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

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Calendar

USPS 523-500 **\$1.00**

Vol. 149 No. 23 Website: www.theenterprise.net STUART, VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025

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



The Patrick County Board of Supervisors approved the fiscal year 2025-26 budget in a 3-2 vote.

Board adopts spending plan; increases Transient Occupancy Tax by 1%

By Taylor Boyd

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors adopted its Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget and approved a 1% increase to the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) at its Tuesday, May 27, meeting.

The board approved the \$76,020,616 budget in a 3–2 vote. Chairman Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District: Steve Marshall, of the Blue

River District, voted in favor. Vice Chairman for the Patrick Promise by \$15,000. Andrew Overby, of the Dan River District, and Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, voted against.

The approximately \$126.676 budget deficit will be covered using the county's reserve funds.

Before approving the budget, the board voted unanimously to reduce its contribution to the Ridge District; and Doug Perry, of the Smith Patrick County Education Foundation (PCEF)

The board also approved increasing the TOT from 5% to 6% in a 3-2 vote. Perry, Overby, and Wood supported the motion, while Marshall and Kendrick opposed it.

When people visit the county, Perry said he knows they expect a certain level of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

(See Spending Plan p. 14)

Construction advances on U.S. 58; new widening project slated

By Taylor Boyd

As the U.S. 58 Lover's Leap expansion project nears completion, a new project to widen 4.5 miles of Route 58 in the Vesta area is preparing to begin.

Virginia Department Transportation (VDOT) Communications Manager Jason Bond said the U.S. 58 expansion project is 70 percent complete.

"At this point, all of what we would call the deep drainage has been completed. Those are the pipes that are beneath the road sometimes deep, deep beneath the road—so all of the drainage pipes beneath the road have been put in," he

Approximately 7 million cubic yards of the



estimated 9 million cu- bic yards of excavation has been completed.

"The blasting that has been impacting

traffic is expected to wrap up late summer. Drivers can expect throughout the remainder of the project from late summer on, there will be traffic switches, traffic shifts, as traffic will be put on new sections of the roadway as they con-

tinue to work," he said. Bond said the contractor's current schedule shows the project won't be completed until fall 2026.

"They've got time, and they're trying to make up some time between now and then to get the project back (on track) this summer, so they've got another year plus. They're still working toward trying to make up some time to keep it on track for summer, but right now they're showing fall,"

(See U.S. 58 p. 2)



Garry Clifton celebrated 34 years of service in the Blue Ridge Regional Library system with a retirement party on Thursday, May 29.

Clifton retires after 34 years with Blue Ridge Library System

By Taylor Boyd

After 34 years of service in the Blue Ridge Regional Library system and 32 years at the Patrick County Library, Garry Clifton retired at the end of May.

Clifton served as the bookmobile driver and librarian for 20 years and as the Patrick County branch

manager for 12 years. Throughout his tenure, Clifton feels he achieved all his major goals, including the creation of the Storytime Castle for youngsters and the over, I imagine we will do a few purchase of a new bookmobile.

"It's the right time. It's great to think about being able to do things while you can do it—get up and get down," he said.

Noting that he and his wife both retired last month, Clifton said they are currently serving as caregivers

to their elderly dog. "When he passes, we have a little chihuahua that's going like, 'Okay, what's going on? I need somebody. So, it's going to be a transitional period, but once everything smooths

(See Clifton p. 2)

Stuart Beach Music Festival returns June 12–14

By Taylor Boyd

The 43rd annual Stuart Beach Music Festival is set to be held Thursday, June 12, through Saturday, June 14, at Wayside Park in Stuart.

Wayne Kirkpatrick said beach music bands are invited to perform during the three-day event.

On Thursday, The Castaways will take the stage. The Part Time Party Band and Special Occasion Band will perform on Friday.

The Holiday Band, The North camp at Wayside Park. Tower, Gary Lowder and Smokin'

Hot!, and Jim Quick and Coastline are scheduled to perform all day Saturday. DJ What!, a local personality, will entertain the crowd between sets.

"On Thursday, the music runs Stuart Rotary Club member from 6 p.m. to about 9 or 10 (p.m.), depending on how long the band wants to play. Again, on Friday, it runs on the same hours. Then on Saturday, we have more bands there, and that runs from noon to 11 p.m. or so," Kirkpatrick said.

Kirkpatrick said many attendees

Scott unopposed in school board bid

By Taylor Boyd

Walter Scott, incumbent, is seeking a third term as the Smith River District representative on the Patrick County School Board in the Nov. 4 election.

He is currently running unop-

Scott, 59, said he decided to seek reelection because he wants to do his part to ensure all of the division's schools stay open.

"With the declining enrollment, the monies go down, and I want to do my part to ensure that we don't

wind up closing a school. That's always been a concern in any rural area is closing a school," he said. To help with this effort, Scott said

he wants to ensure the division's money is spent conservatively. So, "we don't wind up closing a

school due to reckless spending," he



Walter Scott is unopposed in his bid for the Patrick County School Board.

added.

In his third term, Scott said he wants to address the issue at Har-

(See Scott p. 4)

(cont. from page 1)





According to a February release, the Commonwealth Transportation Board awarded a design-build contract to Triton Construction Inc. worth approximately \$165 million for the 4.5-mile widening project.

The project will begin near the U.S. 58 Business eastern intersection in Meadows of Dan and end about 0.5 miles east of Virginia

610, or Cloudbreak Road.

"In addition to widening Route 58 from two lanes to four lanes, the project includes replacing the existing bridge over the Dan River with two new bridges. The Vesta project adjoins the Lover's Leap widening project that is currently under construction," the release stated.

Bond said Triton Construction has started roads and brush cutting.

taking soil samples and gathering additional data to work on the road design.

"They have not finished the design, and they won't have a public meeting probably until sometime early next year to talk about their plan to execute the work and the people that would be impacted by it," he said.

Residents may notice temporary access

Clifton

(cont. from page 1)



Blue Ridge Regional Library Director Rick Ward (left) celebrated with Garry Clifton (right) on his retirement.

things," he said.

Clifton also plans to resume doing artwork and enjoy literature from the other side—by writing it.

"I don't think I'll be Martin Clark level, but I do enjoy that," he said.

During his retirement, Clifton said he will miss the sense of community the library pro-

vides the most. "It's seeing everybody on a regular schedule and catching up with people. That's kind of how it was on the bookmobile. The bookmobile was like a little community center, and the library's kind of like that too. Of course, I'll still be coming in for the books, and I'll probably have to restrain myself from answering questions when I

come walking through," he said.

Clifton said he is pleased to leave the library in the hands of the current staff, as he believes staff members are what make a library special.

"I mean, you can have a small library and excellent staff, and it's better than a giant library with bad staff, right? So, we've got great staff to carry on, and they have the right attitude—not just public service but community. Any one of



A cake and well wishes from friends and acquaintances marked Clifton's last day as director of the Patrick County Branch Library.

these people would do anything for a patron, and I couldn't be happier with that," he said.

He added the library is a little jewel of Pat-

"We see people when they first come into the county. They buy their house, they find out where this is, where that is, and then they find out where the library is. So, they come in and they go, 'Wow, what a library for a little town,' and they are impressed," he said.

In a May Facebook post, Clifton said he has always considered himself the custodian of the library, ensuring it continues to be what the community needs.

"The library is a living, breathing thing. It's really quite magical. The library grows and transforms into what the community needs. To be in charge of something that provides services to everyone from the newborn to the senior citizen is almost overwhelming at times. If we're doing it correctly, the library has something to offer everyone," he said in the post.

Since Clifton is set to retire at the end of



Rebecca Adcock, chairman of the Patrick County Library Board, presented Garry Clifton with a plaque recognizing his 32 years as branch manager of the Patrick County

June, Blue Ridge Regional Library Director Rick Ward said he guesses Clifton's retirement "is okay."

"We're the same age, and we've both been here a long time. He's been great. I mean, he blew my doors off when he took over because he took over from me. But he came in and did a lot of things that I hadn't really thought of doing, so I give him all the credit. I just have to pat myself on the back for making a good choice,"

While he believes the library system is losing a good librarian with Clifton's retirement. Ward said he believes Somer Luna-Ojodeagua will do well in her new role as branch manager.

