

# Board wrestles with proposed \$2.4 million shortfall as budget preparations begin

**By Taylor Boyd**

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors reviewed the proposed fiscal year 2025-2026 budget during its Feb. 24 budget session. The proposal included a \$2.4 million deficit between county revenues and required and/or requested funding for payroll, insurance, benefits, departmental requests, and other outside requests.

While the board looks to reduce expenses, County Administrator Beth Simms said, “One thing that we’ve talked about for the last year or two and is in the budget is creating some financial policies or kind of different pots for stuff like this. So, right now we just have that one pot of money and there’s no real direction of it. It’s just sit there, save it, don’t touch it – which is fine. But if you have a capital fund or budget stabilization fund, then when things like this need to be funded you’re not just dipping into that unrestricted” fund balance.

Mayo River District Supervisor Clayton Kendrick advised against using the fund balance unless absolutely necessary, citing the county’s financial struggles five years ago.

Smith River District Supervisor Doug Perry asked if there was a recommended percentage



Scott Wickham, CPA, CFE, of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates (RFC), presents the county’s audit report at the Feb. 24 budget session.

for the unassigned fund balance.

“I know we brought it down to 21 percent with the HVAC at the library and something else,” he said of the costs of repairs and maintenance projects in the current budget cycle.

Simms said the current unassigned fund balance is 22.74 percent, with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommending a minimum of 16.67 percent, or two months’ worth of expenditures.

Some of the balance is already allocated for capital projects this fiscal year, Finance Officer Lori Jones added.

Perry suggested implementing a policy requiring any excess funds above a certain percentage to be transferred into a capital improvement budget, ensuring the county maintains an emergency fund while also planning for future infrastructure needs.

Kendrick recalled that the county previously had a \$2.5 million contingency fund, but it was gradually spent down, “kind of like we’re talking about the reserved funds to keep balancing budgets and buying other things. Before you know it, we’re broke and we’re borrowing money every

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Dr. Stephanie Davis leads a presentation on the budget process during the Patrick County Board of Supervisors’ retreat.

## Roles and responsibilities of board, administrator discussed at retreat

**By Taylor Boyd**

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors discussed the roles and responsibilities of both the board members and the county administrator during its annual retreat on Feb. 25 at the Reynolds Homestead.

The nearly five-hour session, led by Dr. Stephanie Davis, covered the board’s legal duties, the authority of the county administrator, and the importance of clear policies and communication.

Davis outlined seven key responsibilities the board is required to fulfill under Virginia state law:

Preparing and approving the county budget.

“You’re going to prepare a coun-

ty budget and appropriate funds. If you are new to the board, you’re probably figuring out that is one of the most important actions that this board will take on an annual basis,” she said.

Levying taxes, including real estate, personal property, and meals taxes; appointing members to various boards and committees; and reviewing and approving financial claims before issuing payments.

“You will preaudit the claims against the county and issue warrants for that subject. What that means is you will approve a check register and that goes to the Treasurer or the authority to be sign

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## Harvest House Emporium brings fudge, coffee, and local art to Main Street

**By Taylor Boyd**

Harvest House Emporium, the newest addition to Stuart’s Main Street, is now open, offering a unique mix of locally made goods, artisan crafts, and sweet treats.

Owner Angel Garner describes the shop as a two-part business: one side serving as a café with fudge, coffee, baked goods, and ice cream, and the other functioning as an artisan emporium showcasing the work of local makers.

The café features coffee from Springs of Life, traditional espressos, and dairy products from Homestead Creamery, including ice cream and milk. While the shop will offer a variety of baked goods, Garner said she does not plan to sell cold or frozen drinks, instead referring customers to Uptown Stagecoach for those items.

“I want everything in here to be



Harvest House Emporium is now open on Stuart’s Main Street, offering fudge, baked goods, coffee, and handcrafted goods.

amazing. When you come in here, I don’t care if it’s even getting an apple fritter. I want you to leave here going, “They have the best apple

(See Harvest p.2)

## Clark Gas & Oil donates more than \$60,000 to local nonprofits, schools

**By Taylor Boyd**

Clark Gas & Oil donated \$68,500 to local non-profit organizations and Patrick County Schools during its traditional giving back to the community event held on February 26.

Blair Clark, president of the company, said the business began the practice of donating more than 25 years ago.

“My parents taught us that when we’re blessed, we should share. We’re part of this community. We’re in this community, and we’re a part of it. That’s why we give back,” Clark said, adding that he believes supporting organizations is the best way to give back.

Most, he added, touch nearly every aspect and each part of the county. He noted that almost every organization is also comprised solely of volunteers.

Recipients include Safety Rope; the Reynolds Homestead; Caring Hearts Free Clinic of Patrick County; Patrick County Food



Blair Clark presented a check to Stuart Elementary School Principal Annie Baker.



Anna Clark Lester gave a check to Ararat Volunteer Fire Department representative Miranda Lawson.

Bank; Patrick County Alzheimer’s Association (DRBA); Bull Mountain Arts; Patrick County Developmental Center; PARC Work-

(See Clark Gas p. 6)

## KAM’s Corner offers judgment-free support for substance abuse, mental health recovery

**By Taylor Boyd**

A new substance abuse and mental health facility, KAM’s Corner, LLC, is working to provide judgment-free treatment for individuals struggling with addiction and mental health disorders, helping them reintegrate into the community.

CEO and Licensed Clinical Social Worker Tina Street said many people turn to substance use as a coping mechanism for underlying issues such as trauma, depression, or family struggles.

“Most people utilize substances to deal with those issues rather

than going to the right resources because either they don’t have the right knowledge to do it, they don’t have the resources to do it, or they don’t have the motivation to do it,” she said.

Since substance abuse and mental health disorders often coincide, KAM’s aims to help individuals recognize the impact of substance use on their lives while addressing their mental health challenges.

“We can’t focus on healing our mental health if there’s substance use involved,” Street said. “Then

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# Board

(cont. from page 1)

year,” he said.

Simms proposed dividing the unassigned fund balance into separate funds, “because any local government’s going to have to invest in its public infrastructure, so having one pot of money for that – your capital. One pot of money, like you’re saying, the one you really don’t touch unless it really is a crazy emergency. Then another budget stabilization fund to kind of catch those things, like when the library HVAC broke last year, to kind of catch those unexpected items,” Simms said of categories that may include capital improvements for infrastructure projects, emergency reserves to cover unexpected crises and budget stabilization to address unforeseen expenses.

Kendrick noted that the unassigned fund balance is currently generating about \$750,000 annually in interest.

“When we didn’t have it in there, I’ll tell you, it’d been rough,” he said. “The first year I was on the board, it was tough. We got rid of a lot of stuff—a lot of positions, jobs, raises—everything the county needed. It was tough to get it back up, and I don’t want to ever see the county get in that kind of shape again.”

Instead of taking some funds from the unassigned fund balance, Kendrick suggested the board should start putting money in a separate account.

**Audit Presentation**

Scott Wickham, CPA, CFE, of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates (RFC), presented the county’s audit report, stating that Patrick County received an unmodified, clean opinion, the highest rating an independent auditor can give.

State Noncompliance Finding — the only state-level issue involved the Children’s Services Act (CSA), due to missing documentation following a staff transition.

“During our testing, CSA had a transition in staffing during the year and we were unable to find

some of the documentation requested during our test selection. It did appear that the newer records were there, but we were testing across the whole year, and some of the prior personnels filing was not there for us to find and review and approve to make sure it was up to standard,” he said.

Federal Compliance Findings — the school board lacked documentation proving contractors met Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements.

“The school board did not have documentation from the contractor that they did comply with those requirements. We do not know if they did or did not, but during our testing we did not have support to prove that they did. So, there was a finding for noncompliance with that federal requirement,” he said.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) report contained timing errors, though total figures were accurate.

“The numbers you provided were inaccurate based on the timing of the report. In total they were accurate but based on the deadlines required they were not. So, technically it is inaccurately reported, but it will correct itself essentially as you all file the final report,” Wickham said, adding he doesn’t think it’s “a super significant deal as it will” be fixed.

Wickham said the county’s five-year trend shows:

- \*Assets have grown by 3.5% annually.
- \*Liabilities have decreased by 4.5% annually.
- \*General fund revenues have increased by 10% annually, including 3.74% annual growth in property tax revenue and 14% annual growth in intergovernmental revenues, largely due to ARPA funding.

Operating expenditures have increased by 13 percent per year, with school board expenditures growing 11 percent annually, driven by grants and the additional 1 percent



The Patrick County Board of Supervisors officially begins the budget season at its Feb. 24 meeting.

sales tax for school funding.

“I know several years ago I was here and talked about we were a little bit in dire situation of fund balance and really needed to grow and make sure that you have a balanced budget and all those things,” Wickham said. “To see those amounts grow is really encouraging so you’ve done a good job of having positive growth in your position. Still want to maintain that balanced budget, but it’s really good to see that growth.”

Overall, Wickham said Patrick County is seeing an almost 10 percent growth in revenues per year.

According to the five-year trend information on the general fund, the county also sees a 13.03 percent growth in total operating expenditures per year and a 12.30 percent growth in total expenditures per year.

Wickham said the school board operating expenditures have grown by almost 11 percent per year over a five-year time frame.

“A lot of that also is grant-driven, so they’ve had some significant ARPA and ESSER grants over that time period, so a lot of their spending increase has become of that as well. They also have received some additional one percent sales tax that, you all have passed that and so that funding comes to the county and then flows to the school board,” he said.

As of June 30, the county’s unassigned fund balance, or what it

has available to use is \$15,532,849. The unassigned fund balance’s compound annual growth rate is 24.78 percent.

Wickham said the national organization Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends about two months unassigned fund balance, or 16.67 percent, of general operating expenditures.

He noted the county’s debt balances have decreased, and the county’s been paying down its bonds and debts.

“You’ve done a good job of having positive growth in your position,” Wickham said.

Patrick County’s current debt per capita is \$3,217, below the state average of \$4,063.

The board also:

- \*Approved a letter of support for ZiTel’s Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) application.
- \*Appointed Bryce Simmons as an At-Large member of the Stormwater Board of Appeals.
- \*Appointed Janet Rorrer as the Mayo River District representative on the Planning Commission.
- \*Appointed Jerry Adams to the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) as an At-Large member.
- \*Appointed Ed Pool and Vance Agee as At-Large members of the Planning Commission, both in 3-2 votes.

