Calendar Church Classified Family Album **Obituaries Sports Viewpoints** 

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

## Work returns to normal as blaze investigation continues



Gregory Pallets & Lumber's Stuart site is set to return to business as usual following a structure fire on March 28.

#### **By Taylor Boyd**

More than a week after a commercial structure fire occurred at Gregory Pallet & Lumber's and is fully operational.

Operations Director Dan Lovern said 95 per- equipment" was lost in the blaze, he said.

cent of the company's business is operated by its Roanoke facility.

"Then we have another facility in Elliston, Stuart site at approximately 1 a.m. on March Virginia, so we're running at 100 percent. We 28, work at the facility has returned to normal had a small operation there" in Stuart, "so the manufacturing, or the facility repair, and some much revenue was lost due to the fire, Lovern

An estimated 10 acres of the approximately 20-acre facility along with numerous structures, vehicles, and other equipment was burnt in the

While he doesn't have an exact figure of how (See Blaze Investigation p. 2)

# Stuart Book Club celebrates 100 years of service, reading, and community impact

By Joanne Hill

Children, reading, books and serving others are still priorities in our community, but this all started 100 years ago with the beginning of the Stuart Book Club, one of the oldest civic organizations in Patrick

The Patrick County Branch Library had its beginnings with the ladies in the club, who also provided needed items for students in the school, provided Christmas treats for children in the streets of Stuart and promoted reading through their various projects. These are just a few of the things the club has accomplished by meeting monthly past 100 years.

Taylor asked the Board of Supervisors for permission to clean out the basement of Patrick County Court-

house to form a reading room for the young men of the community. The Stuart Book Club, which was formed in 1925, picked up on this idea right away, and in 1932, they started the Corner Library located in Clark Bros. Hardware, which was at the corner of Main and Blue Ridge streets in Stuart with John L. Clark assisting by acting as librar-

The club collected, donated and were given books by the Extension Service of the Virginia State Library, so it started the library with approximately 300 books. The lending library continued for about 20 years until the present county and volunteering actively for the library was officially opened. The club's current projects still include It is believed that during the giving free books to children during early 1920s, local resident M. R. parades, providing money for children to buy books at book fairs, supporting the local library and book mobile, and they have given



Back row (left to right), back row first - Denise Smith, Suzanne Hutchens, Eva Hopkins, Linda Wilson, Betty Kirkpatrick, Barbara Pendleton. Front row: Diane Ross, Peggy Rogers, Janice Woods, and Phyllis Lemke are current members of the present day Stuart Book Club. (Not pictured, Rendy Williams)

a collection of Spanish books to the popular PCHS Spanish teacher. library in memory of Ann Belcher, a (See Book Club p. 3)



Gov. Glenn Youngkin welcomed attendees to Williamsburg.

## Patrick County joins 250th celebration talks in Williamsburg

By Pat Delaney

The Patrick County VA250 Committee was represented in Williamsburg as the third and final "A Common Cause" gathering was held March 24–26. The event brought together organizers from across the country who are helping plan Amer-

ica's 250th birthday celebration on July 4, 2026.

Attendees came from 40 states and 61 Virginia localities to hear from historians, state and national planners, and to exchange ideas with other local organizers.

tell, there's one oth-(See Patrick County p. 3) er massage therapist ents from all walks of

## Massage therapist brings passion for healing to new business

### **By Taylor Boyd**

Stuart's newest business, Much Kneaded Massage, opened its doors on March 21, offering a range of massage services to the

community. Owner Cate Frable, LMT, MLD-C, launched the business after moving to the area from Pennsylvania, where she spent seven years working as a massage therapist at a destination resort.

"I just always knew when I went into massage I would want to have my own office, and it just felt like the right timing. I found this space, and when they showed it to me, it was perfect. It just seemed to line up well," she said.

Though she hasn't been open long, Frable said she has already received positive support from the commu-

nity. "I'm really happy that people seem ex-



Cate Frable opened Much Kneaded Massage on Main Street last month.

in the county and one who's retiring. I think massage is for everybody. I fully believe in the equity of massage, and I just really wanted to make something accessible and to help the community," she

Throughout her ca-

has worked with cli-

cited. From what I can reer, Frable said she

life, from CEOs to bus drivers.

"I genuinely believe that the power of touch is so important, even for children. I massage my kids, and they love it. Also, the accessibility of it is important in my opinion. I'm not trying to make a killing, I'm just trying to make a living, and I

(See Massage p.2)

## Blaze Investigation

(cont. from page 1)



said work is being done to calculate it.

No employees are expected to lose their jobs because of the fire, he said.

"In fact, we've probably kept them on just cleaning the site up. We have three drivers that run out of there and they've been running everyday - we just worked them into our Roanoke rotation. We have other facilities, so we've been able to put supplies in there from our other facilities," Lovern said, adding the facility is expected to restart work in the repair business this week.

Due to the scale of financial loss and physical damage caused by the fire the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Virginia State Police are assisting the Patrick County Sheriff's Office in investigating the cause and origin of the fire.

Lovern said that as of April 2, the company hasn't seen the fire reports or received any information from investigators.

As with the Meadow of Dan Elementary School fire more than a decade ago, Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith said federal investigators were called into help – partially because of how large the fire was and the amount of property loss.

"It's nothing suspicious at all. I will tell you

that," Smith said.

Lt. Steve Austin said the sheriff's office has relinguished the case to the Virginia State Police.

"Our involvement was to secure the scene while the State Police investigators investigated the fire," Austin said.

Stuart Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Buddy Dollarhite said once the department arrived on scene the whole area was fully involved.

"We decided to go ahead and try to go countywide and get as many departments as we possibly could and also tone out departments in Stokes County and Surry County for additional water because we knew with that large of a fire, we were going to need plenty of water," he said.

Twenty-three fire departments, the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDF), the Patrick County Sheriff's Office, Patrick County Emergency Management, Patrick County EMS, and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) were on scene to assist with putting out the fire.

Dollarhite estimated that there were approximately 85 fire personnel on scene with all Patrick County departments having at least one person present. Stokes, Surrey, Henry Counties also had personnel on scene.

"We utilized 22 tankers to put out pretty much the whole area there — he had 35,000 and 40,000 pallets on site. We estimated we used anywhere around 250,000 to 300,000 gallons of water to put the fire out," he said.

Dollarhite said the pond at Buddy Williams' place and Wayside Park were used as fill sites to refill the tankers with water.

"We pretty much took a defensive posture on it, we tried to contain what we had. All in all, it ended up being 16 acres of a brush fire," he said.

In addition to the structure fire with the pallets, the fire spread into a brush fire across the

"We had a 10 acres brush fire across the road on the other side that we had to contend with as well, and that's where we used the VDF fire plow and about five brush trucks from different departments to help contain that as well," he said.

Dollarhite said the departments finished up most of the operations around 11 a.m. Friday

"We did go back several times because there were investigators there and you have hotspots, so we went back six additional times to check on it and put some hotspots out," he said.

## Massage

(cont. from page 1)



Much Kneaded Massage is located at 141 N. Main Street, Unit 200, in Stuart.

really want to help make a difference," she said. Though Frable describes herself as typically shy and anxious, she said she feels calm and fo-

cused when working with clients.

and my goal is for everyone to come off my table feeling less pain or less stress and anxiety. As goofy as it sounds, I've been told, 'Oh, you have a gift,' and I kind of want to share that in whatever way I can, and this just seems like the right way to do it," she said.

#### Services Offered

In addition to Swedish massage, Frable offers deep tissue, hot stone, prenatal, and reflexology massages. She is also a certified manual lymphatic drainage (MLD) provider.

"I took a 40-hour course for that. It's a technique, not so much a massage, and it's a very



For more information about the services offered, visit Facebook.com/MuchKneadedMassage.

gentle process. That's really a service that is underrepresented, and a lot of people could really benefit from it," she said.

While lymphedema — "I don't feel anxious; I'm just in that moment, lymphatic system blockage — can be genetic or injury-related, Frable said it is often a side effect of cancer and its treatment, particularly for women.

"We know with breast cancer and the axillary area, there's a lot of lymph nodes. Your whole body has lymph nodes, but they're most concentrated at the throat, armpit, knees, and groin area," she said.

After radiation or chemotherapy, lymph nodes can become compromised or damaged, leading to edema in the arms or lower legs, Frable explained.

#### "Manual lymphatic drainage is a way to help get that fluid retention, the lymph, moving back into the system. It's a definitely needed service that a lot of people don't even realize is something that can help," she said, adding that MLD has also been shown to help with migraines, fibromyalgia, and energy boosts.

With many people working desk jobs that result in shoulder and neck pain, Frable said she frequently treats clients with tension in the shoulders, trapezius muscles, rhomboids, and occipital muscles.

"They call them the ghost headache muscles because they get so tight, and especially looking down texting, a lot of that can cause headaches and migraines, and people don't even realize. So, massage can definitely help with that," she said.

Frable added that foot massages are particularly popular, as gravity and strain take a toll on everyone's feet.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/ MuchKneadedMassage.

To schedule an appointment, call (276) 968-0933, email CateFrableLMT@gmail.com, or visit much-kneaded-massage-100558.square.site.

## Latest unemployment insurance weekly initial claims down

The 2,575 unemploy- Technical ment insurance weekly (435); Administrative initial claims that were and Support and Waste filed during the week Management ending March 29, 2025, Health Care and Social is 4.0 percent lower Assistance (192); Retail than last week's 2,683 Trade (187); and Manuclaims and 23.7 percent facturing (146). higher than the comparable week of last year claims (17,625) were Assistance (1,572); Re-(2,081), according to 2.2 percent lower than tail Trade (1,410); and Virginia Works. Near- last ly 81 percent of claimassociated of those reported, the top five industries (60 92 percent of claimsional, Scientific, and associated

(255);

Continued week and were 15.2 percent year (15,302). Nearly

Technical Services (3,281); Administrative and Support and Waste Management (2,111); weeks Health Care and Social (18,013) Manufacturing (1,250).

A person who has alants self-reported an higher than the com- ready filed an initial industry; parable week of last claim and who has experienced a week of unemployment files a conpercent) were Profes- ants self-reported an tinued claim to claim industry; benefits for that week

Services of those reported, the of unemployment. On top five industries (59 a weekly basis, conpercent) were Profes- tinued claims reflect sional, Scientific, and a good approximation of the current number of insured unemployed workers filing for UI benefits, and are a good indicator of labor market conditions. While continued claims are not a leading indicator, they provide confirming evidence of the direction of the economy.

## Pets of the Week



'Smiley' is a sweet girl and was picked up on Unity Church Road In Claudville. She has not been claimed by her owner, and is now available for adoption.

This approximately 3-month-old male Lab boy; a little shy, but warms up quickly.

They are both 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 minor repairs.



Facebook page, to find information about these otheravailable pets in need of a forever home. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/ neuter and rabies vaccination. The Blue Ridge An-

mixed puppy is a sweet imal Welfare League provides pet food assistance and information about low-cost spay/ neuter services; contact blueridgeawl@gmail. com. We are also asking for live trap donations (have-a-heart even if they need some 1500 Kings Mtn Rd.

276-638-2778

## Marriage Licenses

The following marriage licenses were issued in March, according to records in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's office:

Ronnie Wilson - Bernice Lanning Matthew Slate - Misty Strickland Sean Harbour - Hannah Whalen

Benjamin Riddle - Sherry Taylor-Hawkins

Samuel Dickover - Faith Stowe A license was issued to David Breck - Kathleen Hylton on Feb. 28. It was received after the monthly report was completed, according to the clerk's office.