DMV warns customers of text scam

Did you get a text about an overdue traffic personal information via text." ticket charge? It's likely a scam. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles is alerting customers about a new text scam where fraudsters pose as Virginia DMV and falsely claim you owe money for unpaid fines.

In the text message, the scammers urgently tell you to pay a fine to avoid having your license and registration suspended and include a link in the message. Clicking that link could result in your personal information being stolen, making you a victim of this scam.

"The DMV will never send you text messages demanding payment for fines or fees," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey. "We urge our customers to be vigilant and avoid sending your

Here are some tips from the Federal Trade Commission on how to avoid falling for a text scam like this:

Don't click on any links in, or respond to, unexpected texts. Scammers want you to react quickly, but it's best to stop and check it out.

Check to see if the text is legit. Reach out to the agency using a phone number or website you know is real — not the info from the text.

Report and delete unwanted text messages. Use your phone's "report junk" option to report unwanted texts to your messaging app or forward them to 7726 (SPAM). Once you've checked it out and reported it, delete the text.

You can also report

Pets of the Week





adorable kittens and dogs at the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter urgently in need of homes.

can also go separately. tions. Such cute siblings.

tens are pouring into the shelter. Kitties are

best in pairs. They all loving home. Call the

6259, visit the shelter's Facebook page, to find information about these and other available pets in need of a forever home. Adop-These two sweet dog- tion fees are \$10 and gy sisters would love include free spay/neuto stay together, but ter and rabies vaccina-The Blue Ridge An-

Lots and lots of kit- imal Welfare League provides pet food assistance and information about low-cost spay/ deserve a permanent neuter services; we are always in need of pet Patrick food donations. Contact County Public Animal blueridgeawl@gmail. Shelter at (276) 694- com for details.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET





Music

(cont. from page 1)

"We have a lot of people come in and stay for multiple days to enjoy the festival. There are groups of campers that meet there every year like a family reunion, and they just have a really good time for the three days of the festival," he said.

Kirkpatrick said the event typically draws 2,700 to 2,900 people

"We're trying to get past 3,000 people" this year, he said.

Advance tickets are available through June 6. They can be purchased at Patrick County Tourism and select retail locations, including the Circle K stores in Patrick County, Martinsville, Ridgeway, Floyd, and Hillsville, as



Advance tickets to the Stuart Beach Music Festival can be purchased at various retail

well as Olde Mill Music, Village Spa in Collinsville, and online at Eventbrite.

Regular tickets will still be available online and at the gate after

A new feature for campers this year is a shuttle bus service on Friday that will give visitors a chance to explore the county.

The shuttle will make stops in Downtown/Uptown Stuart, Lovers Leap, and Meadows of Dan.

There will be 10 round-trip shuttle runs, with scheduled stops throughout the day. Buses will not return for latecomers.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/StuartBeachMusicFestival or www.beachfestival.com.

Broadband updates presented at board meeting



Prater said the majority of Charter's projects are nearly complete

By Taylor Boyd

Representatives from the De- RiverStreet Chief Operating Officer (COO) partment of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Office of Broadband, Appalachian Power (AEP), RiverStreet Networks, and Charter Communications provided a broadband update at an April 14 Patrick County Board of Supervisors

In 2019, DHCD Office of Broadband Director Dr. Tamarah Holmes said the department funded a broadband engineering study and design for the county.

'We really see this as a precursor to the county really getting into applying for broadband funding from the DHCD," she said.

In 2020, the county applied for and received a grant of almost \$800,000 to expand fixed wireless through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) program. Although the grant agreement was supposed to last one year, the project was can-

"The project was canceled because the year in which you were all going received on that one for make-ready to get started in actually have fixed work," Mann said. wireless within the county, we got a huge plus up in funding for the program," she said.

Instead, RiverStreet Networks, the wireless partner, and the county leadership at the time decided to pursue the more reliable wireline connection.

"At that point it was agreed upon by the county and the county administrator at the time as well as River-Street to look at doing a fiber build. So, that's when you all transition from what would have been a full county-wide wireless project to looking at a county fiber project," Holmes

In 2022, Patrick County received a \$2.9 million VATI grant with matching funds for a Charter Communications project. It also received funding for a \$100 million regional project that includes several neighboring

"That project was awarded with RiverStreet. That project started in September 2022 getting under contract with us, and the project is slated to be done in 2026," she said.

Holmes said the county also applied for another grant with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) to focus on regional broadband coverage. River-Street is undertaking that project.

"In 2023 that project actually allows you all to get as close as possible to universal coverage in the county. That grant just got underway in February of last year and is slated to end around the same time as your 2022 grant," she said.

The final grant mentioned is the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant, a \$700,000 award from ARC.

"It's a total grant of \$1.5 million including match," Holmes said.

Holmes then provided summaries

Appalachian Power

of the individual broadband projects: With the VA3 project, which en-



Michael Brown said most of its construction will begin in 2026.

Franklin counties, AEP External Affairs Manager Rob Mann said there are still about 2.17 miles remaining, with 118.59 fiber miles completed.

In Patrick County, the Stella project is nearly complete, with 26.99 miles finished out of 30.10 total miles.

The 24-mile Stuart-Floyd project "is just kicking off this week, so you'll see some activity in the area. Stuart-Willis Gap Patrick have construction prints with the contractor, and there are some challenges getting the permit applications approved, so that one in particular has been resubmitted," he said.

Construction prints for the 13.90mile Dobyns-Patrick project are in progress, and AEP will need to apply for permits.

"On our distribution make-ready work, if you pay attention to the Stuart Floyd the permit has been

The Point of Presence (POP) site will be located on AEP-owned property in Woolwine.

"Foundation has been poured, and we're expecting delivery of that shelter at the end of this month," he said.

In Patrick County, Mann said 386 poles will be replaced and 338 will be reconfigured.

"It's quite a bit of work once the review process goes in and the engineering design to make sure the infrastructure's able to handle the new fiber, there's a lot of work that goes into that," he said.

Mann said the Stella area is about 90 percent complete, while the other areas are at zero percent completion.

"We got work to do in Patrick County, so no other miles completed. As far as the total miles in Patrick County that needs to be completed to be built out, it's 143.2, and out of that currency 30 miles have been completed, so there's still 113 miles that needs to be constructed for fiber," he said.

Fiber construction in the Stuart-Willis Gap area is slated to start in the spring, while construction for the Dobyns, Pole Bridge, and Elamsville areas is expected to begin in the

The permitting process with the Blue Ridge Parkway remains a significant challenge.

'We do have a Parkway permit that's been submitted, but still has a review-type status for that," Mann

AEP is working with RiverStreet on a weekly basis to coordinate splicing designs to ensure both companies can connect their networks effectively.

"It's a lot of work to come, but we've got a lot of folks working on this project currently and it's got a lot of attention within APCo's lead-

ership," he said. RiverStreet Networks RiverStreet Chief Operating Offi-

compasses Patrick, Henry, and cer (COO) Michael Brown said work-



Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Office of Broadband Director Dr. Tamarah Holmes gave an overall broadband update at the Monday, April 14 Patrick County Board of Supervisors

ing alongside AEP to connect fiber lines has required some engineering changes, such as adjustments to the type or size of fiber used.

The result of that is we kind of had to redesign the network a little bit and put in a lot more electronic stations throughout the network than we normally do. In Patrick County, we'd normally have four or five remote stations. In this particular case we're up to 12 that we're needing to be able to provide coverage throughout the county," he said.

Brown said the Patrick County project is part of a larger effort spanning 15 counties in southern Virgin-

"What that means is we allow the capability of being able to connect traffic within your network, it produces latency, and gives a lot better connection times, we even have a lot more resiliency and everything else within the network to be able to do that," he said.

RiverStreet is under contract to serve about 8,800 locations in Patrick County. It has also submitted Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program applications that could expand its service area if approved.

Brown acknowledged the difficulty of bringing broadband into Patrick County due to geographic and logistical challenges.

"As we've been working with our AEP partners trying to get from Gretna all the way over to the farther edge like Woolwine and some of these locations it's a little bit challenging because it's quite a distance to go. Working with AEP, we've also looked at trying to come up from Stokes County in North Carolina, and that is a faster pathway to success so that's what we've chosen to do," he said.