# Harvest

(cont. from page 1)



The shop is open Tuesday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

fritters I’ve ever eaten,” Garner said.

On the artisan side, Harvest House Emporium features vendors specializing in handcrafted products, including:

- Goat’s milk lotions, soaps, and lip balms
- Locally sourced honey and bee-related products
- Pottery by David Lunt
- Various local artworks and crafts

Garner is also looking at carrying works from other vendors that visitors can take home as a souvenir or a gift, and plans to stock souvenir shirts featuring Patrick County, Virginia, and Blue Ridge Mountain designs for visitors.

Although the main focus of the café, fudge was not part of Garner’s original plan.

“Then I literally woke up in bed one night like, ‘Fudge, fudge, fudge,’ and I’m like, ‘Fudge what? What are you trying to tell me, God?’” she said with a laugh.

After researching the industry, she felt confident that a fudge shop would be a strong attraction for the shop.

“It is a great draw; fudge is a great draw

anywhere you go. So, we felt that’s going to be like our thing that makes people want to come down here,” Garner said.

The shop’s location—directly across from the Patrick County Visitor’s Center and Main Street’s large parking lot—felt like the perfect fit.

“People are going to see ‘fudge,’ and they’re not just going to get out, go into the Visitor’s Center, get back in their car, and leave. They’re going to come in this shop,” she said.

When visitors do come to her shop, Garner said she wants to have a flyer detailing Main Street’s other businesses to help encourage them to stay on Main Street longer and visit the other retailers.

Originally from Illinois, Garner said she and her husband have dreamed of opening a shop like this for years.

“We just love to travel. Little towns like this are just, I don’t know—I love them. I’m in love with them. We’re very old school,” she said.

She said that when they visit small towns, they prefer to park, walk, and explore local businesses.

“It’s something that we love to do. We’re retired, so for the past eight years we travel back and forth (to Illinois), and it’s just always been our thing to do. We always said, ‘Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have a little shop like that?’”

Garner initially considered Danbury, North Carolina, but ultimately felt that Stuart was the right fit.

“We’re on North Main Street a lot, and coming by this place—it just spoke to me one day,” she said.

She added that she would park in front of the building and pray over it, feeling drawn to the space.

“I was just like, ‘God, is this where you want us to be? Is this the spot?’ And I really felt like it was. I just really felt like this was where God wanted us to be and to add to this community that we have

fallen in love with,” she said.

Harvest House Emporium is open Tuesday – Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. It’s closed on Sundays and Mondays

For more information, visit Facebook.com/HarvestHouseEmporium.

## Pets of the Week



This sweet little three-month-old hound mixed female puppy, and friendly young white German Shepherd mixed male, are available for adoption. They are so deserving of a loving home. Free spay/neuter 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. Adoption fees

are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination.

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League provides pet food assistance and information about low-cost spay/neuter services; contact blueridgeawl@gmail.com. We will be meeting at the Blue Ridge Library in Stuart on Saturday, March 15 at 10 a.m., welcome; be part of our winning team.

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# Roles

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the checks and send them out for invoices and that sort of thing,” she said.

The board also is responsible for overseeing construction and maintenance of county buildings; adopting and enforcing ordinances related to policing, sanitation, and health and approving and enforcing land use and comprehensive planning policies.

“You’re required to adopt the county’s comprehensive land use plan or your comprehensive plan in a proven enforced related ordinance to land use,” Davis said.

Davis emphasized that budget preparation is one of the board’s most important responsibilities each year. She added that Virginia law allows county boards to hire a county administrator, who serves as an at-will employee with a contract.

“It is really up to the board to delegate as much or as little authority as you want to your county administrator,” Davis said. “You have a lot of flexibility. In general, this is what I always tell my elected officials, you make policy. You take action through resolutions, through ordinances, through adopting a budget, you are taking policy actions.

“In general, boards make policy, and the county administrator and staff implement those policies,” she said, adding that the level of authority granted to a county administrator varies by locality. In some counties, the administrator has broad authority, while in others, they operate with more board oversight.

For example, in Henrico County, the county executive has significant decision-making power, including approving personnel policies without board approval. In contrast, Patrick County’s board typically reviews and approves such policies.

Smith River District Supervisor Doug Perry suggested that the board should formalize policies outlining the administrator’s responsibilities.

“We don’t have that solid policy created. Along those lines - as far as how would we evaluate. I think so already today we got two, three things that we requested and, you know, how to turn that” into the evaluation process. “You know, Jonathan (Wood) got a great start on a recommendation from our attorney on that evaluation process,” Perry said.

Davis recommended using the county’s strategic plan as a framework for evaluating the administrator’s performance.

“If you come to an agreement on

what you want to accomplish in the short-term over the course of the next year that is her evaluation process. Then the (administrator) comes back and says, ‘this is what you told me to do board and this is what I’ve done.’ That’s why you need some form of a strategic plan,” Davis said.

She added there needs to be a list the county administrator reports back to the board on so it can know the process made on certain things it wanted accomplished.

“You really don’t have a job description - they don’t come with job descriptions. You all have to figure out what it is you want your county administrator to do and provide that clear guidance and develop,” Davis said. “If you come to an agreement on what you want to accomplish in the short term over the next year, that becomes the evaluation process,” she said.

Dan River District Supervisor Andrew Overby suggested creating a structured daily routine for County Administrator Beth Simms to follow.

“Expectations,” Perry said. Overby said this is something he feels the board needs to get a handle on so that Simms is protected.

“Because right now, she’s just kind of ‘well, I think this is” right “because we haven’t given clear” guidance, Perry said.

“Well, she has a lot of heat from the public because they think she’s the one doing things. Have we told her to do that or is that something she’s taken initiative on herself? I feel like we need to clearly define that,” Overby said.

He added that the board has brought the issue up before, to discuss it with the county attorney.

Perry suggested the board can take the requests made at the retreat and create particulars for them, determine how much authority Simms will have, and then make that guidance for the upcoming year.

Overby said the board has to be flexible with it as well as the board can change course or find out a request can’t be completed for some reason.

To address concerns about accountability, Overby proposed monthly or quarterly reports from Simms on the board’s goals and priorities.

“That way, if something does change—like a pandemic becoming the new priority—you’re adjusting goals accordingly and tracking progress,” Davis said.

Overby added that these reports would also improve communication between the board and Simms.



The Patrick County Board of Supervisors held a nearly five-hour retreat at the Reynolds Homestead on Feb. 25.

“Even if it’s just a summary in your monthly report, it would help us stay informed about things that may not be urgent enough for an email but are still good to know,” he said.

Simms noted that, since returning to her role, she has noticed a shift in authority within county departments.

“There’s a mentality of ‘I don’t have to listen to Beth, I can go around her to the board,” Simms said.

She stressed the need for board support in maintaining her ability to direct staff and enforce policies.

Overby asked if employees were bypassing Simms and going directly to board members.

“Yes, I know some of them are,” Simms said.

She explained that in her previous role as Franklin County’s Director of Economic Development, she sometimes spoke with board members directly but always informed the county administrator afterward.

Board Chairman Jonathan Wood suggested Simms add clarifying statements in her reports to publicly document that her actions are based on board directives, adding comments like “as the board directed, I did this” when giving her reports because he hates how Simms catches heat from the public.

“Like it’s decisions that we’ve made, but it doesn’t work out as well as we’ve hoped. You know, we’re responsible for the decisions that we make, but unfortunately, she’s taking heat rounds when she shouldn’t because she’s just doing what we directed. I don’t know if you can precept it with when you say some things like that to make sure” county residents know “that you didn’t make the decisions, we made the decisions, and you’re acting on the decisions we’ve made, and if you want to fuss, fuss at the five of us,” Wood said.

Simms said she needs to be able to have confidence that she can direct her staff and ask them to do things, and if that’s not happening, to come to the board about it.

“But what is happening is a lack of just authority. It feels like my authority has been undermined, and it’s just kind of like, ‘eh,’ and that’s how it was when I got here. It was like everybody was in their own silos, doing their own thing, and there wasn’t cohesion, but I’m working to get that back. What I’m telling the board is that I just need that support,” she said.

For example, if a board member calls Facilities Director Mike McGuinness and asks him to show them a system that needs to be replaced, Simms said she has no problem with that.

Overby said he has not personally received complaints from staff about Simms.

“In my time on the board, no one has come to me saying, ‘I’m ignoring Beth and bringing this issue to you instead,’” he said.

In Virginia, Simms said some in her role are called county administrators, but in most other places they’re called county managers, state managers, or town managers, she added.

However, Virginia law defines both the county administrator and county manager forms of government. Changing to the latter form would require a vote, as well as other criteria to be met — including a minimum population.

- The board also discussed:
- The budget process and financial planning strategies.
  - Proper communication protocols between board members, the county administrator, staff, and external agencies.
  - Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guidelines for government transparency.
  - Future county projects and long-term goals.

# KAM’s

(cont. from page 1)

while they’re going that way, we’re helping them with their trauma, we’re helping them with their depression, bipolar, and family issues and kind of getting them back into obtaining and maintaining those interpersonal relationships within their family structures, friends, and peers.”

KAM’s, short for Kicking Addictive Mentalities, also works to connect clients with educational, employment, and housing resources.

“We have a lot of housing issues really everywhere, but especially in Patrick County,” Street said. “So, we provide a level of residential resources.”

Clients must be drug-free to qualify for these resources, but KAM’s still works with the community to identify other available assistance.

Street emphasized that recovery requires a fresh start, but many people return to old environments and influences, increasing the likelihood of relapse.

“Most often, they go back into the people, places, and things that they just came from. If you’re not strong enough to say no to your triggers, to say no to your cravings, most often people will relapse. So, we’re just trying to be that step in-between,” she said.

Founded in 2023, KAM’s has served 30-40 individuals and currently assists about 20 clients—many of whom are walk-ins.

“We do not have to have a specialist, like a doctor, does not have to send you there,” Street said. “They

can walk in and say, ‘Hey, I need some services.’ We assess them, and they can start if their insurance approves them.”

Because recovery is a personal journey, clients may participate in KAM’s step-up and step-down programs for anywhere from six months to three years.

“It just depends on their journey and how much help they need. Some people come in and they’re already clean, they just need that extra push to kind of help with the cravings. So, they come into the class and they get taught how to deal with their triggers and how to cope with whatever else they have going on since drugs is no longer the case,” she said, adding people could potentially be in there six months and be able to step down to another program to where they don’t need intensive services.

