers**

Sgt. Israel Lonzo Ingram

By Beverly Belcher Woody

A few weeks ago, we learned about Spc. 4 Frederick C. Bullington, Jr., a native of Patrick County who gave his life serving his country in Vietnam. This week, we honor another brave young man from Patrick County, Sgt. Israel Lonzo Ingram, who also made the ultimate sacrifice in battle.

Israel Lonzo Ingram was born on March 6th, 1941, to Buren Roosevelt Ingram and Nova Gay Spencer Ingram. In the 1950 United States census, Buren, age 44 and Nova, age 39 were raising ten children in Woolwine, Virginia: Theodore, age 18; Iva Ruth, age 16; Kermit, age 14; Betty Jane, age 12; Cleo, age 10; Israel, age 9; Ollie Reva, age 7; Howard, age 5; Sammy, age 2; and Bonnie, born in January 1950. Buren and Nova's oldest son, Harrison, was twenty-one years old and was married to Margie Penn. Buren and Nova would go on to have twins, Joseph Ray and Katherine Fay Ingram, born in 1952.

Sgt. Ingram's father, Buren, was born in 1905 in Floyd County to George Nathaniel Ingram and Laura Wood Ingram. In the 1910 census, George's occupation was listed as chimney builder. In the 1920 census, his profession was listed as mason in brick and stone. George and Laura lived just across the Patrick County line in Floyd County in an area known as Hog Mountain. Today it is more commonly known as the area between Chateau Morrisette Winery and Conner's Grove Road in Willis (Burk's Fork District). Oh, how I wish I knew how many of those old chimneys in the area were built by George Ingram!

Sgt. Ingram's mother, Nova Gay, was born in Patrick County in 1910 he begged them. The military chap-

to William Spencer and Lula Maude Adams Spencer. William was born to Frank Spencer and Martha Ross Spencer on the Franklin County side of the Charity community. Lula Maude was the daughter of Nora Adams. William and Lula Maude raised Nova Gay and her siblings on a farm in Woolwine.

Sgt. Ingram attended Patrick Central School and upon his graduation in 1961, he relocated to Columbus, Ohio where several of his siblings had moved and where he would also have two daughters, Kim and Robin. Sgt. Ingram found work at a modern, futuristic hotel called the Christopher Inn in Columbus. Two years later, Sgt. Ingram enlisted in the United States Army on December 12th, 1963. At the end of his two-year tour of duty in December 1965, Sgt. Ingram re-enlisted for three more years. This brave young soldier was sent to Vietnam on December 1st, 1967. Sgt. Ingram served in Company A, 12th Infantry Regiment, 25th Division, 2nd Battalion of the Gia Dinh Military Region 3 Province.

On the 4th of March 1968, Sgt. Israel Lonzo Ingram was wounded while on patrol duty and died in an evacuation hospital; it was two days before his 27th birthday. I had the honor of speaking with Sgt. Ingram's sister, Bonnie, who shared the following heartbreaking memories. Bonnie Ingram, "My brother Lonzo had given our brother Kermit as his emergency contact. When the military chaplains came to tell Kermit that Lonzo had been killed, they asked to speak to Lonzo's parents. Kermit told the chaplains that our parents lived in Woolwine, Virginia. They would not tell Kermit what had happened to his brother, even though



Sgt. Israel Lonzo Ingram (photo from Bonnie

lains said they must inform his parents first, so they drove all the way from Columbus, Ohio to Woolwine to inform Mama and Daddy of Lonzo's passing. My Daddy was working at the elastic plant in Woolwine. His foreman came and got him and told him his son had been killed in Vietnam. Daddy was in such a state of shock, he just started walking home from the elastic plant."

Sgt. Ingram's body was brought back to Patrick County where Reverend W. H. Giles did the eulogy and full military rites were conducted at the family cemetery in Woolwine.

I want to say a special thank you to Jimmie Joyce who shared his own painful, terrifying military experiences in Vietnam with me one recent snowy afternoon. To Spc. 4 Frederick C. Bullington, Jr., Mr. Joyce, Sgt. Israel Lonzo Ingram, and all Vietnam veterans, with deep respect and heartfelt gratitude, we thank you

### **Patrick Native Fatally Wounded** In Viet Fighting

STUART-Sgt. Israel Lonzo Ingram, 26, has been reported killed in Vietnam. He was a native of Patrick County, but entered the Army from Columbus, Ohio.

Notification of his death was received Wednesday. Officials said he was wounded while on patrol duty and died in an evacuation hospital on March

Sgt. Ingram was a 1961 graduate of Patrick Central High School and entered the Army Dec. 12, 1963. At the expiration of his two-year tour of duty, he re-enlisted. He was sent to Vietnam in October.

The Roanoke Times, 1968

for your service, your sacrifice, and your courage. You answered the call of duty, endured hardships beyond measure, and carried the weight of a nation's hopes on your shoulders.

To those who made it home, we honor your resilience. To those who never returned, we remember you always. Your bravery and dedication will never be forgotten. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you for everything.

I sincerely appreciate the assistance of Bonnie Ingram, Mary Sawyers Davis, and Harold Spencer in providing information about Sgt. Ingram. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

### **Social Security Matters**

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

Ask Rusty - Can I Get Extra Social Security for my Military Service?

Dear Rusty: Please help. I served from 1964

to 1966 in the US Army. I have been trying to contact Social Security in order to request extra benefits for veterans. The telephone is a recording, and you never get to speak to anyone. The web site at www.ssa.gov is useless to me. I went to the SS office and there was a huge line outdoors in the freezing cold. I am disabled and cannot stand on a line in this cold. Please advise me about my options. Financially, is it worth the trouble? Signed: Disabled American Veteran

Dear Disabled Veteran: My profound thanks for your service to our country. FYI, the "special extra credit for military service" you refer to does not provide an incremental Social Security benefit amount for military veterans. Rather, it adds an additional amount to your recording earnings for the years you served, which may - or may not - affect your Social Security benefit. FYI, I've written numerous articles on this topic, one of which you can read this link: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ ask-rusty-older-veteran-asks-about-special-social-security-credit-for-military-service/.

In your case (serving between 1964 and 1966), if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for benefits (or gave them a copy of your DD-214), they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your recorded military pay record (FYI, those who served after 1967 were automatically given earnings credit for

ings record was when you later claimed SS. When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings record and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" (or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your SS full retirement age. If, after your military service, you had 35 or would have used those later higher earnings to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings wouldn't affect your benefit. If, however, any of your military earnings (including the "special extra credits") were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your benefit.

So, whether you will benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your post-service earnings history. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service. Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied. If you didn't advise SS of your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800.772.1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" when you applied. However, if you had

By Russell Gloor, National Social Security their military service years). However, wheth- at least 35 years of higher earnings after you er those special extra credits would affect your left military service, your current SS benefit SS benefit depends on what your lifetime earning is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get anything additional from those "special extra credits" for your mili-

tary service years. FYI, we know it is often difficult to contact the Social Security Administration by phone, as well as trying to visit SSA offices without an appointment (which is why our AMAC Foundation provides this free service). SSA is now allowing in-person visits "by appointment only" more years of earnings which were higher than and you can call the above number to schedwhat you earned while serving, Social Security ule an in-person appointment at your local SSA office. But before you do, please consider what I've said above. And remember that your SS benefit is based on the highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime and each year represents only 1/35th of your benefit amount. So, is it worth the trouble? That depends on whether your military earnings, including the 'special extra credits for military service," are among the highest over your entire lifetime. If the answer is "yes" then it is likely worth it; if "no" then perhaps not.