The first two routes RiverStreet plans to establish are Shingle Shop and Nettle Ridge.

"Our fiber, one of the routes is already through the state line coming from North Carolina and the other is under construction at this time. We also already have the engineering and permitting underway to be able to extend those from the state line up into these two remote locations," he said

This work constitutes phase one of projected four-phase project.

Phase two will use AEP's fiber to extend service from Stuart to Woolwine and Bassett, and over to Elamsville, involving 178 miles of fiber and serving 1,245 locations in Woolwine

and 964 in Elamsville. Construction for phase two is expected to start in the first quarter of



Appalachian Power (AEP) External Affairs Manager Rob Mann said work in the Stella area is almost complete.

Brown emphasized that the phases will not be completed strictly sequen-

"It doesn't mean that it's a waterfall," he said. "Actually a lot of these will be in parallel. As much as we possibly can we're staging them to kind of as AEP completes their fiber we're trying to make sure that we're coming right behind them and being able to build our own piece of it."

Phase three will extend fiber down Pole Bridge Road and to the Oliver Lane Road service area, serving 52 and 902 locations respectively, with construction expected to begin in the second quarter of 2026.

Phase four will extend service to everything, businesses and resi- from Stuart to Willis Gap, Patrick dents, without always having to go Springs, Dry Pond, and New Valley. out to the internet. If you keep the Work in this phase will be delayed slightly due to AEP's construction

RiverStreet is delaying plans to extend from New Valley to Vesta due to permitting issues with the Blue

Ridge Parkway. "That's one where we are trying to avoid it as much as possible, being able to go to any parallel or cross it. There will be some permits that are required there because I can't stay off of the parkway completely to get

up through there," Brown said. Construction in the Dry Pond area and toward Vesta is projected to be-

gin in the third quarter of 2026. **Charter Communications**

Director of State Government Affairs Joe Prater said most of Charter's projects are located in the southwestern part of Patrick County.

"There's about 690 locations with VATI, and we estimated about 873 with RDOF. So, between the two commitments it's about a little over 1,500 locations," he said.

Prater said approximately 98 percent of the VATI builds are complete.

"It's about 13-14 homes along Gunny Sack Trail in Hillsville that unfortunately are subject to a Blue Ridge (Parkway) crossing as well. We tried to go every route possible to see if we could do it without having to cross over the Parkway...and unfortunately there's no going around it, so we will have to wait until we get that permit back for that area,"

Approximately 75 percent of the RDOF builds are complete. Like the VATI projects, Charter built everything it could except in areas requiring a Parkway permit. 'We anticipate that if we could get

that back it will just be a matter of months. We first submitted that permit back in March 2023, they had us make some corrections, we resubmitted it in January 2024, and we still unfortunately have not got that one back yet," Prater said.

VIEWPOINTS

Twenty-Seventh Amendment

The U.S. Constitution is a revolutionary document which has inspired other nations in drafting their own Constitutions.

Unbeknownst some, the current Constitution wasn't the first governing document of the United States after gaining independence.

The Articles of Confederation served as the hibition country's first Constitu-

Following ratification of the Articles in 1781, our young republic struggled. Under the system, there was no strong president nor three branches of gov-

Congress, under the Articles, allowed each State one vote. 9 of 13 votes were needed in order to pass measures. Each State could send 2-7 delegates to serve but the various States each had only one vote.

In 1787, a convention assembled to address changes to the Articles. However, the convention created a new document, ceding power to a central government.

Subsequently, Amendments to the new Constitution were made the next election. in order to convince States to ratify it.

protects freedom speech, press, assembly, and religion.

The Second Amendment affirms the right to bear arms.

The remaining first ten Amendments include prohibitions on warrantless searches, restrictions on cruel and unusual punishments and limitations on the federal government.

While the first ten Amendments served as building blocks, Congress and the States continued to strengthen the Constitution with additional Amendments.

The Twelfth Amendment clarified the Electoral College process.

and Fifteenth Amendments. These gave freethe way for the civil rights movement.

Other Amendments popular election of U.S. Senators

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Morgan Griffith

Representative

(Amendment 17), proof alcohol (Amendment 18), the subsequent repeal of the alcohol prohibition (Amendment 21) and the institution of a twoterm limit on the U.S. Presidency (Amendment 22).

In total, there are 27 Amendments in the Constitution.

Currently there is a legal case pertaining to the Twenty-Seventh Amendment.

The Amendment states: "No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened."

Simply put, pay adjustments for Members Congress couldn't take effect until after

Interestingly, this Amendment dates back The First Amendment to 1789 when James of Madison proposed it with the Bill of Rights Amendments.

> Back then, there was strong debate over Congressional compensation.

> Benjamin Franklin argued that public servants shouldn't get paid at all.

Others countered that barring salaries for Members of Congress would be disastrous for government, reserving elected office for only the wealthy.

Congress passed the Amendment in 1789, Act hasn't been repealed ratify it right away. Unlike other Amendments, Twenty-Seventh After the Civil War, Amendment didn't have the States adopted the a restriction on the time Thirteenth, Fourteenth it had to be adopted by the States.

For nearly two cendom to slaves and paved turies, the Amendment sat unratified. Meanwhile, Congress passed different laws adjusting the salaries of Members. In 1982, a University

of Texas student wrote a paper on the topic, arguing that the Amendment still had potential to be ratified.

Gregory Watson was shocked to see his government professor grade his paper a C.

The grade motivated Watson to launch a nationwide lobbying campaign. He persuaded state legislatures to consider the Amendment's ratification.

At last in 1992, the threshold for ratification was met! The Twenty-Seventh Amendment is the newest Amendment.

Despite ratification, some have argued Congress has failed to adhere to the Amendment.

In the Ethics Reform Act of 1989, Congress passed legislation establishing formulas for automatic adjustments to Congressional salaries based on the cost-of-living in lieu of Members receiving payment for speeches and continuous fights over proper Congressional salaries.

However, since 2009, the Ethics Reform Act, with the adjustment formulas for Congressional pay, has routinely been suspended.

That is why there is current legal action pending by some current and former Members of Congress arguing there has been a violation of the Twenty-Seventh Amendment.

The Ethics Reform but the States failed to and suspensions have been effectuated without an intervening election.

> I anticipate a court decision will be issued sometime this summer.

> Interestingly, Ethics Reform Act also affected federal judges' pay. An earlier suit by the judges arguing their was improperly withheld was successful.

Congressional pay, the old debate rages on. It is the same old argument.

Should Congressmen receive a wage that encourages the best to run for office, and avoid temptations for corruption? Or should it be a job that is done with service to the country as the motivation?

This summer, due to Twenty-Seventh Amendment of the Constitution, the Courts will weigh in on this issue. Stay tuned – it should be interesting.

Call my Abingdon office at 276-525-1405 or my Christiansburg office at 540-381-5671 any concerns. To reach my office via email, please visit my website at www.morgangriffith.house.gov.

P.S. Gregory Watson's grade was changed to an

FIND US ON

FACEBOOK

Letters to the Editor

Hospital update appreciated

Patrick County Alzheimer's Group, LLC would like to express our gratitude to those in attendance at the question & answer session on the Stuart Community Hospital (SCH). A special thank you to SCH Site Manager, Larry Henson, who took the time to thoroughly explain this project. This meeting was ex- Group, LLC

The Stuart Ruritan Club and the tremely informative and while all questions couldn't be answered definitively, we hope to sponsor another community meeting when the opening date can be released.

Pamela Smith, Secretary Stuart Ruritan Club Sally Smith, President County Patrick Alzheimer's

Blood drive set

This month's blood drive is sched-- 4 p.m., at the John D. Hooker Building.

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

The Red Cross encourages all donors to get a good night's sleep, to eat a good breakfast or lunch, drink plenty of water, and bring a picture ID with them to the drive.

Donors can make an appointment up to the time of donation through

the blood donor app, by calling uled for Tuesday, June 10, 11 a.m. 1-800-REDCROSS (733-2767) or online by going to www.redcrossblood.org and searching 24171.

> Please donate to become a member of the unique "club" of only 3% of the nation's population who donate blood. Your blood is needed to save lives. When donors come to give in

> June, they'll get a \$15 Amazon.com Gift Card by email PLUS automatic entry for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards.