Martinsville, VA, Memorial Services Visit our website for pricing: www.norrismemorialservices.com JOHNSON

### Patrick County

(cont. from page 1)

Virginia Gov. Glenn welcomed Youngkin attendees to Williamsburg and emphasized the opportunity the milestone presents to educate future generations about "what it has meant, what it means, and what it will mean to be an Ameri-

One highlight for those of the Virginia delegation was a special video presentation showcasing historical landmarks and moments from around the Commonwealth. video concluded with the tagline, "America: Made in Virginia," which drew enthusiastic applause from Virginians in attendance.

American history.



Fifes and drums entertain before the screening of Ken Burns' "The American Revolution."

obligation," she said.

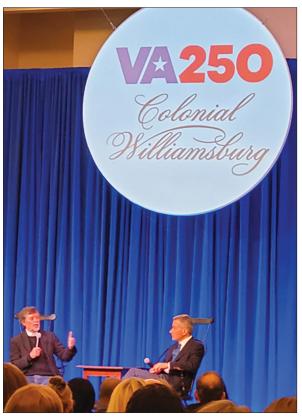
The event's emotional and cultural center-Carly Fiorina, na- and members of the ture both well-known tional honorary chair- public gathered on the and lesser-known hisman of VA250, followed Palace Green for a pre-torical figures. He exthe video with remarks view of filmmaker Ken pressed hope that the about the significance Burns' upcoming six- project and the 250th tary, "The American

"We do not say 'Amer- Revolution." With the U.S." ica: Made in America' looming rain holding as a brag, or as a chal- off, the evening con- including lenge. We say it be-cluded with fireworks cause we feel a special against the backdrop of the Governor's man-

Burns said the series, piece came Tuesday scheduled to air in Noevening, as attendees vember 2025, will fea-

For local planners, representatives from Patrick County, the gathering offered a valuable chance to gain inspiration and insight from other communities.

Over the next 16 months, events commemorating Semiquincentennial



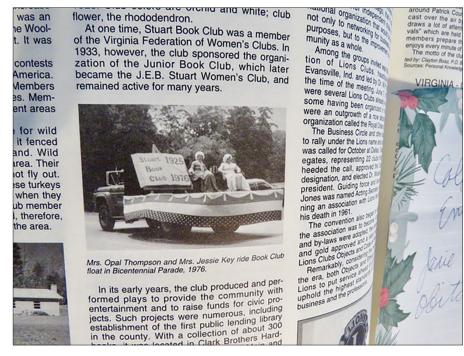
Ken Burns (left) discussed his upcoming documentary with author Jeffrey Rosen.

Virginia and the na- on a number of lo- page,

will take place across is currently working committee's Facebook of Virginia's role in part, 12-hour documen- celebration will help tion. The Patrick Coun- cal events, which will Patrick County VA250, "put the us, back in the ty VA250 Committee be announced on the as details are finalized.

### Book Club

(cont. from page 1)



Stuart Book Club members participated in the 1976 Bicentennial Parade. The club is one of the oldest civic organizations in the county.

for WWII soldiers with soap and rick County. other need items, They also knit-

Through the years, the club has bandages for the War effort. done such worthy projects as fur- Members also collected and gave nishing the clinic room for Stu- magazines and flowers to Stuart art School so that sick students Hospital, as well as a donation of would have a cot to lie on, pro- \$1500 to the building fund for the vided hot meals for the students R.J. Reynolds Memorial Hospital. before the school lunch program The club even had a float in the began, furnishing care packages 1976 Bicentennial Parade in Pat

The club also donates Christmas ted sweaters and socks and rolled gifts for children in need through

the guidance departments at the club now meets at Stuart Preslocal schools and has also funded byterian Church and the monthscholarships for students for field ly hostess entertains with an trips, and clothing for special oc- interesting program and refreshcasions for students who were ments. Members interviewed for unable to participate otherwise. this article remain excited about Donations to allow local students what the club has accomplished to attend Camp Easter Seal were and look forward to opportunities also given during the 1950s and that lie ahead of them which will once when needed, the club even help make their community a betdonated a washing machine for a family.

and to membership by nomination, is considered to be a legacy organization as many members have been descendants of previous members, often three generations have been represented.

When the club formed in 1925, there were 16 members, but in later years, it consistently remained at 12 members. Thus, 12 books are selected each year to be read and passed to another member each month. The books are varied in subject matter, according to what the individual light their future endeavors. members have chosen — which enjoyed.

in members' homes and a meal was often included, however the Woods.

ter place.

A positive impact is their moti-This club, exclusive to women vation, and although they enjoy the books they read, their true pleasure comes from serving others and their camaraderie with their fellow members.

The Book Club year book of 1926 provides the following motto: "Live neither in the past nor in the future, but in the midst of things, enriched by memory and lighted by anticipation." This is truly the ambition of this club. Watch for further events that are being planned to celebrate their successful history and to spot-

The current membership inthey recommend the others read. cludes Sarah Brinks, Suzanne This has introduced genres that Hutchens, Phyllis Lemke, Peggy many would not have otherwise Rogers, Denise Smith, Linda Wilson, Eva Hopkins, Betty Kirkpat-Initially the meetings were held rick, Barbara Pendleton, Diane Ross, Rendy Williams, and Janice

## Red Bank Ruritans plan for anniversary, learn about Wills On Wheels



#### By Charlie Bowman

The Red Bank Ruritans met on April 1, and had as our guest Sarah Bidwell from 'Wills On Wheels.' Bidwell spoke about wills, deeds, trusts and lots more. She travels to you to help prepare any paperwork you have a need related to your final wish-

The club discussed how great Easter eggs are selling, and our anniversary coming this June.



Thank You for reading The Enterprise

## Help stop pests from invading Virginia

Disease Awareness Month, and the spread of invasive species: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) asks the public to help reduce the threats that invasive pests and plants pose to the Commonwealth's agricultural and natural resources.

Non-native plants and destructive insects can seriously threaten Virginia native species, crops, and forests across the state. These invasive species can grow and spread rapidly, often because they have no natural predators in their new environment and can out-compete native species. Once established, they can cause tremendous harm to the environment, economy, and even

human health. VDACS' Office of Plant Industry Services (OPIS) ensures compliance with plant protection laws and regulations in the Commonwealth, and provides inspection, certification, survey, mitigation, and prevention services. OPIS monitors and combats the presence of a wide range of invasive pests, plants, and plant diseases like Spotted Lanternfly, Spongy Moth, Imported Fire Ants, Cogon Grass, Beach Vitex, Two-Horned Trapa, Vascular Streak Dieback, and many more.

The public can take steps to help

prevent the introduction or spread

of infestations in the Common-

wealth. The following are a few

April is Invasive Plant Pest and simple steps to avoid and stop the

 Don't move firewood over long distances, as it can be a carrier of invasive insects and diseases. Use firewood that originates from the area where it will be burned. Spotted Lanternfly and Spongy Moth eggs can hitch a ride on firewood and start infestations in new areas.

Before leaving a work or recreational site, look for and remove any insects, seeds and other plant parts that might be attached to your equipment, boots, gear, and vehicle.

· Select plants that are not invasive for your landscaping and gardening projects. Your local nursery or Virginia Cooperative Extension master gardener can tell you about the wide variety of beautiful native plants that thrive in your local environment, available at local nurseries and garden centers.

Don't plant seeds of invasive plants in wildlife food plots.

Always declare any plant material brought into the United States when returning from a trip abroad.

If you believe you've detected an invasive species, use VDACS' Invasive Species Reporting Tool to document your finding.

For more information on invasive plants, pests, and diseases, visit the VDACS Office of Plant Industry Services webpage.

## THE ENTERPRISE

## Making U.S. Federal **Elections More Secure**

With a new U.S. President and new leadership in the U.S. Senate, House Republicans are working hard to deliver important, commonsense bills to President Trump's desk.

These bills range from all policy issues, including down on illegal immigration and illicit House Committee on fentanyl, unleashing American energy independence and protecting girls in women's sports.

Some of these bills are ones that saw success in the House last Congress. They were reintroduced this Congress with the hope that the U.S. Senate under Republican control would move to pass these measures.

One such measure was the Laken Riley Act.

Named after the University of Georgia student tragically murdered by an illegal alien while out on a jog, the Laken Riley Act requires law enforcement to arrest and detain illegal aliens who commit crimes.

Because of the great of southseverity ern border crossings, House Republicans worked rapidly to get the Laken Riley Act across the finish line.

We were successful, and President Trump signed the bill into law just 10 days into his second term!

We hope to repeat commonsense bills that passed the House in the last Congress.

The SAVE Act is identification will strengthen the polls. America's voting laws people to vote in feder- well. al elections.

gress, I was proud to Appeals considered a



### Morgan Griffith

Representative

cracking vote to advance the SAVE Act out of the Administration.

> When the bill was considered by the full House, I supported the measure again.

> Now that Republicans control the Senate as well, House Republicans are preparing to pass this meaningful legislation again to safeguard American elections.

> We are already seeing other states and localities take action to protect their elections and preserve election integrity.

> To begin April, a statewide vote in Wisconsin took place to consider a state constitutional amendment.

> The amendment is designed to strengthen Wisconsin's current voter ID law by enshrining the requirement to present identification to vote into the state constitution.

> what used to be the law in Virginia. But, because it wasn't a constitutional requirement, it was changed a few years ago by the legislature.

Wisconsin voters this achievement with approved the proposal with more than 60% of the vote!

According to the Another such bill of State Legislatures, strengthen our elecwith promising pros- Wisconsin is one of tions, but President pects is the Safeguard- 36 states that ask for Trump is also working ing American Voter or require people to on this issue. Eligibility (SAVE) Act. provide some form of fairly straightforward. they show up to vote at

Election developby requiring states to ments are also taking obtain proof of citizen- place in very liberal ship when registering areas of the country as

In March, the New During the last Con- York State Court of

New York City law. Local Law 11, that allows non-citizens to vote in City elections.

The New York City Council passed the measure in 2021, and the City's mayors allowed the bill to become law.

However, on overwhelming basis, the liberal Court of Appeals ruled that the law was unconstitutional!

New York City non-citizens will not be able to vote in local elections, but Washington. DC cannot say the same.

2024 was the first vear where non-citizens could vote in DC local elections.

Given the above attempts allow to non-citizen voting, I am working to rein in these efforts and protect American elections from illegal voting.

Last Congress, This was similar to introduced the NO VOTE for Non-Citizens Act. The bill withholds some federal dollars that go to localities that allow non-citizens to vote in their elections.

> I plan to lead the bill's introduction again for this Congress.

Congressional action National Conference will be important to

> late March. Trump issued the Executive Order, Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections.

> The Order calls for actions to be taken to enforce the citizenship requirement in federal elections, verify voter eligibility, and strengthen our voting systems.

> Congress will codify many of these Trump Executive Orders into law, and we can start by passing the SAVE Act.

Like almost all legislation, the SAVE Act does not resolve all issues. Accordingly, additional legislation is likely to be enacted in the next couple of vears.

Making our election process both safe from bad actors and easy for U.S. citizens to use is the goal I will continue to strive to make happen.