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

### A Bumpy Start Doesn't Mean You'll Have A Bad Year

be you weren't quite ready to move on to the New Year because you feel unaccomplished or like you left something unresolved.

It's already the end of February, which means we're approaching the end of the first quarter. Wow. When we're nearing the end of December, we tend to view the new year positively and associate it with new beginnings and second chances. You, like most of the rest of the world, may have had an entire list of exciting goals to start off the New Year.

We can't ignore the reality, though. The truth is, life's downs can kick in at any moment, even at the start of the new year. You may feel as though negative situations "shouldn't" happen until typically later in the year, and you feel as

if your new year started off on the

when expectations rise.

It's Supposed to Turn Out This

You're "supposed to" have a number of goals lined up and working smoothly by this time of the year; you're "supposed" to have a date by Valentine's Day; "supposed to" have a grand celebration for your birthday showered with love and gifts from family and friends; "supposed have achieved certain career goals by a certain age.

What if entering the new year didn't mean it's "supposed" to start off on the right foot? Of course, it's always good to have good intentions

Do you feel like you're stuck? May- wrong foot. Disappointment sets in resolutions. But what if it goes beyond just having a set of resolutions to keep? What if you had negative circumstances beyond your control follow you from 2024 into this year? Then it's time for some encouragement because you're going to need it.

A bumpy start doesn't mean you're doomed to have a bad year. You don't have to carry a negative mindset for the remainder of this year. With that kind of thinking, you are assuming that things will turn out negatively before trying. You're setting yourself up for failure. De-motivation will inhibit your ability to take on new

opportunities. Don't set yourself up for failure. Instead, think about ways that you can lead an optimistic outlook, then set your mind on being

Don't accept defeat. Take your

ing experiences. What could you have done differently? A bad start to a new year doesn't mean a bad rest of the year. It may seem easy to sink into despair at times, but you just need to get up again. Personally, I've had moments when circumstances did not go according to plan, and I felt as if my life would go to ruin. My point is, understand that

mistakes and turn them into learn-

you're not alone. No matter what life brings our way, God will carry us through and comfort us. He has given us tools to help us sail through life. We're not left to ourselves so keep on carrying on. You can do this. (Submitted by Betty Dean. Written

by Grace Jauwena. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

but things don't always turn out the way they should. There are tons of articles circulating on the internet positive and productive. that are filled with goals to adopt, You Don't Have to Be A Failure

and ways to achieve your New Year's

### Did you know that our Patrick County is the only Patrick County in the world?

No Patrick County exists in another state, not even Ireland, home Saint Patrick. why should celebrate our collective Irish heritage all month of March.

The Patrick County Chamber Commerce launching a new community initiative, Patrick County Leprechauns. All local businesses, orcreate/decorate display.

To enter into the



ganizations, home- March 7. After that side frontage, call compile leprechaun/St. Pat- through an online display. rick's Day themed form that will run through March 31.

Displays contest, create your be visible from the www.patrickcham-Leprechaun, snap a road. If your busi- ber.com, or for more picture and fill out ness or organization information our online form by does not have road- (276) 694-6012.

owners and others date, the chamber the chamber and it the will work with you a pictures for voting to locate a spot for

Entry forms available online at the must chamber's website:

### CTB Awards Contract For Vesta Widening Project

tation Board (CTB) at its February 18 meeting in Richmond awarded a design-build contract valued at approximately \$165 million to widen 4.5 miles of U.S. 58 in Patrick County in the Vesta area. The contract was awarded to Triton Construction Inc. of Virginia.

The U.S. 58 Vesta project begins near the U.S. 58 Business eastern intersection in Meadows of Dan and ends about 0.5 mile east of Route 610 (Cloudbreak Road).

In addition to widening U.S. 58 from two lanes to four lanes, the project includes replacing the existing bridge over the Dan River

The Commonwealth Transpor- with two new bridges. The Vesta project adjoins the Lovers Leap widening project that is currently under construction.

> This spring, Triton Construction will start taking soil samples and gathering other data needed to finalize the road design. Residents may notice temporary access roads and brush cutting.

> Once the design is finalized, the Virginia Department of Transportation and Triton Construction are planning to host a citizens information meeting to provide the public with more details about the project and schedule. The meeting is anticipated to be held in early 2026.

### Beef Tallow Products Recalled, **Produced Without Benefit of Inspection**

pole, N.H. establishment, is recalling approximately 33,899 pounds of beef tallow that was processed, packaged, and labeled on behalf of Lady May Tallow without the benefit of federal inspection, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

The beef tallow items were produced between Oct. 16, 2024 and Feb. 6, 2025.

\*24-fl-oz. glass jar containing "PRE-MIUM QUALITY GOODS Grass-fed beef TALLOW Lady May ALL NAT-URAL"

\*2-lb. plastic tub containing "PRE-MIUM QUALITY GOODS Grass-fed beef TALLOW Lady May ALL NAT-URAL."

\*7.8-8-lb. (1 gal) plastic tub containing "PREMIUM QUALITY GOODS Grass-fed beef Original TALLOW Lady May ALL NATURAL."

\*16-lb. plastic tub containing "PRE-MIUM QUALITY GOODS Grass-fed beef TALLOW Lady May ALL NAT-URAL."

The products subject to this recall do not bear an USDA mark of inspection. Common Sense Soap does not possess a federal grant of inspection to produce food products. The beef tallow products were shipped by Lady May to wholesalers and retail locations nationwide.

FSIS discovered the problem following notification about the beef tallow products by a local health department. It was determined that Lady

Common Sense Soap, a North Wal- May Tallow contracted Common Sense Soap to process, package, and label the products. The beef tallow products contain a nutrition facts label, leading people to believe that the product is safe for human consumption. Common Sense Soap does not possess a federal grant of inspection and is not authorized to produce products intended for human consump-

> There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about a reaction should contact a healthcare provider.

The FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' pantries. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

Consumers with questions about the recall can contact Chris McDonald, Owner, Lady May Tallow at 601-270-7410 or email at may@ladymaytallow com

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or send a question via email to MPHotline@usda. gov. For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, the online Electronic Consumer Complaint Monitoring System can be accessed 24 hours a day at https://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda. gov/eCCF/.://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda. gov/eCCF/.

### Gift Card Balance Scams

for many, that means a stack of gift cards just waiting to be used. But before you check your balances online, beware of fake gift card balance-checking sites designed to steal both your post-holiday joy and your money.

Just because a website to check your gift card balance appears at the top of internet search results does not mean it's legitimate. Search results can be filled with fraudulent gift card balance-checking sites, and scammers are constantly finding new ways to get their pages to show up at the top of results.

A safer way to check the balance

The holidays have passed, and of a gift card is to refer to the back of the card for a phone number or web address. If it's not provided, proceed with caution. Avoid entering your gift card details into any search result labeled as "Sponsored" or "Ad." In addition, be cautious of any site title that appears in wacky fonts or next to odd emojis; this is a common tactic scammers use to make their fraudulent web pages both visually pop and appear towards the top.

