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

Input sought on proposed hikes to personal property taxes

By Taylor Boyd

uled for the Monday, April 28 meetput on a proposal to increase personal property taxes by up to 16 property tax rate to \$2.20 in three

3-2 vote. Marshall, Perry, and Jon-

athan Wood, chairman and of the One of the public hearings sched- Peters Creek District, voted in favor. Andrew Overby, vice chairman ing of the Patrick County Board of and of the Dan River District, and Supervisors is to gather public in- Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, voted against.

With a \$197,336 deficit still recents each year for a three-year pe- maining in the budget, the board riod. This would bring the personal plans to use reserve funds to bal-

"That's what it's there for," Mar-The motion was made by Steve shall said. "Also, our personal prop-Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, erty tax is—we got to increase that. and seconded by Doug Perry, of the There's no way around it, it's been Smith River District. It passed in a at that price for many, many years.

(See Property Taxes p. 3)



The school board recognized Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Regional Art

School board approves \$2.3 million in projects despite budget hit

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County School Board approved updates totaling \$2.3 million using one-percent sales tax funds, even as it learned the division is expected to lose \$667,228 in

At its Thursday, April 10 meeting, the board voted 4-1 to approve several projects for Fiscal Year 2025. Walter Scott, of the Smith River District, cast the only dissenting vote.

Schools Wood said the projects are made possible by the one-percent sales tax approved by county residents.

"We're so thankful that our county approved that so we could make some much-needed upgrades to things that have been neglected over the past," he said.

Among the approved projects:

\$526,557.50 will cover the remaining cost of renovations at Blue Ridge Elementary School, which received a School Construc-

tion Assistance Program (SCAP) grant last year. The project includes upgrading the stage and concession stand, expanding restroom facilities, adding a covered walkway to connect the gym to the main building, and addressing subflooring and flooring repairs.

\$680,000 will go toward paving and resurfacing the Patrick County High School (PCHS) track with a rubberized surface.

"The athletic trainer has been Superintendent Jason compiling data over the last two years, and 50 to 53 percent—one year's 50, the next year's 53 percent-of the track athletes have been referred to her and then to further medical treatment for their participation," which is being attributed to the track surface, Wood

> "Students have had stress fractures and things. She has kept a documentation log of those injuries and presented that as a safety con-

(See School Board p.13)

High Strung to Headline Saturday's PCMA Show



High Strung will headline the Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) show on Saturday, April 26.

By Taylor Boyd

High Strung will headline the Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) show on Saturday, April 26, at the Rotary Building in Stu-

Doors open at 5 p.m., with music starting at 6 p.m.

PCMA President Denny Alley said High Strung has never performed at a PCMA event before.

"Not here. They travel a lot and tour a lot, they're down in North

Carolina a lot," he said.

Alley noted that the band's bass player is a regular performer during the Coffee Break's Tuesday morning jam sessions. The restaurant's Jam Band will also take the stage during Saturday's show.

Following this performance, PCMA will host three more shows before taking a summer break. Monthly shows will resume in October.

(See High Strung p. 9)



Transfer Station Manager Scottie Hylton spoke about the four recommendations proposed at the April 14 meeting.



Trena Anderson requested the Patrick County Board of Supervisors censure Steve

Board takes steps to terminate solar agreement, approves adjustments at Transfer Station

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors approved adjustments to the Transfer Station and took steps to terminate a proposed solar project at its Monday, April 14 meeting.

The board directed the county attorney to proceed with a formal letter to terminate the Fairy Stone Solar project, an estimated 170-acres

solar project on Commerce Street in Stuart.

The project was canceled last year when it was considered no longer viable due to interconnection

Fairy Stone LLC, a subsidiary of Energix Renewables, was deemed to have a fatal flaw in its connec-(See Transfer Station p. 2)



Darrell Bowling (third from left) was honored with the Chancellor's Philanthropy Award.

Bowling honored with Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy

ceived the 19th Annual Chan- they thought impossible suddencellor's Award for Leadership in ly become doable, and their confi-Philanthropy. He was nominated for the award by Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

Hosted by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE), more than two dozen individuals, families, and organizations were honored with the Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The awards were presented at a luncheon ceremony in Richmond on Tuesday, April 15. VCCS Chancellor Dr. David Doré served as the emcee, and Mr. Mark Hourigan, founder and CEO of Hourigan, delivered the keynote

"Every time our donors support a scholarship, fund a new program, or an emergency grant, they are not just giving back, they are lifting up," said Hourigan. "They are invaluable partners whose generizing their true potential."

osity can and does make the difference between a student dropping out or staying the course and real-Doré echoed those sentiments, adding that a culture of care can have a profound impact on student performance. "When our students

to help remove the formidable ob-

Darrell Bowling, of Stuart, re- life-changing," he said. "The things dence soars as a result."

> This year's class of distinguished philanthropy leaders has collectively contributed \$24 million dollars to Virginia's Community Colleges.

> Thanks to Bowling, motorcyclists from across the country have gathered in Patrick County for the annual Cpl. Jonathan W. Bowling Memorial Bike Ride for 20 years. The annual memorial motorcycle ride is both a way for fellow veterans and servicemen to remember fallen Marine Jonathan Williams Bowling and a chance for these men and women to continue his legacy of giving back to the community. The Corporal Jonathan W. Bowling Memorial fund has provided money for two Patrick County students to attend P&HCC each year since

"P&HCC has been honored to partner with the Bowling family to preserve Corporal Bowling's memory in this way," said Tiffani Underwood, Director of P&HCC's Foundation, adding, "We are so grateful for Darrell's work to make the annual ride such a success and for his dedication to ensuring realize that someone cares enough Patrick County students have the opportunity to work toward their stacles standing in their way, it's goals at P&HCC."

Transfer Station

(cont. from page 1)

Vice-President of Development Seth Christman said at the time.

"Unfortunately. the project would have triggered an unacceptable voltage change where it interconnected to the Stuart substation."

The board had approved a siting agreement for the project in a hotly debated 3-2 vote at its March 11, 2024, meet-

Transfer Station

The adjustments at the Transfer Station were based on recommendations by Transfer Station Manager Scottie Hylton, and center around adjusting the tipping fee and tire disposal fee, eliminating the line item in general cleanup, and interest charged on nonpayments.

Beginning July Hylton said Republic Services, the current solid waste contract, will implement its annual five percent raise.

As the current cost is \$64.19 per ton, the new rate is expected to be \$67.39 per ton. Hylton said the county currently charges \$65 per ton.

"If we leave it the way it is now, it'll be a loss of \$2.39 per ton. To offset this deficit and provide a more sustainable margin we propose increasing the tipping fee to \$69.29 cents per ton. This change results in a positive margin of \$1.86 per ton," he said.

With the average customer disposing of 200 pounds of waste, the cost will be approximately \$6.93.

"Right now 200 pounds is \$6.50, so it's not too big of an increase," he said.

Hylton said the county currently pays around \$9,500 annually for tire recycling and operates at an annual deficit of \$500.

He proposed increasing the tire disposal fee from \$130 per ton to \$135 per

Hylton said the county historically charged a flat rate of \$2 per tire, which was not sustainable especially for large tires like Patrick County. We will those from tractors. He not be silenced and igbelieves moving to a per nored while our money

"By moving to a per ton rate" costs will be estimated more accurately. "The average cost to dispose of a standard tire is now roughly \$1.80. Increasing the per ton rate allows the county to recover costs while minimal impact on residents disposing of standard tires," he said.

Hylton's third recommendation was to eliminate the general clean up line item, as it's created confusion and frustration among county residents.

"For example, if a resident cleans out a closthey're currently required to weigh that material separately even though it's clearly household trash. Many residents circumvent this by placing such items in the large, black trash bags to avoid this extra step," he said.

This policy has led to inconsistent enforcement, Hylton said, and places transfer station attendants in the difficult position of making judgment

"Removing this line item simplifies the process, reduces resident complaints, and treats all household generated trash uniformly - if it comes out of your house such as clothes, books, things like that — it's just trash that you're throwing away. If you're cleaning out your basement and you have items such as this, it's no longer something that needs to be weighed. It's just now

trash," he said. All other separate line These employees should

tion to the grid, Energix items like furniture, appliances. mattresses. construction debris, and home improvement waste will still be weighed at the Transfer Station.

Hylton's last recommendation was to charge an annual interest rate of 10 percent on past due credit balances. The interest charge will apply to charges made on or after July 1, which are unpaid after 30 days of the statement date.

Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, asked who would be most affected by the interest

Hylton said it would be account holders.

Jonathan Wood, chairman and of the Peters Creek District, asked if the Transfer Station could weigh the lighter tires with its scale.

Hylton said the scale could weigh down to 20 pounds.

"Usually it's more than one tire, but that's one of those things that's more of a judgement call. If it's four tires, yes, the scales will pick it up, but if one person had one tire it goes back to \$2 and no one has complained about that because they understand it costs us to dispose of the tires," he said.

Wood asked for clarification about whether there would be a charge to get rid of household trash.

Hylton said no.

"So, if you're not paying now, you're not going to be paying in the future. At least not in the foreseeable future," said.

In other matters, the

*Heard from Trena Anderson, who requested the board censure supervisor Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District.

"For 15 months Patrick County citizens have been trying to get this board to listen to us and to work for our benefit. Taxpavers desire and expect a return on our forced investment of tax money. We are forced by law to fund the needs of is spent or wasted on the

desires of a few," she said. Anderson said county residents have the Constitutional right to speak their minds at the meetings even if some board members or county employees find their speech offensive.

While as the board's chairman, Wood can ask people speak civilly, Anderson said he can't require speakers to comply with a set of rules written by the county administra-

"I am well aware that I caused those 'rules' to be written because I exposed available public information about a supervisor. Fifteen months later, I would do it again and I may do so in the near future. This board insists on 'civility' from citizens but not from individual supervisors themselves," she said.

Anderson said Marshall has subjected county residents who pay him to constant verbal abuse, called private citizens liars and worse, and disparaged the media whose job it is to hold the board accountable.

She believes board members and county employees have retaliated against people who've spoken out, and noted some Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests have been denied for inappropriate cause or charged fees for work

product that was unnecessary or wasn't done. "Such retaliation is improper, unprofessional and in some cases illegal.

be thoroughly investigated by this board and held accountable," she said, adding the board has the legal ability and authority to investigate improper actions.

Months ago, Anderson asked the board to censure Marshall.

She believes progress has been limited and impaired at every juncture, and that the situation must be dealt with by holding those accountable for behavior.

While some supervisors use social media to communicate, Anderson said Marshall uses it as a weapon. "At least three super-

visors on this board have been individually victimized by another supervisor. This supervisor disparages other supervisors, volunteer appointed board members, taxpayers, and citizens of this county. He threatens bogus legal actions against the same people," said.

Anderson also provided the board with packets of printed examples of emails, posts, publications, and articles, and alleged Marshall has a habit of denying citizen comment on his official postings, deletes comments he disagrees with, and blocks individuals who confront his behav-

"These actions and behaviors are unprofessional, unethical, unconstitutional, and in some cases quite possibly criminal. He has chosen to open this board and county government to civil liability lawsuits due to his chosen actions and behavior. It is unfathomable that this behavior has been allowed to continue for 15 months," she

*Heard from Steve Ferring about the county's budget and the expense figures various departments provided. While he would like to assume that no favoritism is givduring this budget process, Ferring said it wasn't a valid assumption in the past.

"There are questions outstanding regarding some of the budget numbers put forth by the Sheriff's Department that need to be justified before you pass the current proposed budget," he said.