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



# The Trap of Low Expectations

By Bryan Golden

How much you accomplish in life is influenced by what you Those expect to accomplish. with low expectations have a low threshold for what they will be satisfied with. For them mediocrity or less, is good enough.

People with high expectations have a standard of excellence for themselves and what they want to achieve. They push themselves to accomplish challenging goals. They set the bar higher than may be comfortable.

Your expectations are the first step for programming your mind to work towards a particular goal. Your expectations determine what you will be satisfied with. Typically, your mind will not accomplish more than you expect.

What would happen to an athlete who expects to lose each race? Their training would never be at a winning level. They would not put much effort into preparation. They would not push themselves during a race. That's why you won't find competitive athletes who expect to lose.

What expectations do you have for yourself? What expectations do you have for the future? Your mind will only meet, not exceed your expectations. If you have low expectations, the best you can achieve are low results.

Let's look at some examples of the negative impact of low expectations. An athlete who expects to lose has no chance of winning. A small business owner who expects to go bankrupt will not succeed. A teenager who expects that no one will like him or her will have a difficult time socializing. A performer who expects to deliver an awful performance will disappoint the

Low expectations create a Since self-fulfilling prophecy. your mind strives to at best, meet the expectations you set, low exachievements. Success demands high expectations.

Can you imagine an Olym-During the race, they would not Golden

be competing to win.

Would a person who is opening a new business expect to go bankrupt. Such an attitude virtually ensures bankruptcy sooner than later. If bankruptcy was a foregone conclusion in their mind, they would then make endless poor financial decisions.

A person who expects that no one likes them, or will like them, subconsciously acts in a manner which repels the people they come into contact with. Their behavior creates a self-fulfilling prophesy, which then reinforces their low expectations.

What would happen to an actress or actor who expected to give a terrible performance before going out on stage? Would they have any chance of delivering an award-winning presentation? Of course not. Their mind subconsciously limits their actions because of their low expectations.

Any low expectations you have for yourself also create a self-fulfilling prophesy. You bring about the same results you are expecting. This is the trap of low expectations. The only way to break free is by elevating your expecta-

Take some time to thoroughly and honestly assess the expectations you have for yourself and for your life. In order to make positive changes you must have high expectations. Don't waste time formulating justifications for any low expectations.

Excuses for why you can't, or won't accomplish an objective, prevent you from doing so. These excuses program you mind with low expectations. "I'm not smart enough," "I don't know how," "Nothing I do works," or "I really don't want that much," are just some of the endless examples of low expectation excuses.

If you don't already do so, start setting high expectations. pectations severely limit your Don't accept mediocrity. Raise your own bar for what you want

Bryan is the author of "Dare pic skier who expected to fall? Of to Live Without Limits." Contact course not. Such a mindset would Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com make winning impossible. They or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutwould not be training to win. Limits.com Copyright 2025 Bryan

### Liquid egg products recalled due to an unapproved substance

Cargill Kitchen Solutions, a Lake Odessa, Michigan establishment, is recalling approximately 212,268 pounds of liquid egg products that may contain a cleaning solution with sodium hypochlorite, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number "G1804" ink-jetted on the carton. There is a possibility that the products were distributed nationwide, and were shipped to distributor locations in Ohio and Texas and for foodservice use in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois and Iowa. The liquid egg items were pro-

duced on March 12 and 13. The following products are subject to recall [view labels]: \* 32-oz. (2-lb.) carton containing

"egg beaters ORIGINAL LIQUID EGG SUBSTITUTE" and USE BY AUG 10 2025. \* 32-oz. (2-lb.) carton containing

"egg beaters CAGE-FREE ORIGI-NAL LIQUID EGG SUBSTITUTE" and USE BY AUG 09 2025. \* 32-oz. (2-lb.) carton contain-

"egg beaters CAGE-FREE ORIGINAL FROZEN EGG SUB-STITUTE" and "egg beaters NO ENJAULADAS ORIGINAL SUS-TITUTO DE HUEVO CONGELA-

DO" and USE BY MAR 07 2026. \* 32-oz. (2-lb.) carton containing "Bob Evans Better'n Eggs Made

with Real Egg Whites" and USE

BY AUG 10 2025.

After conducting an investigation and thorough assessment of the contents of the cleaning solution, FSIS scientists concluded that use of this product should not cause adverse health consequences, or the risk is negligible, resulting in a Class III recall.

Although FSIS does not expect any adverse health effects for Class III recalled products and there have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products, anyone concerned about an illness should contact a healthcare provider.

The FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' or foodservice refrigerators or freezers, and those who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them and foodservice locations are urged not to serve them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

Consumers with questions about the recall can contact Chuck Miller, Cargill Kitchen Solutions, at 1-844-419-1574 or media@cargill.com. Consumers with food safety

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

THE ENTERPRISE

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### Wednesday,April 9, 2025 - **5**

## **Patrick Pioneers**

Ida Penn Reynolds

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Imagine being born into a world where your life is not your own-where you have no freedom, no choices, and no voice. Now imagine, despite all that, you grow into someone who gives life to others. Today, we're going to meet a woman who was born enslaved, became a healer and helper to her people, and lived to be 103 years old.

Ida Penn was born in Critz, Virginia to Richard "Dick" Penn and Susan Kellam Penn on the third of March 1863. Ida's first years were spent on the Rock Spring plantation, which would become known as Reynolds Homestead-Virginia Tech a hundred years

In the 1880 census, we find young Ida living just two miles from the Rock Spring plantation with her parents, Susan and Dick Penn, and her siblings: Nannie, age 6; Ben, age 4; and baby Sallie, just one year old. By the turn of the century, the family had grown—two more children, Susan (born in 1888) and Peter (born in 1893), had joined the household.

The 1900 census offers a glimpse into the depth of the Penn family's roots: Susan Kellam Penn reported that she and Dick had been married for twenty years and were parents of ten children—a testament to both the strength of their bond and the enduring legacy they were building together.

According to Patrick County marriage records, Ida married Robert Reynolds on December 29, 1887. Robert was the son of Hannah Reynolds of the Rock Spring plantation, tying the couple to deep roots in the region's history.

By the time of the 1900 census, Robert and Ida were raising a bustling household of eight children: Grover, 14; William, 12; Hassel "Hassie," 10; Richard "Dick," 8; Lonzo, 6; Wesley, 4; Addie, 2; and baby Annie, just two months old. By the time of the 1910 census, Robert and Ida had welcomed three more children into their growing family: Lawyer, age 7; Roosevelt, age 5; and Edward Reynolds, age 4. But the records also reveal a quiet heartbreak-little Addie, their daughter who was just two years old in 1900, was no longer listed. Her absence suggests that she passed away sometime in that decade, a sorrow undoubtedly felt deeply by her family.

Moreover, the 1910 census lists Ida as the head of the household, indicating that Robert passed away sometime between 1905 and 1910. Left to raise her children on her own, Ida faced a challenge few could imagine—yet she endured, carrying the weight of motherhood and survival with unshakable strength.

Ida supported her large family not just with strength and determination, but with skilled, compassionate hands. She served as the community midwife, a role that made her a vital figure in the lives of countless families across Patrick County.

In an article from the Winston-Salem Journal dated April 28, 1966, her neighbor Sandy Bingman shared a vivid memory:



Reynolds (Photo courtesy Diantha Williamson)

"I remember as a young man seeing Aunt Ida riding on an old mule with her little black bag in her hand. I knew she was off to deliver another baby.'

Ida delivered hundreds of babies throughout her lifetime, becoming a symbol of comfort, care, and quiet heroism. Remarkably, she continued her midwifery work well into her 90s—welcoming new life into the world, even as she neared the century mark herself.

When you look through the census records of the early 20th century, a beautiful pattern emerges—one that speaks volumes about Ida's love, compassion, and selflessness.

In 1920, she was still raising six sons at home, while also opening her doors to her sister Sallie and Sallie's two young daughters, Alice and Blanche. By 1930, Ida was caring for two grandsons, a grand-

daughter, and a niece—continuing her role as a steady source of support for her family.

And in 1940, even in her later years, she was still nurturing three grandsons and two granddaughters, a quiet testimony to a life spent lifting others.

Ida brought more than just strength to her family she brought warmth, joy, and a deep, enduring love that spanned generations. Her granddaughter Gracie fondly remembered the weekends when Ida and her sister Sallie would visit their home. Those visits were filled with laughter, stories, and most importantly-Ida's homemade chocolate candy, a treasured treat and the highlight of the week for the grandchildren.

And even when supplies were scarce, Ida never let that stop her. With simple ingredients, she created something special—spreading butter and sugar over slices of loaf bread and toasting them until they were golden and sweet. It wasn't just about the food — it was the love baked into every bite that made those moments unforgettable.

Ida was one of the few widows in the country who drew social security payments after the death of her son. Harrison Reynolds helped support his mother, and when he died, Ida began receiving social security payments at the age of 89.



Ida Penn Reynolds (Photo courtesy Diantha Williamson)

## Oldest Resident In Patrick County Is Dead At 103

PATRICK SPRINGS-Funeral services for 103-year-old Mrs. Ida Penn Reynolds, Patrick County's oldest resident, will be conducted tomorrow at 2 p.m. ffrom Mount Nebo burial in the with Church, church cemetery.

Mrs. Reynolds died Monday. Survivors include three chilgrandchildren more than 100 great-grandchildren.

The Bee, 1966

At the time of Ida's passing on April 25, 1966, at the age of 103 years old, Ida had fourteen children, of which only three survived her. She had 86 grandchildren, 152 great-grandchildren, a number of greatgreat grandchildren, and one 3x great grandson! Ida was laid to rest at the Mount Nebo Church Cemetery in Spencer.

Thank you so much to Ida's granddaughter, Gracie and great-granddaughter, Diantha Williamson for providing information and photographs for this article. 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 - When is the best time for me to claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I will be 66 ½ in June and would like to discuss when would be the best time for me to start taking my social security benefits. I am FRA year - is \$62,160, or \$5,180/month after you still employed full time and don't want to be pe-start your SS benefits). If you decide to claim before alized because of that. Please let me know what I need to do to set up an appointment with you. I got your information from the AMAC website, and I look forward to hearing from you. Signed: Ready

Dear Ready: You can certainly call us on 1.888.750.2622 during normal EST business hours for a personal conversation. But to facilitate that conversation, be aware that deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit normally depends on just a few factors, including your financial need, your health and expected longevity, and your marital status. A few things to be aware of:

- · Born in 1958, your "full retirement age" is age 66 years and 8 months. If you were born in October 1958, you will reach your RA in June 2025, and that is the point you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.
  - · Once you reach your FRA in June, Social Se-

Thus, you can continue working after you start your SS benefits and your earnings will not negatively affect your monthly benefit amount. If you claim any earlier than your FRA, you will get a smaller benefit and also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test (which for you this year - your your FRA, your benefit will be reduced by each month early (a permanent reduction).