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

### J.E.B. Stuart Trust opposes bid to eliminate tax-exempt status

By Staff Reports

place Preservation Trust, Inc. The partisan proposal would property owned by the J.E.B. Trust, Inc. and others, and eliminate state recordation taxes for the Virginia Division of the United Daughters of the Confed-

In a letter to legislators, the trust noted that it "strongly opposes House Bill 1699 and believes the bill was created out of Rosenberger v. Rectors and Visimalice and organizations named tors of the University of Virginia were manufactured viewpoint (1995), in which held that "when discrimination, as the JEB Stu- the government targets not subart Preservation, Inc. offers free ject matter but particular views admission to a 70+ acre park taken by speakers on a subject, open 365 days per year with the violation of the First Amendhiking trails, a wide selection ment is all the more blatant. of historical value dating before Viewpoint discrimination is thus the Revolutionary War includ- an egregious form of content dising Native American artifacts, crimination. The government and the rail line from the din- must abstain from regulating ky railroad era, community in- speech when the specific motivolvement & free meal, and to vating ideology or the opinion or Patrick County and the great perspective of the speaker is the state of Virginia with contribu- rationale for the restriction." tions to tourism. Furthermore,

bers of the J.E.B. Stuart Birth- education, and health and wellness.

"HB1699 is constructing and eliminate the tax-exempt des- fabricating misinformation to ignation for real and personal named groups within the bill simply upon the name of the Stuart Birthplace Preservation organization and can be argued as viewpoint discrimination. In 1995 Virginia Supreme Court held viewpoint discrimination as an egregious free speech violation," the local preservation group wrote.

The trust referenced the 1995 U.S. Supreme Court case,

HB1699 "is viewpoint discrimthe Board members of the JEB ination considering our own and

Stuart Preservation Trust, Inc. other organizations given pro- claimed he wasn't trying to hin-A bill that has passed both the are on a volunteer-only basis to tection under Article X, Section der the Trust's and other organi-Senate and the House is facing ensure all donations are used to 6 (a)(6) of the Constitution of zations' rights to exist. However, staunch opposition from mem- increase personal enrichment, Virginia and further under Sec- he believes the bill speaks for tions 58.1-3607 and 58.1-3651. JEB Stuart Preservation Trust, Inc. is tax-exempt under the Virginia constitution as "property used by its owner for religious, charitable, patriotic, historical, benevolent, cultural, or public park and playground purposes" (Article X, Section 6 (a)6)," the trust wrote in a social media

> It added, "The JEB Stuart Preservation Trust, Inc. strongly opposes House Bill 1699 for these reasons and demands to continue the current federal and state tax exemption for our non-profit organization."

> Trust President Ronnie Haynes said this is essentially the same bill that was vetoed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin last year. The group hopes Youngkin will veto the bill again this year.

> "It's a very unfair bill targeting several organizations that may have a Confederate theme to them. Other organizations have the same tax-exempt stafairly targeted," he said.

tus and then we're just being un-

itself.

"It seems to me that's exactly what they're trying to do. They deem us unworthy and should not be entitled to the same considerations that other historical organizations are. That's just totally unfair and unjust," Haynes said and added that the Trust provides a service to the county and the community.

"We're a non-profit. We get no government funding whatsoever, and we exist on donations from our members, fundraisers, etcetera. Any incentive we can get that could save us just we put back into the site for the public," Haynes said.

Members of the JEB Stuart Preservation Trust's board are encouraging others to support the community park by voicing opposition against the bill.

Express your opinion via an online form at https://www.governor.virginia.gov/communicating-with-the-governors-office/, call (804) 786-2211, email glenn. youngkin@governor.virginia. gov or via regular mail at Office Haynes said he read that of the Governor, P.O. Box 1475, Alex Askew, the bill's sponsor, Richmond, VA 23218.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.ENTERPRISE.NET

## Crossing the Lines

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

#### N.C. man arrested in 2023 Martinsville homicide

Authorities have arrested a Greensboro man in connection with the July 9, 2023, death of Nyjeon Dameae Brandon, a 20-year-old from Martinsville who was fatally shot while driving on Commonwealth Boulevard.

Jahil Arman Martin, 23, of Greensboro, N.C., has been charged with first-degree murder in connection with Brandon's death. Martinsville Police Chief Robert Fincher announced the arrest during a Feb. 18 press briefing.

Martin, Fincher said, has ties to this area, and family members in the area, and "was originally from here." He added that Brandon and the alleged shooter knew each other "very well."

Brandon was taken to the local er said, adding the case, "greatly impacted our community."

stop seeking a resolution in the case, Fincher said, and described their efforts as a "long two-year ceased. The key thing that really drives our officers" were investigator's meetings with the family members.

Fincher said complimented the investigative efforts put forth by his department. "Our criminal investigative unit is headed by Lt. Richard Barrow and Sgt. Harley Durham, but also the key case agent in this has been Sgt. Jason Vaughn, who has not given up and worked continuously result," he said.



Martinsville Police Chief Robert Fincher provides an update on the homicide investigation of Nyjeon Dameae Brandon.

He also credited the collaboration of multiple law enforcement agencies, including the Greensboro Police Department's Violent Crimes Apprehension Team, the emergency room, "suffering from North Carolina Bureau of Invesseveral gunshot wounds," Finch- tigation, and Virginia's Division of Forensic Science, for their role in the arrest. Martinsville inves-City investigators who had met tigators were on-site in Greenswith Brandon's family, refused to boro when Martin was taken into custody.

"Unfortunately, this hasn't been an easy case. It's been very investigation. The investigation complex. We're not finished with has been long, and it has not it and will continue up through the trial," Fincher said. "We have been in touch with family members, particularly the mother of the victim, to let them know what has developed and what has taken place."

> Anyone with information about the case is encouraged to contact Barrow at (276) 403-5458 or Martinsville-Henry County Crime Stoppers at (276) 632-7463. Crime Stoppers allows anonymous tips and offers remation leading to an arrest.

### on this case to bring about this wards of up to \$2,500 for infor-

Martinsville City Council approves members for

**Charter Review Committee** 

The Martinsville City Council has approved five residents to serve on a newly formed city charter review committee, a step toward evaluating and updating the city's governing document for the first time in decades.

During its Feb. 18 meeting, the council approved Barbara Seymour, Gene Teague, Andy Hall, Jennifer Bowles, and Kimble Reynolds as committee members. Each council member was responsible for nominating one individual, though it was not publicly stated who selected each nominee.

The names were read by Deputy City Clerk Peyton Nibblett. According to City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, this was solely the approval of the names provided by council members and not the official resolution to approve the committee itself.

"What we will do is bring back the resolution that will define the purpose of the committee and notroles and responsibilities. It's almost done, but we will bring that back on next Tuesday with the names appointed," Ferrell-Benavides said.

Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson made a motion to approve the list of conversation all together. The reanames, seconded by Rayshaun son we're doing this committee is Gravely, and the matter was open because we haven't had any major for discussion. Council member changes to our charter since prob-Aaron Rawls asked, "When we ably the '50s... We're just looking approve this, are we also approv- at an overhaul and giving citizens ing every member?" Ferrell-Bena- the opportunity to kind of look at vides said that the council could this thing, and I think we put toapprove the candidates as a group gether a good group," Jones said.



Deputy Chief Chad Rhoads discussed the coyote problem in the city.

or individually. Rawls said, "I'll have to go individually on that

Seymour, Teagues, Hall, and Reynolds all received a 5-0 approval. Bowles was approved in a 3-2 vote, with Rawls and Julian Mei dissenting.

Mayor LC Jones clarified the ed it has nothing to do with reversion as some have speculated.