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

It is with a heavy heart that the Red Cross Blood Drive has lost a dedicated volunteer. Patty Brunner passed away last month. She made the best various fruit breads! We will miss her dearly.

Gene Stirewalt, Stuart

Scott =

(cont. from page 1)

din Reynolds Memorial School (HRMS), where students cross Dogwood Road to access the gymnasium.

"That is a big concern of mine. I really wanted to have it done this year, but it may not happen. I really would love to see that road closed, that little road there between the gym and the school, that's always been a real safety concern to me, and I would love to ey," he said. see that closed," he said.

believes a similar situation could easily happen at HRMS.

"I know the speed limit's 15 mean much. If kids are crossing the road, or even adults are crossing the road, and kind of have their guard down, next thing you know they're plowed over. So, that's a real safety concern to me," he said.

Scott also wants to expand Patrick County High School's (PCHS) Career and Technical Education (CTE) department.

"That's just where I think we need to be putting our resources into. I'm really for expanding the CTE department," he said.

Any expansion, he said, would follow the recommendations of CTE teachers.

"The ones who know what the needs are more so than someone like I do. But of course, your plumbing, your electrical, and those things. Which we are working on that, but I would like to see it expanded on the CTE department to get our students work-ready when they leave the high school, or well on their way," Scott said.

Having served on the board for nearly eight years, Scott cited the establishment of the welding program and the pole yard program at PCHS through Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) projects.

as some of his biggest achievements.

While he sometimes disagrees with how the 1% sales and use tax is spent, Scott said he played a major role in getting it passed.

"That's been a lifeline in getting some of this stuff done that's been neglected over the years without having to go to the board of supervisors and beg for mon-

Scott noted that the sales and A few weeks ago in Eden, N.C., use tax can be saved and carried Scott noted, a truck plowed over from year to year, unlike through a construction zone. He the division's regular funds that must be spent by the end of the fiscal year.

"This money can roll over year miles per hour (mph) there, but after year after year, and I perif somebody comes through there sonally believe we should stockhellbent, the speed limit don't pile as much of that money as possible to be prepared one day because most of these schools were built in the '30s. We have an opportunity to save a few million dollars, and I know that won't build a school, but it will be a big help," he said.

Scott said the relationship between the school board and the board of supervisors has improved significantly since he first joined nearly eight years ago.

"To me it's came a long way. It could always be better, but I think we have a pretty good relationship with the board of supervisors right now," he said, adding that he believes the school board does its part to avoid constantly requesting additional funding.

Scott said his goal is for the division to continue operating on the required local effort and required local match without needing extra money.

"Doing our part to protect the taxpayers, and at the same token ensuring that all our schools are accredited," he said.

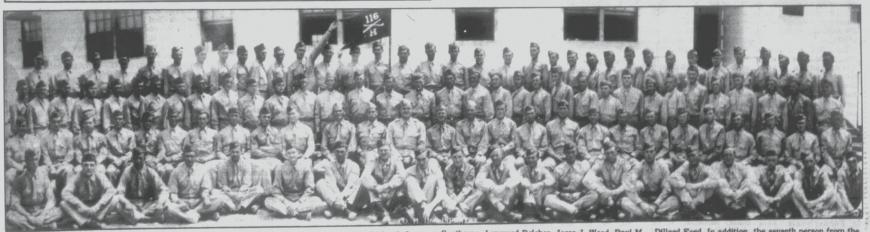
Scott worked at Wood's Cold Storage for about 30 years and in the county's maintenance department for six years. He is currently retired and working on his own



Thank you for reading The Enterprise

THE ENTERPRISE

Patrick Pioneers



The entire second row of this photo it strictly of Martinsville men, from left Thore, Harry M. Turner Jr., Everett C.

Martinsville Bulletin, 1984

1st Lt. Guy Davis Mabe

By Beverly Belcher Woody

After last week's column on Cpl. Richard Garland Ayers—who perished on the shores of Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944—I received an email from Buddy Dollarhite. He had recently visited Cpl. Ayers' grave at Wayside Cemetery and scattered sand he had collected from Omaha Beach, bringing a piece of that sacred ground home. During his visit to Normandy last year, Buddy also paid his respects at the grave of another Patrick County son: 1st Lieutenant Guy Davis Mabe. His message prompted me to learn more about this brave manand what a journey it became.

Remarkably, both Cpl. Ayers and 1st Lt. Mabe grew up on Spencer Nowlin Road in Stuart. Both answered the call to serve their country in its time of greatest need. Both traveled halfway across the world to help defeat Nazi tyranny, Cpl. Ayers in Company D of the 116th Infantry of the 29th Division and 1st Lt. Mabe in Company H. And heartbreakingly, both were killed in action in the fierce fighting that followed the D-Day invasion—only miles apart on French soil.

Guy Davis Mabe was born on November 16, 1916, to John Walter Mabe and Cora Shelton Mabe. The youngest of three children, he grew up alongside his older siblings, James Irving (born in 1906) and Gladys Mary (born in 1908). By 1940, Mabe was working as an insurance agent in Martinsville, steadily building a life for himself while the world teetered on the edge of global conflict.

On February 3, 1941, Mabe enlisted in Company H, 116th Infantry of the 29th Division—Martinsville's own Na-

tional Guard unit. The company was quickly mobilized, sent first to Fort George G. Meade in Maryland, then to A.P. Hill, and eventually to Fort Benning, Georgia, where Mabe earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant in October 1942.

An article in the Martinsville Bulletin dated October 19, 1942, reported that Lt. Mabe was home visiting his parents before reporting to a new post in Mississippi. Just six months later, he was promoted to First Lieutenant and stationed at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, before being deployed overseas in December 1943.

By January 1944, 1st Lt. Mabe had arrived in England. In a letter to his sister, he wrote that he had endured a bout of seasickness on the voyage but was otherwise well. He mentioned the challenge of driving on the left side of the road—and lamented the absence of soft drinks!

1st Lt. Mabe was assigned to the 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and landed in France shortly after the D-Day invasion. His unit followed the initial assault and became part of the hard-fought push inland.

Tragically, 1st Lt. Guy Davis Mabe was killed in action on July 28, 1944, during the battle near Saint-Jean-des-Baisants in Normandy.

In February 1945, the War Department awarded the Bronze Star Medal to Lt. Mabe posthumously. His mother, Mrs. Cora Shelton Mabe of Patrick Springs, accepted the honor on his behalf. Lt. Mabe also received the Purple Heart for his ultimate sacrifice.

He now rests among his fellow heroes at the Normandy American Cemetery Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, France— Plot G, Row 12, Grave 28—overlooking



1st Lt. Guy Davis Mabe (Photo from Buddy Dollarhite)

the very beaches where so many gave their lives for the cause of liberty.

The Martinsville unit to which Mabe originally belonged, Company H, 116th Infantry of the 29th Division, paid a heavy price on D-Day. On June 6, 1944, four men from Company H lost their

1st Lt. Benjamin Rives Kearfott, 23, one of the first Americans to land at 6:30 a.m. on Omaha Beach. Of the 165 men in the initial landing party, only four survived.

Sgt. Noel Peter Washburn, 22 1st Lt. Robert Bernard Williamson,

Pvt. J.R. Roach

Additionally, 2nd Lt. Dillard Martin Ford, 28, was killed on October 7, 1943, during the battle at Benevento, Italy, and 1st Lt. Harrison James Lawrence,



Guy D. Mabe

1st Lt. Guy D Mabe (Photo from Betty Handy)

22, died on February 6, 1944, during the Anzio landings in Italy.

In 1964, the newly constructed \$325,000 National Guard Armory in Martinsville was dedicated in honor of these brave men of Company H. Though the building now stands silent, their voices echo still-in our memories, in the freedom they helped preserve, and in the soil of France where they rest.

My deepest thanks go to Buddy Dollarhite for bringing renewed attention to these stories. Heroes like 1st Lt. Guy Davis Mabe and Cpl. Richard Garland Ayers must never be forgotten. Let us honor their memory-not only in stone or ceremony-but in how we cherish the freedoms they secured for us all.

For thoughts, comments, or story ideas, you may email rockcastlecreek 1@ gmail.com or call (276) 692-9626.

Social Security Matters

Association of Mature American Citizens

I pay for Medicare?