- You can also wait beyond your FRA to claim and earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month (8% per year of delay), in order to get an even higher benefit later. If financially feasible, you can delay up to the age of 70 when your monthly benefit will reach maximum about 27% more than it will be in June of this year.
- If you are single and will not be eligible for a spousal benefit, then you should make your claiming decision based only on your own needs. If, however, you are married and your spouse's FRA benefit is more than twice your FRA amount, you may be entitled to a "spousal boost" (a supplemental amount added to your own SS benefit).
- Your life expectancy should be considered when deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefits. If you expect to enjoy at least "average"

curity's "annual earnings test" no longer applies. longevity (about 87 for a woman your current age), then you might also consider delaying your claim (if financially feasible) and that is often a prudent choice. If you don't expect to achieve a long life, or if you need the money sooner, or if you are entitled to spousal benefits, then claiming at your FRA of

66 years and 8 months is likely your best option. In the end, only you can decide when you should claim your Social Security, but we're always here to answer any additional questions you may have. You can feel free to call us at any time (1.888.750.2622) during normal EST business hours to discuss your options directly with one of our certified Social Security advisors. Or you can also ask any additional questions via email, which we will be most happy to respond to promptly.

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.

## Restore your gut microbiome in 2 weeks

the gut microbiome and how it needs to be healthy for our bodies to operate at optimum. How do guts get unhealthy, or healthy, in the first place? When we talk about the "health" of the gut, we're talking about the good and bad bacteria and organisms living in the microbiome of the gut.

The food we eat daily contributes to this microbiome and feeds the good and bad bacteria. The key ingredient to create a healthy gut is fiber. With plenty of fiber, good bacteria abounds. Without it, unhealthy bacteria takes over, contributing to ill health. In our processed food society, our meals are designed to be as tasty as possible which means not too much fiber is found in most processed foods or restaurant food. Instead, processed foods fill our gut with unnecessary fillers, chemicals and preservatives, things unhealthy bacteria in our gut love to feed on. As a result, our guts are often unhealthy environments.

"The lack of fiber intake in the industrialized world is starving our gut microbes, with important health consequences that may be associated with increases in colorectal cancer, autoimmune diseases, and decreased vaccine efficacy and response to cancer immunotherapy," says Katrine Whiteson, associate professor of molecular biology and biochemistry who co-directed a recent University of California Irvine (UCI) Microbiome research study that was recently published in the American Soci-

berries and avocados are and exchanged ideas for how to prepare beans and lentils," one researcher ety for Microbiology Dietary fiber consists of resistant carbs found in

Lately, you've probably been hearing a lot about fruits, vegetables and whole grains which are not digestible by our bodies. This slows the overall digestion of our meals and makes us feel fuller longer. So it's also important for regulating our feeling of hunger (which means we snack and binge eat less). While indigestible, the bacteria in the gut metabolizes fiber into short-chain fatty acids and other byproducts which are important to our health.

But in an industrialized country, the average person consumes less than half of the recommended daily fiber (50 grams per day) mainly because of decreased consumption of plant-based foods. Processed foods and restaurant foods tend to have low levels of fiber. And reduced fiber in one's diet is associated with diseases like diabetes type II, colon cancer and autoimmune diseases.

The good news is that the study found that even a short period of eating a high fiber diet restored the gut to a healthy state. The UCI researchers took undergraduate students and gave them 10 high fiber unprocessed meals each week for two weeks. They took gut samples before and after to track the microbial composition changes. The students also recorded their daily dietary intake information of macronutrients they consumed to reach 50 grams of dietary fiber per day during those two weeks.

One of the instructors marveled at how she and the students enjoyed learning which foods are high

in fiber. "We were amazed to find how high in fiber

After two weeks, the researchers compared overall bacterial composition using tools like DNA sequencing and gas chromatography and found that the gut experienced major changes after eating the high fiber diet. Researchers found that just two weeks of eating a high fiber diet caused "significant" gut biome changes such as an increase in the presence of Bifidobacterium, a common fiber-degrader.

So, put yourself on a two week challenge to increase your daily fiber intake! Remember that the goal is 50 grams. But you're not going to get there by just resolving to eat more fiber. Do the research and develop a plan to consume 50 grams every day. Common fruits like apples, oranges and bananas have about 3-4 grams of fiber. Two cups of green leafy veggies typically have 5 grams. Some vegetables like artichokes have a whopping 10 grams so do the research and eat accordingly. When snacking, snack on foods like seeds which are high in fiber as opposed to chips which are not. A serving of popcorn has 4 grams of fiber. Do the research. With careful planning, right choices, and a meal plan, you can get to 50 grams per day.

If you keep at it, not only will you restore your gut microbiome to a healthier state, you'll reap the benefits of a healthier gut with better insulin resistance, better mental health, better skin, and better

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Danny Kwon, JD. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)



Jaiden Wilson started on the mound for the Cougars.

## Cougar Baseball **Defeats Martinsville**

By Ashlee Mullis

The Varsity Cougar Christian Baseball Team trav- was 2-4, with 3 runs eled to Hooker Field scored, Carter Gregory to take on the Bull- went 1-2, with 2 RBIs, dogs of Martinsville and 3 runs scored. on April 2, defeating Gavin Fain was 1-2 them 15-1. The Cou- with 2 RBIs. Jaiden gars were led at the Wilson, Noah Jessup, plate by Easton Har- Jackson Horton, Calris, who was 2-4 with vin Lancaster, and 3 RBIs. Jackson Calla- Zach Holt combined on han went 2-4, scoring the mound for the win.



## Hylton pitches no hitter

By Ashlee Mullis

Christian Hylton led the Cougars on ter. He faced 21 batout 5, and gave up zero hits.

Gavin Fain and Noah Jessup scored for

the Cougars, and Jackson Horton had 1 RBI.

Coach Tal Swails the mound to a 2-0 said, "Glenvar pitchwin over Glenvar with er, Cale Vaughn, only his first no-hitter. On gave up 1 hit on the April 3, Patrick Coun- day. Seven complete ty hosted the High- innings of baseball and landers for the first 1 hit combined. I've game of Three Rivers never personally seen District play. Hylton it happen. The Cougar threw a gem with a defense was lights out, complete game, no hit- with Erik Martinez, Zach Holt, Jackson ters, walked 1, struck Horton, Noah Jessup, and Easton Harris making plays all day. It was a fantastic baseball game!"

## Gone Fishin' — Kids cast line for trout and prizes

er Rail Trail Picnic Children must be ac-Area from 9 a.m. - companied by a parnoon The event is for ent/guardian; youth 15 years old also must be registo fish until after 1 more details, conare helping children Patrick County Kids' have a license. Chil- Facebook Page.

The 5th annual dren must be casting Patrick County Kids' reels and reeling fish Trout Fishing Day back in. Bring your will be held April own fishing tackle, 12 at the Mayo Riv- bait and lawn chair. and younger. Adults tered and present to ARE NOT permitted win door prizes. For p.m. and must have a tact Sandra Heath, Valid VA State Fish- Wayne Kirkpatrick ing License and Trout or Dale Owens at Stamp. Adults who 276-694-2911 or the are not required to Trout Fishing Day

## Fishing Team Members Head To State Tournament

Twelve anglers from Jonah Shockley and the Patrick County Hunter Heath; Caleb High School (PCHS) Geiger and Antwain Fishing Team are Mitchell; Chace Handy headed to the state and Will Heath; Tripp championship tourna- Thompson and Jacob ment at Lake Gaston, Spencer; Jake Bryant Saturday, April 12 and Logan Brown; and Sunday, April 13. Jazmyne Congratulations to and Kade Williams.

Reynolds

### Girls Varsity Soccer Recap



Kyra Titular takes the ball down the field for the Cougars.

#### By Ashlee Mullis

On Monday, March 24, the Lady Cougars hosted Bassett, ending in a 1-1 tie. Sydney Tatum scored the goal for the Cougars. Skye Ayers had 14 saves in the goal.

On Wednesday, March 26, Patrick County hosted Dan River, by Camille Gonzalez and Cindy Leon. Skye Ayers had 5 saves in saves in goal.

goal.

On Wednesday, April 2, the Cougars traveled to Martinsville, beating the Lady Bulldogs 7-0. Titular scored 3 goals, assisted by Cindy Leon, Abigail Pendleton, and Sydney Tatum. Raeli Moran scored 2 goals assisted by Cindy getting a 2-0 win over the Lady Leon Cisneros. Sydney Tatum Wildcats. Kyra Titular scored 2 and Ashly Madrid had one goal goals for the Cougars, assisted each. Skye Ayers had 4 saves in goal. Camille Gonzalez had 3

Lacey Sutphin hits for the Cougars.

## PCHS Softball Team Beats Glenvar

By Ashlee Mullis

day, April 4. Patrick County dewas great in the circle, striking scored 2 runs.

out 6. The defense played well, The Lady Highlanders Softball holding Glenvar to only 2 runs. Team came to Stuart on Thurs- Hayden Lawless had a hit with an RBI. Lacey Sutphin also had feated Glenvar 3-2. Jenna Woods an RBI, and Journey Moore

## Sports Briefs

**By Ashlee Mullis** JV Baseball Beats Martinsville

The JV Baseball Team scored 6 runs in the 1st inning, helping at Glenvar, Friday, April 4. Patthem cruise to a 11-1 win in a rick County scored 3 runs in the 5-inning run rule game at home, 6th inning to break a 1-1 tie in Friday, April 2. Anderson Brim the hard-fought win. Jayden had 3 hits and 3 RBIs. Caleb Corns had 1 hit and 2RBIs. Noah Vaughn had a hit, 2 runs, 1 RBI, Cain had 1 hit and 1 run scored. and 2 stolen bases. Noah Cain Mason Cassell had 1 hit and 1 had 1 hit, 1 RBI, and 2 stolen run scored. Mark Register got bases. Jaxon Handy went 2 in- the win with 5 solid innings on nings on the mound, allowing no the mound allowing 1 run and hits, no runs, and striking out 3. striking out 7. Noah Cain got the Vaughn threw 2 innings, allow- save, throwing 2 innings, allowing no earned runs, 1 hit, and 3 ing no runs and striking out 3.

and striking out 3.

JV Baseball Gets Win at Glenvar

The JV Cougars got a 4-2 win strike outs. Jayden Corns went 1 The Cougars are 5-0 on the seainning, allowing no runs, no hits, son so far.

## **PCHS Sports Schedule**

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of April 14-19:

4/14 4:30pm Girls Tennis at Alleghany Boys Tennis vs Alleghany Softball vs Chatham 5pm 7pm Girls Soccer vs Alleghany 7pm Boys Soccer vs Alleghany 4/15 Baseball at Alleghany

5pm

5pm 4/17 4pm 4:30pm 4:30pm 5pm 7pm 7pm 7pm

7pm

Softball at Alleghany Track at Floyd County. Girls Tennis vs Carroll Co. Boys Tennis at Carroll Co. Softball vs Floyd Co. Baseball vs Carroll Co. Softball vs Carroll Co. Girls Soccer vs Carroll Co. Boys Soccer at Carroll Co.



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## Crossing the Lines

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

#### Sheriff defends deputy's actions during council meeting incident

Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper said his deputy, Reva Keen, acted on what she believed were signals from City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides and Mayor LC Jones when she removed Councilman Aaron Rawls from a recent meeting.

"And that's what she did. She was under the impression that was it," Draper said.

He explained Jones "I think had just kind of looked at her, because she was standing near him, and gave the gesture of just nodding his head, and the city manager used her head and kind of just ... if you look at it (video), you can see it better than I can tell you. It's hard for me to describe it, but you can made," Draper said. see it," Draper said of a Does The Bible Say?



Martinsville Sheriff's Deputy

Keen, who serves as a bailiff in court, will not be disciplined for her actions, Draper said.

"My deputy followed what she was told to do. As far as we're concerned at this point, we're not going to do anything. Because like I said, looking at the video it's obvious that there was a gesture

ter funds were found to Draper explained.

pay overtime. Her job was to keep the public from approaching the council, Draper said.