"I've been hearing a lot of talk about that the creation of this committee is to spark up the reversion conversation, and just killing that

#### Renovations to improve accessibility underway in the county

The Henry County Administration Building is undergoing another round of renovations, this time focusing on upgrading public restrooms to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The improvements are part of a broader effort to modernize the aging facility, which was originally built in 1974 and has seen limited updates outside of technology upgrades.

The current project, which resulted in the February 6 School Board meeting being held at Bassett High School, is the first in a series of restroom renovations aimed at improving accessibility for individuals with mobility impairments.

Public Information Officer Brandon Martin said that the first phase of the project involves renovating restrooms near the Summerlin Room, where many county board meetings are held. These restrooms were identified as a priority due to their frequent public use.

The narrow layout of the existing bathrooms made wheelchair access difficult, requiring a complete redesign to ensure compliance with ADA regulations.

Daniel Builders of Danville is han-



The entrance hallway to the Summerlin Room is closed due to ongoing bathroom renovations.

dling the renovations, which are expected to take a few months to complete at a cost of \$198,500.

"It is moving pretty quickly, I think that they plan to have it done here in the next couple of months," Martin

Once work on the first-floor restrooms is complete, the county will begin renovations on the second floor, and continue upgrading additional bathrooms throughout the building.

#### Proposed Refuse Ordinance discussed at joint meeting

The Martinsville City Council and Planning Commission held a joint meeting to discuss proposed changes to the city's refuse ordinance, including community dumpster placement, service costs, and enforcement measures.

The ordinance, which was introduced in a public hearing after its first reading, received significant public feedback regarding its impact on businesses, accessibility for residents with disabilities, and concerns about sanitation and enforcement. Officials are now refining the proposal to address those concerns before finalizing the plan.

Director of Public Works Greg Maggard provided an overview of the ordinance, including updates



Planning Commission members Jonathan Martin, Riggs Roberson, Joseph Martin, and Nelson Evans attend a joint city council meeting to discuss the new refuse

Maggard presented cost estito legal penalties, which have been mates for the program, noting downgraded to a Class 3 misde- that the current weekly expense meanor. He emphasized that the is \$5,000, with a shortfall of apordinance is about more than just proximately \$2,000. He also said uptown dumpsters. "It's more than that under the proposed plan, no just the uptown piece, it's more resident or business would need to that will affect the city residents as walk more than half a city block to reach their assigned dumpster.

#### Protesters Rally Against Trump Policies at City Municipal Building

Protesters gathered outside the city municipal building on Feb. 17 to voice opposition to policies enacted by former President Donald Trump, part of a "We The People" initiative across the U.S. Locally, the demonstration focused on concerns over education funding cuts, mass deportations, and threats to the balance of power in government.

Among the demonstrators were local educators and District 48 House of Delegates candidate Melody Cartwright, appeared to be moving toward a democrat, who held signs addressing their concerns.

protest, criticized Trump's polerosion of separation of pow- challenge his policies in court.



Educators and other school personnel gathered to protest changes to the federal Department of Education

ers, warning that the country authoritarianism.

Cartwright emphasized the Greg Hackenberg, a STEM impact of potential funding teacher at Martinsville Middle cuts on low-income communi-School and an organizer of the ties, noting that more than 25% of residents in the area live in icies on education, the prison poverty. She called Trump's system, and judicial authority. actions unconstitutional and He expressed concern about the urged local representatives to





1-3-5-7-9PM





### **OBITUARIES** Jimmie Rodgers Mills

#### Stella Spence Perdue

Mrs. Stella Spence Perdue age 80 of Stuart, Virginia, made her way home to the Father whom she loved dearly, Friday, February 21, 2025, at Northern Regional Hospital. She was born in McDowell County, West Virginia to the late Walter Elbert Spence, Sr. and Pauline Shelton Spence. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Buren Wayne Perdue, a daughter, Laurie Ann Justice, her grandchildren, aunt, and friend. Danny Keen and Amber Keen, and a sister, Pauletta Martin. Stella was a longtime member of Harvest Worship Center and dearly loved her church family. She was the chairperson for the food distribution and Operation Christmas Child at the church. She the American Red Cross Disaster Relief, Civil Air Patrol, and Jeb Stuart Rescue Squad. Known as "Mama Stella" to ev-



eryone. She lived her life sharing the love of Christ and took joy in her family. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, adoring grandmother, caring sister,

Mrs. Perdue is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Gary Wayne Perdue & Dora Lee of Stuart; a daughter and son-in-law, Lisa P. Keen & Danny of Patrick Springs; 7 grandchildren, Thomas Wayne Howell, David Howell & Amanda, was very civic minded Michelle Cruise & Jaand volunteered with mie, Donna Harbour & Mark, Wayne Sow-Darrell Sowers, ers, and Jessica Keen; 14 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchil-

#### **Edward Lee Beard**

March 6, 1944 - February 12, 2025

Edward Lee Beard, affectionately known as Big Edd, passed away peacefully in Williamsburg, Virginia, on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at the age of 80. He is survived by his beloved wife, Paige Via; his daughter, Kelly Martinez, and her husband, Carlos Martinez; his son, Joey Beard, and his wife, Liz Beard; four grandchildren: Nico, Keo, Eli, and Silas; and sister-in-law, Liz

Born on March 6, 1944, in Washington, D.C., Edd spent his childhood in Oakton and Arlington, Virgin-Edd balanced a fullwith earning his bachous locations across the cers.



United States, and he embraced every new adventure. After retiring from the CIA in 1997, Edd became Vice President of Alcohol Testing and Certification, a start-up company in Texas. Houston, He and his business partner provided drug and alcohol testing services ia. After his first year for Southwest Airlines, at George Washington Continental Airlines, University, he joined and Air Micronesia. Edd laugh with his tall tales, the Central Intelligence later returned to the His warmth and humor Agency (CIA) in 1966. CIA as an independent left a lasting impact on contractor. relocating time role as a CIA officer to Williamsburg, VA. There he spent nearly elor's degree, which he two decades continuing will be held on March completed in 1972. His to share his vast knowl- 8, 2025, at 2:00 PM at career with the Agen- edge and skills through Patriots Colony in Wilcy took him to numer- the training of new offi- liamsburg, Virginia

Center with Pastor David Coleman officiating. The burial will immediately follow in the Perdue Family Cemetery located at 794 Hill Valley Road, Stuart, Virginia. The family will receive friends Tuesday evening at the church from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Harvest Worship Center Building Fund, P.O. Box 485, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com. The family would like to express their appreciation to Liberty Home

Healthcare for the care

and kindness given to

their mom.

dren, 2 brothers, Jackie

Spence & Linda of Rocky

Mount, and Walter El-

bert Spence, Jr. & Becky

of Stuart; and several

Funeral services for

Mrs. Perdue will be held

on Wednesday, Febru-

ary 26, 2025, at 2:00

pm at Harvest Worship

nieces and nephews.

Edd was deeply proud his children and grandchildren, reveling their accomplishments and cherishing the joy they brought into his life. He had a lifelong passion for music, particularly old-time Appalachian tunes, and enjoyed playing the guitar. Over the years, Edd performed in a rock and roll band as well as several folk groups. An avid reader, he was rarely seen without a book in his hand, always eager

ideas. Those who knew Edd will remember his infectious smile and outgoing personality. He truly never met a stranger, and had a remarkable gift for making others everyone he encountered.