Dear Rusty: I'm a retired Navy veteran who is going to be turning 65 years old this year. My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I'm 67!

I currently pay for Tricare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my healthcare. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I'm 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I'll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years! Is there any way to avoid this unfair penalty? Signed: Retired Navy Vet

Dear Retired Navy Vet: First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. Please know that here at the AMAC Foundation we care a lot about our veterans, and you may find the "For Veterans" section of our Foundation website interesting (www.amacfoundation.org).

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible (normally at age 65). For one thing, if you are

By Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advi- a retired veteran on military TriCare, you will lose your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Ask Rusty - I'm a Retired Veteran; Why must roll in Medicare when eligible). And, since you are not earnings test if you are still working. The SS earn separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare (they will bill you when you enroll in Medicare). Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are two "parts" to Medicare - Part A (which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services), and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.). Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025). Note that you will need to pay a Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (it doesn't go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling, and enrolling in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military TriCare-for-life benefits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your TriCare coverage usually does.

It's important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) Social Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from

sor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the your TriCare benefits if you don't enroll in Medicare Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, when you are eligible (TriCare requires that you en- you would also be subject to Social Security's annual yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to ings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away (if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age).

> So, is it unfair that you must pay for Medicare Part B before you are collecting Social Security? Well, I think not, because the two programs are completely independent benefits (the Social Security Administration merely administers Medicare payments as a convenience). Remember your Medicare Part A is free, but you must pay a premium for Part B, and you must take both to retain your military TriCare-for-Life benefits. You can visit this site to see how to pay your Medicare premiums until it is later deducted from your Social Security payment: www.medicare. gov/basics/costs/pay-premiums/online-bill-pay.

Once again, thank you for your service to our coun-

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.

Fire ant quarantine expanded to include Danville

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) announces that Virginia's Imported Fire Ant Quarantine was expanded to include the counties of Chesterfield, Lee, Nottoway, Pittsylvania, Prince George, and Surry, and the independent cities of Colonial Heights, Danville, Hopewell, and Petersburg.

Recent VDACS surveys for the imported fire ant (Solenopsis invicta Buren and Solenopsis richteri Forel, and their hybrids) indicate that this invasive pest has become established in the newly quarantined areas. Once established, the imported fire ant has the potential to spread to uninfested areas, either through natural means or through human-assisted movement of infested articles. Expansion of the quarantine is necessary to slow the spread of this insect pest to un-infested areas of the Com-

monwealth To prevent the human-assisted spread of this pest, under provisions of the quarantine, regulated articles are prohibited from moving out of the guarantined area unless they are certified as free of imported fire ant. Regulated articles are those which are a risk for movement of imported fire ants to un-infested areas and include, but are not limited to:

*Any life stage of imported fire ant. *Soil (except soil shipped in original containers

after commercial preparation). *Plants with roots with soil attached and rhi-

zomes with soil attached.

*Grass sod.

*Used soil-moving equipment (unless free of all non-compacted soil).

*Used farm equipment (unless free of all non-com-

pacted soil). *Hay and straw stored in direct contact with the

ground. *Honey bee hives stored in direct contact with

proved treatment and shipping options, which are

outlined in the Quarantine Treatments for Nursery

the ground.

*Logs and pulpwood with soil attached. Businesses located in quarantined localities that are shipping to locations outside of the quarantined area are required to follow the USDA-apStock, Grass Sod, and Related Materials manual. The manual can be found on the USDA website at www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/ fireants/downloads/IFA_nursery.pdf.

Businesses may enter into a compliance agreement with VDACS to facilitate shipping those regulated articles in accordance with the quarantine. To see if your location is in the Virginia Imported

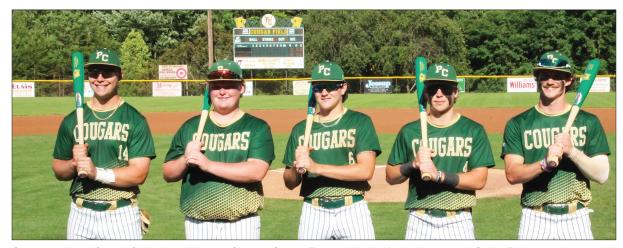
Fire Ant Quarantine, view the most updated map at www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/fire-ant-quar-map. pdf. Imported fire ants are an invasive species in Virginia and have an impact on agriculture and natural resources by damaging crops, agricultur-

al equipment, and impacting wildlife. As an urban pest, imported fire ants are a nuisance pest and can cause allergic reactions including rare instances of anaphylactic shock in humans.

For additional information regarding the Virginia Imported Fire Ant Quarantine or provisions of a VDACS imported fire ant compliance agreement, please visit www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-imported-fire-ant.shtml.

SPORTS

Christian Hylton no-hitter leads Cougars over Radford



Cougar seniors (from left) Jackson Horton, Chance Corns, Easton Harris, Noah Jessup and Gavin Fain, were honored in a pregame ceremony.

By Pat Delaney

After waiting an extra day because of rain, the Patrick County High Cougars, behind Christian Hylton's second no-hitter of the season, downed Radford 10-0 in the Class 2 Region C quarterfinals on May 30 at Cougar Field.

Hylton struck out seven and walked only three in a dominant outing. The Cougar defense was solid behind Hylton, including a fantastic play in the sixth inning. With one out, Radford, via a walk and an error, had runners on first and second. Gavin Fain charged in to catch a Radford line drive to left center, then fired the ball to second, doubling up the runner and ending the inning.

"They've always been good to me," said Hylton of his teammates in the field. "All year they've worked hard and I appreciate them so much. They do so much for me."

The Cougars got going at the plate in the first inning with lead-off hitter Gavin Fain drawing a walk, then stealing second on a wild pick off

first run on a Noah Jessup RBI single. Jessup would score on a Jackson Horton single, and Jaiden Wilson added the third run of the inning with some heads up base running.

The top of the Cougar order got going again in the fourth. Fain and Martinez-Tejada led off with walks, and Noah Jessup singled to load the bases. Jaiden Wilson walked, bringing in a run, and Jackson Horton drove in another. The Cougars added two more to take a 7-0 lead through

In the sixth, Jessup and Horton got on base with singles, then Chance Corns and Jackson Callahan each drove in a run, increasing the lead to 9-0. A Radford balk with the bases loaded brought in Corns, ending the game 10-0.

"That was a big win for us, and just a complete game," said Cougar head coach Tal Swails. "We hit it well, we caught it well, we made some good plays on defense, and Christian Hylton threw a heck of a game on the mound for us tonight."

Swails added that the Cougars' patience at the throw. An Erick Martinez-Tejada sacrifice bunt plate was big against a good pitcher like Rad-



Christian Hylton pitched his second no-hitter of the season in the win over Radford.

high early in the game. "That's part of our plan with a good pitcher. If you can get his pitch count up, you get a little advantage over him."

Leading the way at the plate for the Cougars were two seniors. Noah Jessup went 3-4 with an RBI, and Jackson Horton went 2-4 with 3 RBIs.

Prior to the game, the Cougars honored their seniors, Chance Corns, Gavin Fain, Easton Har-

JUN	NE		PA	TRICK CO	UNTY BRA	ANCH LIBE	RARY			202	<u>25</u>	
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1084 20			9:00		lary Cassatt 30*	Walking Club Trail		Sit & Stite	-h 11.00			
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Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club 9:00		Walking Club Trail 9						
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V 40.00*			b at the Rail 9:00	Walking Club 9:00		Walking Club Trail 9						
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LEGO Club 4:00		Family M	lovie 1:30	Yoga 1:15*		otorytime 10	7.55 Clouds					
		Yoga	5:15*			Teen Prog	ram 2:00					

Yoga 10:00*

LEGO Club 4:00

Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. *Registration required. Walking Club meets at the Food Bank parking lot at the Rail Trail on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Summer Reading begins June 9th. Movies this month are from the How to Train Your Dragon series.

SCC Celebrates Class of 2025

to students who completed one of the college's

career technology programs. Associate in Gener-

al Education degrees were awarded to students

who completed two years of education designed

for academic enrichment and personal growth

and development. Associate in Arts, Associate in

Science, or Associate in Fine Arts degrees were

awarded to students who completed the College



Surry Community College held its 57th commencement ceremony in the SCC Gymnasium on the Dobson campus on May 10. The college had 617 graduates who earned a total of 412 degrees, 123 diplomas, and 359 certificates.