"Just like a courtroom, you just can't pass the bar in the courtroom to come toward a judge or come toward the Commonwealth's Attorney or anybody. Our people are to keep people behind the bar, and that's our job," Draper said.

When we put this in effect, it was the same thing. We started it to keep the public, when doing their comments or they want to talk the council, then you can't approach the council. You give whatthe mayor. If the mayor Keen was assigned to wants to send it out to video recorded by Ca- the meeting at the re- the rest of the memleb Robertson of What guest of city officials afbers, that's up to him,"

#### ever to the deputy, just like we do in court, and the deputy will give it to

#### Martinsville council hears proposed \$87.2 million spending plan

Martinsville City Council members heard a draft of the proposed fiscal year 2025-26 budget at its Tuesday, April 1 meeting, with proposed revenue of \$87,233,656 and expenses of \$85,874,519.

City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides said revenues are projected to decrease by 1.3 percent the proposal, while expenses are expected to increase by 0.7 percent.

"That gives you a difference of a positive of \$359,137. That would increase our fund balance, which would be our goal," she said.

As of June 30, the projected unaudited fund balance is \$27,130,079.

The proposed general fund revenue is \$37,593,551 with its projected expenses being \$37,141,933.

Unlike most cities where about 80 City percent of the general fund is used for personnel, Ferrell-Benavides said Martinsville differs with 55 percent used for city employees.

"As you look at the City of Martinsville, we have in this proposed ees, followed by public safety at 25 budget 337 full-time (FTEs) and 81 percent, or 84 employees. part-time, Now, our end of the year estimate is 333 full-time and 81 part-time," she said.



Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides presented the proposed fiscal year 2025-26 budget.

Constitutional officers include 88 employees, which represent about 26 percent of all full-time employ-

Utilities include 20 percent of employees; operations and infrastructure at 17 percent.

#### Edwards tapped to fill vacancy on school board

The Henry County School Board selected Valeria Clark Edwards to fill the vacant board seat in the Horsepasture District that was created due to a resignation. She will officially assume her role representing the Horsepasture District on April 3.

Edwards brings decades of experience in education and community leadership, making her a valuable addition to the Board as she works to support students, educators, and families across the district, the school board wrote in a release.

with 28 years of experience in Winston-Sa-



Valeria Clark Edwards was selected to fill the vacant Horsepasture District seat on the Henry County School

lem Forsyth County Schools, Edwards has served in multiple caa Kindergarten Teach-A retired educator er, Primary Reading Board," Teacher, Principal, and School the school board.

Bus Driver. Her career has been dedicated to fostering student success, ensuring equitable access to quality education, and mentoring future educators. She also served as an Adjunct Professor at Winston-Salem State University and has been actively involved with the Henry County Board of Elections for the past three years.

"We had several fantastic candidates for the seat, which we could not have gone wrong with any of them. We are excitpacities, including as ed to welcome Valeria Edwards to the School said Teddy Assistant Martin, chairman of

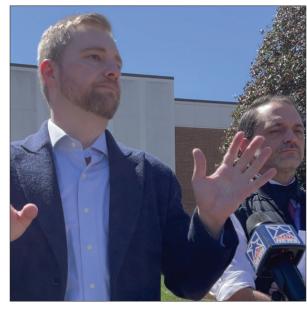
#### Rawls' removal sparks accusations, conflicting accounts among city officials

The chaotic removal of former Vice Mayor Aaron Rawls from a March 25 Martinsville City Council meeting has ignited a firestorm of accusations, conflicting narratives, and concerns about government transparency and authority.

Rawls, flanked by council member Julian Mei, held a press conference on March 27 and alleged City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides of orchestrating his removal, and to criticize the council's handling of controversial topics, including executive pay raises.

In response, and Rayshaun Gravemaintain during a contentious meeting. meeting.

while another camp nal, literally." condemns Rawls'



Martinsville City Council members Aaron Rawls and Julian Mei held a press conference to discuss the March 25 council meeting.

#### The Incident

city curred after he indi- the attending sheriff's officials — including cated residents may deputy, Reva Keen, Ferrell-Benavides, not have been told with a nod. A video Mayor LC Jones, Vice their taxes and util- of the meeting, taken Mayor Kathy Lawson, ities would increase, by Caleb Robertson "and now ly — denied any coor- talking about raising ble Say?, shows Ferdinated effort to oust executive pay with rell-Benavides Rawls. They instead your money. Raise attributed his remov- the pay for somebody al to a misinterpre- who's making almost tation by a sheriff's \$200,000 a year in the attempting City of Martinsville," order Rawls said at the

At his press confer-The fallout has di- ence, Rawls said, "I vided the council and knew Tuesday night residents, with Raw- was happening, it was ls, Mei and others no surprise to me. The alleging a breach of level of coordination civil suit. "They try to constitutional rights, was absolutely crimi-

comments as disre- was removed from terized as a "stacked spectful and disrup- the meeting at the agenda" designed to instruction of Fer- suppress dissent.

rell-Benavides, who Rawls' removal oc- allegedly signaled to we're of What Does The Biding her head twice in the deputy's direction, then motioning her head sideways,

"I wasn't removed by the mayor, I was removed by the city manager," Rawls said. "Civil rights violations are the most expensive" kind of turn a room against you," he said, describ-Rawls claimed he ing what he charac-

towards Rawls.

#### Incumbent to seek reelection in Collinsville

Joe Bryant, the incumbent Collinsville District Supervisor and current vice chairman, announced Tuesday that he will seek reelection in the November election against challenger Chris Lawless.

"As I look back on the past 16 years of serving this community, I am filled with pride for what we've accomplished together. Over these years, I've had the honor of working alongside many of you, listening to your concerns, and finding solutions that benefit us all. My experience has given me the insight to recognize the challenges we face, as well as the wisdom to understand the importance of moving forward-together," Bryant wrote in an email Tuesday.

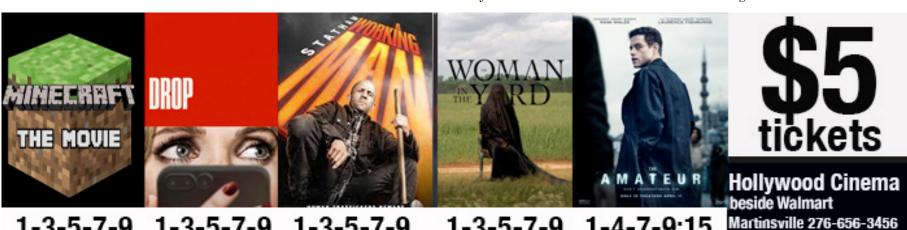
When he first joined the board, Bryant said his "focus was clear: to strengthen our community, to make decisions that would last, and to ensure that every voice was heard."

He retains that same commitment, and is "ready to continue that work. I am proud of the work we've done as a team, and even more proud of the way our current board has come together. We've fostered a culture of collaboration, respect, and mutual support—values that have made us a stronger, more unified group.," Bryant wrote.



Joe Bryant, vice chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, will seek reelection to the Collinsville District seat.

While there have been many successes, Bryant said "there is still work to be done. Challenges remain, and there are goals that still lie ahead. But I am confident in our ability to meet these challenges. With 16 years of experience and a deep understanding of the issues at hand, I know that we can continue moving forward, making thoughtful decisions that will benefit not just today, but for future generations."



## **OBITUARIES**

#### Linda Sharon Ellis Coleman

Linda Sharon Ellis in high-needs schools Jason. Sharon is sur-Coleman, 74, of Mon- and roe, NC, passed away time with the many on Saturday, March children whose lives 29, 2025. She was born she touched. In her of Monroe; son, Matin Martinsville, VA, on spare time and in re-December 17, 1950, to tirement, Sharon enthe late James Rufus joyed reading, going to and two grandsons, Ellis and Edna Lawrence Ellis. Sharon playing games, and grew up in Stuart, VA and graduated from Hardin Reynolds High School as the salutatorian. She earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from University before starting her career as an elementary school educator in Church. Over the last Grayson County, VA. several weeks, Sha-After taking time off ron received the supto raise her son, Sha- port and love of many ron returned to work friends and family, and was a counselor particularly her best NC 28112 is honored with the Union Coun- friend, Brenda Baxley; to be entrusted to care ty Public Schools for her niece, Amy Fix; for the Coleman Fam-28 years. She served and Amy's husband, ily.

dance class, knitting, spending time with family and friends. She loved her many pets over the years and enjoyed keeping up with her grandsons from across the country. Sharon was also a multi-decade member of Wingate Baptist

cherished her vived by her loving husband of 53 years, John Sanford Coleman thew Coleman (Monica) of Tiburon, CA; Alexander and William Coleman of Tiburon. CA. A service will be held at a later date. condolences Online may be made at www. gordonfuneralservice. com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Sharon's memory to the Humane Society of Union County, 4015 Waxhaw Hwy, Monroe, NC 28112. Gordon Funeral Service and Crematory, 1904 Lancaster Ave, Monroe,

#### Shirley Ann Mabe Sheppard

Mrs. Shirley Ann Mabe Sheppard, age 84 of Lawsonville, N.C. was welcomed home by her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. She was born August 16, 1940 in Patrick County to the late Noel Mabe and Lettie Ann Shelton Mabe. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband and love of her life of 54 years, Lloyd Edward Sheppard; one sister, Mildred Maupin; four brothers, Gilmer Mabe, Delmar Mabe, Raymond Mabe, and Bonnie Mabe.

Shirley ed from Lawsonville High School and went the on to attend Appalachian State University. After college, she Primitive home in the Aarons tist Church. Community where they shared a wonderful life. She was no stranger to work having spent countless days raising tobacco, planting gardens and taking care of the dairy farm. Her children her life. She enjoyed cob), Corey Sheppard, cooking, quilting, gardening, three



canning, and reading a good book. She also enjoyed camping and square dancing with Lloyd during their life together. During her life she went to work at RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company and retired from Amerigraduat- can of Martinsville. She loved attending Primitive Baptist Church at Aarons Corner, Snow Creek Baptist married Lloyd and Church, And Russell they established their Creek Primitive Bap- Family will receive

Mrs. Sheppard is by survived  $_{
m three}$ daughters, Myrna Moorefield (Tony) of Sandy Ridge, N.C., Tammy White (Richie) of Lawsonville, N.C., and Kimberly Morton of Stuart, VA; three grandchildren, were the priority of Andreanna Seay (Jasewing, and Courtney Morton; great-grand-

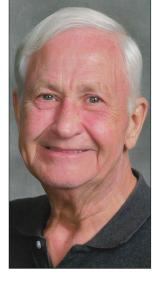
children, Jacob Seay, Zachary Seay, MacKenzie Seay; four sisters, Iris Robertson of Danbury, N.C., Arlene Fulp (Bill) of Danbury, N.C., Dot Slate of Danbury, N.C., Pat Bennett of Danbury, N.C.; two brothers, Morris Mabe (Doris) of Walnut Cove, N.C., Akers Mabe (Jane) of Walnut Cove, N.C., and several special Nieces and Nephews including Cathy Hubbard (Alan), and Anthony Sheppard. Shirley also loved her in-laws in the same manner as her chil-

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 3:00 P.M. at Moody Funeral Chapel with Elder Lowell Hopkins officiating. Burial follow in Aarons Corner Primitive Baptist Church friends from 1:30 until time of the service. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to Aarons Corner Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Brad Collins, 1017 Lum Hall Road, Lawsonville, N.C. 27022. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www. moodyfuneralservice.