E-911 expenses communications seems extensive, Ferring believes, and noted there's no mention of applying for the state grant program to modernize all 911 operations in Virginia.

"This is a grant of up to \$150,000 we should qualify for and has been available since 2023. Why haven't we applied? We spend our funds to maintain the current radio system rather than use state funds to migrate to a digital system that is much cheaper to operate, has better coverage, and is easier to maintain," he said.

Ferring said the cost to feed inmates at the jail is also much higher compared to other jails in Virginia, with costs between \$3-\$6 per day per inmate, while Patrick County spends more than that.

"The contract for food has not been rebid in years. Why? The current budget is \$235,000. If we allow \$5 per inmate per day the amount the budget should \$146,000, which is \$89,000 in savings," Ferring said.

He also believes the jail, county and school division should combine to purchase janitorial products, which would allow each entity to take advantage of bulk discounts. He suggested the same strategy should also apply to paper and station-



Galen Gilbert

money on maintenance,

the county employees

ment fiscally and man-

proposal for an updated

county budget financial

policy. Over the past few

said people have called on

the county to prepare a

comprehensive budget to

replace the "hit or miss"

budget process that's oc-

curred over the past few

'While there are a

improvements'

from

Kurt

about a

Bozenmayer

agerially effective,"

said.

*Heard

months.

decades.

'capital

fire truck per year.

years old.

"Given

maintain that

lance and fire

this

al replacement need, I

purchases should not be

capital improvement is-

sues, but rather annual

maintenance costs, well planned in each budget

cycle," Bozenmayer said.

rick County over two

decades ago, Bozenmay-

er served as a volun-

teer firefighter and line

captain for 20 years in

New Jersey. He believes

his experience high-

lights the perils of poorly

planned financial policy.

that they needed to buy

a new fire truck each

vear, on a rotational

basis, for the six com-

panies. That started out

at around \$85,000 for-

ty years ago, and it had

reached \$875,000 for a

ladder truck at last re-

nort. The insurance writ-

ers declared that once a

fire truck reached seven

"Our town realized

Before moving to Pat-

annu-

ambu-

truck

Bozenmayer

"You have objected to

fuel, and insurance.

requirements, and years old, it was no longer the county should impleconsidered adequate for service," he said. ment a fleet management program that serves the The town government, county, school division, Bozenmayer said, chose and sheriff's office to save to finance the purchases

having bottled water but taken out of service with have not been willing to interest. query the second largest "I hope that Patrick budget the county sup-County adopts a better ports. Why? Is the board financial plan than that. Our volunteers need adof supervisors not up to the task? Biased? The equate equipment; let's actions we are requestdevelop a practical means ing you take in no way of providing it without 'defund' our police. They straining the taxpayers,' only make the departhe said.

by issuing 25-year bonds,

which meant they were

still paying for trucks 17

years after they had been

*Heard from Galen Gilbert about the intersection of U.S. 58, South Mayo Drive, and Spring

"I know they've done a study saying that a stoplight is not feasible. They've also done a study down there that said that the intersection needs to be daylit with lights, the curbs need to be fixed, and this was done many years ago and it has not taken place yet," he said.

Gilbert requested the number of areas where board put some pressure such a policy can benon Virginia Department efit the county and its of Transportation (VDOT) citizens, I would like to to follow the study recomaddress just one issue mendations, or at least that has been raised sevprovide additional safety eral times in the past measures to the area confew months. Specifically, sidering another wreck at the budget proposals for the intersection. "I don't know when it's

recently included a line going to stop. Until anitem for \$400,000 for a other person is killed or new ambulance," he said. what? I don't know, but Bozenmaver believes something needs to be the budget process needs done," he said, adding he believes getting rid of a to face a reality, that few of the turning spots with eight rescue squads and multiple fire departaround the intersection ments, it's reasonable to would be a good idea beexpect that the county cause there are so many will need to replace at of them. least one ambulance and Gilbert also

spoke about the recently con-With the assumption ducted fire and rescue that each rescue squad report, Public Safety Auhas at least two ambuthority (PSA) rules about lances, this suggests that public comment, and the oldest ambulance in handicap sidewalk access Administration the county would be 16 to the Building.

> *Heard from Brenda Payne and Brett Boothe who supported a leash



Steve Ferring

law for dogs in the coun-

*Heard from Crvstal Harris who invited the board to the Patrick County Fire and Rescue banquet, and spoke about her issues with Bright-Speed.

*Heard from Virginia Department of Agriculture (VDACS) STS Project Supervisor Ben Templeton about aerial spray treatments.

*Approved giving the annual fire and rescue capital improvement funds of \$154,000 to Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department for the purchase of a brush truck. The department will pay for the remaining cost of the truck themselves.

*Approved giving the annual fire and rescue capital improvement funds of \$76,000 to CCDF Volunteer Rescue Squad to replace their LifePack 15 with LifePacks 35. The remaining funds will be used to make the department Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, and upgrade its Unit 10.

*Approved the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)/Virginia Telecommunication **INitiative** (VATI) 2023 Universal Broadband Project.

*Approved the moving of the Russell Creek Voting Precinct from 180 Ayers Orchard Road to New Hope Community Church at 1863 Clark House Farm Road.

*Approved a proclamation naming April 2025 as child abuse prevention

*Approved the March 10 and March 24 meeting minutes.

*Approved the bills, claims, and appropria-

*Heard the supervisors' reports.

*Approved to enter Marshall's report into the meeting minutes without hearing it.

Pets of the Week

tions.



The little light brown and white fellow was brought into the shelter from Gammons Road in Stuart. The dark brown pooch was brought in from Wayside Road in Stuart.

They are both looking for a loving home.

Free spay/neuter and rabies vaccinations. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter or their Facebook page, to find information about these and other



a forever home. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination. The Blue Ridge Animal

Welfare League provides pet food assistance and information about lowcost spay/neuter services; contact blueridgeawl@ gmail.com. We are also asking for live trap donations (have-a-heart type), even if they need some minor repairs. 1500 Kings Mtn Rd.

276-638-2778



Property Taxes

(cont. from page 1)

Inflation has not stopped, and if the amount you're collecting stays at one price and your inflation continues at the rate it's been going over the last 15 years or so since that's changed, that's revenue erosion. You think you're getting that amount of revenue, but you're really not cause of the inflation," he

Marshall said he believes the county has either the lowest or second lowest personal property tax rate in the region. He believes the county should instead fall somewhere in the middle, based on a regional median tax rate.

"If we could average what that median is, and that median would be a fair price for taxes, and then phase that in over a three-year period and then after that index that into the" Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), "which is a tool that measures inflation. And you index it to that and it gives you your automatic increases with inflation," he said.

Kendrick said he wouldn't agree to increasing the personal property tax without an argument.

"You may not increase the rate in 10 years, but everything you go to buy has went up," he said, adding the machine and tools tax is placed on businesses.

Marshall said he understands that the machine and tools and personal property taxes are historically tied and set at the same rate, but he wonders if one could be raised without adjusting

County Administrator Beth Simms said she believes most localities keep the two rates the same.

In a document provided to the board, Kendrick noted that an increase of \$51,790 is expected from the machine and tools tax without a rate change.

Perry asked whether the increase was due to the U.S. 58 expansion proj-

"So that's an increase we'll see this coming year, and we'll see some extra personal property tax probably through 2031. But once the 58 project is done, that will go away, so just keep that in mind," Simms said.

Marshall said the county's budget issue is a revenue problem, not a spending problem.

"It's a revenue problem because our taxes are just dysfunctional at this point. They're dated and they need to be brought up to speed. I know it's an unpopular idea, but it's also practical,"

Perry believes the lack of revenue is affecting the ability of county departments to function effectively.

"If the money's not there, the money's not there. I kind of think we should look at an increase on personal property tax. I know that covers citizens that don't have real estate, and I know that those on a limited income, they're not driving around on \$80,000 vehicles either, so it kind of balances out. We haven't increased the personal property tax in quite some time," he said.

Perry added he'd also like to consider increasing the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) to help fix the deficit and provide more funding to departments.

"I feel like it's kind of pushing a can down the road. The next generation boards are going to have to come up with money to bring departments back up to standards that we haven't budgeted for," he said.

Marshall said the county's real estate tax assessment is regressive.

"Which means the lower income folks pay more of the load for the greater income folks. If you get revenue from a different source, it will help offset any real estate tax increases. It's also a more fair tax because, you know, you have an \$80,000 truck you pay your fair share. If your grandma and grandpa are living off of \$600 a month on Social Security, naturally they're going to have a less expensive vehicle and probably pay about \$40 a year. It makes things a great deal fairer across the board and it kind of offsets the need for a real estate tax increase," Marshall

Kendrick said the board has already reduced the budget deficit from \$2.4 million to \$197,336.

"I don't think anybody's going to be



The Patrick County Board of Supervisors at a recent meeting.

suffering with that. I think we need a little bit more time, cut a little more, and make it work," he said.

Simms countered that some of the budget cuts are unrealistic.

"Not really," Kendrick said.

"Yes, they are," Simms replied. "We have one department that completely cut office supplies to zero. So, I don't think that's realistic to think that department is actually going to be able to go through an entire year with zero office supplies."

Kendrick suggested Simms look at the building appropriations from this month and how some departments move money between line items.

"Some of them \$3,000 come to my head real quick. If they can move it from one fund to another one they're over budget it to start with," he said.

Simms said she didn't disagree with Kendrick but reiterated that expecting a department to go an entire year with no money for office supplies was unre-

"Cutting an additional \$197,000 out is going to be disingenuous, I guess is what I'm saying. We're going to have to come back to you all and say, 'hey, we've ran out of money.' Or there are some board members that don't like the moving around of line items, I'll be honest I don't either. But I've been told numerous times that's how we do it here and that's how we've always done it here," she said.

When she's tried to push for change, Simms said she's often told, "well, this is just how we're going to do it.'

"To be quite honest, when our department heads are given an impossible task of cutting costs that can't be cut, they have to present, 'well, this is our six-and-a-half percent cut. You tasked us with presenting this cut, here we are, this is what I've cut.' I mean, the cost of some things we just can't cut. I'm sure all of us have had our personal budgets hit with the rise of insurances and different things, utilities. Unfortunately, we can only cut so far," Simms

One of the other two public hearings is related to a proposed two-percent increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), with the additional revenue earmarked for fire departments and rescue squads.

The public hearing to raise the TOT from five percent to seven percent was approved in a 4-1 vote. Marshall cast the dissenting vote.

According to the Virginia Legislative Information System (LIS) website. any county, by duly adopted ordinance, "may levy a transient occupancy tax on hotels, motels, boarding houses, travel campgrounds, and other facilities offering guest rooms rented out for continuous occupancy for fewer than 30 days."

tal price paid by the customer for the use or possession of the room or space occupied in a retail space," the LIS

"The tax shall be imposed on the to-

The final hearing—to consider approval of the FY 2025-2026 budgetwas approved unanimously in a 5-0

The board indicated that no vote would be held at the April 28 meeting and the hearings were to gather community input. However, the board can vote on the public hearings at a future

Registration begins April 30 for summer vegetable program

Registration opens April 30 for Farmer's Market Nutrition Program) is available through the County, Southern Area Agency on Aging

50 Benefit Shopping Card or a \$50 produce. Digital Benefit that can be used to vegetables and cut herbs at participating Farmer's Markets.

The number of people who can participate is limited. Beginning on Wednesday, April 30, the SAAA will take applications over the phone and in person. The agency will also continue to take applications throughout the following week(s) while the supply of the \$50 benefit lasts.