Programs include:  
\*ASAM Level 2.5: Partial hospitalization, requiring five hours of group therapy, five days a week.

\*ASAM Level 2.1: Intensive outpatient care, requiring three to four sessions per week, each lasting three hours.

Mental Health Skill-Building also helps clients develop daily life skills, including managing medications, applying for jobs, handling household responsibilities, and accessing community resources.

Substance Use Case Management connects individuals to resources for continued recovery.

Clients in the Peer Support Program, Street’s favorite program, re-

ceive mentorship from individuals who have successfully overcome addiction.

“Often times, people gravitate to those who have been on the journey that they have been on because they feel like people understand. A lot of us professionals, we have the book knowledge, but we’ve never been through the journey,” Street said. “Peer support is so special because you have somebody who has been there, who knows your feelings – they know what’s going on, they know what you’re feeling, they have been in your shoes. But they got out of it, and they stayed clean and now they have chosen to help others do that.”

KAM’s plans to introduce two new programs in the coming months:

ASAM Level 3.1: A residential housing program for individuals leaving rehab or intensive care. Clients will focus on finding permanent housing, employment, or educational opportunities while maintaining sobriety.

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Services: A team-based approach for individuals with severe mental illness who have not benefited from other treatments.

“This service is a group-based service, and actually it’s more intensive. Whenever you have more intensive services you have more professionals that’s dealing with them. If no other program has worked, you’ve been in services for years and years and you’re not getting any better, or your journey has been a rollercoaster ride, ACT services will help you,” Street

said.

Street’s motivation for opening KAM’s is deeply personal—her mother, a Patrick County resident, struggled with addiction for years.

“She’s been clean and sober for 20-plus years, and she’s actually our office manager,” Street said. “I saw how people treated her, and I just did not like that. I think that people are still people no matter what their situation is.”

Recognizing limited mental health and addiction services in the county, Street was determined to bring more accessible treatment options to the community.

“Of course, Piedmont Community Services can’t serve everybody,” she said. “That’s when I said, ‘I’m going to put something in Patrick County because these people deserve it.’ They deserve to not have to travel to Martinsville or Roanoke for help.”

Since opening, KAM’s has received positive feedback from residents, confirming the need for additional support services.

Many of KAM’s 10 employees are Street’s family members, including her sisters, cousins, and mother.

“That is the atmosphere we want to create,” she said. “We stay humble, nonjudgmental, and family-oriented. Honestly, I think that most people just need some love.”

KAM’s Corner is located at 797 Woodland Drive in Stuart and is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, call (276) 734-3421 or email t.street@kam-cornerllc.com.



# March 4, History and C. Bascom Slep

March 4 is a date that may not mean much to you, or any American.

But 100 years ago, it was a significant day.

March 4 used to be the official day for presidential inaugurations. President-elects such as Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt were sworn into office on March 4.

The fourth member of Mount Rushmore, General George Washington, did not celebrate his 1789 inauguration until April 30.

While Congress scheduled the inauguration for March 4, they were unable to count the electoral ballots in time!

Pushing the inauguration back to April 30 gave Washington more time to travel from Virginia to New York City (the U.S. capital at the time).

The March 4 inauguration tradition generally applied to every U.S. president until ratification of the Twentieth Amendment in 1933. The second inauguration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937 began the modern trend of holding the ceremony on January 20.

One of the last U.S. presidents to be sworn into office on March 4 was Calvin Coolidge.

Coolidge served as vice president under the previous Warren G. Harding Administration. Harding was an extremely popular president while in office.

But in August 1923, Harding died of a heart attack.

Thus, Coolidge ascended into the presidency. Coolidge soon tapped Wise County native C. Bascom Slep to serve as Coolidge's secretary (what is known today as chief of staff).

Bascom was not new to the politics of Washington, DC. His father, Campbell Slep Sr. was a U.S. Congressman representing the Ninth District of Virginia from 1903 until his sudden death in 1907.

In a special election, Bascom ran to succeed his father. A Virginia Military Institute graduate who completed his studies with the highest grade point average in school history (a record that still stands today according to sources), Bascom was a smart and promising young man.

Additionally, Bascom was a dedicated Republican. He chaired the Republican Party of Virginia's state committee beginning in 1905.

Bascom comfortably won the special election, securing nearly 70% of the vote.

The Ninth District frequently changed hands up until that time,



but Bascom continued to win reelection as a Republican.

During this time, Bascom was the only Republican congressman in the Virginia delegation! He was one of a handful of Republican congressmen from the South, which overwhelmingly supported Democrats.

Not only did Bascom continue service in Congress, but he also headed the Republican Party of Virginia until 1918.

Bascom then retired from elected office. President Harding soon hired Bascom to serve in the Administration as an advisor.

Once again, Bascom was one of the few to come from the South and have a role in the White House.

Given Bascom's relationships and knowledge of White House affairs, Coolidge offered Bascom the secretary position.

Bascom served in this role as Coolidge ran for president during the 1924 election. Coolidge prevailed in the 1924 contest, and his inauguration was set for March 4, 1925, nearly 100 years ago.

Despite the victory, Bascom was inclined to move back home. His final day with the Coolidge Administration was also March 4, 1925.

Bascom returned home to Big Stone Gap, where he practiced law. A future appointment by the Hoover Administration resulted in France awarding Bascom the French Legion of Honor Medal.

Bascom passed away in 1943, but his legacy lives on in the foothills and mountains of Appalachia.

Bascom's house was donated to the Commonwealth of Virginia, which now stands as Big Stone Gap's Southwest Virginia Museum and Historical State Park. It is a National Historic Landmark.

The post office and courthouse in Big Stone Gap is named after Bascom.

The University of Virginia's College at Wise campus features the C. Bascom Slep Student Center.

The Slep Foundation carries out Bascom's request in his will to improve the health, education and welfare of Lee and Wise County residents.

According to their website, the Foundation has awarded over \$35 million in scholarships, pledges and charitable grants.

March 4 may not carry as much meaning to people anymore, but the Ninth District of Virginia can celebrate the centennial of when one of their very own served their final day in the White House.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Blood Drive set

This month's blood drive is scheduled on Tuesday, March 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at the John D. Hooker Building. Please note the change in the time for donations.

Donors are reminded that RapidPass allows you to start the blood donation process from the comfort of your home or office. The donor can answer health history questions before arriving at the blood drive location. This can save as much as 15-20 minutes in the donation process! RapidPass must be completed the day of the drive and can be found at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass>. The donor can bring a hard copy or copy it to your cell phone.

The Red Cross encourages all donors to get a good night's sleep, to eat a good breakfast or lunch, drink plen-

ty of water, and bring a picture ID with them to the drive.

Donors can make an appointment up to the time of donation through the blood donor app, by calling 1-800-REDCROSS (733-2767) or online by going to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and searching 24171.

Please donate to become a member of the unique "club" of only 3% of the nation's population who donate blood.

This month's blood drive is supported by Jessup and Associates, CPA, a long-time sponsor.

This month's goal is 23 equivalent units.

The volunteers look forward to serving you and making your donation a pleasant experience.

Gene Stirewalt,  
Stuart

### Effects of HB1699

Similar to the 2024 General Assembly, the Democrat majorities in the Virginia General Assembly passed a bill this session to strip the exemption from state recordation taxes from certain Virginia non-profit historical preservation groups. HB1699, sponsored by Delegate Alex Askew (D-Virginia Beach), specifically targets the tax-exempt status of several organizations that preserve aspects of Virginia's Civil War Confederate history, including the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., the Virginia Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Virginia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, located in Ararat here in Patrick County. Last year, Governor Youngkin vetoed an almost identical bill.

Attempting to refute claims that HB1699 would jeopardize the financial viability of these organizations, Del. Askew is quoted in the Virginia Mercury as saying, "It's not that we're looking to take away anybody's right to exist". However, given that HB1699 targets only Confederacy-related organizations and that many Democrat politicians have celebrated the destruction of Confederate monuments and the removal of Confederate-related names from roads, schools, and buildings, it seems to me that undermining the right of these organizations to exist is precisely the objective of HB1699.

The JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, located here in Patrick County, preserves and maintains Laurel Hill, the boyhood homeplace of Maj. Gen. James Ewell Brown (JEB) Stuart, the most famous cavalry officer of the Civil War. Laurel Hill is preserved for the education and enjoyment of all Virginians, so that current and future generations can appreciate not only the

man but the time in which he lived. The Trust holds one of Patrick County's major events each year, the annual Civil War encampment and re-enactment at Laurel Hill, which provides a tremendous boost to our local economy and helps preserve this important part of Virginia's history. The Trust also cares for the gravesite and probable home site of William Letcher, Gen. Stuart's great-grandfather, who was killed on his doorstep by a British Tory in 1780. His grave is the oldest known marked resting place in Patrick County. Critically, the JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust is a 100% volunteer organization; it receives no government funding and depends entirely on the generosity of volunteers and the public to accomplish its mission.

Should HB1699 become law, it would cripple the efforts of the Trust to maintain Laurel Hill and fulfill its historical mission. Considerable money and effort are needed to preserve and maintain the grounds, historical exhibits, and trails on the extensive property and hold the annual re-enactment. Loss of the tax exemption would likely result in a significant decline in donations as well, as it is foreseeable that some donors would be reluctant to contribute to a non-tax exempt entity.

If you value history and would like to help the JEB Stuart Preservation Trust maintain an important and fascinating part of Virginia's history right here in Patrick County, please join me in contacting Governor Youngkin (website: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/communicating-with-the-governors-office/>, phone: 804-786-2211, email: [glenn.youngkin@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:glenn.youngkin@governor.virginia.gov)) and asking him to veto HB1699.

David Robinette Jr.,  
Patrick Springs

### Investing in Education for Patrick County's Future

Dear Editor,

For the last several years, Patrick County Education Foundation (PCEF) has been engaged in raising funds for Patrick Promise. Designed to provide up to 2.5 years of post-high school education at Patrick & Henry Community College at a cost that is free to the family, Patrick Promise will do for graduates who reside in Patrick County what the Harvest SEED program does for graduates who reside in Martinsville and Henry County.