#### Stephen Douglas Jones

Mr. Stephen Douglas Jones, age 68, of Stuart, Virginia passed away on April 1, 2025 at his home. He was born on June 18,1956 in Patrick County to the late Andrew Douglas Jones and Mary Jones Chittum Rautio. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Melanie L. Jones and a brother, David W. Jones.

Stephen was a kind, caring, and gentle soul that never met a stranger, and was always eager to help others. He enjoyed his daily morning walks at the Mayo River Rail Trail, and meeting and talking with friends at Hardees. He always had a bright and cheerful smile on his face. Stephen loved raising exotic animals, being a "history buff", burning up the roads in his white Jeep (Rowdy), and spending time



with his family. He relied on his strong Catholic faith in his daily

Mr. Jones is survived by a daughter Karen Ann Walton (Lee) of Stuart, Virginia; three grandchildren. Jonathan Boyd Walton, "Karoline" Annalyn Walton and Roselyn "Hope" Walton; brothers, Terry L. Jones (Ann) and Christopher A. Jones (Wendy); a sister, Lori J. Layman;

special aunts, Linda J. Edwards (Dick) and Cathy J. Beamer (Bill); his first love and mother of his daughters, Cynthia McPeak Jones; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at Risen Lord Catholic Church, 59 Mountain View Loop, Stuart, Virginia, with the Rev. Herman Katongole presiding. Burial will follow in Adams Cemetery with full military rites. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Risen Lord Catholic Church, 78 St. Joseph Lane, Woodlawn, Virginia 24381. Online condolences may be made by visiting www. moodyfuneralservices.

### Card of Thanks

The family of Barbara Griffith Nowlin wishes to express their sincere heartfelt appreciation to everyone for all expressions of kindness, sympathy, and comfort shown during the passing of our loved one. May God bless each of you.

The Nowlin & Griffith Family

## Local SCV to hold Confederate Memorial Day Service

The Wharton-Stuart Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will hold its Confederate Memorial Day service on April The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. at the Patrick County Courthouse in Stuart and will serve to honor those soldiers from Patrick County who served from 1861 to tween the States.

will be Jarred Marlowe. Following Mr. Marlowe's presentation, a wreath will be unveiled and flowers laid at the base of the monument in remembrance of the Confederate dead.



1865 in the War Be- end with the SCV honor guard firing patriotic, and non-po-This year's speaker a 21 gun salute, fol- litical lowed by the playing dedicated to ensuring of "Taps."

> rect heir of the Unit- od is preserved. The in Richmond in 1896, diers.

The ceremony will the SCV continues to serve as a historical, organization that a true history of The SCV is the di- the 1861-1865 peried Confederate Vet- ceremony is open to erans, and the oldest the public and we enhereditary organiza- courage all to come tion for male descen- out and join us as we dants of Confederate gather to honor these soldiers. Organized Patrick County sol-

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*MONDAY AT NOON* 

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## PATRICK PULPITS

## "The Lamb of God"

By Thomas Shepherd

Pastor, Stuart Church of Living Water

John 1:29-42 In this passage John the Baptist points out Jesus to the people. The one mission in John's life was to be the forerunner to the Messiah, to usher in the appointed time of the Lord. We see this in Luke 1:17 when the angel speaking to Zechariah (John's father) said, "With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (17). John spent his life preparing the people for the one who was coming after him. His message was simple, "Repent, for the All four Gospels attest to the fact that John is the one prophesied by Isaiah who is to prepare the way for the Messiah saying, "The voice of one crying out in the 'Prepare wilderness: the way of the Lord," which is the quote from Isaiah 40:3. John's one purpose was to prepare the people for the coming Messiah.

According to the Momust be met. Specifically, the people must follow the Law and commands of God. This was a sacrificial covenant that required the offering of the sacrificial introduce the Messiah. lamb for the covering of sin. Other animals could be used such as a bull, a goat, or even doves or pigeons. The point is this; the penalty for sin is death, so something must die for the sin. In the sacrificial system, the animal that was offered as the sacrifice was offered in your place.

In Exodus 12, we see the institution of the Passover when the final plague was about to come upon Egypt. This was the death of the firstborn. It was plague that would affect all who were in Egypt including the Israelites. The family in the house was to kill a lamb or goat, roast it in the fire and place the blood on the doorposts and the lintel. Then they were to eat all the lamb (or

goat) nothing was to be of God. We see it again some leftovers it was to be burned up in the fire.

In John 1, John sees Jesus coming towards and proclaims, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). John introduces the Lamb of God. John didn't say one of the lambs of God, but "the Lamb of God." He is not introducing one of many ways to God the Father, but the only way. There is only one Lamb. Isn't that what Jesus tells Thomas about himself later in John 14:6-7, saying, one comes to the Father except through me. 7 will know my Father do know him and have seen him" (John 14:6kingdom of heaven has 7). John introduces the come near" (Matt 3:2). Lamb of God. Here is the New Covenant.

John has accomplished his purpose and calling from God. John's one purpose was to prepare the people for the coming Messiah. He baptized people for repentance and the forgiveness of sin. His calling was to point out the Lamb of God! Look at what John says about Jesus, John said, "I myself did not know saic Covenant there him; but I came baptizwere conditions that ing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel" (31). And revealed he was, at least to those who were looking. The mission of John was to

> Two times in this section John introduces Jesus as the Lamb

left over. If there were in verse 36 where John declares to two of his disciples, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" These two follow Jesus. Important note here: If you want to know Jesus, you must follow him. These disciples of John wanted to know Jesus, so they followed him. One of them who followed Jesus was Andrew. Simon's brother (40). Andrew finds his brother Simon and tells him "We have found the Messiah" (41). Isn't it true that when you find something good you want to share that good news? Andrew want-"I am the way, and the ed Simon to know the truth, and the life. No Lamb. As followers of Christ, we are to be like Andrew and lead oth-If you know me, you ers to Christ! We can't save them, but we can also. From now on you point them to Jesus, the Lamb of God, and the savior of the world.

John's purpose was to prepare the hearts of the people to meet the Savior and Jesus' purpose was to open the way for the people to be able to return to God. He is the sacrificial Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus is the New Covenant that God offers and not just to Israel, but to the entire world.

Romans 10:14 "But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?" As a follower of Christ that is our one thing we are to do - topoint people to Christ, the Lamb of God.



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#### BIBLE TRIVIA

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

- Where does Jesus speak of sepa-rating the sheep from the goats? Matthew, Mark, John
- Who told Saul that rebellion was as bad witchcraft? Moloch. Mamath, Marduk, Samuel
- From Proverbs "Whoso findeth a wife findeth ..." Himself, Life, Good thing, Family
- 5. How old was Moses when he died? 100, 120, 160, 190
- 6. How many sons did Judah have? 3, 5, 6, 12

ANSWERS: 1) old, Matthew (25:31-33). Samuel, 4) Good thing, 5) 120, 6) Five

#### **Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church**

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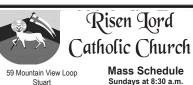
Rev. Tommy Gosnell

**CHURCH SERVICES** Sunday School 10 am

Worship Services 11 am

Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness 60 Spring Rd., Patrick Springs, VA - 276-694-6357 Sunday Worship 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 9:45

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



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### **Super** Crossword

4 Working hard

7 Call a halt to

8 Atlanta-to-

10 Gruesome

12 S.F. NFLer

southwest

New York

14 Long, loose

overcoat

Sweden

**16** Snitching sort

15 Airline to

11 Ballpoint

fluid

Miami dir.

Roman poet

5 Quote

6 Magician

Harry

9 Exiled

FROM ALABAMA **TO LOUISIANA** 

38 Home of

Pago Pago

40 Seed case

42 TV host

47 Pawn

Banks

46 Arctic boot

attachment

51 Approximate

53 U.S. soldiers

54 One of the

Leeward

Islands

55 Contained

56 Very pale

59 Pottery

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60 Downcast

61 Uno + due

62 Spy novelist

Fleming

**68** Actor Elliott

(wise guys)

69 PC key abbr.

**63** Smart -

as a part of

a pity

41 Wee amount

84 Blue-green

89 Has no life

91 Maker of

93 Apt. units

96 Finger-

94 True-to-fact

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99 One of the

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105 Actor Cary

111 Eensy

104 Sine, for one

113 "Right away!"

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90 False

**ACROSS** 1 Complaints to otologists 9 Foreboding 16 ESPN datum

20 Feelings 21 Alternative to chocolate 22 Rev gauge 23 Ailment

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26 Poet Hughes

30 "The Chi" airer, in brief 33 Alpo alternative 36 Things

> racetracks in Switzerland's capital? 39 Coke and Pepsi's

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cuneiform language 34 Attaches 35 Deep thinkers

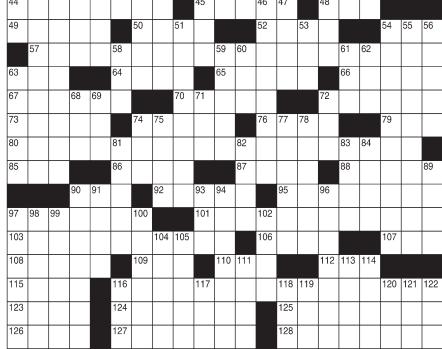
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Puzzle answers page 11

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cellent computer skills,

be detail-oriented, and be willing to work with the public in a courteous and tactful manner in an often fast-paced environment. The ability to maintain strict confidentiality is a must. A high school diploma or GED is required. Applicants must be willing to submit to a drug screen and background check. Successful completion of training and a passing score on certification testing as set by the Commonwealth of Virginia DMV office are required for continued employment. Salary range is \$31,200 - \$37,500.

This is a full-time position with benefits in excess of \$15,000 annually, which include vacation and sick leave, life insurance, retirement, and health insurance. Hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Overtime may be required.

A complete job description and employment application are available at https://www. co.patrick.va.us/Jobs. aspx. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application to be considered for the position. The position will remain open until filled.

The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

#### LAND FOR SALE

Small parcel of land for sale @ 586 Mount Calvary Church Rd, Stuart, VA 24171. If interested, please call (276) 694-2842 between 10AM and 4PM

#### YARD SALE

Yard Sale, 6-person, maybe more. Mini Flea Market, April 17th, 18th & 19th Thursday - 8a.m.-

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Collinstown Rd, Stuart, VA (Dry Pond area)

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

#### **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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### LEGAL

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Patrick County Planning Commission will have a regular business meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be at the Patrick & Henry Community College (Stuart site) in the Community Room.

### LEGAL

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing Monday, April 28, 2025, on the Comprehensive Plan Policies for Solar Facilities as recommended by the Patrick County Planning Commission.

The hearing will be held in the 3rd floor Courtroom on the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA. Anyone wishing to view the resolution to amend the Comprehensive Plan Policies for Solar Facilities may do so at the County Administration office, Suite 218 located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

### LEGAL

#### **Meeting Notice** Patrick County Public Service Authority **Quarterly Business Meeting**

The Patrick County Public Service Authority Board of Directors will hold a Quarterly Business Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Court Room of the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Building.