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#### **David Andrew Carter**

Mr. David Andrew Carter, age Group Home families. away Friday, February 21, 2025 late Joseph Bill Carter and Wil- nieces, nephews and cousins. ma Lee Webster Carter. In adloved his Horizon Workshop and www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

58 of Stuart, Virginia, passed joyed fishing and loved his music. Mr. Carter is survived by a at SOVAH Hospital of Martins- brother, Glenn Dale Carter ville. He was born in Patrick (Judy) of Stuart; one aunt, Ellen County on August 15, 1966, to the Hylton of Stuart; and a host of

All services for Mr. Carter dition to his parents, Mr. Carter will be private. Moody Funeral was preceded in death by three Home in Stuart is handling the brothers, Terry Carter, Daniel arrangements, and online con-Carter and James Webster. He dolences may be sent by visiting

#### **Judy Iris Via Pollard**

Mrs. Judy Iris Via Pollard, age 82 of Stuart, Virginia passed away on February 15, 2025. She was born in Patrick County on February 28, 1942, to the late Aubrey J. Via and Iris Anglin Via. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three sisters, Ruby Walker, Edith Craig, and Ann Via. As a Patrick County teacher, she influenced the lives of many young people who came through her classes at Woolwine High School and



Patrick County High School.

Mrs. Pollard is survived by her husband ly will receive friends of 53 years, Leon M. one hour prior to the Pollard of the home; service. Online condoone brother, J.W. lences may be sent by Via and wife, Cher- visiting www.moody-

yl; three nieces, Deb- funeralservices.com.

orah Riley, Pamela Treadway, and Sandra Via-Ellington; and nephew, Matthew Via; and a special cat, Miranda.

A memorial service for Mrs. Pollard will be held Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Ed Hartman officiating. Burial will be private. The fami-

Jimmie Rodgers Mills, a lifelong resident and businessman of Martinsville and Henry County, passed away Thursday, February 20, 2025. He was born October 25, 1936, to Lewis Reggie Mills and Betty Lee Hodges Mills. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Sidney Allen Mills and Lewis Donald Mills.

Jim had over 60 years in the automotive business as the Owner/ Dealer of Jim Mills Lincoln-Mercury, Inc., Jim Mills Automotive, Inc., Jim Mills Nissan, Inc. Pontiac, Lester-Mills Inc., JEB Stuart Ford Mercury, Inc., Diamond Motors and Bassett Esso Service Center.



ing Director of Smith River Community Bank, N.A., served as Director of Smith River Bankshares, Director of River Community Bank, N.A. and Director of River Bankcorp, Inc. He was also a Charter Member of Thomasson Heights Baptist Church.

Jim was an organiz- Margaret Draper Mills; sett.com.

sisters, Marguerite A. Mills and Elaine M. Burnett; son, Stephen Taylor Mills (Michelle Loggins Mills); granddaughter, Hannah Mae Mills; son, John Wesley Mills (Dawn T. Lawrence Mills); grandson, Wesley Taylor Mills and granddaughter, Lauren Alise Mills.

A Visitation will be held from 12 until 1 PM on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Collins Funeral Home, 30 Riverside Hwy, Bassett, VA. A "Private Graveside Service" will be held in memory of Jim at their family cemetery.

Collins Funeral Home is respectfully serving the Mills family. Online condolences He is survived by his may be made at www. loving wife of 63 years, collinsmckeestonebas-

#### Michael Clarke Martin

Mr. Michael Clarke Martin, age 58, of Stuart, Virginia passed away on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at SOVAH Hospital of Martinsville. He was born at Langley Airforce Base in Hampton, Virginia on April 23, 1966. He was preceded in death by his father, Franklin D.R. vived by a son, Mi-Martin; his paternal grandparents, Andy chael Christopher and Gladys Martin; Martin; a daughter, and his maternal Christina grandparents, Hilary and Lena Terry

Martin Cahoon; two grandchildren, Addison Tuggle and Dominic Hughes. Mr. Martin Cahoon; his mother, ed States Army. He Mary Hilda Hughes Martin; two brothers, and grandkids and David Franklin Marenjoyed music and tin (Deb) and Scott Andrew Martin; four Mr. Martin is suraunts, Linda Hylton,

Frances Hopkins, Ruby Martin and Polly Martin; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

services be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hughes and Lawson Family Cemetery, c/o Brenda McHone, 201 Pine Street, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is handling the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Mountain Valley Hospice and his caregiver, Dovie Walker.

#### James Lester Wood

Mr. James Lester Wood, age 79 of Meadows of Dan, Virginia passed away peacefully at his home on February 17, 2025. He was born in Patrick County to the late Wade Harrell Wood and Lillie Maude Hylton Wood. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Alvin C. Wood, Eldon Wood; and two sisters, Iva Mae Harris, Virginia W. Martin. Mr. Wood Baptist Church. Lester retired with 30 years of service from the Nafishing and was a loving and caring family man.

served in the Unit-

dearly loved his kids

playing the drums.



Hillsville, VA, Kevin Dwayne Wood ane Ball Wood) of ficiating. Burial will Oak Ridge, NC; five immediately follow in grandchildren, Steven the church cemetery. attended Tory Creek Alexander Wood (Ja- The family will receive mie), Christian Blake friends on Saturday, Wood (Bailey), Ben- February 22, jamin Hunter Wood, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 tional Park Service. He Ashley Lynn Wood, p.m. at the funeral loved farming, hunting, Kristin Taylor Wood; home. Moody Funerseven siblings, Richard al Home in Stuart has Wood (Jeannette) of been entrusted with Wytheville, VA, Thom- the services and online Mr. Wood is survived as Wood of Martinsville, condolences may be by two sons, James VA, Thelma Shelor of sent visiting www.moo-Eddie Wood (Marcel- Meadows of Dan, VA, dyfuneralservices.com. la Lambert Wood) of Mary Clifton of Patrick

Springs, VA Maude Edwards of Martinsville, VA, Sanford Wood of Meadows of Dan, VA, Clifford Wood (Janet) of Warrior, AL; numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral for Mr. Wood will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church with Pas-(Di- tor Lonnie Hylton of-





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Terri S. Wood, Manager

### PATRICK PULPITS

# Our Assignment

By Dr. Evonne What areas do you cized, criticized, lied Wimbush

Fresh Christin (D.O.C.)

Ash Wednesday is ment? Jesus's assignment commemorate completed.

His assignment was Jesus Christ. to show people God. culed, mocked, rejected, accepted, and ultimately die but to rise again. Jesus accepted his assignment, prepared to be revealed as a human baby, and readied himself to endure the suffering that would be associated with it. It was clear to him that his task

would not be easy. The Prophet Isaiah foretold of the coming of the Lord (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7). "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his son, born of a (Galawoman...." tians 4:4 NIV). We are encouraged by His earthly presence (John 1:14), "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." We are reminded of the ultimate purpose of his coming (John 3:16). We are additionally reminded of our assignment (Matthew 28:19), and how to prepare and continuously be trained (Genesis - Revelation).

How are you preparing and implementing the tenets of your assignment?