The intent of this program is simple: minimize local population decline, increase citizens' economic mobility, and enhance the economic attractiveness of Patrick County. Local education data demonstrates the tremendous impact that the Promise program can have upon the region.

The county boasts an exceptionally high on-time high school graduation rate, placing in the top ten in the Commonwealth for several years in a row. However, the county's post-high school credential attainment rate of 28.8% (as of 2023) is significantly lower than the national average (53.7%) and less than half the state average (59.3%). Additionally, Patrick County's rate is lower than every surrounding county/city, placing the community at an economic disadvantage.

We believe that Patrick Promise is critical to educating and retaining local talent and increasing overall economic attractiveness for new businesses and industries. It is for this reason that PCEF has been so deeply involved in raising the first three years of resources needed to launch the pro-

gram. Based upon current enrollment and current tuition rates, \$270,000 will fund the first three years with \$135,000 needed each year thereafter to maintain the program.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to the Patrick County School Board who on February 13, 2025, voted to dedicate proceeds generated from the cell phone tower at Patrick County High School to Patrick Promise. We also want to express our sincere appreciation for the willingness of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors to consider allocating resources for this critical initiative. Board Chair Jonathan Wood has requested that citizens and property owners of Patrick County reach out to him ([jwood@co.patrick.va.us](mailto:jwood@co.patrick.va.us)) to share their thoughts in preparation for the Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for Monday, March 10.

Simply put, an educated workforce pipeline drives regional economic transformation. Thus, we believe that Patrick Promise will help ensure that Patrick County remains a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family for generations to come.

Additional information about Patrick Promise, including a link to make a donation, can be found at: <https://www.patrickhenryfoundation.com/news.cfm?ID=217>.

Stewart D. Roberson, Ed.D.  
Patrick County Education Foundation, Board Chair  
J. Gregory Hodges, Ph.D.  
Patrick County Education Foundation, Executive Director  
Patrick & Henry Community College, President



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**The oldest continuously operated business in Patrick County**

*Published each Wednesday by Virginia Media, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901.*

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

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

**FISH DAY!**  
IT'S TIME TO STOCK YOUR POND!

**Delivery Will Be:**  
**Thurs., Mar. 20**  
Stuart 12:15 - 1:00  
@ Wood's Cold Storage  
Martinsville 2:00 - 2:45  
@ Southern States  
**Thurs., April 3**  
Mount Airy 3:45 - 4:30  
@ Southern States

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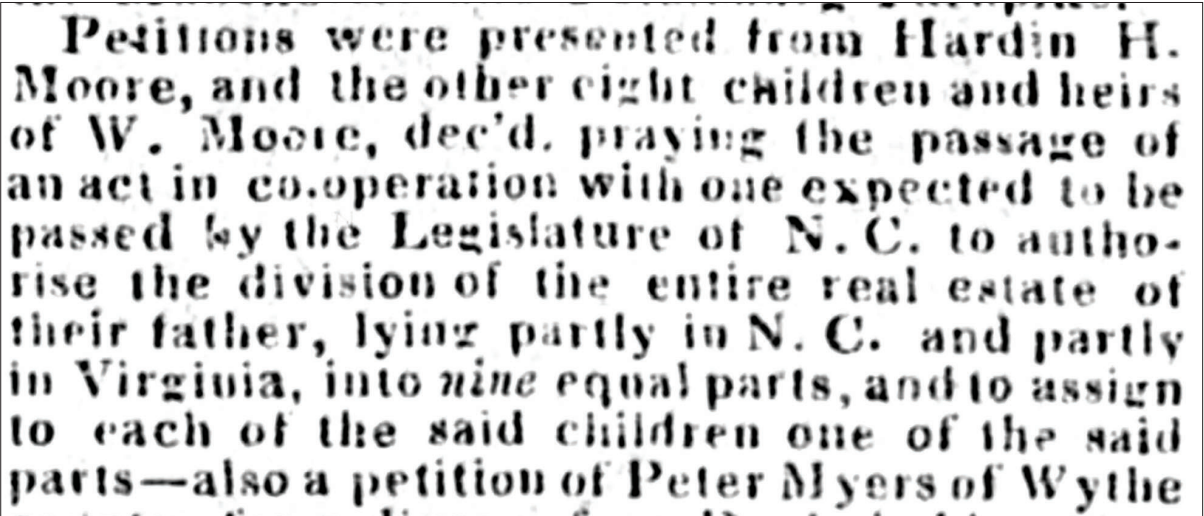


## Patrick Pioneers

*Moore Family of Ararat, VA (Part I)*  
**By Beverly Belcher Woody**  
In Book #104, page #130 of the North Carolina Land Grant Files, Rodeham Moore received a sixty-acre land grant in Surry County, North Carolina, entered on November 13, 1793. Rodeham and his wife, Elizabeth Gallahue, were likely born around 1750 in Prince William County, British Colonial Virginia.  
Patrick County marriage records show that their son, William Jesse Moore (1771–1819), married Jane Dalton Hanby (1783–1817) on December 11, 1798. Jane was the daughter of Jonathan Hanby and Sarah “Sallie” Matilda Dalton, both of Patrick County. According to the History of Patrick County, Virginia, William obtained the rank of Major in the War of 1812. He served with the 18th Regiment of Virginia Militia under Colonel Samuel Staples.  
William and Jane had nine children before Jane’s passing in 1817. William died just two years later, leaving many of their children to be raised by guardians, aunts, and uncles. Based on newspaper articles, census records, and marriage documents, their children were:  
Hardin Hanby Moore (b. 1800)  
Elizabeth Moore (b. 1802)  
Samuel Dalton Moore (b. 1804)  
Alfred Cleon Moore (b. 1805)  
John Moore (b. 1807)  
Leathy Redd Moore (b. 1809)  
Madison Tyler Moore (b. 1811)  
William Tyler Moore (b. 1814)  
Polina Jane Moore (b. 1816)

A newspaper clipping from the December 9, 1820, edition of the Richmond Enquirer confirmed that William and Jane had nine children. The article stated:  
“Petitions were presented from Hardin Henry Moore and the other eight children and liens of William Moore, deceased, praying the passage of an act in cooperation with one expected to be passed by the Legislature of North Carolina to authorize the division of the entire real estate of their father, lying partly in North Carolina (Surry County), and partly in Virginia (Patrick County), into nine equal parts, and to assign to each of the said children one of the said parts.”  
William and Jane, along with their son Hardin Henry Moore and his wife, Ann Scales Moore, are buried in the old Rodeham Moore Cemetery, located west of the Ararat River, a few hundred yards south of Road 675 in Ararat.

Researching the children of William and Jane has been challenging, as many of them moved west or south. Elizabeth and John likely settled in Tennessee, Leathy Redd and Polina in Mississippi, and Madison Tyler in Louisiana. William Hanby Moore and Samuel Dalton Moore remained in Surry County, North Carolina, while Hardin Henry Moore stayed in Patrick County, Virginia.  
It appears that once their father’s estate was divided into nine parts, six of the children sold their shares to William, Samuel, and Hardin before venturing to new lands in the recently acquired Louisiana Purchase.  
One of the best-documented children of William and Jane was Alfred Cleon Moore (b. 1805). According to Dwight Clint Moore’s published research in New River Notes, Alfred was a respected and relatively wealthy man.



Richmond Enquirer, 1820

“Orphaned by the age of 14, he was raised by his uncle and guardian, Gallahue Moore, just over the North Carolina state line in Surry County. Gallahue later became a North Carolina state legislator (1825–1826), while young Alfred attended Madison Academy and eventually the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.”  
“Alfred’s career was impressive. His 1890 obituary noted that he studied law under Powell Hughes and was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives at just 23—one of the youngest legislators in state history. He served three terms (1828–1830), earning his law license in 1829.”  
“During his final term, Alfred met Ann Frances “Nancy” Kent of Wythe County, Virginia. They married in March 1830, and their first child, Margaret Lucinda Emily, was born on December 1 of that year—right in the middle of the three-month legislative session. Shortly after, Alfred moved his family to Wythe County and chose not to seek re-election.”  
His military career was equally distinguished. In May 1839, he was appointed Colonel of the 35th Virginia Military Infantry, 19th Brigade, 5th Division. Colonel Alfred Moore resigned from the Army because of health reasons in 1863 at the age of fifty-seven.  
We will spend the remainder of our research on Hardin Henry Moore, the oldest child of William and Jane, who chose to raise his family in Patrick County. From what I can gather, Hardin married Miss Anne Eliza Scales in Patrick County in 1822. Anne Eliza was the daughter of Nathaniel Scales of Rockingham County, North Carolina. Hardin was the very first postmaster at the Ararat post office which was established on May 21st, 1825. In 1833, the post office was discontinued, but was reestablished in 1848 with Hardin’s father-in-law, Nathaniel Scales as postmaster.  
Hardin died in 1844, at the age of forty-four, leaving Anne Eliza to raise the following children on her own:  
Caroline Matilda (b.1824)  
Nathaniel Scales (b. 1826)  
Joseph H. (b.1832)  
Hardin F. (b.1834)  
William T. (b.1835)  
Hugh Lawson (b.1836)  
Anne Elizabeth (b.1838)  
Edward E. (b.1839)  
Nathaniel Scales Moore married Miss Susan Perkins in 1855 in Patrick County. According to the History of Patrick County, Virginia, the county court of May 1864 appointed Nathaniel to purchase iron from Barksdale Stovall & Company, swap it for corn grown

in Georgia, and arrange for the corn to be shipped back to Patrick County to feed the indigent. He also served as the salt agent for the county during the war. Nathaniel was appointed postmaster of Laurel Fork in 1885 where he became a successful dry goods merchant and tobacconist.  
Joseph H. Moore remained at home with his mother, managed the family farm, and served as postmaster at Ararat post office for a time.  
Hardin F. Moore enlisted in the 58th Virginia Infantry, Company H at Patrick Court House on the 5th of September 1861. His enlistment rank was Sergeant. Hardin was promoted to Lieutenant on May 1st, 1862. He was captured at the Battle of Antietam at Sharpsburg, Maryland on September 17th, 1862. Hardin was eventually exchanged for prisoner William A. Sampson of the 66th Ohio. Hardin survived and returned to Patrick County.  
William T. Moore married Paulina Agnes Clement, and they raised a large family in Ararat. Following in the footsteps of his maternal grandfather, his father, and his brother, William served as postmaster of Ararat post office. According to Patrick County death records, William and Paulina both passed away in 1892.  
Hugh Lawson Moore enlisted in the 6th Virginia Infantry on May 1st, 1862, in Great Bridge, Virginia. Hugh was wounded at the Battle of Second Manassas and was killed in battle at Petersburg on May 15th, 1864.  
Anne Elizabeth Moore married John R. Stoops on March 4th, 1864. Private Stoops had enlisted in the 50th Virginia, Company K. Tragically, Private Stoops was mortally wounded and died in a Confederate hospital in Richmond, Virginia on the 16th of June 1864, only three months after their marriage. Anne married James Thomas Washington Clement on the 9th of November 1865. Anne and James raised a large family in Ararat.  
Edward E. Moore, the youngest child of Hardin and Anne Eliza Scales Moore, also fought for the Confederacy. His marble tombstone states that he was a member of the Stonewall Brigade. Edward married Miss Lydia Orndorff of Shenandoah, Virginia on the 9th of October 1865. Edward and Lydia chose to farm and raise their family at Hayfield, Frederick County, Virginia.  
Next week, we will devote our research to the oldest child of Hardin and Anne Eliza Scales Moore, Miss Caroline Matilda Moore. Caroline and her husband, Henry Jefferson Moore, raised their large family in Ararat, Virginia. Woody may be reached at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or (276) 692-9626.