You may qualify to participate if: you are (or will become) 60 years of age or older on or before June 1, 2025:

*and you are a resident of Dan-Virginia's Farm Market Fresh For ville City, Martinsville City, Seniors (also known as the Senior Franklin County, Patrick County, Henry County or Pittsylvania

*and you do not live with, and are not an immediate family mem-Eligible seniors may receive a ber of the farmer who grows the

*and you have a gross monthly purchase locally grown fresh fruits, household income that does not exceed the income requirements of the program.

> Those who wish to apply for the \$50 Benefit must contact the SAAA at (276) 632-6442 or toll-free at 1-800-468-4571.

> Beginning April 30, and continuing as long as the supply of the \$50 benefit lasts, applicants must be prepared to certify total gross monthly household income information when applying over the phone or in person. Southern Area Agency on Aging is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Stuart Farmers' Market kicks off 2025 season with "Sneak Peek Fridays"

The Stuart Farmers' Market is excited to get growing for the 2025 season. Market hours of operation for 2025 will be on Friday's, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., May through November. The season will officially kick off on Friday, May 3, however vendors will be on site Friday, April 18 and April 25 with what we call the "sneak peek Fridays." Cool season crops of lettuce, kale, spinach, onions and broccoli, along with baked items, coffee and crafts will be available.

From May to November, every Friday will feature a variety of vendors with locally grown fruits and vegetables, homemade baked items, locally grown meats, eggs, plants and crafts. We will have vendors that can accept the Senior Nutrition vouchers.

We invite everyone to come to the market on our opening day, May 2 at 9 a.m. for a special dedication. Tom Bishop who many of our market patrons know as "the Birdhouse man" passed away this winter. We are honoring him by installing a birdhouse of his in the garden beds at the market.

The Patrick County Master Gardeners will be on site the last Friday of each month with information and to

answer gardening questions. Our tool sharpening vendor will be on site the first Friday of every month to sharpen tools. So bring those dull blades and have them sharpened while you shop.

The Rise and Shine Youth entrepreneurial vendors will join our vendors on Friday, June 20 and July 18. Come shop from our local youth who set up during those special market days.

Our annual Red, White and Blueberries celebration will happen on Friday July 4. Just the right day to celebrate and shop for your picnic essentials.

The First Friday Summer Jam Series returns offering a great concert, food truck and wine for the first Friday of each month May through August. Our holiday tradition of Mistletoe Market will be back for its 17th year. This annual holiday market will be on Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Mistletoe Market is a great spot to shop for holiday decor, gifts and more.

Stay up to date with market events by visiting our Facebook page. For more information about the Stuart Farmers' Market contact the Town of Stuart at (276) 694-3811.



Spring into a new role with STEP, Inc. with openings in Franklin & **Patrick Counties**

Head Start Education Manager – Franklin Co.

Full-time. Manage Head Start education staff. Requires bachelor's in early childhood ed. or equivalent, 3 yrs supervisory experience, budget skills. Salary: \$46,730.25-\$54,054.05 + benefits.

Head Start Admin Assistant – Franklin Co.

Full-time. Reception, data entry, file mgmt, recruitment support. Requires HS diploma/GED, admin experience, computer skills. Salary: \$15.12-\$17.62/hr + benefits.

Head Start Teacher

Full-time (10 mos). Plan and lead classroom activities. Associate's in ECE (Bachelor's preferred), 3 yrs experience. Salary: \$17.60–\$21.28/hr + benefits.

Head Start Teacher Assistant

Full-time (10 mos). Assist in classroom. HS diploma + CDA or ECE certificate, 1 yr experience. Salary: \$14.02 - \$18.15/hr + benefits.

Substitute Teachers

Flexible schedule. \$110/day (HS diploma), \$130/day (Bachelor's).

Visit www.stepincva.com/employment/ for full details and to apply. STEP, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Get your with Patrick County Adult Education

Become a Lifelong Learner Today!

BENEFITS:

Higher Wages Valuable Workplace Skills Advancement to Further Education and Training Sense of Personal Accomplishment

<u>WHAT'S AVAILABLE?</u>

- ONLINE CLASSES WITH INDIVIDUAL DAYTIME TUTORING **APPOINTMENTS**
 - ELL CLASSES ON FRIDAYS
- NIGHT CLASSES ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 5:00-7:00

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Patrick County needs someone who represents us

Letters to the Editor

Sermon Without A Word

(A friend of mine sent this to me day. 25 years ago)

previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The preacher found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preachers visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning Logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher

glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the

middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and

especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sun-

We live in a world today, which A member of a local church, who tries to say too much with too Little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

> The Lord is my Shepherd ----that's a Relationship!

> I shall not want ---- that's Supply!

> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ---- that's Rest!

> He leadeth me beside the still waters ---- that's Refreshment!

> He restoreth my soul ---- that's Healing!

> He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness ---- that's Guid-

> For His name sake ---- that's Purpose!

> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ----that's Testing!

> I will fear no evil ---- that's Protection!

> For Thou art with me ---- that's Faithfulness!

> Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me ---- that's Discipline!

> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine Enemies ----- that's Hope!

> Thou annointest my head with oil ---- that's Consecration!

> My cup runneth over ---- that's Abundance!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my Life --- that's Blessing!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord ---- that's Security!

Forever ---- that's Eternity! Pray for our country. William Salser,

its meaning for the religious, especially Christians. In reality, the trip, financed by the lobbying group United States Israel Education

Morgan Griffith described his 2024

trip to the HolyLand in terms of

Foundation (USIEA) for five federal politicians, was meant to build support for Israel in the days after the October 7 attacks by Hamas.

USIEA says it designs its Congressional tours to combine cultural, historical and geopolitical touchstones that dovetail with its "Lanes of Action" and sends Congressional tourists back to Washington with five goals: expansion of joint U.S.-Israeli research in artificial intelligence (AI); inclusion of Judea and Samaria, both under Israeli control, in research funding; replacing the Palestinian education system "to lay the foundation for peaceful coexistance"; outsourcing parts of the U.S. life sciences supply chain to select Middle Eastern nations; and shared use of Israeli military technology and experience, especially in missile defense.

The goals are all technically difficult and no doubt exciting to hear. Granted, Patrick County may not be as exciting, though many residents would disagree. But it deserves more time and attention from Griffith than it's getting. Instead, he routinely sends staffers as his envoys to public forums. Is he sidestepping the possibility that a gathering of his constituents would involve a public dressing-down for his neglect?

While he seems in no danger of public humiliation, native son Wren Williams is also dealing with a lot of distractions as he pursues re-election as the 47th District's delegate. "I remain committed to being a conservative champion and advocate for President Don-

In last week's Enterprise, Rep. ald Trump's American First agenda," he recently vowed. "Our record has been one that stands up for the rule of law while defending the rights of hardworking Virginia families. From protecting our Second Amendment to securing medical resources for Patrick County to standing up to utility companies and delivering reduced rates for Southwest communities, our office has been a voice for Southwest and Southside Virginia."

Only Williams hasn't seen a lot of obvious success yet. Second Amendment rights are protected but victims of gun violence and road rage -- not so much. Stuart Hospital is not open yet; some fear it may be fatally stalled by cuts to federal programs. There's been more promises than relief from utilities' inroads into consumer wallets and residents' viewscapes. Williams is undaunted: "I look forward to hitting the campaign trail and listening to voters' concerns."

Yvonne Rorrer, his opposition, is already out there, knocking on doors, listening to residents and collecting ideas, like lengthening deer-hunting season. But not making promises or repeating tired excuses. When a resident whose AEP bill topped \$500 seemed skeptical that relief was possible, Rorrer went non-traditional, endangering her own future. AEP has a state-granted monopoly, she pointed out: "The only way to take control is to ban campaign contributions to incumbents or candidates by utility companies that have a monopoly. Most states already ban this behavior and it's time for Virginia to step up."

Representation based on the here-and-now is what we need in times like these.

Judy Ferring, Claudville

Applications now being accepted for food assistance program

Stuart

The Virginia Depart- zation. ment of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is accepting proposals from chari-Pro-Assistance (VAFAP). The state program provides grants to charitable food assistance organizations purchase Virginia Grown agricultural products that must be distributed to food insecure Virginia residents in accordance with the food distribution guidelines for each charitable food assistance organi-

Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2021, VAFAP compensates farmers for food assistance food products that are organizations for the donated or sold to char-Agriculture itable food assistance organizations. A total of \$1.1 million in reimbursable grant funding is available for this program.

> Interested charitable food assistance organizations must submit VAFAP applications by 5 p.m. on May 9, 2025. Applications should detail the plan to engage local farmers to purchase locally grown

agricultural and how the food will be distributed to persons in

"This type of partnership is a win-win, as it helps to address food insecurity and support local agriculture," said VDACS Commissioner Joseph Guthrie. "Producers are compensated for their crop, nutritious food is not wasted, and additional food resources are available to charitable organizations throughout the Com-

monwealth." VDACS will use a competitive review process to ensure maximum input and benefit. The review panel may also provide a recommended award amount for project proposals. VDACS will notify successful and unsuccessful grant applicants about the outcome of the competitive process as it relates to the applicant's proposal.

For more information and to apply, please viswww.vdacs.virginia. gov/pdf/rsfi-vafap-guidelines-Instructions.pdf.





DAR chapter recognizes agencies with special deliveries

Following its business meeting April 14, members of Colonel Abram Penn Chapter, NSDAR assembled and delivered large Solo cups with snacks to the Patrick County Historical Museum, the Patrick County Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, the Patrick County Clerk's Office and the Patrick County Sheriff's Office.

Members Lucy Rudd, Julie Brannon, Beth Witt, Racquelle Snow, Ann McConnell, and Sheree Russo are pictured left to

Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join the DAR.

Soil and Water Conservation District to host informational outreach event

The Patrick County Soil and Wa-tion Service ter Conservation District invites the public to a morning of informative presentations led by industry professionals from 9 to 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, in the Community Room at Patrick & Henry Community College - Stuart Site, located at 212 Wood Brothers Drive, Stuart. A sampling of the featured agen-

cies include:

- · Virginia State University -
- Small Farm Outreach Program
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Virginia Department of Forest-
- Farm Service Agency

· Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation District

The scheduled presentations will offer valuable insights for managing both farm and forested land. Attendees will learn about programs that provide funding and technical assistance to help meet their land and management conservation

If you are unable to attend, you can still contact Sandra Heath or Tony Collins at the Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation District to learn more about available programs or schedule a visit. The office is located at 104 Via Avenue, Natural Resources Conserva- Stuart.

telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style. Postmaster: send address changes to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 348, Stuart, VA 24171-0348. Subscription Rates: \$32

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The Enterprise encourages letters from our

readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and

columns. Letters must be signed and have a

FACEBOOK

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - 5

Patrick Pioneers



Stuart Knitting Company (Photo from Shelia Marshall).

Stuart Knitting Company and Walter Penn, Jr. By Beverly Belcher Woody

This week's story is intentionally shorter to allow for a larger display of the photograph. Many thanks to Shelia Marshall for sharing this wonderful glimpse into Stuart's history! While we've only been able to identify one individual in the photo-Walter Lee Penn, Jr., president of Stuart Knitting Company Inc. we're hoping that folks will recognize friends, family members, or even themselves. Penn appears on the far left.

According to an article in the Martinsville Bulletin dated November 19, 1945, the Stuart Knitting Company was established with a capital stock of \$100,000, all of which had already been sold. The company was organized by industrialists from both Martinsville and Stuart. Its officers included Walter Lee Penn, Jr. as president; Dr. William Nash Thomp-

Carter as secretary and treasurer. The factory planned to produce children's underwear and outerwear.