The journey on will deny us." He knew that his this assignment will be spent showing sacrifice comes not your he would be ridi- You may be ostra- you.

need strengthening? about, and rejected. Harvest Do you need to seek You may not get an Church the Lord for clari- invitation to social ty on your assign- gatherings. It will Have you all be alright. Your approaching. Many considered the steps sacrifice and their will prepare to com- to completing your rejection will pay memorate the 40 assignment? Where off. Do not take your days leading to the are you on the jour- eyes off the promises death and resurrec- ney? I submit to you of God. Ready yourtion of our Savior, to take time to open self. If you started Jesus Christ. This yourself to hear from and then stopped, time for many is for the Lord. The perfect start again. Work on reflecting on the sac- time, I do believe, is your assignment to rifice made for us, during the time we completion. 2 Timothe thy 2:12 KJV, "If we life, suffering, death, suffer, we shall also Jesus knew that and resurrection of reign with him. If we deny him, he also

If you have not altime on earth would not be easy. The ready done so, accept assignment. Believers and unbe- only personally but Sacrifice, pray, and lievers the miracu- also from others. ask for guidance. As lous works, the pow- Friends and family Jesus's assignment er and authority of may or may not like was clear to Him, God. He knew that the change in you. so shall yours be to





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#### BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of Acts (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. In 1 Kings 20, who besieged and made war against Samaria after gathering his forces? Ben-Hadad, Menahem, Rezin, Omri

3. What king asked for the help of a woman who was a medium? Jehu, Amaziah, Saul, Neco

4. From 1 Samuel 19, whose life was saved when his wife put an image of a man into his bed? Samson, David, Amon, Cyrus

5. Who was the father of Elkanah? Jeremiah, Philip,

Esau, Jeroham 6. From Esther 1, how many days did Ahasuerus' feast last? 2, 4, 7, 10

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Ben-Hadad, 3) Saul, 4) David, 5) Jeroham, 6) Seven

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casev's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/ triviaguy.

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runday Sichool for all ages 9:45 am Wednesdays ommunity Meal & Service 6:00 pm Food Distribution Ministry: Monday, Wednesday and Friday

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### **Super** Crossword

#### **SONG TITLES**

91 WWII battle

town in

France

(brand of

a tube)

93 Hog sound

94 Tesla auto,

necktie

97 Fuel gases

101 New film type

102 What "@" is

105 Big blunders

force

108 Man-goat

110 Capture

111 Campus

116 Have the

deities

109 Marsh plants

buildings

guts 117 Made blond,

mavbe

119 Test for

in the 1920s

100 Off-track

96 Quiet stretch

95 String

adhesive in

92 Glue -

55 Rival of Ben

& Jerry's

market ID

62 Busy insect

64 With one flat,

musically

65 Brief snooze

in verse

68 Japanese

created food

salad green

69 Links gp. for

Club for

69-Down

member

72 Letters of

73 American

77 Margarine,

71 Small fortune

invitation?

66 Biotech-

**67** Atop,

59 Nibble (on)

60 Suspend

61 Scanned

ACROSS 58 "Science 1 Teenage Guy" with witch played multiple by Melissa Emmys **59** Honorable Joan Hart 8 Breakwater 60 Busy airport

embankment 15 Nintendo title plumber 20 Germ-free

21 Singer with the 2018 hit "Boo'd Up' 22 Put up, as a building 23 Patti Smith

25 Flat, as cola 26 One of the gps. **27** Rankle

28 Notices

30 Hero type 31 Nina Simone 39 Napoli's 41 Alien-seeking

42 City near Disney World 43 Manicure

46 Oxidizes 49 Put the

kibosh on 50 Missy Elliott 53 Dir. from

Miss to Mich 56 Pre-CIA gp. 57 Ad featur-

ing Smokey

Bear, e.g.

20

23

99 Narrates 100 Running

> Lisa 106 Totally in favor of 107 Chuck Berry

112 "Casablanca" woman 113 "Dies -(Latin hvmn) 114 - Schwarz

63 George Strait 69 World capital in the Andes 74 '60s war 75 2010-14 Mets 128 Remove

member 76 Britney Spears 79 Plane ticket detail 80 Large

81 Encyc. unit 82 Tosses out of the game. for short

zone

85 "Law & spinoff in brief 88 Busy insect

97 Plane ticket detail. for short

rather quickly 104 "This Is Life" journalist

13 Thin streets

115 Peculiar 118 Just making, with "out" 120 Liza Minnelli 127 Roaring cat crossbreed

loose coverings from 129 "Tartuffe" playwright 130 Thick 131 Ancient

ascetics DOWN

89 Bessie Smith

98 Mafioso John

2 Dating from 3 Furniture pieces for lying or sitting 4 Tach abbr. 5 Judge Lance 6 Petty peeve

7 Have on one's shoulder

8 "Black Panther" actor Andy 9 "Xanadu" gp. 10 Sitcom ET 11 "679" rapper Fetty

12 Make laugh

14 "In this way" 15 Spanish for "month" 16 Skilled crafter 17 Go further in the book, say

18 Apple digital storage service 19 Verdi opera 24 Mess up

29 Hercules player Kevin 32 Afflictions 33 Natural talent 34 Greet loudly

Saarinen

132 Slung mud at 36 Double (Oreo option) 37 Wife on "The 1 Very long tale Addams Family,"

casually 38 Big to-do 39 Lowdown 40 Mai -

(rum drinks) 44 Track circuit 45 Mag staffers 47 Ex-Yankee

Martinez 48 James Bond genre, in brief 51 Ox of Tibet 52 "Doggone it!" 53 Punishment for a tube

watcher

54 "Me neither"

12

quaintly 78 Adobe Acrobat suffix 83 Fourth of a yr. 84 That girl

bloom 86 Put the kibosh on 87 KGB's land

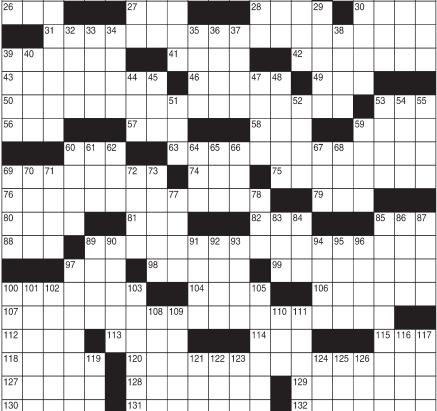
Zealander

college srs. 121 Prior to, 85 Large yellow in sonnets 122 Indian 89 Paree "to be'

flatbread 123 Not closed. in verse 124 — -pah band 125 Heady brew 90 Native New 126 Day, to Diego 18

King

≧



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DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

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# Thank You for reading The Enterprise

### **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**

BWW# VA-354662-1 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 PARTICULARLY 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,

#### WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET



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### Weekly **SUDOKU**

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

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

#### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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### LEGAL

2021 Virginia Building Code

The 2021 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) took effect January 18, 2024. Permit applications submitted after January 18, 2025 must comply with the 2021 Virginia USBC.

To view the significant code changes, please visit the Patrick County Building Inspection website at: www.co.patrick.va.us/160/Building-Inspections or you may contact the Building Inspection office at 276-694-4143 and a copy can be emailed to you.

### LEGAL



PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSED SIX-YEAR HIGHWAY PLAN
(2025/26 - 2029/30)
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION BUDGET

2025/26
PATRICK COUNTY

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Board of Supervisors of Patrick County, in accordance with section 33.2-331 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing on the Third Floor of the Veteran's Memorial Building located in Stuart, Virginia, at 106 Rucker Street in Stuart, VA 24171 from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2025.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed Secondary Six-Year Highway Plan for Fiscal Year 2025/26 through 2029/30 and the Secondary System Construction Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/26. Copies of the proposed Plan and Budget may be reviewed at the Martinsville Residency Office of the Virginia Department of Transportation, located at 309 Weeping Willow Lane in Bassett, Virginia, or at the office of the Patrick County Administrator located in Stuart, Virginia.