## Social Security Matters

**By Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens**  
**Ask Rusty – Should I Wait until Age 70 to Claim Social Security?**  
**Dear Rusty:** I am a married woman, at my full retirement age, and the primary earner in my marriage. How do I know if I should take my Social Security now or wait till 70? I will lose quite a bit if I take it now. How will it affect my taxes if I take it now while still working a full-time job? *Signed: Undecided*  
**Dear Undecided:** As you apparently already know, waiting until you are 70 to claim Social Security will result in you getting your maximum possible monthly SS retirement benefit. After your full retirement age, you get about 8% more each year you delay claiming up to age 70. But deciding exactly when to claim should consider both your financial needs and, importantly, your life expectancy. If you don’t urgently need the money now and your life expectancy is at least “average,” then waiting until

age 70 to claim is usually the right choice. But if you urgently need the money, or your life expectancy is less than average (mid-80s for a woman your current age), then claiming before age 70 is usually prudent.  
Regarding taxation, Social Security benefits may be taxable if your combined income from all sources exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status. If you file taxes as “married/jointly” and your combined income (including your work income) exceeds \$32,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. But if your combined income is over \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits becomes taxable income (the thresholds are lower for those who file as a single). So, your full-time work income will likely affect how much of your Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS.  
In the end, only you can decide when you should claim Social Security. Taxation of benefits may be a factor to consider since you are still working full time (thus more of your SS benefits will be taxable).

But waiting longer to claim results in a higher benefit for the rest of your life (your SS retirement benefit will be .667% more for each month you delay, up to age 70). If the “rest of your life” is a long time and you don’t urgently need the money, waiting is often the right choice. If not, claiming earlier may be wiser.  
If you want to get a more personalized estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest you use the tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: [www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/).  
*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.org.*

## Finding Hope in Despair - Part 1

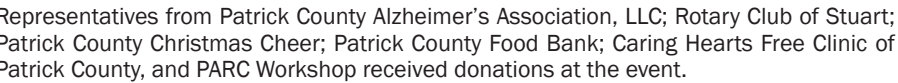
Famous author and theologian C.S. Lewis once said, “*Mental pain is less dramatic than physical pain, but it is more common and also more hard to bear. The frequent attempt to conceal mental pain increases the burden: it is easier to say, ‘My tooth is aching’ than to say, ‘My heart is broken.’*” – C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain  
Maybe you’ve felt mental pain—the dull ache we call depression. Depression says the end of hope has come. It says nothing will ever be good or bright or worth smiling about again. It says life is heavy and bleak; you’ll never have anything but failure; you’re not good enough for what you want in life, and you’ll never get it no matter what you do.  
And anxiety? Those debilitating, oftentimes groundless, feelings of worry or fear strong enough to disrupt our ability to function, to work, to love, or to stay healthy are so universal that they trump every other category of mental illness.  
Depression and anxiety don’t care who you are or who you know or how much money you have in the bank. They don’t care if you’re rich, poor, edu-

cated, talented, popular, or simple and low-profile, gorgeous or homely or somewhere in between. They are equal-opportunity disorders.  
The good news is, this lack of hope, these worries—they’re lying to you. It may feel as if they’re telling the truth, but feelings can and do change, and that’s what we hope will happen to you. Keep reading to discover timeless keys to getting help.  
**Definitions**  
Dealing with depression and anxiety starts with understanding. Know thine enemy, because if you shine a light on the darkness, the darkness will disappear. The physical, psychological, spiritual causes of anxiety and depression must first be identified and addressed in order for us to find relief.  
So let’s make it very simple.  
This is the common definition of anxiety—a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome. Here is the clinical definition—a mental health disorder characterized by feelings of worry or fear that are strong enough to interfere

with one’s daily activities.  
This is the common definition of depression—a state of feeling sad, or despondency. Here is the clinical definition—a mood disorder marked especially by sadness, inactivity, difficulty in thinking and concentration, a significant increase or decrease in appetite, sleeping more or sleeping less than usual, feelings of dejection and hopelessness, and sometimes suicidal tendencies.  
In both anxiety and depression, the ability to function normally becomes impaired. We will all experience fear and sadness at times, but these conditions become clinical when they make it impossible for us to do life in three main areas—relationships, productivity, and recreation. If you have clinical anxiety and/or depression, you will find it difficult to love, to work, and to enjoy.  
(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Jennifer Jill Schwirzer LPC. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

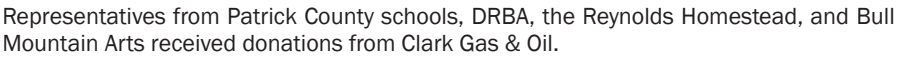


(cont. from page 1)



Clark said the organizations and

“We’re trying to give back to all of the community as much as we can. We share if we have good years. We’ve been fortunate we’ve been



Across its service area, which in-

cludes Patrick, Floyd, and Carroll counties, Clark said \$116,000 was donated this year.

## HONOR LIST

**Stuart:** Kylei Paige Blevins, Lillian Jane Byers, Tyler Lee Collins, Logan Phillip Conner, Gabriel Dehart, Tiffany Alice Dillon, Joshua Glenn Freeman, Bryson Russell Fulcher, Avril Gutierrez, Aya Danelle Hagen, Kyle Bradley Handy, Miller Weston Hopkins, Sydney Lynn Hopkins, Aus-

## PRESIDENT'S LIST

**Critz:** Xavier Orlando Torres  
**Patrick Springs:** Braedon Augustine, Rachel Grace Bishop, William Foltz, Lindsey Grace Jones, Zachary Ryan Letchworth, Steven Marion, Rocky Marcel Nelson III, Samantha Frances Nester, Angel Faith Plaster, Hunter Aaron Smith, Jamel Antwaine Turner, Katie Ellanora Vernon

**Spencer:** Kansas Cutchins, Luke Daniel

**Stuart:** James Clifford Belcher, Jordan Leigh Biggs, Jack Greene Blaylock, Rachel Branch, Abigail Bryant, Lillieann Shauntay Butler, Erica Lynn Cipko, Bryan Nathaniel Clark, Lillian Annette Cobbler, Kayla Corns, Williams Chancellor Corns, Haley Abigail Day, Sara Ann Dillon, Emily Claire Eastridge, Annie Payton Errichetti, Seth Andrew Geiger, Camille Beatriz Gonzalez, Miranda Litzy Hall, Hunter Heath, Molly Magdalena Hernandez, Allison Shae Hughes, Whitley Katherine Kruse, Kylee Jessa Leonard, Cindy Leon-Cisneros, Jacob Ellis Lester, Emma Madeya, Ashley Lauren Martin, Jude Galyean Martin, Sadie Jane Martin, Dylan Lane Quesinberry, Andrew Devore Rakes, Angel T. Redd, Lane Daniel Ross, Bishop Ian Smith, Vishal Somasundaram, Josiah Lee Spangler, Stephen Cosley Spencer, William Paul Vernon, Devin Dwayne Walker, Kendall Williams

**Woolwine:** Hunter Levi Pendleton, Emily Ruth Shuff, Andrew Joseph Tackett

Luke Williams

Luke Williams began his post as the director of the county's Parks and Recreation Department on January 15, according to a release from Pat-

rick County last week.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to better the community that I grew up in," Williams, a Patrick County native, said after returning home to his roots.

Williams has served as the Event Coordinator for Athletics & Summer Camps at Liberty University. He is currently completing his Master of Business in Sport Marketing from Liberty University. Williams has a professional background in sport management after earning his associate's degree in general studies from Patrick & Henry Community College and a bachelor's degree in Sport Management from Radford University.

sity. His professional experience includes internships at Radford University Athletics and the Christiansburg Recreation Center, where he developed skills in recreational facilities management, program development, marketing, and customer engagement.

In his new position, Williams will spearhead initiatives to enhance recreational and community events in collaboration with county officials, parks boards, community organizations, and school officials. He aims to promote existing de-

partmental programs while exploring new and innovative opportunities to broaden the scope of Parks and Recreation services.

An avid soccer player, Williams is also a member of Stuart Baptist Church and volunteers with Boys' soccer. In his new position, he is particularly eager to introduce diverse adult programming and to create summer youth programs, as well as activities for individuals with disabilities. Williams recognizes the importance of strong community relationships and has introduced a new slogan for youth programming: "Where All Kids Win." He envisions this as the ideal environment for all youth in the county.

Several local students were named to Dean's List

Radford University released its Dean's List for Fall 2024, with several local students named:

**Ararat:** Katherine Lindamood

**Fieldale:** Aaliyah Hairston, Jasmine Hiatt

**Meadows of Dan:** Contessa  
Haas, Jessica Handy

**Spencer:** Whitley Manns

**Stuart.** Wesley Alexander, Katherine Beckett, Amanda Bowman, Jasper Boyce, MaKayla Fix, Haley Gilley, Remi Miller, Caleb Morris, Tobias Perkins, Sadie Vernon, Sydney Wilson, Audrey Young, Gabriela Henriquez.

**Woolwine:** Samantha Harris  
Appearing on the Dean's List is the most prestigious academic rec-

ognition RU students can receive for their performance during a semester.