Walter Lee Penn, Jr. was the son of Walter Penn and Caroline Lightfoot Lee Dillard of Starling Avenue in Martinsville. He attended Hampden-Sydney College, and upon graduation, began working at Pannill Knitting Company in Martinsville.

In June 1939, Penn married Miss Sallie Edmund Hubard (yes, spelled with only one "b") of Fayetteville, West Virginia. Once Penn launched the Stuart Knitting Company, he and Sallie moved to Sunset Drive in Stuart, where they raised two sons, Walter Penn III and Robert Hubard Penn.

The plant was purchased by Pannill Knitting Company in 1959 and ran like gangbusters until it was sold to Sara Lee Knit Products

son of Stuart as vice-president; and J. Coates of Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 1988. I went to work at Bassett-Walker Knitting in 1982 and still remember the traffic jams in downtown Stuart-workers heading to and from Pannill's, United Elastic (J.P. Stevens), Stuart Lumber (Masonite/International Paper), and Bassett-Walker.

In October 1991, the Patrick County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) entered into a lease agreement with Eco Knit Inc., a company that produced socks at the factory. Then, in December 1993, Bengle Manufacturing Company — a "cut and sew" apparel operation specializing in sweatshirts — purchased the building.

We hope someone out there will recognize a relative, a friend, or maybe even themselves in the photograph and reach out to let us know. Woody can be contacted 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 Citi-

Ask Rusty – When Should My Wife Claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty: My wife was born in July 1959, and her recent SS benefit estimate is \$3,337 at her full retirement age, or \$4,397 at age 70. She is presently employed full-time and intends to continue working until she is aged 70. She is wondering when the most financially advantageous time would be to draw her SS retirement. Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead: Obviously, the best time for your wife to get the highest possible monthly Social Security benefit would be age 70. Provided your wife's life expectancy is at least average (about age 87 for a woman her current age), she will likely receive the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until age 70 to claim.

For clarity, if your wife were to choose to claim before her full retirement age (FRA), her monthly amount would be less and she would be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much she can earn before her FRA. If the AET is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 for every \$2 her earnings are over the limit (they take away by withholding future benefits until the penalty is satisfied). The AET (\$23,400 for 2025 but changes yearly) is in effect until your wife reaches her full retirement age of 66 years and 10 months, after which she can earn as much as she likes without penalty. Since she plans to work full time until age 70, your wife should likely not claim Social Security before her FRA. As mentioned, claiming at age 70 is probably a more prudent financial option.

Since your wife expects to continue working, she should also know that her estimated benefit will likely increase assuming her more recent earnings are among the highest over her lifetime. Social Security will review current year earnings annually to see if her current earnings warrant a the highest 35 years of work earnings, and that includes earnings even after SS benefits are started). Also, the estimates provided by SS do not include Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) which typically occur annually. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the past two decades has been about 2.5%.

Based on her estimated FRA benefit, it is also evident that your wife will not get additional benefits as your spouse. For that to occur, your benefit at your FRA would need to be more than twice your wife's FRA amount, which it likely is not. Thus, your wife should make her claiming decision based only on her own benefit opportunity, considering her personal financial needs and her life expectancy.

FYI, your wife's "breakeven age" – the age at which she will have collected the same amount of

SS money by claiming at age 70 vs. claiming at her full retirement age (FRA), is about 82 years of age. Thus, assuming her life expectancy is more than 82, it would be prudent to wait until age 70

to claim Social Security. In the end, the "best" time to claim Social Security depends on a few factors - most notably, life expectancy, and financial need. If the SS money isn't urgently needed now, and your wife's life expectancy is at least "average," then it appears from what you've shared that her best choice would be to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security. If life circumstances change over the years, your wife benefit increase (SS benefits are always based on can take comfort knowing that she can also claim her Social Security at any time before age 70 and she will get benefits right up to the month she claims. Note that by waiting until after her FRA to claim, she will earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) of .667% more benefit for each month of delay (about 8% more for each year of delay).

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.

The ABCs of Vegetarian Nutrition – Part 2

Minerals work with vitamins to control the various metabolic processes in the body. They provide the structural support in our skeleton and form the enamel of our teeth. They help our blood to clot, carry oxygen to all our cells, regulate our heart beat, and maintain proper fluid balance. Like vitamins, minerals are divided into two categories: major and trace minerals. The major minerals are needed in larger amounts and include calcium, phosphorus, and magnesium. Trace minerals are needed in much smaller amounts. Some minerals, essential in very small amounts, are toxic at higher intakes.

So, what about vegetarian diets, can they provide all of these vitamins and minerals? Yes! Vegetarians who are eating a balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and legumes shouldn't normally have a problem with vitamin or mineral intake. However, it is imple following plant-based diets, vegans especially. We can also see what can be done to defend

against these deficiencies.

Vitamin B12

Cobalamin, or vitamin B12, is of special interest in a vegetarian diet because the practical to develop. In addition, gastrointestinal secresources for this vitamin are animal products, such as meat, fish, poultry, eggs, milk, and other dairy products. B12 is actually manufactured by bacteria. The process occurs in the digestive tract of cud-chewing animals. B12 can then be absorbed and incorporated into their tissues or

Many vegetarians obtain adequate amounts of B12 from dairy products and/or eggs. However, a total vegetarian (vegan) diet would not contain this vitamin unless it had been added to a particular food product, and thus total vegetarians could develop a deficiency. However, vitamin B12 deficiency is rare, even among people who eat no animal food.

Ordinarily the body has considerable stores

gastrointestinal tract is not functioning properly, it can take only three years for the deficiency tions that are necessary for the absorption and reabsorption of vitamin B12 diminish as we age. Therefore, it is important for older vegans to be concerned about their vitamin B12 intake.

It is also worth noting that even people who consume animal products can sometimes develop a B12 deficiency, even if they are young and do not have obvious GI problems.

Vitamin B12 is generally the biggest concern for people on a vegan diet. Although seaweed also may contain some vitamin B12 from contact with adhering plankton, it is an unreliable source. The best advice for vegans is to be sure and consume vitamin B12 fortified foods (such as soy milk) or take a B12 supplement.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Patriportant to address a few areas of concern for peo- of B12, enough to last five years or more. The cia Johnston Ph.D, MS, RD. Used by permission body also has an effective system for reusing it. from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeS-So it may take 20 years or more for a vegan to pring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, develop evidence of a deficiency. However, if the VA)

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SPORTS

Cougars fall to Carroll County in extra innings



Cougar catcher Erik Martinez-Tejada tagged out the Carroll County runner.

By Pat Delaney

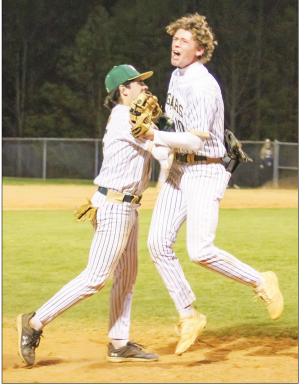
"That's as good a high school game as you'll see," said Cougar head coach Tal Swails, following the game with Carroll County.

There was a big-game atmosphere at Cougar Field when Class 3 top ten Carroll County visited the Class 2 top five Patrick County Cougars on April 17. It was also a matchup of the top two teams in the Three Rivers District, and the game more than lived up to expectations, going into extra innings with Carroll County taking the 3-2 win.

Carroll County took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the second, only to have the Cougars tie it up in the bottom half of the inning. Calvin Lancaster got things going with a double into right center. A Zach Holt sacrifice bunt moved Lancaster to third, and he was driven in to tie the game on an Easton Harris single.

The Cougars took the lead in the fourth when Erik Martinez-Tejada hit a long fly ball to deep center field that was misplayed by the Carroll County fielder, driving in Zach Holt for the 2-1 lead.

Carroll County tied the game in the sixth, 2-2. take a 3-2 lead, and holding the Cougars scoreless,



Easton Harris (left) and Zach Holt celebrated Holt's play that prevented a run in the seventh inning.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Cougars threatened, loading the bases, but could not put any runs across.

In the top of the seventh, Carroll County had runners on first and second with one out, and looked to take the lead on a well-hit ball to deep center. Cougar center fielder Jaiden Wilson grabbed the ball and fired it home where catcher Martinez-Tejada tagged out the runner, keeping the game tied at 2. With two outs and the bases loaded, third baseman Zach Holt made a fantastic play on a hard-hit ball down the line, making the long throw to first for the final out of the inning, again, keeping a go-ahead run from scoring and sending the game into extra innings.

Carroll County scored in the top of the eighth to



Christian Hylton pitched 6.1 strong innings, allowing just 5

left with the extra inning win.

"It was one of those games that whoever snuck one in late was going to win," said coach Swails. "The defense was incredible on both sides. We played unbelievable defense, and we pitched it pretty well."

Christian Hylton got the start for the Cougars, going 6.1 innings, allowing just 5 hits and striking out 3. Calvin Lancaster went 2-4 at the plate, scoring a run. Zach Holt scored the other Cougar run, going 1-1, while Easton Harris chipped in an RBI.

"You can't hang your head on a game like that. Carroll County is a really good baseball team," said Swails, adding his team has "nothing to be ashamed of. They competed their tails off and we'll come back and get James River on Tuesday."

Lady Cougars Walk Off Chatham in Thrilling 3-2 Win



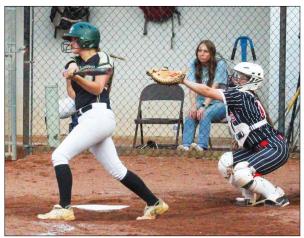
Taylor Lawless hit a double in the second, and would score the Lady Cougars first run.

By Pat Delaney

The Patrick County High Lady Cougar softball team showed great resilience, coming back from a run down twice in their April 14 match up with Chatham. The second time, in the bottom of the seventh, gave them the 3-2 walk off win, avenging a Chatham walk-off 2-1 win back on March

After a Chatham solo home run put the visitors up 1-0 in the second, the Lady Cougars stormed ey Sutphin came up with a sacrifice bunt to move back in the third. Taylor Lawless led off with a long hit to left-center for a stand-up double. A Lacey Sutphin sacrifice bunt moved Lawless to third, and after Chatham intentionally walked Journey Moore, Lauren Hazelwood drove in the tying run with a hard hit ground ball past through the infield.

Lady Cougar's starting pitcher, Journey Moore, kept Chatham scoreless for the next three innings, allowing only an unearned run in

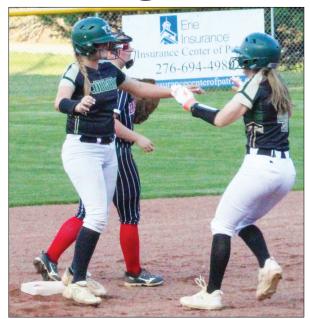


Hayden Lawless drove in the game winning run in the

the sixth. Moore would go six innings, giving up just three hits and striking out nine.

After the Lady Cougars stranded two base runners in the sixth, Taylor Lawless led off the bot- Journey Moore and Hayden Lawless celebrate the walk-off tom of the seventh with a walk. Once again, Lac-Lawless into scoring position. With a line drive down the right field line, a Journey Moore stand up triple drove in Lawless and tied the game at 2-2 with one out. With two out and two strikes, Hayden Lawless drove in the game-winning run with an infield hit, giving the Lady Cougars the come from behind 3-2 win.