Surry Community College held its 57th commencement ceremony in the SCC Gymnasium on the Dobson campus on May 10. The college had 617 graduates who earned a total of 412 degrees, 123 diplomas, and 359 certificates.

A service was held for Arts, Sciences and Transfer programs at 10 a.m., and a service for Business and Information Technologies, Health Sciences, Cosmetology and Engineering Technologies programs was held at 1 p.m.



address at the 57th Commencement Ceremony of Surry Community College on May 10.

Associate in Applied Science Degrees, one-Transfer Program. year diplomas, and certificates were awarded

Dr. Ashley Morrison, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, welcomed the audience and congratulated the Class of 2025. Summit Strings provided a musical performance of "Defying Gravity," from Wicked, before SCC President Dr. David Shockley took the stage as commencement speaker.

Dr. Shockley applauded the graduates and

(See SCC p. 13)

=Crossing the Lines=

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

Board approves volunteer departments bid to bill for services

The Henry County Board of Supervisors approved a proposal allowing volunteer fire departments to bill for services during its meeting on Tuesday, May 27.

County Administrator Dale Wagoner said the county's code authorizes the Department of Public Safety to charge for services and establish rules and regulations for administering those charges.

"The fire departments have agreed to adopt a compassionate billing policy, meaning they will invoice applicable insurance but will not pursue direct payments with individuals for any said.

Wagoner said the fees are based on national averages, with adjustments for local economic conditions.

Adams, of the Blackberry District, asked how financial matters will be handled.

Public Safety Director Matt Tatum, speaking on behalf of the volunteer departments, said all fire incidents in the county are currently logged into an online database system.

"At last month's meet-



Public Safety Director Matt Tatum spoke about how volunteer fire departments billing for services would work.

ing, you all approved a be allowed to bill for serthird-party vendor to remaining balance," he handle the billing prothem access to that online database to extract data and provide billing Board Chairman Jim ly to the individual fire department accounts, which I would hope their normal annual audit," he said.

> Tatum noted the process mirrors the one used by volunteer rescue squads for the past 15 years.

the county's paid public (Emergency safety staff would also Services)," he said.

Magna Vista grads celebrate milestone, look to the future

Magna Vista High School celebrat- sign that we may or may not obey,

Tatum responded yes cess, which would give and no. He said only the primary responding agency is authorized to submit a bill, and noted services. All the funds that more than 95 percollected will go direct- cent of fire calls are answered by volunteer fire departments.

"In the event that would be audited with there was an incident the volunteers did not respond to, and public safety staff handled it without volunteer assistance, then we would have the ability to bill for that service, just Adams asked whether like we would for EMS

City leaders hear calls for collaboration at packed forum

With the regularly scheduled city council meeting canceled, Martinsville City Council Members Julian Mei and Aaron Rawls organized a public forum on May 27 in the council chambers to give residents a platform to voice their concerns. The room was filled with community members eager to speak on topics ranging from education and economic development to public safety, government transparency and moving the city forward.

"It's the people's chamber," Mei said in his opening remarks, explaining the choice of venue. Rawls noted they were unable to secure an alternate location on short notice due to the holiday weekend.

Barbara Seymour served as the facilitator and outlined the ground rules, reminding attendees that the forum was intended to be civil and inclusive. "There have been a lot of comments about expectations, right or wrong, of tonight's community forum," said Seymour, adding that thousands would watch the meeting.

"Let's deliver to them a thoughtful, respectful discourse that's focused on the future of Martinsville and finding solutions to be able to move forward towards that future," she said.

Planning, Development, and Industry

Joey Martin, chairman of the Planning Commission, said that he that needs to change."

Joey Martin

anticipates by the end of the week, four commission members would be Certified Virginia City Planners. "In recent months, the commission has tried to weigh in on key issues like the Dumpster and Refuse Ordinance coming up for a vote in the next council meeting. Community concerns over things like traffic pattern changes in our Uptown Historic District. Unfortunately, many of those changes were made without planning commission involvement and we believe

Martinsville seniors celebrate resilience, remember classmates at graduation



Martinsville High School Class of 2025 graduates.

of 2025 graduated on Saturday, May the world. He encouraged them to 24. The ceremony featured remarks from Principal Ajamu Dixon and Superintendent Dr. Zeb Talley Jr., before

you with something because I'm always trying to encourage you and trying to make sure that you have what you need," Dixon said.

"Jeremiah 29:11 says, 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you. You are not to be harmed, nor will you face harm. The plans are for you to have hope and have a future.' Martinsville, I want to tell you the future is bright."

Dixon warned that students are constantly being sold something, and

The Martinsville High School Class that smart technology has taken over seek wisdom and recognize their own intelligence.

"Don't let yourself be seduced by two graduates addressed their peers. spectacle. Yes, I want you to be open "I'm blessed by being able to see you to learning new things and new ways and talk to you. And I want to leave of doing things, but never mistake flash for substance.

> "Build something that lasts, not something that trends. I want you to understand that YouTube has all kinds of hacks on it, and you can find shortcuts to this and shortcuts to that. The best shortcut is showing up every day with integrity, humility, and persistence. Young people, there are no shortcuts. Success comes by working hard. Anyone who tells you otherwise, they're trying to sell you something."

out. Whether it's on a speed limit

The Bassett High School Class of 2025 celebrated their accomplishments at a graduation ceremony held on May 23. Graduates were awarded a mix of standard and advanced diplomas, and several were recognized for earning associate degrees.

Chandler Molly (at podium) discussed number 25.

ed its 2025 graduates on May 24 in

a morning ceremony. Several speak-

ers reflected on the class's accom-

plishments, including the struggles

brought on by COVID-19. Student

speakers focused on the future and

emphasized the importance of com-

classmates as the opening speaker.

Chandler Molly addressed her

"Wow, 2025, a number that stands

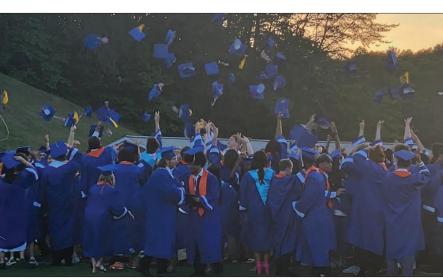
munity.

Student speakers reflected on the past, looked ahead to the future, and emphasized the strength found within each graduate.

Class President Bailey Stanley opened the ceremony by encouraging his classmates to remember what lies behind them and how it shaped their journey. He reflected on the years they spent together, many since elementary school.

"We entered and exited doors together each day during these years. being greeted by those smiling faces Going into Stanleytown, John Redd, Sanville, Campbell Court, or Carver,

the number of alarms we set only to still be late for school, or the amount of times we refreshed Canvas, hoping that our teacher finally granted that assignment—a number that we know all too well as we cannot wait to hear that bell ring for dismissal at 3:25. But for us, 25 is not just a number. It's the year of our graduation, a milestone marking it in the four years of challenges," said graduate Chandler Molly. BHS Class of 2025 celebrates what lies behind, before, and within



Bassett High School Class of 2025 celebrated their last moments as a group.

opening car doors or helping us off of Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School, steep bus steps," he said.

Stanley recalled their time at where many of them came together for the first time, and where they experienced more doors and more possibilities.

"The world suddenly got bigger. We were teens, and we were loud, shy, silly, smelly, and lost with all those doors," he said.

Stanley told the group that one of the most influential memories of his time at the middle school was that of a poster on the back of a teacher's door that read, "Do not tell me that the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon."

Their journey then led them to Bassett High School.

"Our final destination as a collective group was through the doors of Bassett High School. This entrance into our school is really where we became the Class of 2025, and where we became Bengals together," Stanley said.







Hollywood Cinema beside Walmart Martinsville 276-656-3456

1-3-5-7-9 1-3-5-7-9

1-3-5-7-9

OBITUARIES

Lola Gilley

Miss Lola Gilley, age 93 of Critz, Virginia, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at The Landmark Center in Stuart, VA. She was born in Henry County, Virginia on April 9, 1932, to the late Richard Moir Gilley, Sr. and Carrie Etta Moran Gilley. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a ple" Plaster (Musco); charismatic ley, Rev. Fred Gilley ty—a person who could ing. The family will re-(Helen); a brother-in-Curtis Sawyers.