Students will be placed on the Dean's List if they meet four specific criteria. They must have 12 semester hours of coursework graded A-F; earn GPA's of at least 3.4 for courses not graded on a pass-fail basis; obtain no grade lower than "C"; and receive no incomplete grades.

## Hollins University releases Dean's List Honors

Melissa Hazard, of Stuart, was named to Hollins University's Fall 2024 Dean's List.

Hazard, majoring in Mathematics, was among other outstanding Hollins University students recognized for superior academic performance during the fall semester.



# Crossing the Lines

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

### Supervisors discuss, set public hearing on tax collection changes

The Henry County Board of Supervisors capped off American Heart Month by buying six new LifePak 35 Heart Monitors for the Public Safety Operations Division.

The new equipment is both an electrocardiogram (ECG) monitor and a defibrillator, which allows emergency responders to not only monitor a patient's heart activity but also to deliver life-saving shocks if needed. This dual capability is crucial for treating life-threatening arrhythmias like ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia.

"We are incredibly grateful for the addition of these six new cutting-edge heart monitors to our fleet," said Matt Tatum, Director of Public Safety. "This purchase is a game-changer for our team, allowing us to quickly assess and diagnose cardiac emergencies on the spot. With these devices, our staff will be able to make faster, more informed decisions, ultimately saving valuable time when seconds matter most."



The Henry County Board of Supervisors awarded CD Prillaman with the Community Connected Citizen Award.

The county is purchasing the LifePak 35 Heart Monitors through a \$355,752 contract with Stryker Corporation. Half of the amount will be paid through a Rescue Squad Assistance Fund grant. The remaining \$177,876 was taken from the county's general fund to provide a match for the grant.

Also at its February 25 meeting, the board heard from County Treasurer Scott Grindstaff about a proposal of maintaining the current tax schedule but adding a due date of Feb. 6.

"I'd like to see the due dates and the late dates changed," Grindstaff said.

The proposed change would also adjust the real estate tax due date to October each year. Currently, late payments incur a 10 percent penalty immediately, but under the proposed change, citizens would have a 15-day grace period before penalties apply. A public hearing on the proposed changes is scheduled for March 25.

### Lee's Tire & Wheel rebounds after devastating fire

Lee's Tire & Wheel, a family-owned auto shop that has served the community since 1966, is back in business after a catastrophic fire last November. The shop, owned by Mike and Ashley Sigmon, reopened its doors on February 3, marking a new chapter for the business after months of hardship and uncertainty.

On November 8, 2024, consignment tires at the shop's Collinsville location caught fire, causing extensive damage to the building and tens of thousands of dollars in lost merchandise and equipment.

Mike Sigmon received a frantic call from a friend while helping his younger children onto the school bus.

Ashley Sigmon used the cameras inside the business to check the damage.

"When she got on the camera, we saw black smoke. I dialed 911 then," Mike Sigmon recalled.

"The telephone calls coming in were just insane," Mike Sigmon said



Ashley and Mike Sigmon, grateful for the community's support, reflect on their journey to rebuild.

of the calls to alert him of the blaze.

Racing to the shop, Mike Sigmon initially believed he could contain the fire himself, but when he topped the hill from Collinsville, saw the rising smoke and fire trucks already on the scene, "I knew it was too late," he said.

Mike Sigmon immediately began assisting the fire crews, unlocking doors to the building.

In the days following the fire, the couple found themselves in uncharted territory as they dealt with insurance claims and financial setbacks.

"We didn't know what to do, and in a matter of three or four days, the adjuster showed up," Mike Sigmon said, adding that they didn't feel well-guided through the process.

Ashley Sigmon described the experience as emotionally overwhelming, with months of uncertainty and no income.

### New leads in 1998 cold case point investigators to Henry County again

Authorities in Nelson County are once again turning their focus to Henry County as they investigate the disappearance and presumed homicide of Jeffrey Lee Quick, a Nelson County man missing for nearly 30 years.

Quick, a resident of Tyro, Virginia, was reported missing on May 23, 1998, according to Nelson County Sheriff's Investigator Chip Woody. The initial investigation produced few leads, and Quick's remains have never been found.



Quick, a resident of Tyro, Virginia, was reported missing on May 23, 1998, according to Nelson County Sheriff's Investigator Chip Woody. The initial investigation produced few leads, and Quick's remains have never been found.

Sheriff Mark Embrey recently reopened the case after new details emerged in recent months, following a series of re-interviews with individuals connected to Quick, Woody said.

"The details suggest that Quick was the victim of a homicide, which authorities believe occurred on or about May 22, 1998," Woody said.

In a statement, the sheriff's office said investigators now have "high

Sheriff Wayne Davis said his office has no substantive evidence to indicate Quick's remains are in Henry County.

"There is no area to even begin a search for his remains," Davis said.

Woody acknowledged the uncertainty, noting that the latest interviews have again pointed authorities toward Henry County, but without definitive evidence.

"The interviews that we have conducted here lately lead us in that direction again," Woody said. "I do not have a definite reason. All I have is word of mouth. I have no concrete reason why" Quick would have ended up more than two hours away from his home or why he may have been killed.

This is not the first time investigators have searched Henry County for Quick's remains.

Anyone with information about Quick's disappearance is asked to call Woody at (434) 263-7069.

### Fieldale invests in economic development, community revitalization



Construction to restore the Fieldale Pools is underway ahead of the 2025 season.

The community of Fieldale is making major strides in economic development and revitalization, with ongoing projects aimed at preserving historic sites, improving public spaces, and attracting new businesses.

Among the latest efforts is a \$325,000 to \$350,000 renovation of the pools at the Fieldale Community Center, which are undergoing extensive repairs to ensure they remain a recreational hub for residents. Additional projects include the redevelopment of the center and potential renovations of the former primary school building, all part of a larger vision to stimulate growth in the area.

The pools, built in the 1950s, have served as a central gathering place for generations. Now, they are being modernized with essential structural repairs, including new skimmers, pipe replacements, and fresh plaster to restore the pools' integrity.

"They are concrete pools with plaster walls. Over the years, the plaster chips off and flakes off. We had to patch it every year," said Andrew Kahle, board member of Fieldale Heritage, Inc.

The leak-prone plumbing system is also being addressed to prevent future water loss. Additionally, one of the kiddie pools will be removed to accommodate swim meets, with modifications ensuring the facility is competition-ready.

### Concerns raised over rising electric bills in the city



Martinsville City Council discussed rising electricity costs during its Feb. 25 meeting.

City residents shared their concerns about the rising cost of electricity during the February 25 Martinsville City Council meeting, calling on officials to address the financial strain caused by increasing rates.

Several residents shared their experiences with the rising utility bills, including Ms. Carter, who said her electric bill has continued to climb despite no changes in energy usage.

"I had a December electric bill of \$415... January was four-something, and now March is \$615," she said.

Carter, who described herself as a middle-class working resident, emphasized that these rate hikes impact people across all income levels.

"If you guys continue to allow the city to hike these bills up, I don't understand how you expect the average working person to afford it, let alone a person that's on a fixed monthly in-

come ... I don't understand how we can agree to raise these bills like this for these residents, whether they're regular middle class working people like myself, or whether it's my grandmother, or my disabled sister in law that has a \$300 electric bill that lives in a basement apartment," she said.

Carter criticized the increased rates and added that they contradict the city's motto.

"You say it's a 'city without limits,' but there are limits when you have three electric bills that combine to be \$1,500," she said.

Carter also said the electric bills seem to go up despite a lack of change in how energy is being used within the residence "There's no change in washing clothes, there's no change in heat, there's no change in any of that, and the bills just continue to go up and up and up," she said.



1-3-5-7-9PM



1-3-5-7-9PM



1-3-5-7-9PM



1-3-5-7-9PM

\$5

MOVIE TICKETS



1-3-5-7-9PM

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## Marian “Peggy” Reynolds Martin

A close-up portrait of a man with short, dark brown hair and a friendly smile. He is wearing a blue and red plaid shirt. The background is a solid, light blue color.

held on Wednesday,  
March 5, 2025, at 2:00  
p.m. at New Spoon  
Creek Primitive Bap-  
tist Church Cemetery  
with Reverend Jim  
Churchwell and Elder  
Lowell Hopkins offi-

Marian "Peggy" Reynolds Martin, 94, of Stuart, VA passed away on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at Good Samaritan Hospice Home in Roanoke, VA. She was born on March 31, 1930 in Patrick County to the late Opal Nicholas Reynolds and William Arthur Reynolds. In addition to her death, she is preceded in death by her husband Roy Martin, four brothers, William, Paul, Ralph, and Rogers Reynolds, two sisters, Vivian Delwiche and Helen Roop Howell.

A color portrait photograph of an elderly woman with short, wavy, light-colored hair. She is wearing glasses and a patterned blouse. She is smiling at the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

She is survived by her sons, Pastor Gary Martin (Brenda) of Rocky Mount, VA, Brian Martin (Lisa) of Bristol, TN, one sister, Louise R. Johnson of Goldsboro, NC, three brothers, John Reynolds of Critz, VA, Bobby Reynolds of Critz, VA, Greg Reynolds of Kingsport, TN, four grandchildren, Alison, Michael, Tyler and Josh Martin and seven

A funeral will be held at Norris Chapel in Stuart at 2:00 pm on Friday February 28, 2025 with Pastor Keith Vernon officiating. Burial will follow at Patrick Memorial Gardens.

Memorials may be made to Providence United Methodist Church c/o 1021 Providence Drive, Patrick Springs, Va 24133.

Norris Funeral Services in Stuart is serving the Martin Family. Online condolences may be made at [www.norris-funeral.com](http://www.norris-funeral.com).

The Patrick County Extension office is planning two upcoming workshops in the county.

nized in case of an emergency or illness. The binder will help to organize emergency contacts, financial information, medical information and more. A \$10 fee will be collected at the door for this workshop to cover the cost of the binder. This workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 26, from 6:30-8 p.m. at Patrick & Henry Community College in Stuart.

The Patrick County Extension Office is partnering with Sarah Bidwell, Esq. to offer these workshops. Sarah owns Wills on Wheels, a local mobile estate planning law firm. Its mission is to provide peace of mind through proper planning and preparation.