Besides the game winning RBI, Hayden Lawless went 2-4 and pitched the seventh inning, striking out two. Taylor Lawless went 1-1 on the in the season.



night, with two runs scored and Lacey Sutphin had three sacrifice bunts, leading to two of the Lady Cougar runs.

'We're playing really good defense for the most part," said Lady Cougar head coach Ryan Pendleton. "We haven't given up a lot of runs lately." Since their 2-1 loss to Chatham, the Lady Cougars have won their last four games, allowing just four runs total in that span.

The victory gives the Lady Cougars 8-2 record

PCHS Lady Cougar Soccer Updates

By Ashlee Mullis

The PC Varsity Girls Team hosted Glenvar on Friday, April 4, los-

Skye Avers had 5 saves in goal. Wednesday, April 9. The Cougars traveled to Radford, losing 4-5 in overtime. Kendall Williams had 2 goals and one assist. Sydney Tatum and Kyra Titular had one goal each. Ayers had 26 saves in goal.

On Monday, April 14, the Lady Cougars defeated Alleghany 7-1. Titular scored 3 goals. Camille Gonzalez, Williams, and Raeli Moran all scored 1 goal each. Ayers had 5 saves in goal. Thursday, April 17, PC lost to Carroll County 0-2. Ayers had 21 saves in the goal.



Goalie Skye Ayers watches the action from

Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis

Lady Cougars Defeat Carroll

Jenna Woods pitched a complete game, striking out 5 and giving up 3 runs in the 6-3 home win over Carroll County, Thursday, April 17. The Cougars had 6 hits on the night. Journey Moore had a triple, scoring 2 runs. Lauren Hazelwood had 3 RBIs with a hit and a sacrifice fly. Lilly Hazelwood, Aubreigh Large, Taylor Lawless, and Jenna Woods all added hits for the Cougars. Chloe Hubbard also added an RBI in the win.

JV Baseball Gets First Loss

The JV Cougar Baseball Team suffered its first loss, 2-13, when they hosted Alleghany, Wednesday, April 16. The game was tight until the 6th and 7th innings when Alleghany scored 10 runs to take the win. Mark Register had one hit and one RBI. Noah Cain had a triple and 1 run scored, and Anderson Brim added an RBI. Jaxon Handy started on the mound for the Cougars. He, Mason Cassell, Mark Register, and Noah Caine combined for 7 strike outs, and 4 earned runs.

JV Baseball Gets 2nd Loss of

The Patrick County JV Baseball Team hosted Carroll County, Thursday, April 17, losing 1-11. The 6th inning once again proved to be the turning point when Carroll scored 7 runs, sealing the win over the Cougars. PC's defense struggled in key situations as starter Mark Register threw 5 innings, allowing only one earned run. Noah Cain followed with 2 innings and only 1 earned run. The two combined for 7 strike outs. At the plate, Jayden Corns led the way with a base hit and a sacrifice bunt. Mason Cassell added a walk and 1 run scored.

PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of April 28-May 3:

4/28	4:30pm	Girls Tennis at Glenvar	5/1	
	4:30pm	Boys Tennis vs Glenvar		
4/29	4pm	Track at Floyd County		
	5pm	Baseball at Glenvar		
	5pm	Softball at Glenvar	5/2	Į
	6pm	Girls Soccer at Glenvar		!

Boys Soccer vs Glenvar

7pm

P111 -	o may o.
4:30pm	Girls Tennis vs Radford
4:30pm	Boys Tennis at Radford
7pm	Girls Soccer at Radford
7pm	Boys Soccer vs Radford
5pm	Baseball vs Radford
5pm	Softball vs Radford

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Crossing the Lines=

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

Jones discusses politics, future after recent resignation

LC Jones is fully invested in his community and takes pride in adhering to his campaign promise of putting Martinsville first — even with the toll it has taken and the sacrifices it has required him to make.

But would he do it again?

In a word, no.

Jones, who serves as the mayor and is a member of Martinsville City Council, recently stepped away from his career in law enforcement for the second time in the span of a few years.

A Martinsville Police officer for about seven years, Jones served as a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Martinsville Middle School. He resigned from that post during his campaign after learning an employee could not serve as a council member.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office later contacted him about potential employment, and Jones served as an SRO there for a little more than two years before his recent abrupt departure.

"I did resign, but it wasn't like I just woke up that morning and said, 'I'm going to resign," Jones said, adding that he was asked to resign during a meeting with Sheriff Wayne Davis and Capt. Sandy Hines. The reasons cited were concerns about the amount of time he was taking off and the strain on department resources.

"I think what played a huge part in it was the negativity, slanderous comments, comments from council members and from certain parts of the media," Jones said.

He believes the controversy and negativity began to reflect poorly on the sheriff's department. "I gave them the resignation letter. It wasn't necessarily

nonprofit organization, has an-

nounced the second annual county-

wide Memorial Ruck, set for Satur-

day, May 24. The 22-mile ruck will

honor fallen military members and

raise awareness about veteran support needs during Memorial Day

Escorted by the Henry County

Sheriff's Office, more than 25 par-

ticipants will carry rucksacks filled

with hundreds of American, service.

and POW/MIA flags—each one rep-

weekend.



Martinsville Mayor LC Jones

to move in a new direction. With everything going on, I really think it had to do with the negativity on council and the time commitment I was able to provide at this time."

Jones said he understood the department's position, and acknowledged that the demands of balancing his mayoral duties with his job created time constraints that affected both his professional and personal life.

"I was expecting to have to make a decision on my time dedication one way or another by the end of this" school year, Jones said, adding that he is grateful to the sheriff and his office for the support during his time there.

"They called me with the offer and worked really well with me," he said. They were 100 percent good to me when I was there. I have no hard feelone opens."

In a release, Davis said that Jones amicable, but I know they were ready was eligible to be rehired in the future.

The ruck begins at 6 a.m. at Jack

Dalton Park, located at 130 Jack

Dalton Road in Collinsville. The

team will traverse a 22-mile route

across Henry County, returning to

the park by approximately 2 p.m.

The public is invited to join partic-

ipants for the final lap around the

Jack Dalton Park will be adorned

with flags and patriotic decorations.

Following the final lap, All Vets

will host a short storytelling pre-

park's Trail of Remembrance.

All Vets to host 22-mile Memorial Ruck honoring fallen service members

More than 100 community members helped the team finish the county-wide ruck, escorted

All Vets, a Henry County-based resenting a fallen service member.

by the Henry County Sheriff's Office. (Courtesy Tobie Panos Photography, 2024)

Doss works to preserve town and company history

Andrew Doss is working to preserve the history of Bassett-both the town and the company that shares its nameand to share it with oth-

Doss manages Bassett Looking Back. Moving Forward, a Facebook group where members can find historic photos and information about the town. He also helps preserve the company's legacy as part of Bassett Furniture.

"I am unofficially the company historian," said Doss, who was inspired to start after discovering the location of archived Bassett Pioneer newsletters. The newsletters, which celebrated employees and were produced in high print quality, held personal significance for Doss, a fourth-generation Bassett Furniture employee. He wanted to find photos of his family.

Community members their own copies.

tons of these things,"



Andrew Doss holds pieces of Bassett Furniture history in his hands.

A coworker later suggested creating a digital archive, and Doss began a historical YouTube compiling the material.

"I ended up scanning 20 years' worth of these newsletters off and on, for four years."

The Facebook group started as a side project.

"I honestly only figsoon began contributing ured maybe 100, 200 people would be inter-"Ever since I've been ested. I had no idea of doing it, people start- the kind of interest. At ed donating, and I have the time, it didn't make any sense to me."

Today, the group has nearly 12,000 members.

Dossco-manages channel with friend and fellow group administrator Jarred Marlowe. The channel. "Doss-Marlowe: History in Sight," features in-depth content about the history of Bassett and the surrounding area. Subscribers to the channel have access to more in-depth information about the history of Bassett and the surrounding area.

City school board seeks grant to bolster CTE program ings... When one door closes, another



The Martinsville School Board voted to submit an application for the Perkins Grant.

voted to approve the submission of rector of Technology Shauna Hines an application for the federal Perkins presented details about the grant appli-Grant during its regular meeting on cation to the board. April 14. The board also approved sevproving operations in schools and board development. meetings.

The Perkins Grant is a federal funding program that supports career and technical education (CTE) at the sec-

The Martinsville City School Board ondary and post-secondary levels. Di-

A total of \$83,255 is being requested, eral policy amendments aimed at im- with \$42,420 allocated for professional

> "One of our new classes we will be providing is cybersecurity operations and cybersecurity foundations," Hines said.

sentation under the park shelter, providing space to remember and reflect on the lives and service of fallen veterans. During the event, a plaque will also be presented to a local Gold Star widow, honoring her loved one's sacrifice and the enduring strength of those left behind.

Army veteran Melissa Gaona will serve as the emcee.

Community members can follow to learn more.

updates, volunteer opportunities, and event details through the All Vets Facebook page: All Vets Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook. com/AllVetsVirginia/.

Flags can be purchased in memory of a loved one, friend, or unknown service member for inclusion in this year's ruck. Visit the All Vets Memorial Ruck Store 2025

Lawless to invest \$1 million, drive revitalization in community

Chris Lawless, who is running for the Collinsville District seat on the Henry County Board of Supervisors, announced a \$1 million investment in a property that will become home to Lawless Welding and Fabrications Inc.

He announced the investment, ongoing work and plans at a press conference that was held at his newly acquired property at 1687 Stultz Road, a site formerly used by the Henry County Public Service Authority and Virginia Department of Transportation.

The site is the first piece of property the company has owned, Lawless said, adding that significant improvements to the property are already underway, with tree removal marking the beginning of a larger revitalization effort.

When completed, he said the site will be known as 'Lawless Campus,' a space he hopes will bring

"positivity" and help drive revitalization in the Collinsville/Fieldale areas and surrounding community.

A neighborhood cookout is planned once cleanup efforts are completed, and he has plans to incorporate murals on some or all of the buildings to brighten the community.

"Put your money where your mouth is — we are going to help revitalize this neighborhood," Lawless said, and reflected on his personal journey. He described himself as a troubled college student and credited welding with turning his life around.

Welding saved my life," he said, adding that hard work and dedication fueled his success. "I would work a 40-hour job, and I would work my job on the side. If you would have asked me about this in 2011, I was just trying to make part-time, side money."



Chris Lawless announced a \$1 million investment in property located on Stultz Road.

STAR NEWS



1-3-5-7-9 1-4-7-9:15 1-3-5-7-9 1-3-5-7-9

Martinsville 276-656-3456

OBITUARIES

Dale Andrew "Stretch" Hylton

Rodney Fae Horton

Rodney Fae Horton, aged 74 of Claudville, passed from this world on Monday, April 14, 2025. Born July 16, 1950, to Earnest William Horton and Flossie Bowman Horton, Rod, or "Hotrod" as he was known amongst friends, was a US Army Veteran, retired linesman, farmer, scrounger, trickster and consummate pain in the ass. He was also the most generous, loyal and dependable son, brother, uncle and friend.

Rod joins his parents and five siblings: Bill, James O'Neal, Don, Jan, and Dave. He is will be held for Rod survived by two sisters Erlaine Watkins (Frank) of Burkeville, al Home and Chapel in Virginia, and Kay Hor-



ton-Eutsler (Scott) of Stuart, Virginia, nieces and nephews, many great-nieces and great-nephews, and too many friends to count. Our world is quiet without him.