Petitions and requests from the public to address the Board shall be submitted in writing to the PSA located in the Patrick County Administration Building at 106 Rucker Street, Suite 218, Stuart, VA. Petitions and requests to address the Board shall be submitted no less than five (5) business days prior to the scheduled meeting and placed on the official meeting agenda in order to be considered. Persons wanting to address the Authority's Board not having submitted a pre-request to do so may only be heard after a majority of Directors agree. The Directors encourage public attendance at all meetings.

### **LEGAL**

#### \*\*PUBLIC NOTICE\*\*

The Town of Stuart will convene a Budget Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM. This meeting will take place at the Stuart Town Office, located at 100 Patrick Avenue. The Stuart Town Council

will review the Budget for the Fiscal Year ending in 2026 Individuals wishing to provide comments to the Town Council who are unable to attend may reach out to Bryce Simmons, Town Manager, by telephone at (276) 694-3811 or via email at information@stuartva.org.

### **LEGAL**

#### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

MARCH 21, 2025

VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1;8.01-316,-317,20-104 PATRICK CIRCUIT COURT

101 WEST BLUE RIDGE STREET/PO BOX 148, STUART, VA 24171 ESTATE OF JOHN WILLIAM ADKINS v. JOHN DOE BONNIE LOU LAWSON; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF

ADMINISTRATOR JOHN WILLIAM ADKINS The object of this suit is to: TO LOCATE ANY LAWFUL HEIRS OF JOHN WILLIAM ADKINS

It is ORDERED that ANY HEIR OF JOHN W. ADKINS CONTACT THE PLAINTIFF appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before APRIL 16, 2025

Case No. CWF24-257

### **LEGAL**

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Board of Supervisors

will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, April 14, 2025 on the proposed relocation of the Russell Creek voting precinct currently located at 1808 Ayers Orchard Road to New Hope Community Church at 1863 Clark House Farm Road.

The hearing will be held in the 3rd floor Courtroom on the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Vir-Anyone wishing to view the proposed revisions to the current vot-

ing precinct locations may do so at the County Administration office, Suite 218 located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building.

If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

Wednesday,April 9, 2025 - **11** 

#### Meetings

#### Thursday, April 10

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

#### Monday, April 14

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

#### Wednesday, April 16

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

#### **Events**

#### Saturday, April 12

The Carroll County Genealogy Club will conduct a workshop at Carroll County High School in Hillsville from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with several speakers. No charge to attend, but donations are appreciated.

Easter Egg Hunt at 2 p.m. Food and refreshments will be provided. Call Sally Smith, (276) 694-7358, with questions.

5th annual Patrick County Kids' Trout Fishing Day will be Saturday at the Mayo River Rail Trail Picnic Area, Commerce Street in Stuart from 9 to 12. The event is for youth 15 years old and younger. Adults ARE NOT permitted to fish until after 1 p.m. and must have a Valid VA State Fishing License and Trout Stamp. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, registered and present to win door prizes. For more, call Sandra Heath, Wayne Kirkpatrick or Dale Owens at (276) 694-2911 or the Patrick County Kids' Trout Fishing Day Facebook

#### Sunday, April 13

The Rockingham and Stokes County Genealogical Society meets at 2:30 p.m. in the McMichael Meeting Room of the Madison-Mayodan Library, 611 Burton St., Madison, NC. Jeff Bullins, speaker, will share information about the H. Lee Waters film of Western Rockingham County. Books available to purchase, some at sale prices. The Board of Directors will meet at 1:30 p.m., before the regular meeting.

Patrick County High School (PCHS) Praise & Worship Team will perform at New Hope Community Church, 1863 Clark House Farm Road, the American Legion Post 105 at 7 p.m. Interestat 6 p.m. Refreshments to follow.

#### Thursday, April 17

The Carroll County Genealogy Club meets at

#### Friday, April 18

The community food truck will be at Fairystone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

Saturday, April 19 The Patrick County High School (PCHS) Senior Beta students will hold a charity car wash at Advance Auto in Stuart to raise money for PCHS students traveling to the National Senior Beta convention and competition in Florida this summer. Rain date is Saturday, April 26.

Country breakfast, 6:30-10 a.m., at Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department, 6687 Fairystone Park Highway, Stuart. Dine in adult plates are \$10 and child plates are \$5. Take out plates are \$10 each. To order, call (276) 930-2113.





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#### Friday, April 25

Spaghetti Supper at Dobyns Community Building, 4-7 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 26

The Rockingham and Stokes County Genealogical Society's Spring Swap Meet, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Francisco Community Building/ Volunteer Fire Department located on Highway 89 in Francisco, Stokes County, NC. Free to the public. Bring your family history information, family photographs, etc. to share. Printer available for a nominal fee. Please bring a covered dish. Authors or other historical or genealogical societies are invited to bring books to sell or set up an information table.

#### **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 New Beginnings Baptist Church, 142 First open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10 Southern Drive in Patrick Springs, will hold an a.m. to 2 p.m. During opening hours an inside yard sale is open to the public. Proceeds are used to purchase supplies. Members meet on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's office, located in the basement of Hills Tax Service on Wood Brothers Drive. New members are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

> Two branches of the Alzheimer's Group LLC have been established — in the Vesta and Ararat communities. The Ararat group meets at the Fellowship Church in Ararat on the second Thursday each month at 12 p.m. The Vesta group meets at the Vesta Community Center on the third Tuesday each month at 12 p.m. Both groups welcome new members and invite caregivers to attend these meetings and learn how to deal with the effects of Alzheimer's Disease. Literature is also available.

> 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

Wilderness - Stuart, Inc. Buying Logs Standing Timber or Timberland

> Contact Ronnie Bolt at (276) 694-4432

EMOTIONS V A N I L L A LATITUDESICKNESS ORCA TED A D A E A T M O T E T I A M S B E R N E S E L A P S COLAINDUSTRY RAMINTO A N D R O I D S Y E E S H M O E B O P I T S E E R N O G O R E L A T O R S A S S O C I A T I O N S A R R I N S T H A W K S R A N C H L O S S E S I P A D S G E N T L E E L I A S F E M U R H O S E C L A M C O O L A N D C O L L E C T E D
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ed veterans are welcome to attend.

Free Community Meal on 4th Wednesdays, 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.

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

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

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

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

Patrick County Parks and Recreation Department sponsors an aluminum bat co-ed adult softball league this summer, providing there is sufficient interest. A minimum of 4 teams must be registered and fees paid by the May 1 registration deadline. The league is open to men and women who will be 18 years of age or older as of June 1. Coaches are required to recruit their own team members. Each co-ed team must have a minimum of 10 players with a maximum of 15 players including at least 3 females per team. Team registration fee is \$300, and the completed team roster must be submitted to the recreation by the May 1 deadline. A copy of the 2025 adult softball rules and team roster forms can be requested by calling (276) 694-3917 or visiting the department's Facebook page.



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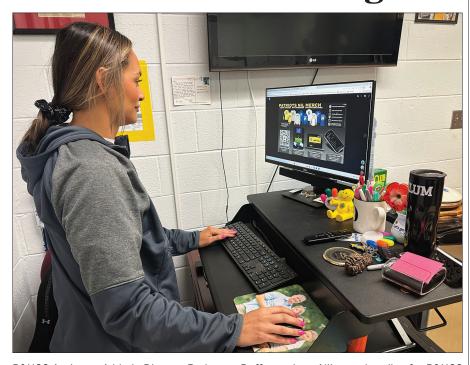
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Mark Pendleton

Jason Pendleton



## P&HCC partners with Influxer to boost studentathlete branding



P&HCC Assistant Athletic Director Ruthanne Duffy previews NIL merchandise for P&HCC

sary to capitalize on and off the field. their personal brands and academic suc-

Through this part-P&HCC nership. student-athletes will have access to Influxer's cutting-edge

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athlete branding and contract negotiation, endorsements, likeness (NIL) man-training. This initiaagement to provide tive reflects P&HCC's P&HCC student-ath- ongoing commitment to work with Patrick letes with the tools to empowering stu- & Henry Community and resources neces- dent-athletes both on College because Bri-

> student-athletes," letes are prepared to dent-athletes." navigate this land-

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Patrick & Henry platform, which of to help them under-Community College fers comprehensive stand the value of (P&HCC) is partner- services including their personal brand ing with Influxer, a brand development, and connect with poleading platform for social media strategy, tential sponsorships, name, image, and and financial literacy other NIL-related opportunities.

"Influxer is excited an Henderson and the "We are thrilled to administration unwhile balancing the partner with Influx- derstand not only the demands of athletic er to create new op- immediate benefits of portunities for our working with us, but also the long term resaid Brian Hender- sources for their stuson, Assistant Vice dent-athletes," says President for Stu- Keith Miller, Influxer Engagement Vice-President. "NIL and Athletics Direc- is not simply transactor at P&HCC. "NIL tional, but an opporrepresents a new era tunity which Influxin college athletics, er wants to further and our goal is to into the development ensure that our ath- process for their stu-

P&HCC's partnerscape successfully. ship with Influxer This partnership will underscores the colgive them the knowl- lege's dedication to edge and resources enhancing the stuto maximize their dent-athlete experipotential while main- ence and preparing taining focus on their students for success academic and athlet- beyond their playing days. The program Influxer's platform will be implemented immediately, with in dent-athletes with formational sessions and onboarding set to begin in the coming weeks.

Formore information about the partnership and upcoming NIL programming, contact the P&HCC Athletics Department at bhenderson@patrickhenry.edu.



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## **High School Students** are State Runner-Ups in Skills USA Contest

By Ashlee Mullis

The Patrick County Building Medal in Fantasy Manikin. Trades and Cosmetology students Leadership Conference held at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, VA April 4, 5, and 6.

Building Trades students Eli Wood, Parker Roop, Carter Gregory, and Reggie Brown placed 2nd, winning the Silver Medal in Teamworks Building Trade Construc-

Cosmetology student Ashly Ma- their help and support.

drid placed 2nd, winning the Silver

Abby Royall, Eden Nickelston, attended the 60th SkillsUSA State and Bella Lemons placed 5th in Total Fantasy Look.

> PCHS SkillsUSA Advisors Mrs. Melanie Culler and Mr. Philip Steagall said they are proud of their students for putting forth the time and commitment it takes in preparing for the contest. They would like to especially thank the parents and local businesses for

## 'Goon Squad' finishes season undefeated, crowned co-champions

Patrick Springs Elementary School's 2nd-3rd grade basketball team, "Goon Squad," finished the season undefeated and emerged as co-champions on Saturday, March 29.



Front row (left to right), Jessely Diaz, Addie Cole and Katelyn Johnson. Middle row left to right: Landon Conner, Keenan Hill, Mason Fain, Landon Manns, Grayson Martin and Tristan Young. Back row (left to right) Coaches Kenneth Manns, Mike Young and Devin Hill.

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## Laurel Hill's Many Ladies: Betty Hobbs Perry

By Tom Perry

On October 7, 2006, John Broughton, President of the J. E. B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, Inc., placed a granite marker at the flagpole to honor Erie and Betty Perry that day. Here is what he said.

"It is indeed an honor and privilege for me to deliver these remarks as we honor the Perry Family with the first placement of a polished granite marker here at the main flagpole of Laurel Hill. This marker is placed in recognition of the many contributions by this family, not only to the formative years of the Trust, but to its continuation and indeed to its survival. Now, if you will permit me a small amount of humor to introduce the theme of my remarks, I would like to relate this short anecdote. Many of you, I am sure, recall the name of Rudyard Kipling, the famous English author of such works as Gunga Din, The Road to Mandalay and many, many more tales. Well, the story goes that it was circulated throughout London that Kipling was paid a shilling for every word that he wrote. So, a group of enterprising students at Oxford sent Mr. Kipling a letter containing a shilling and asked that he send them one of his words. The unexpected reply came back with one word, 'Thanks.'