The second workshop will help people build an emergency binder. This will allow participants to have their important information orga-

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The 15th annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser at Ferrum College will be held on March 16 in the Blue Ridge Mountain Room from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This event represents a strong community collaboration and pulls in a wide variety of volunteers and groups to fund the Panther Packs program at Ferrum Elementary School throughout the following year. This year's event is sponsored by Ferrum College, Metz Culinary Management, the Ferrum College Ceramics classes, The Ferrum College Art Department, and The Blue Ridge Potters Guild.

Fourteen different community groups came to the Ferrum College Clay Studio to participate in bowl-making workshops, donating their time and talents to help make more than 500 unique



bowls offered at the event. In addition, professional potters from the Hollins University Ceramics program and the Blue Ridge Pot-

ters Guild joined Ferrum College Ceramics instructor Nell Fredericksen in the studio to make over 200 wheel-thrown bowls for the event. You can see highlights of these workshops, preview silent auction items, and keep up with event news by following the Ferrum College Empty Bowls Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ferrumcollegeemptybowls>.

One highlight of the event is the silent auction featuring artwork from numerous talented local and regional artists. These volunteers join together to achieve the goal of making more than 500 unique bowls and provide varied auction items, create advertising and promotions, and work in many ways to ensure the success of the event. The goal of the event is to raise a minimum of \$8000, all of which goes to fund the Panther Pack Program at Ferrum Elementary School. Panther Packs provides six meals plus snacks each weekend – more than 13,000 meals during the school year – for children at Ferrum Elementary School who come from food-insecure homes.

Empty Bowls is an international project focused on the concept of handmade art and artists working to fight hunger in their own communities. The promotion and growth of the global project is managed by The Imagine/RENDER Group. Each event is independently organized and supports the fight against hunger within the communities that host these events. Ferrum College Empty Bowls is proud to be one such event.



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# PATRICK PULPITS

## Who Gets the Credit?

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

In our political and business world today, it seems important to many people that they get credit for the success that may come from their involvement. Even if it was a group effort, some will clamor for the credit. But this will only do harm to the group's morale.

Even so, competing for top honors is a way of life today because it might lead to pay raises, greater prestige, and more honor. Our self-centered nature stirs for recognition. This happens even in churches and religious organizations.

Among the 12 disciples there was a continuing debate about who would hold the highest positions in the kingdom that Jesus would set up. This desire for top positions was reprimanded by Jesus. He told them that those desiring to be first would be last in His kingdom.

Paul tried to prevent people from taking credit for persons getting baptized. He said some plant the seed, some water it, and others harvest it. All played a part in the spiritual success. John the Baptist famously said "Jesus must increase; I must decrease." He didn't want to hinder Jesus' success.

An interesting example of humility is given in the book of Judges (Chapters 7 and 8) where Gideon has his army reduced by the Lord to a small number of 300 faithful soldiers. The Lord then tells Gideon to go up against a large enemy army of Midianites nearby. He promised them that He would give them victory. The 300 were to approach this army at

night with each man having only a pitcher that covered a lit lamp and a trumpet. They divided into three units of 100-men and surrounded the camp of the Midianites.

When Gideon blew his trumpet, all 300 were to break the pitcher with the lamp burning and blow their trumpet. Then they were all to begin shouting. The Lord brought confusion in the Midianite army so that they began killing each other and many began fleeing for their life. Gideon's band chased them without any swords. One hundred twenty thousand Midianites lost their lives. It truly was a miraculous victory by the Lord.

In Judges 8:22 the amazed Israelites later asked Gideon and his descendents to be the rulers of Israel. In verse 23 Gideon responds by saying neither he nor his son would accept the offer. He said, "The Lord shall rule over you." This, the people agreed to and there was peace in Israel for 40 years. Gideon could have taken some credit for the victory and been promoted as king of Israel, but he gave all the credit to the Lord and refused any recognition.

If in our life we gain wealth or notoriety, we need to remember that it is God who gives us the talents to do so. We have no right to get the credit. In Deuteronomy 8:18 Moses tells his people that it is God that gives them the power (and talents) to achieve wealth.

Solomon tells us in Proverbs 15:33 that "before honor is humility." God works best with people who are humble because that's when God's plans can be carried out and He is glorified.

## Hall tapped to lead WPHD

Penny Hall has been selected to lead the West Piedmont Health District (WPHD) as director and began serving in that capacity on January 25. WPHD is one of 55 local health districts 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

She brings to the position 26 years of experience working in the Department of Social Services at both the state and local levels, where she worked in benefit and service programs. Throughout her career in Social 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 ser-

vice 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 Virginia.

"I am excited to be back working with the West Piedmont Health District," Hall said. "I know that our public health professionals have our residents' best interest at heart, 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:

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- Communicable Disease Control
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- Emergency Preparedness, and Environmental Health.

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Lamentations (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In 1 Kings 20:29, how many footmen (soldiers) of the Syrians were killed in one day? 5,000; 10,000; 50,000; 100,000
3. Who made the first "piggy bank" by placing a chest with a hole in it near the altar? Ezra, Jehoiada, Ahab, Jethro
4. From Jeremiah 7:32, what did the Lord say that Tophet will be called? Syria, Valley of

5. Who was the father of El-isha? Josiah, Shaphat, Zadok, Joshua
  6. In Esther 1, how many provinces did Ahasuerus reign over? 11, 90, 127, 140
- ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) 100,000, 3) Jehoiada, 4) Valley of Slaughter, 5) Shaphat, 6) 127

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

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BODILY ACTIVITY

### ACROSS

- 1 Hair salon workers  
8 Visits briefly  
15 Sharp-image flat-screens, e.g.  
20 Very fast cat  
21 Not challenging enough  
22 Balcony window, perhaps  
23 Be on track  
25 D.C. transport  
26 Bricklayer's blend  
27 Unit of work  
28 2015-16 CBS "Cyber" series  
29 Send again, as a parcel  
30 — buco  
31 Kin of "Ruff"  
33 Greek "H"  
35 Repulsed by  
37 Assume an onerous duty  
40 "I haven't —" ("No idea")  
44 Strapped garment  
45 Meadowland  
46 Pop's mama  
47 Pay  
50 Café  
52 Lobster limb

### DOWN

- 56 Second purchase  
57 — Lanka  
58 Everyone  
59 1978-89 New York mayor  
61 Like a player who has hit a triple  
63 Chinese temple  
66 — Brothers ("It's Your Thing" group)  
67 Do speaking motions voicelessly  
71 Actress  
76 Collector of useless items  
81 12.5% fraction  
83 Actress  
84 Cavaliers, on sports tickers  
87 Capital of Saudi Arabia  
88 Fencing sword  
89 Enthusiastic  
91 Focus on what you'll get if you win  
93 Bulk beer buy  
95 Angsty music genre

- 97 Film director  
DuVernay  
98 Weighed down (with)  
99 Support one who ultimately fails  
105 2009-17, politically  
106 Equal: Prefix  
107 "The Addams Family" cousin  
108 Poker holding  
112 "Nick and — Infinite Playlist"  
(2008 film)  
113 Car navig. aid  
115 Actor Kilmer  
117 Consumed no cooked food  
119 Kriss Kingle  
120 Conform to one's political group  
123 1989 Disney princess  
124 Captivates  
125 Kind of spray  
126 Latin "that is"  
127 Really foolish  
128 Paternity prover, perhaps

- 2 Baltimore ball team, for short  
3 Decade parts  
4 Caused  
5 Jazz singer  
James  
6 Enthusiastic  
7 Hen or heifer  
8 Mix together  
9 Wearing dapper duds, with "out"  
10 "— -la-la!"  
11 Dog or cat owner's concern  
12 Toothy tools  
13 Bible book before Jeremiah  
14 Big Apple team, on sports tickers  
15 Four-bagger  
16 Fixtures for displaying wedding gowns, say  
17 Donated 10%  
18 Cinéma — (filmmaking technique)  
19 Apply messily  
24 Renovates, in brief  
29 Partial refund  
32 Judge's garb  
34 Notify

- 36 "—, vidi, vici"  
37 Fixed maximum  
38 Forest den  
39 Fatty tissue of animals  
40 — -Cuban (jazz genre)  
41 Joel or Ethan of film  
42 Misplaced state  
43 Ogden's state  
48 Male lead  
49 Brand of 120-Down  
51 Actor — Ray  
53 Email giggle  
54 Superb serve  
55 "How come?"  
58 Bureau  
60 Apostle  
62 Couple  
64 "I've got it!"  
65 Dadaist Jean  
68 Bangkok native  
69 Impede  
70 Take a risk  
71 No-frills shirt  
72 Split  
73 Census stat  
74 King-trapping situations  
77 Actress  
Sedgwick  
78 FBI attack

- 79 Wood-shaping tool  
80 At that time  
82 Discusses in detail, with "out"  
85 Actress  
Remini  
86 French "Ta-da!"  
90 Zig or zag  
91 Vast time spans  
92 Former senator  
Gary  
94 On hold  
96 Make damp  
99 Tiny tree  
100 On a train or plane  
101 Singer  
Wilson of Phillips  
102 Farm carts  
103 Rule over  
104 — Island Ferry  
108 Ancient serf  
109 Come to light  
110 Thin iPods  
111 Resided  
114 Mani —  
116 Church nook  
118 Model  
Banks  
120 Steeped drink  
121 "Bali —"  
122 "Super cool!"