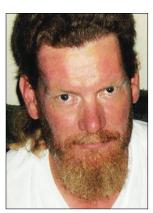
A funeral service on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Moody Funer-Stuart. The family will

receive friends at 11:00 a.m., with services to follow at noon. Services will be officiated by the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard. Burial will follow at the Pack Family Cemetery in Kibler Valley. Rod never had much time for flowers, so in lieu the family asks that any donations be made to the Rodney Horton Memorial Fund c/o Moody Funeral Home, PO Box 307 Stuart, VA 24171 or to the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard c/o Richard Cox at 7888 Woolwine Hwy, Woolwine, VA 24185. condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralser-

Dale "Stretch" Hylton, age 55 of Stuart, Virginia, passed away on April 14, 2025, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born on May 31, 1969, to the late Harold Hylton and Barbara Woods Hylton.

Dale grew up in the Woolwine, Virginia from Patrick Counlege in Tennessee. He Kristina

mother, Barba- niece, Harper Akker- services.com.



area. He graduated ra Hylton of Stuart, Virginia; a sister, ty High School and Lisa Hylton of Stuart, Auto and Diesel Col- Virginia; two nieces, Akkeman worked as a mechanic (Darin) of Leesburg, wine, Virginia 24185 and had a love for all Florida and Kimber- or to the Smith River old cars and trucks. ly Coalson of Stu-Rescue Squad, P.O. He also loved his art, Virginia; two Box 122, Woolwine, fur babies, anything great-nieces, Payton Virginia 24185. Onchocolate, and Mt. Purdy and Madeline line condolences may He is survived by Virginia; one step www. Moodyfuneral-

man; aunts and uncles, Christine and Randolph Morrison Christiansburg, Charles and Brenda Goad of Lawsonville, North Carolina, and Ralph Hylton of Floyd, Virginia; and several cousins.

A celebration of life service for Mr. Hylton will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 138, Wool-Dellenback of Stuart, be made by visiting

Stuart Talks to be held in May





Brothers In Arms: James Ewell Brown Stuart, William Alexander Stuart, and

John Dabney Stuart, and Others Go To War By Thomas D. "Tom" Perry May 3, 2025, at 10 am Ararat Ruritan Club for Perry Family Scholarship



Historian Thomas D. Perry will speak on J. E. B. Stuart at Yellow Tavern on May 10 at 11 am

10112 Telegraph Road, Glen Allen, Virginia



ent Brothers In Arms: p.m. J. E. B. Stuart and his brothers in the Civil at the Ararat Ruri- the final battle that War, and discuss the tan Club, 4711 Ararat James Ewell Brown lives of Major Gener- Highway, Ararat, VA al James Ewell Brown 24053 "Jeb" Stuart and his brothers, William Alexander Stuart, who comed for the Perry ran the saltworks in Family Virginia, and Dr. John Dabney ed \$4,000 to Patrick Stuart, who served County High School as a physician in the Seniors in memory 54th Virginia Infan- of Erie Meredith and try during the War Betty Hobbs Perry. Between The States

All Programs are Perry

Scholarship, which has donat-

On May 10, at 11

Tom Perry will pres- on May 3, 10 a.m. – 2 a.m., J. E. B. Stuart and Yellow Tavern; will discuss "Jeb" Stuart fought at Yellow Tavern, north Programs are FREE. of Richmond on May Donations are wel- 11, 1864, and his subsequent death the following day. Stuart is buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

Yellow Tavern Marker at 10112 Telegraph Road, Glen Allen, Virginia.

Sponsored by the Hanover Dragoons Camp #827, Sons of Confederate Veterans.



IST YEAR REMOVE 1/3 OLDEST





EXAMPLES TO REMOVE ON YOUR PLANTS

ALWAYS CUT ON A SLIGHT SLANT ABOVE NODE.

To Prune or Not to Prune

By Carol Russo, Patrick and takes longer to sterilize. **County Master Gardener**

Have you ever thought pruning could be as important as planting or growing?

Well- I have to say yes! I was given a pair of handheld bypass pruners in 1985, and I have used them with great success ever since.

Pruning your plants gives them an extra boost for health and wellness to bloom and fruit more vigorously.

Pruning can be done seasonally, depending on what you are pruning and why.

The first reason to prune any time of year is safety, often requiring a professional to remove debris

from storm damage. The second situation would be disease or insect damage, which can be done as needed. When pruning out these infected areas-PLEASE- make a habit of sanitizing your tool(s) after each cut. Cut the stem 2"-3" below the diseased area to give it a healthy heal then sanitize your tool. I use any 70% or higher hand sanitizer gel and a rag. I put 3-4 drops on a rag and completely wipe down the blades, carefully. Then I let it dry for 15-20 seconds, and I am ready to go with the next cut. For me, this is safer for plants and tools than bleach which is corrosive to tools

The third reason would be to manage flowers or fruit. Thinning is another technique used to improve the quality and size of fruit. Please check your almanac for timing and variety. Flowers like dahlias will give you larger dish-sized blooms if you pinch off some of the buds to focus strength on those

buds left on the plants. Trimming is used mostly for shaping your plant, tree or shrub. There are certain plants that are trained with specific shapes such as spirals or pom poms that require this type of pruning. Other reasons trimming may be required is alongside a walkway or in front of windows. I am not a big fan of general trimming, such as individual shrubs, because over time these plants grow into a shaped shell with no inner growth. You can correct this over time by making 'hidden cuts' into the plant about a third of

the way into the shrub. By pruning 5 or 6 branches down to a joint once every couple of years this stimulates new growth by letting light and air in. Please keep in mind not to trim during extreme heat or drought.

Having the right tools can help make your pruning job easier and

(See Prune p. 14)

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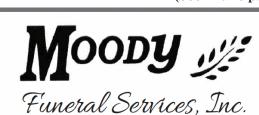
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Terri S. Wood, Manager

PATRICK PULPITS

Now What?

By Luke Moore

High Point Baptist Church

Another Easter has come and gone. The food was great, the sunrise service was stirring, and it was (hopefully) nice to get together with family and friends to celebrate. We solemnly remembered our Lord's death on the cross and we rejoiced in His resurrection. But now what? Do we just go back to work and wait for Memorial Day to roll around to give another occasion for cookouts and get-togethers?

After Jesus' death and resurrection, I believe the disciples had the same question. Somehow, the magnitude of the crucifixion and the joy of seeing their friend and Savior alive again seemed to fade very quickly. Peter, apparently not knowing what to do next, told the other disciples, "I am going fishing" (John 21:3). I cannot blame Peter for this mundane decision after so great an occasion. When we're not sure what to do next, we often revert to the last thing we knew to do. Peter was a fisherman, so he went fishing. When we finish celebrating and reflecting on Jesus' death and resurrection, we go back to the monotony of our everyday lives. Now what?

for us, Jesus did not let that questhe gospel accounts of the events appearing of the glory of our great of Jesus' life on earth end with Mark, we get the Great Commis- on our behalf and the promise of 20). In Luke, we see instructions mission He has given us. to the disciples that are continued In John, after Peter returns from enduring all suffering, because of couragement and mission for Peter in Jesus.

(John 21:15- 19). Despite Jesus' declaration on the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30) and despite the finality of the resurrection and the defeat of death itself, there is still more to come.

Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, His followers now have work to do. The first task at hand is the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:19-20). In Jesus' final instructions recorded in Acts, He tells His disciples, "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (1:8). Now that Easter has passed, we need to "Go." We need to be teaching His Word in our homes, in our community, in our nation, and in our

How do we do this work, knowing that it will bring persecution and suffering in this world? For one, we look back to the cross. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to "fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross...". Fortunately for His disciples and We also look forward to the second coming of Jesus. Paul in Titus 2:13 tion linger for too long. None of calls this our "blessed hope - the God and Savior Jesus Christ." Bethe resurrection. In Matthew and cause of His willingness to suffer sion (Matt. 28:16-20, Mark 16:14- His return, we can endure in the

So, now that Easter has passed, in Acts with a similar Commis- we need to work: to make disciples sion (Luke 24:45-49, Acts 1:7-8). of all nations. And we can do so, fishing, we see a very specific en- the example and the hope we have

BIBLE TRIVIA

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

2. At the Last Supper, which disciple protested against having his feet washed by Jesus? Peter, Andrew, Bartholomew, Judas

3. What golden graven image did the Israelites dance in front of? Calf, Ox, Horse, Camel

4. Who primarily made the golden graven image in the above question? Joseph. Michal, Lot, Aaron

5. From Revelations 13:18. what's the number of the beast? 7, 13, 666, 777

6. In John 18:38. who asked, "What is truth"? Pilate, Martha, Joel, Eve

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Peter, 3) Calf, 4) Aaron, 5) 666, 6) Pilate

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Reconciliation

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Bringing the World to Christ





High Strung-

(cont. from page 1)

For the May show, Lonesome during the show. Heart and Barry Collins & the Mudflappers are set to perform. June's show will feature Shelton & Williams and Jordan Morrison & the Foothill Boys.

Alley said the third upcoming event will be part of the Songwriter's Circle Series, to be held at the Star Theatre on May 17.

"We have Jerry Salley, a threetime Grammy winner from Nashville, coming. He wrote songs for Chris Stapleton and won a Grammy about a month ago on Chris" song "It Takes a Woman," he said.

Salley, a 2018 and 2019 International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) winner, has recorded approximately 300 songs during his

Roger Handy, Miller Hopkins, Barry Hutchins, and Will Hutchens are also scheduled to perform

As seating is limited, advance ticket purchase is required.

"They're cheaper to buy here at the Coffee Break than anywhere else. They're \$10 here, and the day of the show—if we have any leftthey're \$20," Alley said.

He added that some people have already called to purchase 10 to 12 tickets at a time.

"Because this guy [Salley], he's the real deal. Him and Will and Barry will do the last set together," Alley said.

Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds supporting firearm safety education for local youth.

For more information or to watch past performances, visit Facebook. com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation.

Super Crossword **RE-SOUNDING DUOS**

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53 CLONK +

BUNGLE

57 "Rashomon" director Kurosawa 58 Rate -(be judged as perfect)

59 Vamooses 60 Annoy 61 CLEANSER + SCOW 64 Norway's biggest city

66 Je ne sais 67 Finish 69 Prime draft status 71 Prefix with sphere 74 Radiance

77 PIGGY + CONCH 83 Siouan tribe 84 Successor of mono Reader (magazine)

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127 Survey info 128 "Let's wager on that' venues

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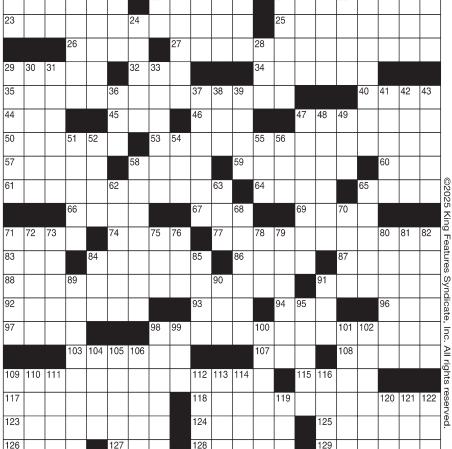
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Weekly SUDOKU

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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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Mark Pendleton

Jason Pendleton



LEGAL

568 Laurel Ridge Estate Road, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$193,325.00 dated October 17, 2022 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Patrick County on October 21, 2022 as Instrument Number: 220001897, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W Blue Ridge St, Stuart, VA 24171 on June 17, 2025 at 10:00 AM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: All that certain tract or parcel of land with all improvements thereon and appurtenances and rights of way thereunto belonging, and being in the Blue Ridge Magisterial District of Floyd County, Virginia, being Lot 13, containing 4.9142 acres, as shown on that certain plat of survey prepared by Larry G. Rakes, CLS, dated October 29, 1984, and recorded in Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, in Plat Cabinet I, Slide 15-C; and

Together with that right to use the roadways shown the aforesaid plat of survey, for ingress and egress to State Route #601, as set forth in Deed dated November 19, 1984, recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 240, Page 592.

TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 25-004567)

Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans Law Group PLLC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orlans.com The Vendor Covius Holding Services will be used in conjunction with this sale.

LEGAL

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 767 OLD FARM ROAD, ARARAT, VA 24053. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 22, 2018, in the original principal amount of \$143,200.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 180000396. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on May 19, 2025, at 3:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: THE FOLLOW-ING DESCRIBED PROPERTY SITUATED IN PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA: LYING AND BEING IN DAN RIVER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, CONTAINING 1.013 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY TITLED "PLAT OF SURVEY FOR DON COOPER AND MAXINE COOPER," DATED NOVEMBER 4, 1998, PREPARED BY D. B. DUDLEY, CLS #1125. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH.

A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-359977-2.

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - 11

Meetings

Monday, April 28

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

Tuesday, April 29

The Patrick County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will meet at 4 p.m. in the Patrick County School Board Office's conference room.

Tuesday, May 20

The Patrick County Department of Social Services (DSS) Advisory Board will meet at 4 p.m., second floor conference room, Patrick County Administration Building.

Events

Thursday, April 24

District hosts informative presentations led by industry professionals from 9-10 a.m. in the start at \$2 and will include flowers, vegetables, Community Room of Patrick & Henry Commushrubs, trees, groundcovers, and bulbs. nity College (P&HCC).

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.

The Providence United Methodist Church men's group will hold a community breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. The menu includes bacon, sausage, eggs, apples, gravy, and biscuits. Donations will help fund local mission projects.

The Patrick County Democratic Party meets at 11 a.m., the Patrick County Library in Stuart. Everyone is invited to attend.

Sunday, April 27

The Bassett Ruritan Club hosts a Bluegrass music jam from 1:30-4 p.m. Musicians are welcome to come and bring their instruments. There is no admission charge.

The Christian Bowhunters of the Blue Ridge will be hosting a 3D archery target shoot for on the third Tuesday each month at 12 p.m. amore Baptist Church, 179 Sycamore Church caregivers to attend these meetings and learn submitted to the recreation by the May 1 dead-Road, Stuart, 2 - 4 p.m. Bows and arrows are how to deal with the effects of Alzheimer's Dis-line. A copy of the 2025 adult softball rules and provided or bring your own recurve or com- ease. Literature is also available. pound bow.

Thursday, May 1

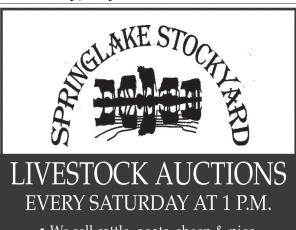
National Day of Prayer Gathering at the steps of the old courthouse in Stuart, 12-12:30

In case of rain, the venue will be the Stuart Church of Living Water (Formerly Stuart UMC).

Friday, May 2

The community food truck will be at the Woolwine SRRS from 3-4 p.m.

Saturday, May 2



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brothers in the Civil War by Tom Perry, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Ararat Ruritan Club, 4711 Ararat Highway, Ararat. Perry will discuss the lives of Major General James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart and his brothers, William Alexander Stuart, who ran the saltworks in Saltville, Virginia, and Dr. John Dabney Stuart, who served as a physician in the 54th Virginia Infantry during the War Between The States. Programs are free.

Tuesday, May 6

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce will hold a Lunch & Learn at 12 p.m. at the Patrick & Henry Community College (P&H-CC) Stuart site. The workshop will focus on pre-venture planning for entrepreneurs and it's free.

Saturday, May 10

The Patrick County Master Gardener's an-Patrick County Soil and Water Conservation nual plant sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Rotary Building in Stuart. Plants

Wednesday, May 14

The Patrick County Food Bank will distribute food at the Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 5-6:30 p.m., at the Fellowship Church in Ararat from 8-10 a.m., and starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Building in Meadows of Dan.

Friday, May 16

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

Ongoing

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

Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During opening hours an inside yard sale is open to the public. Proceeds 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 a maximum of 15 players including at least youth starting at 6 years old and adults, Syc- Both groups welcome new members and invite

The Patrick County Quilters' Sit-N-Sew is Facebook page.

Brothers In Arms: J. E. B. Stuart and his held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Quilted Colors. For more information, call 276-694-3020 or email patrickcountyquilters@ gmail.com.

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

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

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. All are also invited to church service at 11 a.m. Call (843) 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 3 females per team. Team registration fee is \$300, and the completed team roster must be team roster forms can be requested by calling (276) 694-3917 or visiting the department's



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4	7	1	6	3	5	8	2	9
3	6	5	2	9	8	7	1	4
2	3	4	8	1	6	9	5	7
5	9	8	7	2	3	1	4	6
6	1	7	5	4	9	2	3	8



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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE PETITION OF APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY PROPOSING A MINIMUM BILL, TARIFFS, AND AGREEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT A SHARED SOLAR PROGRAM PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE § 56-594.4 CASE NO. PUR-2025-00028

During its 2024 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 715, 716, 763 and 765 of the 2024 Virginia Acts of Assembly. Among other things, these Acts of Assembly amend the Code of Virginia ("Code") by adding a section numbered 56-594.4, effective July 1, 2024. Code § 56 594.4, which is applicable to Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or the "Company"), requires the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") to "establish by regulation a shared solar program that complies with the provisions of subsections B, C, D, and E by January 1, 2025, and shall require each utility to file any tariffs, agreements, or forms necessary for implementation of the program by July 1, 2025

On November 25, 2024, in Case No. PUR-2024-00122, the Commission entered an Order Adopting Regulations to implement the directives in Chapters 715, 716, 763 and 765. On December 12, 2024, the Coalition for Community Solar Access filed a Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification. On December 13, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Granting Reconsideration that: (1) continued jurisdiction over this matter to consider the Petition; and (2) suspended the Order Adopting Regulations pending the Commission's reconsideration. On February 10, 2025, the Commission issued an Order on Reconsideration in Case No. PUR-2024-00122 that unsuspends the Order Adopting Regulations, thus finalizing the new shared solar rules, effective February 14, 2025.

Pursuant to Code § 56-594.4 D, the Commission must establish a minimum bill for APCo, which shall:

include the costs of all utility infrastructure and services used to provide electric service and administrative costs of the shared solar program. The Commission may modify the minimum bill over time. In establishing the minimum bill, the Commission shall (i) consider further costs the Commission deems relevant to ensure subscribing customers pay a fair share of the costs of providing electric services, (ii) minimize the costs shifted to customers not in a shared solar program, and (iii) calculate the benefits of shared solar to the electric grid and to the Commonwealth and deduct such benefits from other costs.

On February 10, 2025, the Commission entered an order in this proceeding that, among other things, directed APCo to file a minimum bill proposal on or before April 1, 2025. On April 1, 2025, APCo filed its petition proposing a minimum bill ("Petition") as directed by the Commission. In addition to a proposed minimum bill rate of \$48.66 per 1,000 kWh, the Petition includes several tariff schedules that the Company requests the Commission approve, including the Company's proposed (i) Subscriber Tariff (Schedule SSP-S); (ii) Subscriber Organization Tariff (Schedule SSP-SO); (iii) Subscriber Organization Coordination Agreement; and (iv) Subscriber Organization

According to the Petition, the Company largely followed the methodology approved by the Commission for Virginia Electric and Power Company in Case No. PUR-2020-00125. The Company states that in that proceeding, the Commission found that the minimum bill should include certain fixed and volumetric costs. APCo states that the Company includes as fixed costs the Customer Charge and the Administrative Charge. APCo proposes that the existing Customer Charge apply from the applicable tariff under which a customer takes service. The Company explains that it set the Administrative Charge to \$1.00, as it is currently in the process of determining the necessary work to reprogram its customer information and billing systems to accommodate the shared solar

APCo states that the Company includes as proposed volumetric costs: (1) Statutorily Non-Bypassable Generation Charges; (2) Base Distribution Charges; (3) Distribution RAC Charges; (4) Base Transmission Charges; and (5) Transmission RAC charges. APCo explains that the Company did not propose Base Transmission Charges, as those charges are not included in the Company's tariffs.

APCo asserts that its proposed minimum bill also includes five Non-Bypassable charges, which are statutorily mandated: Rider Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP); Rider Broadband Capacity (BC) Rate Adjustment Clause (RAC); Rider RPS Compliance A.5; Rider PCAP Capacity A.5; and Rider Renewables Capacity A.6. Additionally, APCO explains that its proposed minimum bill includes base distribution charges from the applicable tariff under which a customer takes service, including the Rider Energy Efficiency RAC and the Company's Transmission RAC for transmission charges.

The Company states that prior to the consideration of benefits, the Company's proposed gross minimum bill equals \$89.25 for a customer who uses 1,000 kWh of grid electricity per month and subscribes for the same

The Company asserts that it calculated benefits consistent with how the benefits of utility-scale, distributioninterconnected solar facilities have been presented to and approved by the Commission in the past. The Company proposes to include credits for shifted PJM Interconnection, LLC ("PJM") zonal transmission costs, avoided loadbased ancillary service costs, and Renewable Energy Certificates ("REC") generated by the shared solar facilities, which would be used to comply with the Company's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard obligations under the Virginia Clean Economy Act. APCo proposes that the REC credit on the minimum bill be the renewable energy premium charge in Optional Rider W.W.S. for each applicable subscriber's schedule.

For the proposed shifted transmission and ancillary services credit on the minimum bill, the Company proposes to use the avoided cost rates for transmission and ancillary services that it calculated and proposed in the Company's ongoing net metering case, Case No. PUR-2024-00161. To calculate the proposed transmission benefit, the Company states that it compared the average hourly monthly load profile of a typical residential customer with the average hourly generation profile of a representative solar array. The Company explains that it divided the average avoided transmission credit component, which is based on the Annual Network Integration Transmission Rates for the AEP Transmission Zone, by the total net excess generation to produce the proposed credit rate. The Company states that it based its proposed ancillary service cost component rate on its actual 2023 PJM Ancillary Services charges.

In sum, the Company states that it determined the total proposed shared solar benefits to be \$40.59 per ,000 kWh. The resultant minimum bill (net of benefits) the Company proposes in the Petition is thus \$48.66 per 1,000 kWh. According to the Petition, the proposed \$48.66 minimum bill minimizes cost shifts to non-participating customers by appropriately compensating shared solar subscribers for the benefits provided by shared solar facilities while ensuring those subscribers contribute their fair share towards the Company's cost of providing retail electric service.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents in full for additional details.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo's Petition. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company's Petition shall be convened telephonically by the Commission at 10 a.m. on June 9, 2025. On or before May 27, 2025, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting/; or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141 to register. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting/. witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting/.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on June 9, 2025, the Commission will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On June 9, 2025, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff ("Staff").

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the Company's Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Andrew J. Flavin, Troutman Pepper Locke LLP, 1001 Haxall Point, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or andy:flavin@troutman.com. Interested persons may also download unofficial copies of the Petition and the public versions of other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/

On or before May 27, 2025, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia. 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00028.

On or before May 1, 2025, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company, any other respondents and Staff electronically as described above. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00028. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before May 12, 2025, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/ clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00028.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Rules of Practice.