Methodist enriched her life and nect with others left neralservices.com.

Mrs. Jean Bryant Stovall, age 93 of Patrick Springs, Virginia, passed away at home after a brief illness with the flu on Thursday, May 29, 2025. She was born on March 17, 1932, in Henry County to the late Henry Clyde Bryant and Edna Mae Shelton Bryant. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Augustus Stovall; two brothers, Clenard Bryant, Edward Bryant; one sister, Betty Nelson; brothers in-law, Neil Craig, Ar-Stovall; and one sonher Sportlanes bowling fierce leagues, considering her teammates as an extended family. Beyond UNC Tarheels. Her competitive nature shone cards, cornhole, horseshoes, etc. She loved flowers and found solace in working diligently in her yard and gar- Deborah Louden of Ten- funeralservices.com.



twin sister, Lois "Dim- the lives of others. Her persona sister, Barbara Ann ality and joyful spirit Foley, three broth- made her a beloved Home with Rev. Tomers, James Lester Gil- figure in her communi- my Shepherd officiat-(Jean), and Richard light up a room with ceive friends from 1:00 "Junior" Gilley, Jr. her presence and bring p.m. until 2:00 p.m. smiles to those around law, Jimmy Hancock; her. While Lola did not Patrick Memorial Garand a special friend, have children of her own, she took great As a lifetime mem- pride in helping to ber of Salem United raise her siblings, be-Church, coming a second moth- lem Church Road, Pat-Lola's commitment to er to them and nurtur- rick Springs, Virginia her faith was evident ing their growth and 24133. Moody Funeral in her active partici- development with love Service in Stuart has pation in church activ- and compassion. Her been entrusted with ities, where she made happiness and zest for the services and online connections life were infectious, condolences may be and friendships that and her ability to con- sent to www.moodyfu-

Jean Bryant Stovall



den. Jean held a special place in the community as the oldest member at thur Martin, Cornelius Pleasant View Baptist Stovall, Glenn Stovall, Church, a congregation Ralph Shelton, James she joined in 1953. Her Stovall; sisters-in-law, faith was the foundation Cindy Stovall, Gladys upon which she built Bryant, and Amanda many aspects of her life, gathering with friends in-law, Robert Louden. and family in fellowship burial will immediately A competitive bowler, and love across gener- follow in John Adams Jean found joy within ations. Her joy for life, and commitment to her passions will forever remain in the hearts of al Home Chapel from the lanes, Jean was an those who had the honor enthusiast of all college of knowing her. Jean's sports, especially the legacy, marked by love for family, friends, and community, will her brightly in every aspect continue to inspire and of her life, whether it be resonate through the lives she touched.

> Left to cherish the of Jean memories Stovall are her children,

a profound impact on

survived by siblings; Elaine Gilley Hancock and Paul Gilley (Betty); a brother-in-law, James Foley; special nieces, Carolyn Simmons and Gay Bryant; special neighbors, Charles and Winnie Smith, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held Sunday May 25, 2025, at 2:00 Burial will follow in dens. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Salem Church, 153 Sa-

nessee: Rodney Stovall (Sandra) of Stuart; four grandchildren, Brian Louden (Rachel), Andrew Louden (Brittany), Brittany Smart (Jared), Brett Stovall (Kaitlin); one great-grandson, Grady Smart; one brother, Jesse Bryant (Sue) of Bassett, two sisters, Dorothy Craig of Patrick Springs, Frances Martin of Patrick Springs; two sisters-inlaw, Alberta Shelton of Ferrum, Nancy Stovall of Patrick Springs; numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral service for Mrs. Stovall will be held on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at Pleasant View Baptist Church at 2:00 pm with Pastor Joey McNeil officiating. The Cemetery. The famidetermination, ly will receive friends on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Moody Funer-5:00 to 7:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Pleasant View Baptist Church, 4432 Pleasant View Drive, Patrick Springs, VA 24133, or to the John Adams Family Cemetery Fund. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moody-

Lloyd Nelson "Tootsie" Hooker

Mr. Lloyd Nelson "Tootsie" Hooker, age 89 of Meadows of Dan, passed away Friday, May 30, 2025, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Patrick County on November 11, 1935, to the late Millard and Vera Marshall Hooker. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Lessie Smart; and two He was strong in his brothers, Paul Hooker and Junior Hooker. Tootsie was a dedicated liness Church. He was school bus driver and mechanic at the school bus garage, serving the He could play just about Patrick County Public School System for over 30 years. He was a hard worker who wasn't satisfied unless he was pid- as a devoted husband, at the church. Moody dling on something. He loving brother, caring Funeral Home in Stuart and his brother opened uncle, cousin, friend, has been entrusted with Hooker Brothers Repair and neighbor. Shop where they re-



faith and a member of Vesta Pentecostal Hovery talented, especially when it came to music. instrument any tried; however, he often played the harmonica. He will be remembered 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

paired many lawnmow- memories of Tootsie be sent to www.moodyers and small engines. are his wife of 63 years, funeralservices.com.

Jeannette Ilene West Hooker; one sister, Thelma Puckett (Martin) of Meadows of Dan; adoring nieces/caregivers, Joyce Green, Loran Davison, Israel Shelor, Audrey Meeks, Charisse Hall, and Clara Thorman; and severgreat-nieces great-nephews.

Funeral services for Mr. Hooker will be held Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Vesta Pentecostal Holiness Church with Pastors Ronald Thomas officiating. Burial will follow in the John he Millard Hooker Family Cemetery. The family will receive friends from the arrangements and Left to cherish the online condolences may

Paula Frances Drady

Ms. Paula Frances Drady, age 78, passed Miss Lola Gilley is away on Friday, May 30, 2025, at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center. She was born June 23, 1946 in Washington D.C. to Paul Drady and Eldean Edith Coleman Drady Ludwick. At a young age the family moved to Hollywood, Florida where Paula graduated from McAr-1964. She then earned was unwavering, and of Martinsville, Jerry p.m. at Moody Funeral her Bachelor's Degree she embraced every Woods (Tina) of Stuin English Language opportunity to serve art, Debbie Woods and Literature from with enthusiasm and Williams (Ronnie) of Degree in Reading Club secretary, hold- as well as many oth-Patrick County Public Schools from 1999 tended to numerous the time of the service. to present.

invaluable of both the club and Paula also loved to alservices.com.



the wider communithur High School in ty. Her commitment ins, Valencia Jackson Stetson University in grace. From 2012 to Stuart, Bill Golden 1968 and a Masters 2024, Paula served as (Karen) of Boston, MA Education from Nova ing the role for an er cousins around the Southeastern Univer- impressive 12 years. sity in 1981. Paula She was a Sustaining Sam and Mollie. was a dedicated edu- Member, a Multiple cator working as an Paul Harris Fellow,a for Ms. Drady will English teacher and Major Donor to The be held on Saturday, Department Chair in Rotary Foundation, June 7, 2025, at 11:30 the Broward County and a proud graduate A.M. at Moody Funer-School System from of the Rotary Lead- al Home Chapel. Fam-1979 to 1999, and ership Institute. Her ily will receive friends passion for service ex- from 10:00 A.M. until to 2007. Paula was club committees, in- Paula was an ardent also an adjunct facul- cluding Club Admin- animal lover, supportty member at Patrick istration, the Patrick ing animal welfare orand Henry Communi- County Agricultural ganizations her entire ty College from 2008 Fair, and SRC Pro- life. In lieu of food or ductions. She was ac- flowers, please make In Retirement, Pau- tive with her church a contribution in Paula resided in Patrick community at Big A la's memory to an County, VA and was Church of Christ and animal welfare orgaactive in her commu- was a member of a nization, or the Blue nity. After joining music group "One Ac- Ridge Animal Welfare the Rotary Club of cord". Paula enjoyed League, P.O. Box 184, Stuart in July 2008, genealogy and volun- Woolwine, VA 214185. quickly be- teered at the Patrick Online came a dedicated and County Historical Mu- may be made by visitmember seum for many years. ing www.moodyfuner-

read and always made time to enjoy a book.

Paula was preceded in death by her father, Paul Drady, her mother, Eldean Coleman Drady Ludwick; brother, Edward Drady; and special cousin, Lisa Woods Grona.