And that one word 'Thanks' is the reason we are gathered here today. Thanks to a family whose vision, dedication, and perseverance in the cause of insuring that this historic property known as Laurel Hill would never be desecrated by the presence of a private home on this lovely knoll, or heaven forbid a housing development, is at long last being recognized.

Every organization, be it the largest corporate entity or the smallest civic group, has to undergo a beginning stage. This stage of its life cycle is arguably its most important. For it is at this stage that the seeds are sown that more often than not portend success or failure for an embryonic enterprise. It was no different for the Trust that exists today. At the outset, I realized that my words cannot do justice to this subject, that it is an impossible task to adequately express here today what the contributions of this family have meant to both the Trust and to Laurel Hill itself. Perhaps the best thing I can do is to illuminate some of the sacrifices they made, to replay a few of the highlights of the important events in which they were instrumental here at Laurel Hill and some of their "digging in the dirt" physical accomplishments.

Now the difficult task before me is to try to condense what the Perry Family has meant to Laurel Hill. I have to ask that you turn the pages back to some thirty seven years ago to see a nine year old boy riding on the road to Mount Airy with his mother who sees the historical marker beside the road amongst the brush that says, 'Stuart's Birthplace.' He wonders what it is all about. It was the point, that the family and Laurel Hill begin its journey together. For only a mother's love and desire to support her son's new found interest in history in general and James Stuart in particular could have stoked the fire that has burned to this day. Of one thing there can be no doubt that the contributions her son was to make in the years yet into private hands were a direct result of her willing sacrifice of time, money and sometimes great inconvenience to insure that his interest was fostered and nurtured throughout adolescence. George and Icy Bowman Brown, the then owners of the present day Laurel Hill were, I am sure, surprised to see this mother and son standing at their front door a little ill at ease. As the questions tumbled out of this little boy, George Brown being a quintessential grandfatherly type took him under his wing and spent endless days after that first meeting to walk over every nook and cranny of Laurel Hill with him and answered the endless questions that the imagination of a little boy engendered. As the years passed this little boy who had roamed Laurel Hill imagining that he was the reincarnation of a small James Stuart looking for a hornet's nest to knock down, and riding bareback furiously over the hills, finished the education that Patrick County could provide. I am sure to his mother's relief he matriculated at VPI majoring in history and studied under the renowned Civil War Professor James I. Robertson, Jr. When the year 1990 arrived, it became appar-

ent that the health of both George and Icy Bowman Brown was failing, and that Laurel Hill would soon be for sale. Thomas, along with other members of the Stuart Civil War Round Table set about to form an organization to raise the necessary funds to purchase Laurel Hill and thus save







place.' He wonders what it is all about. It was the point, that the family and Laurel Hill begin its journey together. For only a mother's love and desire to support her son's new found interest in history in general and James Stuart in particular could have stoked the fire that has burned to this day. Of one thing there can be no doubt that the contributions her son was to make in the years yet to come to save the Laurel Hill Farm from falling into private hands were a direct result of her will-

In those early years funds were short, exhaustion had set in from months of back breaking travel in fundraisers and it seemed that the mountain had been climbed, and all the climbers were prostrate. Not so the Perrys. For now, when it was needed most Erie and Betty Perry kicked into high gear. They provided gravel for what was then euphemistically called a road, Mrs. Perry designed and planted a flower garden which graces the entrance to Laurel Hill to this day, and then in a moment of inspiration she planted the lovely forsythia bushes at the entrance whose vellow blooms herald the arrival of spring each year. In her words, Yellow for the cavalry.' Her beautiful day lilies continue each year to brighten our scene as if they are there to remind us all of the lovely lady who planted them there. For these and contributions too numerous to mention we are gathered here today to place this memorial in honor of a family without whose generosity, time, and labor it is entirely possible that we would not have the ground to place it on. While the words "Thank You" seemingly are inadequate they are rendered from the hearts of all of us whose privilege it is today lead Laurel Hill into the future.

So, in closing, let me say the sobriquet "First Lady of Laurel Hill" rests rightly on the mantle of Betty Hobbs Perry."

My mother passed away on February 28, 2021.







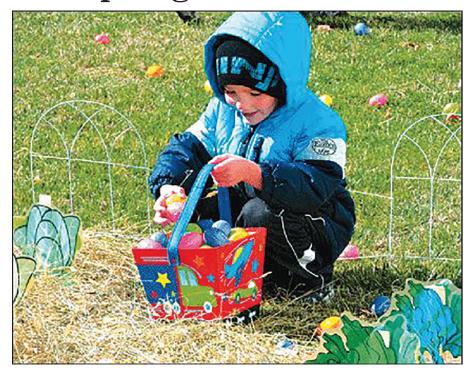
She was born outside Augusta, Georgia, on May 4, 1932, to Floyd Thomas and Elizabeth Prescott Hobbs, who preceded her in death along with a sister, Kathryn, and brother, Ed, and her husband of 63 years, Erie Meredith Perry. Betty was a member of Haymore Baptist Church in Mount Airy. She came to Patrick County in 1959 with her educator husband. She worked for Dr. A. K. Tulliddge in Claudville before beginning a forty plus year career at Quality Mills/Cross Creek Apparel. She worked at Georgia-Pacific in Augusta for a decade before meeting Perry, who was stationed at Fort Gordon in the Signal Corps of the U. S. Army. They were married in 1957.

My mother got the idea to plant the forsythia at J. E. B. Stuart's Birthplace from a John Wayne movie, She Wore A Yellow Ribbon. "Yellow for the cavalry," she would say, noting J. E. B. Stuart's role as a cavalryman in our nation's history. Those plants blooming all over Laurel Hill came to Ararat from Augusta, Georgia, where my maternal grandfather, Floyd Thomas Hobbs, transplanted them and brought the flowers to his youngest daughter, whom he called "Doodely." He and my grandmother, Elizabeth Prescott Hobbs, lived at 1815 Fenwick Street, and his house was a blaze of color, whether it was azaleas, roses, or forsythia. During World War II, he helped build ships in Savannah and worked as a mechanic afterward, but he had a green thumb. My mother later transplanted the forsythia to Laurel Hill. She cared for the flowers there until dementia that almost every woman in her family got, starting around the age of eighty, took her ability to care for the flowers. She grew up a few miles from the Augusta National Golf Club and went to The Masters for free while working at Georgia-Pacific. Masters week was special in her house, and it was for me this week when I saw the forsythia blooming at the place she helped to save: Laurel Hill.



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## Blue Ridge Therapy, **Landmark Center to** Host Easter Egg Hunt and **Spring Celebration**





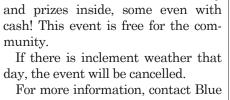
One of the joyous sounds of spring has it that the Easter Bunny will also is the laughter of happy children hunting Easter eggs. Staff, residents, parents, and of course youngsters, enjoy the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Celebration at Blue Ridge Therapy Connection and The Landmark Center.

Marketing directors Ashleigh Keeran and Lisa Martin have announced that the event will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 11-1. Among the activities for ages 1-12 will be a bounce house and obstacle course, free KONA ice for children (adults can purchase), games, and hot dogs and chips. Word

make an appearance this year for photos and fun.

The egg hunt for ages 1-5 will begin at 11:15, followed by ages 6-12 at approximately 11:45. The 4,000 eggs that will be hidden will have candy

Ridge Therapy Connection at (276) 694-7161 or The Landmark Center at (276)694-3050.





Rishi Nair of Blacksburg High School won the 2024 Congressional Art Competition in Virginia's Ninth Congressional District. His artwork is entitled 'Mabry Mill.'

## Congressional Art Competition in Ninth District underway

Each year, the U.S. House of Representatives sponsors the Congressional Art Competition for high school students, according to Rep. Morgan Griffith. This competition is an exciting way for a student from our region to represent the Ninth Congressional District in Washington. The Artistic Discovery Contest is open to all high school students in the Ninth District.

The chosen theme for 2025 is "Commemorating Virginia's Contribution to the American Revolution." Interested students must submit a photograph of their original artwork to either Griffith's Christiansburg or Abingdon offices by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 28 for consideration. Each entry must be accompanied by a complete student information release form to qualify.

The overall winner of our district's competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol and will be invited to Washington for a reception. The second and third place selections will be displayed in my Christiansburg and Abingdon offices.

Art works entered in the contest may be up to 26 inches by 26 inches (including the frame) and may be up to 4 inches in depth. Artwork must be two-di- Competition website.

mensional and cannot weigh more than 15 pounds. The work may be:

Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor,

Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed)

Collages: must be two dimensional Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block

Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercol-

Computer-generated art

Photographs

All entries must be original in concept, design and execution.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide com-

For more information on the annual Congressional Art Competition, call Griffith's Abingdon office at (276) 525-1405 or visit the Congressional Art

## Surry hosting annual Eggstravaganza on April 10



Surry Community College is hosting their annual Eggstravaganza, sponsored by the Student Government Association, on April 10, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Surry Community College's annual hunt, and food. Eggstravaganza will be held Thursday, April 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Knights Grill Courtyard on Surry Community College's Dobson campus.

The event is hosted by the Student Government Association as a fundraiser for student needs including Angel Tree and Thanksgiving Care bags.

The community is invited to attend and enjoy games, music, an Easter egg

The Easter egg hunt has been divided into age ranges and times: ages 0 to 3 at 5:30 p.m.; ages 4-8 at 5:45 p.m.; and ages 9-12 at 6 p.m.

Tickets to play the different games will be on sale with 20 tickets available for \$5. Food will also be available to purchase. For more information, contact Brittany King at kingbr@surry.edu or (336) 386-3656.



3 Building Lots for Sale in Meadows of Dan VA Online Auction Ends April 25th at 3 PM TBD Grandview Dr., & Belcher Mountain Rd., Meadows of Dan, VA 24120 **Bid NOW at VAAuctionPro.com** 

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#### **OFFERING #1**

This +/- 2.015 ac tract is mostly open and level and has been perked. Underground utilities are already in place. Deed restrictions do apply.

### OFFERING #2

This +/- 2.033 ac tract is gradually sloping and mostly wooded. Property has already been perked. Deed restrictions do

#### OFFERING #3

This +/- 11 ac tract has rolling hills and is both a mix of wooded and open land. Property has not been perked. Underground utilities are already in place.



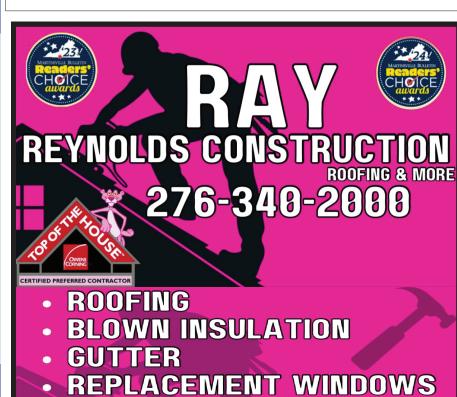
TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 per offering is required on the day of sale. Close on or before June 9th, 2025. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on April 25th, 2025. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

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