The Company's Petition, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and the public versions of other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

River Ranger Buckets available for use on the Mayo River Trail









cased at the Kids Trout fishing day on the Mayo River Trail. The buckets are now available for budding ecologists to explore life in the river. They contain everything needed to catch and identify macroinvertebrates from the river bottom. The buckets can be found near the little free library on the Mayo Riv-

Borrow them, explore the river and return for other ecologists to use. Many interested children stopped by the table to learn about how macroin-

River Rangers buckets were show- vertebrates are indicators of the health of the Mayo River. The excitement of catching trout and learning about macros overshadowed the windy, chilly

> The River Ranger program was developed by Rebecca Adcock, director of Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, and funded by an Eco Ambassador grant through the Dan River Basin Association. The kits were assembled by Southwest Piedmont Virginia Master Naturalists Julie Currier and Norma Bozenmayer, and the kiosk rack for



the buckets was built by Kurt Bozen-

Plans are being made to expand this

program to other parks. For more information on River Rangers, email director@patrickchamber.com.

School Board

(cont. from page 1)

cern that we really need to address," he added.

He said improving the track could also help student-athletes who receive college scholarships.

\$280,000 is allocated for replacing light poles at the PCHS baseball field.

"We had the inspection of the light poles at the aseball field, and it has been suggested and recommended we replace those because there are holes in those light poles as well. As you recall, I shared when they took the light poles down at the stadium, several of them broke because they were that weak," Wood said.

Fixing drainage issues at the PCHS softball field.

"This is where it was built on a retention pond, and so the soil compaction—and actually the water-sometimes will swell from underneath and make little humps and mounds out in the outfield and things," Wood said. "It's an issue just where they placed it. It needs some drainage and maybe some new topsoil and things like that.'

\$230,000 in end-of-year funds will be used to apply epoxy coating over tile flooring at Patrick Springs Primary School, instead of replacing the tile.

"In the construction assistant grant, we got 30 percent of that from grant funds. While the company's here, we're going to look and see the cost of what it would be," Wood said, adding that the estimate is based on square footage.

Scott raised concerns about long-term use of one-percent funds.

"If we're not careful, we're going to be begging for money to replace a roof. And \$680,000—is it a big enough safety concern that we would ask the board of supervisors to give us \$80,000 to do this? Is it that bad," he asked.

Rob Martin, of the Dan River District, said, "We're the only track around that's an asphalt

Scott asked what was wrong with asphalt. Wood said there are cracks, which is why it would be re-

Martin said he has heard concerns from multiple parents.

"If we didn't have the one percent, yeah, I'd definitely be wanting to ask. I've had numerous parents concerned about it from different districts. Some of the things I've heard is the other programs get attention besides the track program," he said.

Martin also noted that PCHS students run the mile twice a semester in P.E. on the track. "It would also be for the students too," he added.

Shannon Harrell, of the Blue Ridge District, said she's also heard from concerned parents and a student about the track's safety risks.

"I think it's important for morale and just for students to get to host events. You know with tennis, they weren't getting to host and now they get to host, and I think that's important," she said.

Scott said he supports projects that address safety concerns, like the light poles, but questioned the



Hardin Reynolds Memorial School (HRMS) Jr. BETA winners.

cost of the track.

"If we're just wanting to do a rubber track to run on, they run on pavement everywhere. Everywhere you go. I mean, go out here and look—they run down this sidewalk, it's concrete," he said. "I just have an issue spending that kind of money on something we could probably fix for a lot less money.'

He added that most other projects funded by the

one-percent had some grant support. "So, this here is 100 percent one-percent money. There's no grant involved. Then you look over at Blue Ridge School—just about 30 percent of that

was a grant," Scott said. **Budget Update and Insurance Payment**

During the meeting, Wood said the school division is expected to lose \$667,228 in funding for FY 2025-26. He attributed the loss to the General As-

sembly's revised calculation tool. "I talked to the county administrator (Beth Simms) today and let her know that the ADM (Average Daily Membership) has come in and the amount of local funding that they would have to provide us has decreased by \$280,136," he said.

The division will also lose \$387,092 in state funding due to the changes.

Wood said he also discussed insurance payments

"When the county and school division used to be combined with insurance and split, there was some

deficit from a lack of premium payments," he said. In the first year of the split, Wood said the division contributed \$150,000 to the county on March

31 as a payment toward its share of the deficit. "Last year, again March 31 came around, we told

the county this is how much less you owe us, and not that I expected or can dictate what they do,

however they did not apply any of those statements to the deficit. So, the deficit is still there, and it's negatively affecting our school's renewal rates," he The county still owes \$282,269.94 to Jefferson

Health Plan, the division's insurance provider, for

run-out claims and premiums.

Wood said he spoke with Simms, "and she was in agreement that instead of us sending them the money back — or in essence them not providing us the money — we're going to keep the funds and make that payment for the county. Truly it's funds back to them, but we're making a payment to Jefferson Health to" fix the "2023 bill that they owe

our insurance carrier," he said. Since the amount is \$2.133.94 above the difference in the Required Local Match (RLM), Wood said he informed Simms that it will be deducted from the division's next School Resource Officer

(SRO)/Grant Writer reimbursement. 'So, we would be at a zero balance of what they should give to meet Required Local Effort and what we're doing to offset their outstanding bill for our health insurance," he said.

Martin asked whose decision it was for the county to leave the health insurance agency. Wood said the county chose to separate for insurance purpos-

"We have been very diligent in the school system to pay down that deficit, and definitely by making this contribution through their outstanding bill, we as a school system will no longer have an insurance deficit, which will help our future renewal rates,"

By eliminating the insurance deficit, he added, the division will be in a better position to negotiate

Also at the meeting, the board:

*Heard the superintendent's report.

*Approved the consent agenda.

*Approved the 2025 Federal IDEA Annual Plan/ Part B Flow Through Application.

*Adopted the secondary math textbooks as pre-*Recognized Virginia School Board Association

(VSBA) Regional Art contest winner Midori Way-

*Recognized Jr. BETA winners from Hardin

Reynolds Memorial School (HRMS). *Approved the personnel report as amended.

Fiddle legend Don Rierson shines at acoustic jam ahead of 87th birthday celebration



Left to right: Don Rierson, Dan Shikenjanski, Dot Shikenjanski, Alan Cray, Sue Nester. (Photos by Mary Dellenback Hill, Representative, Dan River District, Patrick County Tourism

The Friday Night Acoustic Open erson and presented a short biogra-Jam on April 18 attracted perform- phy. Rierson has played nine years ers that included Don Rierson on the on the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, fiddle. He is seated on the left, play- TN, and some on the TV Series Hee ing solo. Les Edgell introduced Ri- Haw. Rierson has been one of the



Left to right: Jake Brewer, Sue Nester, Daryl Atkins, seated Ed Dalton, Dot Shikenjanski, and Jack Holt.

regular volunteers for several years. and North Carolina.

The Friday Night Acoustic Open Also in the circle of the usual mu- Jam on April 25 at 144 The Hollow sicians was Sue Nester, of Wildwood Road, Ararat, will include a birth-Farms in Floyd. Nester is a well- day celebration to mark Rierson 's known singer/musician in Virginia 87th birthday. Cake and coffee will be served.

ONLINE AUCTION

Large Land Tract and Pond for Sale in Stuart VA ONLINE AUCTION ENDS THURSDAY, MAY 15TH, AT 4 PM **TBD Scenic Dr., Stuart, VA 24171 Bid NOW at VAAuctionPro.com**

Have you been searching for a large land tract Stuart, VA? Look no further than this +/ 145.27 acre prope<u>rty</u> that is being sold through an online auction. This property features mostly wooded land, a large 11.6 acre pond, a picnic shelter and several building sites. Trails wind throughout, making this tract of land perfect for <u>outdoor adventure and a prime hunting retreat.</u> This parcel presents an excellent opportunity for recreational development or the establishment of a new country home.



At the center of the expansive property lies a stunning 11.6 acre pond. This large, serene body of water is perfect for fishing, boating, or simply enjoying peaceful waterfront views. Adjacent to the pond, a well-constructed picnic shelter provides a fantastic space for hosting outdoor events. Equipped with a full bathroom and a full kitchen, it offers a unique business opportunity for event hosting or simply a beautifu space for personal gatherings.

Property has road frontage on Scenic Dr and access from Mountain View Loop by a 50 ft right of way. The wooded land makes for great seclusion and privacy, while the property is conve niently located just off of Route 58. Route 58 provides easy access to Patrick Springs, Stuart Martinsville, Hillsville, the VA/NC_state line, and other surrounding cities. Do not miss you chance on this large land tract in Patrick County VA!

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$20,000 is required on the day of sale. Close on or before June 30th, 2025, Subject to seller confirmation, Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on May 15th, 2025. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received, Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

CONTACT: Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Booie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email BooieD@yahoo.com

102 S. Locust Street, Floyd, VA 24901 Lic#2907004059 (540) 745-2005 VAAuctionPro.com



Blue Ridge Land & Auctior

Prune

(cont. from page 8)

more successful.

* Hand held or bypass pruners (my favorite) have a curved upper and lower blade. They cut like scissors and can prune up to a

3/4" diameter stem. A good pair can vary in price from \$15 - \$20.

- * Lopping shears are basically long handled bypass pruners, but they can cut up to a 2" diameter branch
- Manual hedge shears have one long straight blade and one toothed blade with short handles that require both handles to open learned overnight- I am still learnand close for cutting. The toothed blade makes it easier to trim woody plants. The electric models are easier to use but can leave ragged and poorly placed cuts on the plants. Keeping manual shears sharpened can greatly improve the growth of your plant and also make it easier
- saws, chainsaws, and pole pruners for more specific jobs. If you use these tools, please wear propfessional.
- * Another tool I find very usescissors. They run about the same price as the bypass pruners and are terrific for cutting flowers, vegeta-

bles and herbs. They're also great for cleaning up and cutting back dead flowers.

The other reasons to prune Spring or Fall are to remove sucker shoots coming up from the roots next to the plant, branches that are crossing or rubbing against each other, and water sprouts that develop on an old cut. All of these issues can weaken or misshape your plant, so helping to keep them pruned will improve their health.

Pruning is not something that is ing- but as we continue planting and growing, we find that working with our plants and maintaining them really does help bring out the best in them. Pruning should not be a chore, but a tool to give our plants the best opportunity to grow.

Don't forget to tune into WHEO Radio, 92.7 FM or 1270 AM on * There are bow saws, folding April 22nd to hear the Master Gardeners' discussion on Pruning.

The Master Gardeners' Annual Spring Plant Sale will be held at er safety gear and use equipment The Rotary Club at 264 Woodland safely. When in doubt, call a pro- Dr. on Saturday, May 10, from 8 am - 12 pm. See you there!

If you have any gardening quesful is a good sturdy pair of garden tions or would like to see what we are up to, please email us at pcmgassn@gmail.com.

Happy Planting!



WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET



Join Us for the Strawberry Festival 5K Saturday, May 17th, 2025 Starts at 8am

Registration: \$25 – through May 9th \$20 (ages 5-17) - through May 9th **Price increases by \$5 May 10th through race day**

Location: Race starts at Patrick & Henry Community College and runs through the Town of Stuart.

All proceeds from this race will directly benefit the patients of Caring Hearts Free Clinic with medical, dental, and other health services!



FREE CLINIC

Registered runners will receive a t-shirt, medal and other prizes. All others will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Register TODAY online at runsignup.com or email christie.fain@caringheartsclinic.org for a registration form. Call 276-694-3410 with any questions!