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HELP WANTED

**Head Start Teacher Assistant** – Franklin - Solutions That Empower People, Inc. (STEP), a multifaceted community action agency, has an opening for a full time 10-month Head Start Teacher Assistant in Franklin County, VA. The Head Start Teacher Assistant will be responsible for assisting in the planning and carrying out of the educational program and the day-to-day operations of the Head Start classroom. The qualifications for this position include a high school diploma or equivalent and a CDA credential or Early Childhood Education certificate, one-year of experience working with pre-school age children, excellent written and

oral communication skills, and basic computer skills. Salary range for this position will be \$14.02 - \$18.15 per hour. Benefits include health, dental and vision insurance, disability insurance, paid time off and 401K. Qualified applicants MUST complete an application found on our website at <https://apply.stepincva.com/?positions=Franklin+County+Head+Start+Teacher+Assistant>. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Head Start Teacher** - Franklin - Solutions That Empower People, Inc. (STEP), a multifaceted community action agency, has an opening for a full time 10-month Head Start Teacher in Franklin County, VA. This position is responsible for planning and carrying out the educational program and the day-to-day operations of the classroom. The qualifications for this position include an Associate's Degree in Child Development or Early Childhood Education (prefer Bachelor's Degree), three years' experience working with pre-school age children, excellent written and oral communication skills, and basic computer skills. Salary range for this position is \$17.60 - \$21.28 per hour. Benefits include health, dental and vision insurance, disability insurance, 401k, and PTO. Qualified applicants MUST complete an application found on our website at <https://apply.stepincva.com/?positions=-Head+Start+Teacher>. This position will be posted until filled. STEP, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**Fairy Stone State Park** Now Hiring Multiple Seasonal Positions! Beach Maintenance Ranger, Boathouse Ranger, Contact Ranger, Food Service Ranger, Housekeeping Ranger. Apply online: [www.dcr.virginia.gov/jobs](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/jobs) Positions open until filled. 967 Fairystone Lake Drive Stuart, VA 24171 276-930-2424

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Weekly SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Meetings

**Wednesday, March 5**  
The Patrick County Economic Development Authority will hold a special, called meeting at 10 a.m. in the Community Room at Patrick & Henry Community College, Stuart site.

**Tuesday, March 11**  
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, vacation type basis. The aim is to share information and ideas to support the lodging in Patrick County.

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

**Friday, 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, chow-chow or slaw (option to add onions) dessert and drink. Call (276) 694-6025 with questions and or to place orders.

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

**Tuesday, March 4**  
The Stuart Church of Living Water will hold an All-Day Pancake Meal at the Stuart Volunteer Fire Station from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adult plates are \$10, and children’s plates are \$5. To call in orders, call (276) 694-3322.

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) will hold a grant opening and ribbon cutting for its Heavy Equipment Operator Lab at 10 a.m. at the Baliles-Reynolds Learning Center.

**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), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is \$10 per person, and pre-registration is encouraged due to limited seating. Send fee and information for each person attending to Ms. Glenda Cobbler, 932 Palmetto School Road, Stuart, VA 24171.

**Tuesday, March 11**  
The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce hosts Business After Hours in the CTE Department at Patrick County High School, 5-7 p.m. Attendees may tour several classrooms, and learn how the classes translate to work based learning opportunities and teaching the workforce of the next generation. RSVP at https://bit.ly/BAHCTE2025.

**Thursday, March 13**  
The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary

Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Charles Bowman and The Landmark Center will provide the meal. Attendees are requested to bring their favorite desserts to share with the group.

**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.

**Sunday, March 23**  
Debbie Bennett performs at Pleasant View Baptist Church, Patrick Springs, 4 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Ice cream social to follow.

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. at Quilted Colors. For more information, call 276-694-3020 or email patrickcountyquilters@gmail.com.

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

The Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets the first Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 105 at 7 p.m. Interested veterans are welcome to attend.

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

Messianic Bible Study, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Honey Pot, 106 N. Main St., Stuart (across from The Coffee Break). Call (276) 694-2356 for more information.  
The Carroll County Genealogy Club is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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

Connect Health+ Wellness offers free confidential Medicaid/FAMIS application and renewal as-

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sistance 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.

Salem Church on Salem Road in Critz will hold a community meal on the first Sunday of every month at 12:10 p.m. Call (276) 222-1069 with questions.

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Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. *Registration is required.																					
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Yoga 10:00*			Storytime 10:30 Art			Walking Club 9:00			Youth Art Month Reception 5:00-7:00			Sit & Stitch 11:00			Board Game Day						
Chair Exercise 1:30																					
LEGO Club 4:00			Yoga 5:15*			Yoga 1:15*															
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Yoga 10:00*			Storytime 10:30 Feelings			Walking Club 9:00  Retired Teacher's 11:00			Paint Like Frida 10:30*			Sit & Stitch 11:00									
Home Tweet Home 1:00*																					
LEGO Club 4:00			Yoga 5:15*			Yoga 1:15*			Open Art Studio 1:00												
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Yoga 10:00*			Storytime 10:30 Ducks with the Master Gardener's			Walking Club 9:00															
Spring Garden Topiary 1:00*																					
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Yoga 10:00*																					
Chair Exercise 1:30																					
LEGO Club 4:00																					

# Where Fun Meets Fitness

Who doesn't love Bingo? And who hasn't heard about the importance of exercise as we age? day, March 20. Classes will be held at Patrick Henry Community College on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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**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](http://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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing as part of the Planning Commission's meeting to be conducted on Tuesday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Patrick & Henry Community College building located at 212 Wood Brothers Drive in Stuart, Virginia. The purpose of this hearing is to consider amendments to the Patrick County Comprehensive Plan, specifically amendments to the Plan's policies for solar facilities as initiated by the Board of Supervisors. If you would like to review the proposed amendment, the Board of Supervisors' Resolution initiating the amendment, or the existing Comprehensive Plan, copies of these documents are available in the Tax Mapping Office located on the 2nd floor of the Patrick County Administration Building located at 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the Tax Mapping office at 276-694-4624.

LEGAL



Virginia Department of Transportation

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.

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BWW# VA-374819-1  
TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 92 LAWSON LANE, STUART, VA 24171. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 25, 2014, in the original principal amount of \$107,354.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 140000546. 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 April 11, 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 THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE PETERS CREEK MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: "TRACT 2," CONTAINING 1.423 ACRES, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "DOYLE JORDAN AND WIFE SARAH P. JORDAN," PREPARED BY PATRICK N. HALL, LS, DATED JUNE 12, 2013, AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 130001565. 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](http://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, website: [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). VA-374819-1.

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](http://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, website: [www.bwwsales.com](http://www.bwwsales.com). VA-354662-1.

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8261 Mountain Valley Rd



# DAR members celebrate milestone



(Left to right) Lucy Rudd, Janice Stanley, Caroline Harnsberger, Julie Brannon, Sheree Russo, Ann McConnell, Betty Banks and Beth Witt.

The Colonel Abram Penn Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated its 75th Anniversary Saturday, February 22, 2025, at Pickle & Ash. Eight members attended. DAR is a nonprofit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education. Any woman above the age of 18 regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible to join.

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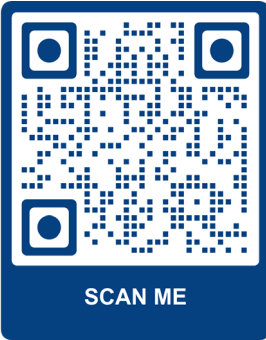
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Our ballot is super simple! Don't know much about the accounting firm in your region? Feel free to skip it and move on. Fill out the entire ballot if you're feeling ambitious, or pick and choose among our categories. Select from our drop down list, 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.



Patrick SWCD's Board of Directors Richard Kreh (left to right), E. Wayne Clark, George Stovall and Joseph Sparks presenting Mr. Clark with a plaque of appreciation. (Not pictured John Wood, Melanie Barrow)

## SWCD director and district chairman recognized

The Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Directors and staff recently recognized E. Wayne Clark for his 20 years of dedicated and devoted service as District Director and District Chairman of the Patrick SWCD Board, and presented Mr. Clark with a plaque of appreciation for his dedicated and valuable service.

Mr. Clark was also recognized with a service pin by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

In Virginia, there are 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts who assist in protecting Virginia's waterways by providing programs and funding as appropriated by the General Assembly. Districts also implement the Virginia Agricultural

The cost-share program supports using various practices in conservation planning to treat animal waste, cropland, pastureland and forested land. The VACS program is administered in partnership by DCR and Virginia's SWCDs. Patrick County SWCD represents one of 47 Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and delivers voluntary, locally-led conservation solutions to the agriculture community. Patrick SWCD provides technical assistance for natural resource conservation to land users, farmers and foresters in Patrick County. For more information or to schedule a field visit, please contact Tony Collins or Sandra Heath with the Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 276-694-2911 or visit the office located at 104 Via Avenue, Stuart.



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# Campgrounds in state parks reopen March 7

Virginia State Parks will reopen its campgrounds for the season on Friday, March 7. Campsites are now available for booking online through [reservevaparks.com](https://reservevaparks.com). Visitors are encouraged to plan ahead and may make reservations up to 11 months in advance to secure their desired camping dates and accommodations.

Managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia State Parks offers more than 1,800 campsites, with options ranging from primitive camping to RV sites with electric and water hookups.

Full-service campgrounds with bathhouses are open from the first Friday in March through the first Monday in December, with the exception of Douthat, Hungry Mother, Pocahontas and Shenandoah River state parks, which have full-service campgrounds open year-round.

Due to campground upgrades, Claytor Lake, Fairy Stone, Grayson Highlands and Bear Creek Lake will have full or partial campground closures during the 2025 season. Visitors can learn more about these closures by going to [virginiastateparks.gov/find-a-park](https://virginiastateparks.gov/find-a-park) and selecting the park they plan to visit.

Campers who begin making reservations in March should be aware that the 4 PM Burning Law is in effect from Feb. 15 through April 30. This law bans open fires, including charcoal and wood fires, between midnight and 4 p.m. This restriction applies



Smith Mountain Lake State Park

to all areas of a park, including picnic and cabin areas with grills or fire rings. To learn more about Virginia's 4 PM Burning Law and fire prevention, visit the Virginia Department of Forestry's website.

During the burn restriction period, gas grills and propane stoves are allowed; however, some parks have personal grill restrictions, so visitors should contact the park before making plans to bring one.

An exception to the 4 PM Burning Law is campgrounds that have an on-duty camp host. In those situations, signage will indicate that open fires are allowed before 4 p.m. if they are maintained within a designated campfire ring or circle. The fire must be under constant supervision until it is completely extinguished. All flammable material should be cleared from a 20-foot

area around the fire, and campers must also have ready access to water, rake and shovel.

To check the camp host status, please contact the park directly. Primitive campgrounds do not have hosts. For more information about campgrounds and burning restrictions, go to [virginiastateparks.gov](https://virginiastateparks.gov).

Visit [virginiastateparks.gov/camping](https://virginiastateparks.gov/camping) for more details about reservations, cancellations and severe weather procedures. If you are traveling with horses, be sure to visit the equestrian camping page for the policies dealing with horses while camping.

Reservations can be made at [reservevaparks.com](https://reservevaparks.com) or by calling 1-800-933-PARK (7275) and choosing option 5. You can make lodging reservations up to 11 months in advance or for camping, up to 2 p.m. on the day of arrival.



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