All projects in the Secondary Six-year Plan that are eligible for federal funds will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which documents how Virginia will obligate federal transportation funds.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this hearing should contact the Virginia Department of Transportation at (276) 629-2582.

Oral comments, written comments, or other exhibits relative to the proposed plan may be presented at this hearing.

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 - **11** 

#### Meetings

#### Thursday, March 13

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

#### Wednesday, March 19

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

#### **Events**

#### 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. This is for any overnight lodging entities who rent on a short-term, va cation 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, Feb. 28

Wayside Community Church, 3520 Wayside Road, Stuart invites everyone out for their Friday Night Fellowship at 6:30 p.m. Special musical guests are the Grace n' Grass group with an encouraging message by special guest Pastor Ron Peal. A variety of soups and sandwiches will be served afterwards. Come as you are.

The Stuart Farmers Market will host a vendor meeting at 11a.m. in the Stuart Town Office 100 Patrick Avenue, Stuart. This meeting is for current or future vendors for the Stuart Farmers Market. For more information, call Billy, (276) 694-3811.

#### 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

YOUR HOME?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

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.

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) will hold a grant opening and ribbon cut-

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10 a.m. at the Baliles-Reynolds Learning Cen-

#### Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 p.m., Stuart Church of Living Water, 101 East Blue Ridge Street, Stuart.

#### Friday, March 7

The Community Food Truck will be at the Woolwine SSRS from 3-4 p.m.

#### Saturday, March 8

The Patrick County VA250 Committee will hold a free event from 2-4 p.m. at the Star Theatre where people can learn about the county's colonial history from local historians and about the upcoming 250th celebrations.

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.

#### Saturday, March 15

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

#### Friday, March 21

The Community Food Truck will be at the Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

#### 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 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 from the yard sales are used to purchase supplies. Members meet on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's office, located on Wood Brothers Drive, in the 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. The Stuart Church of Living Water will hold at Quilted Colors. For more information, call 276-694-3020 or email patrickcountyquilters@ gmail.com

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

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial

S A B R I N A A S E P T I C S E A W A L L E L L A M A I G O D M O T H E R O F P U N K S T A L E A F C I R K S E E S I D O L HIGHPRIESTESSOFSOUL NYE P S A H U B K I N G O F C O U N T R Y
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ting for its Heavy Equipment Operator Lab at Honor Guard meets the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105 at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

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

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

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

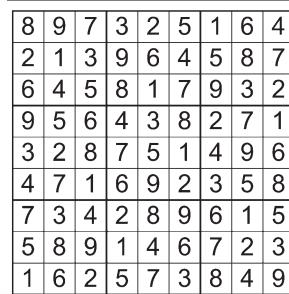
The Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food. The music and dancing are 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food, music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

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

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

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









### Ruritan clubs recognized at national convention



Zone 1 Lt. Governor Kevin Smith presenting the certificate to Woolwine President David Belcher during their February meeting. (Contributed photos)



Stuart Ruritan Bill Hines presenting Rudy Bears to Patrick County Sheriff's Deputy Cody

#### By Pamela Smith

The Ruritan National Convention was held in January in Greenville, S.C., and the newest club in Patrick County was recognized as being in the top 5 percent of all small clubs in growth. The Woolwine Community Ruritan Club added 18 members in 2024, all of which are dedicated to their community.

"This club amazes me," said Zone 1 Governor Pamela Smith. "Their willingness to step outside of the box with their projects and their success in helping the community in many ways is phenomenal." The club has lots of activities planned throughout the year.

The second youngest club in the county, the Stuart Ruritans, had a busy fourth quarter, spilling into 2025. They distributed Christmas goodie bags to the residents at the Landmark Center, presented Rudy Bears to the Stuart Fire Department, Patrick County Emergency Services and Patrick County Sheriff's Office. Rudy Bear is the official Ruritan mascot and are teddy bears that help first responders in situations that warrant comfort to children in tragedies. Smith, who also serves as

Stuart's secretary/treasurer, said this club is committed to mental health awareness and is planning again to partner with Patrick County Alzheimer's Group for a Color Walk/Bike Run later this year.

"Partnering with other civic/community organizations is helpful for all of those involved," said Smith.

Patrick Springs recently held a BBQ fundraiser to help "Envision Critz" with their endeavors. Vice-President Kenneth Reynolds said the recent addition of new members is helping the club develop new ideas and with manpower needed for their projects. This club is planning a Poor Man's Supper in March.

The Red Bank club is gearing up for its annual Peanut Butter Easter Egg sales, according to Vice-President Robert Cowdrey. Cowdrey reflected on the loss of one of their integral members. "Tom Bishop was a huge part of our delivery sector of these eggs. We will have to step up to make it happen this year." The Red Bank Club is excited to continue their traditional fundraiser this year.

Meadows of Dan is hosting Braden Health representatives to give an update on the hospital's

progress during their March 6th meeting. President Aaron Shelor proudly reported that his club delivered 18 loads of firewood to the needy and is actively helping to support the food pantry in their community.

The Ararat Ruritan club hosts the Disaster Relief Food Ministry on the last Saturday of each month. "This program has grown by leaps and bounds, and has now been moved to Smith Brothers Trucking," Smith said. "There is a tremendous need for this service, and we're glad to help provide for our community," said club President Claude Smith. The club hosts a casual (friendly) Rook game every Monday night. This provides a time for folks to come out and fellowship.

The Ruritan slogan is "Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service," and as you can see from all of the above, all of the clubs in Patrick County are 'all in'.

For more information on Ruritans in your area, or if you're interested in starting a club in your area, please contact Zone Governor, Pamela Smith at pamela.smith.ruritan@gmail.com or at (276)

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# Valentines, community gathers at special dance

The Willis Gap Community Center held its Valentine's Dance with Rock and Roll Doug Reeves' 52 Soth Band on Saturday, February 15, with food, drinks, music and dancing.

The kitchen helpers, Waymond and Diane Dawson donated fried apple pies, a cake, and a picture frame made by Way-

Mary Dellenback Hill donated two box- Acoustic Open Jam is es of Valentine's chocolates. The tickets usual 50/50 drawing.

A big thank you to month. Both Jams, the 52 South Band's the doors open at ty musicians and singers, the audience, the kitchen helpers, the and person who greeted us with a voluntary 50/50 ticket sale, and all our working volunteer members of the center.



Order Open of Jams, Les Edgell (left), withdrawing the stand-out dancing couples. ticket, Richard Solemdinger.

Appalachian munity every Friday Night, and the Golden Oldwere drawn from the ies Open Jam is the ed Road, Virginia's last Tuesday of each p.m. for food cil, and the Patrick drinks, music, dancing from Commerce. 6:30 until 9 p.m. The drawing about 8:15 p.m. All formation. proceeds go to the

Center is affiliated with Virginia's Tourism Corporation, The Crook-Heritage Music Trail, The Patrick Coun-Tourism Coun-County Chamber of Email marhill196648@yahoo.com for more in-



Brenda and Richard Solemdinger, one of the night's most



Left to right: Dourg Reeves 52 South Band with Tom Reeves, steel guitar, Doug Reeves, electric guitar, Tracy Hodges, drums, and Mark O'Neal, electric guitar. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill)

Community Center. I will clean out Willis Gap Combasements, garages, etc. and haul away anything, brush also,

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Company Mark Pendleton

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### DRBA launches plastic recycling challenge to earn free Trex bench

The Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) is inviting the community to participate in a plastic recycling challenge to earn a free Trex bench by collecting 1,000 pounds of qualifying plastics by January 6, 2026.

How to Participate

\*Only certain plastic materials count toward the challenge, in-

\*Plastic grocery, bread, cereal, and produce bags

be clean and dry) \*Plastic wrap from bottled wa-

\*Mulch, soil, and salt bags (must

ter, paper towels, and toilet paper \*Bubble wrap

\*Ziploc-style food storage bags weigh their plastics, take a pho-

What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.

(clean and dry) Participants should collect and

to of the weight, and drop them recycling bins, such as Target,

Walmart, or Food Lion.

After dropping off plastics, participants must log the collection at my.trex.com using:

Username: DanRiverBasin

Password: Cleanrivers

Submissions should include the drop-off location, city, state, and total weight, along with the photo of the weighed plastics.

By recycling plastic waste, the initiative aims to protect the Dan River Basin's ecosystems while working toward earning a free Trex bench for a local park or trail in the region. Participants can submit multiple entries until the off at locations with plastic bag challenge deadline on January 6,



The annual Birthday Party for Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart was held February 1, by the JEB Stuart's Birthplace Preservation Trust, The Fisher Peak Timber Rattlers, an old-time band, provided music and dancing. Cake and lemonade, along with free hotdogs with all the fixings, coffee, sodas, and water were provided by members of the board. Speakers were Ronnie Haynes and actor Sam Winkler.

SIND US ON



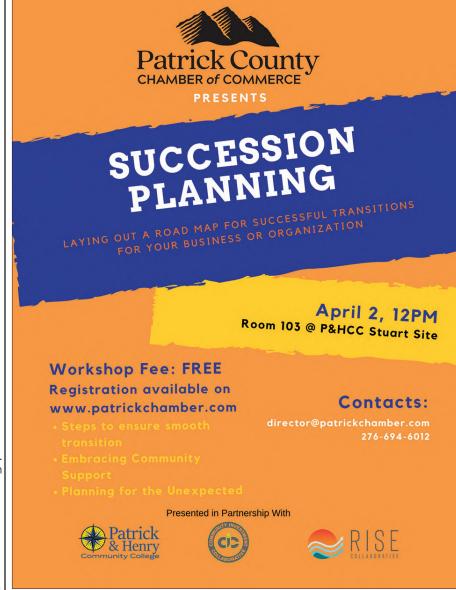
The Fisher Peak Timber Rattlers (left to right), along with all the volunteers, dancing the Virginia Reel to old-time music. On the table to the right is the birthday cake and lemonade. (Photo by Timothy Tilley)



Kitchen helpers Chip Bondurant (left to right), Amy B. Sawyers, and Brandon Parish. Not pictured, Misha Fulton Parish. (Photo by Mary Dellenback Hill)



Board members John Wilson, Amy B. Sawyers, Ronnie Haynes, along with Stu Shank, Dan Shikenjanski and Dot Shikenjanski (seated), of the Fisher Peak Timber Rattlers' band. (Photo by Mary Dellenback Hill)



# Succession Planning class set for April

ing for the next generation to step up and take over may be interested in attending Succession Planning, a Lunch and Learn workshop hosted by the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce. The workshop will be held on Wednesday April 2 at 12 p.m. at the Stuart site of Patrick & Henry Community College.

needed to make a smooth transition from one company leader to the next during the event that will provide a unique opportuni- or director@patrickchamber.com.

Businesses or organizations look- ty to reflect on the importance of succession planning and its role in sustaining businesses for future generations. Insights to implement will be shared.

This workshop is presented by the chamber in partnership with Patrick & Henry Community College, SOVA Rise and Community Investment Collaborative. Atten-Attendees will learn the steps dance is free. Registration is required at www.patrickchamber. com or for more information contact the chamber at 276-694-6012

# VOTE NO

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



### 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

#### mountainmedianews.com/best-of/

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.



The Patrick County Dolly Parton Imagination Library was awarded donations from their partners. The local chapter currently serves 403 children who receive a book mailed to them each month. Without our local partners and donations, this program would not be successful. For more information or to register a child visit www.patrickchamber.com Pictured left to right: Sarah Wray with One Family Productions, Rebecca Adcock, Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, Anna Lester with Stuart Rotary Club, Kimberly Stegall and Kathleen Kilgore with Step Inc.

### Playing possum, or opossum, at the library







# Two win National Beta Scholarship

By Kaydence Harman

Patrick County High School

Each year the Na-Beta Club tional awards 257merit scholarships to 12th grade members of the Senior Beta Club. This year, more than 3,500 students from across the USA applied for National Beta Schol-The Patrick County High School Senior Beta Club announced that two of tional Beta Club schol- Beta Club Scholarship this year. members of our club.

Zachary



this year's 257 Na- Zachary Letchworth (left), and Bryan Clark, won a National

arships were won by both won a National lates Bryan Clark and Beta Club Scholar- Zachary Letchworth Bryan Clark and ship this year. The for their outstanding Letchworth local club congratu- achievement.

#### misunderstood ani-Another mal, the opossum, was the subject of Storytime at the library. Opossums and possums are two different animals. Opossums live in Virginia and possums live in Australia. Opossums are the only marsupials in United States and are beneficial to the environment. They eat thousands of ticks and

are very clean animals that are often seen roaming at night. They don't carry rabies due to their low body temperature. You might also see a mother opossum carrying 8 or more young on their back. Story time led by Sam Edmundson, Norma Bozenmayer and Jess

books "Night Animals," by Gianna Marino; "My First Book of Baby Animals," by Dianne Namm, and "Playing Possum," by Jennifer Black Reinhardt.

shared and participants created programs, visit or call your local an opossum craft out of a recycled library.

Hines started with reading the

toilet paper roll. For more infor-Facts about opossums were mation on opossums or library

> 129 Howell Lane Stuart, VA

### Thank You for reading the enterprise

### **AUCTION** ★

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Saturday, March 1, 2025 @ 10:00am (Doors open @ 8:00 am)

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Red Seal notes including a \$100 bill, large lot of Morgan & Peace SILVER Dollars, Two & Three Cent Pieces, Mercury SILVER Dimes, Barber SILVER dimes & quarters, Walking Liberty & Franklin SILVER Half Dollars, Matron Head Large Cents, V Nickels, LARGE Lot of Indian Head Cents, U.S. Mint & Proof Sets, Prestige Sets with SILVER Dollars & Half Dollars, Sealed bank box of Lincoln Cents - TOO MANY ITEMS TO LIST!!!

PICTURES & COMPLETE LIST AVAILABLE AT

www.auctionzip.com, AUCTIONEER #4097 ☆ DIRECTIONS ← ☆

FROM MARTINSVILLE, VA - Take Hwy 58W, go 7 miles. Horsepasture Fire Dept. on left at corner of 58W & Rt. 687

Horsepasture Fire Dept. on left at Corner of 58W & Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road). WATCH FOR SIGNS FROM STUART, VA - Take Hwy 58E into Henry County, turn right on Rt. 687 (Soapstone Road), 1st road to right just past Old Country Store & Hillcrest Baptist Church. LOOK FOR SIGNS

★ In the event of snow or ice, call Auctioneer day of auction at (276) 340-6441 ★ TERMS - Cash or approved check with proper ID. No warranties expressed or implied. All announcements made day of sale take precedence over all previous statements, written or verbal, concerning this auction. All items sold "as is-where

is". 10% Buyer's Premium applies. WILLIAMS AUCTION CO. CHARLES E. WILLIAMS, JR., AUCTIONEER 110 STATION DRIVE, MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112

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