Paula leaves behind a sister-in-law, Kathleen McDanel of Rocky Mount, and close couscountry, and her dogs

A memorial service

Melva Spencer Ellis



Her adult life of service was dedicat- Richmond, VA, and Karen M. Spened to helping others through various roles in healthcare, including herself being a distinguished certified nursing assistant. She doted on married life in Columbus, Ohio.

Melva was born in Patrick County. Virginia on March 23, 1946, to the late Daniel Richard Spencer, Sr. and Pheobe Dobbins Spencer. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her only child, Daryl Timothy "Tim" Spencer; and three brothers, John Wayne Spencer, Bobby Lee Spencer, and James Richard Spencer (infant). Melva was pampered by her father and favorite uncle. George Callahan Spencer and continued to be cherished throughout her life by her family, friends, and associates.

Left to cherish the memory of Melva Spencer Ellis are one grandson, Trayvone R. Nowlin of Wytheville, VA; one

great-grandson, Julian C. Nowlin; five siblings, Joseph E. Spencer and wife, Patty of Fort Washington, MD, Daniel Richard Spencer, Jr. of Ridgeway, VA. Ronald "Ron" H. Spencer and

wife, Stephanie, Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Richmond, VA, Verna S. Smith of cer of Stuart, VA; sister-in-law, Angela Faye Spencer of Ridgeway, VA; special friend, Stephanie Dillard; and numerous loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and neighbors.

> Melva's family would like to express their deep appreciation to the Blue Ridge Therapy Connection family in Stuart for their exceptional care and support of Melva for the past seven vears.

A graveside memorial service will be held at a later date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, cards, etc., memorial donations may be made to New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 606, Patrick Springs, VA 24133. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the services and online condolences may be sent by visiting www. moodyfuneralservices.com.

(See Obituaries p.12)





Thank You for reading The Enterprise

PATRICK PULPITS

"Be Ye Therefore Perfect"

By Alan Dean, retired Sev- of our new nature. enth-day Adventist pastor

years have aspired to the goal of overcoming sin in their lives and becoming perfect. This is a worthy goal for which to strive, for Jesus asks us to be "perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). In the messages to the seven churches of Revelation Jesus states special blessings to all who are overcomers (victorious over sin).

However, many people have attempted to reach this goal of perfection through their own willpower and determination. And sometimes bad habits have been overcome and their lifestyle seems almost blameless. But deep down they still feel they haven't yet attained it. They are like the rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16) and the Jewish lawyer (Luke 10:25) who still wanted to know what they could do to inherit eternal life. In both incidences Jesus answered that the thing they lacked was a compassionate heart toward the needs of their fellow man.

In trying to "perfect" our life through personal accomplishments, we are centering our attention on ourselves. In other words, we are still remaining self-centered individuals. In contrast, Jesus says we must be born again, which means a complete change of heart, selfishness to unselfishness. A perfect (godly) life can then be achieved as a natural result this "perfect" life that He promises.

When Jesus summarized the Many Christians through the Ten Commandments into two commandments (Matthew 22:37-40), He shared the secret to keeping the commandments and living a perfect life. Jesus told the lawyer that we first need to come to know and love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. In other words, we make God the Lord of our life.

Then (verse 39) we, with our new heart, are able to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves. Our concern for his welfare is as great as it is for our own. Paul says in Romans 13:8 and 10 that this type of love "is the fulfilling of the law." We don't lie, kill, or commit adultery because our converted mind and heart don't entertain such thoughts. We are "free" from the law because the law no longer hinders or restricts our actions.

This is when we become safe to save for heaven. We still may inadvertently and momentarily commit a sin, but we quickly realize it to be wrong, and we repent (and are forgiven) of this sin. Life becomes free of guilt, stress, and worry. We enjoy serving others and sharing the love of Jesus with them. Jesus terms this new life as "life more abundant" (John 10:10). It is also what Jesus means when He says "Be ye therefore perfect." It's our continuous desire to do what is good and right.

Pray that we all may experience

BIBLE TRIVIA

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

2. From Daniel 5, who was holding a great feast when handwriting appeared on the wall?? Job, Belshazzar, Hagar, Hanun

3. Where did Jesus cause demons to go out of two men into a herd of pigs?? Appii, Assos, Damascus, Gadarenes

4. Who used unfair labor practices at his brick-

establishment?? making Pharaoh, Silas, Joash, Jonathan

What did Nebuchadnezzar dream of that reached into heaven? Tree, River, Ladder, Rope

6. Who fasted 40 days and nights after being fed by an angel?? Darius, Paul, Elijah, Ahab

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, Belshazzar, 3) Gadarenes, Pharaoh, 5) Tree, 6) Elijah

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Worship Services 11 am

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Bringing the World to Christ



<u>Arrests Reported</u>

The Patrick County Sheriff's Of- was the arresting officer. fice reported the following:

*Deauna Jane Kitts, 31, of Crockett, was charged May 16 with four counts probation violation. Senior Deputy D. ley was the arresting officer. Dillon was the arresting officer.

*Jimmy Roosevelt Jones, 45, of Stuart, was charged May 18 with assault. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Kurt Arnold Robinson, 76, of Stuart, was charged May 19 with unauthorized use of vehicle. Sgt. L.K. Carroll Jr. made the arrest for Pulaski

*Kelsey Francis Burton, 54, of Patrick County Jail, was charged May 19 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy C. Gilbert made the arrest for Grayson County and Carroll

*Joseph Eugene Dodd, 29, of Pulaski, was charged May 19 with two counts probation violation. Roanoke PD made the arrest for Patrick Coun-

Logan Matthew Waldron, 28, of Spencer, was charged May 20 with one count each possess firearm with Sch. I/II drugs, possess Sch. I or II drugs, possess firearm by convicted violent felon, monument intentional damage, and interfere with property rights. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*David Wayne Whittington Jr., 46, of Patrick County Jail, was charged May 21 with four counts of probation violation. Senior Deputy T. Dalton was the arresting officer.

*Joshua Christopher Herring, 40, of Lawsonville, N.C., was charged May 21 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Deputy J.L. Fain

*Skyler Wayne Douglas Rowe, 26, of Patrick Springs, was charged May 23 with DWI 1st offense. Lt. D.L. Fo-

*Sidney Jason Roberts, 37, of Stuart, was charged May 24 with fail to appear. Carroll County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Bo Dale Vipperman, 30, of Stuart, was charged May 24 with assault. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*William Terrence Smith, 64, of Claudville, was charged May 25 with assault. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Christopher John May, 38, of Roanoke, was charged May 26 with fail to appear. Henry County made the arrest for Patrick County. *Justin Ryan Fain, 22, of Stuart,

was charged May 26 with violation of home/electronic incarceration. Senior Deputy T. Dalton was the arresting officer.

French Andrew Bailey, 35, of Martinsville, was charged May 26 with four counts probation violation. Senior Deputy Doug Perry was the arresting officer.

*Bo Dale Vipperman, 30, of Stuart, was charged May 28 with four counts child abuse/neglect and three counts maliciously shoot/throw into occupied building. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Nathaniel James Clendinen, 20, of Summerfield, N.C., was charged May with one count each emergency services: call/set alarm without cause, and impersonation firefighter/emergency personnel. Senior Deputy B. Fields was the arresting officer.

Super Crossword same sounding six

ACROSS 1 Woes 5 Doubtfire's title 8 Italian wine

region 12 Blaster's stuff 15 Young wolf

18 Italian "Bye!" 19 "Well now!" 20 Demonstrate 21 "Yuk" relative 22 Enzyme

name suffix 23 Black gem 24 Absolutely won't

26 Player of Lou Grant 28 Jill Biden, Jacobs 29 Definition of

homophone 31 Name on a thesaurus

33 Merkel of "Twin Beds" 34 How goods are sold in most stores

35 Wearing a disguise, in brief 37 Gallery works

38 "Ben-40 Halts

41 Definition of homophone #2

48 Bloomie's or Barneys rival 49 Hi-tech address

50 Tint 51 Nobles collectively 56 Had a bite 57 "Insecure"

network 58 Personal manner **60** Ore 61 Definition of

homophone 64 Sponge gently 67 Suffix with

Ecuador 68 Give the title **69** 600 minutes after noon 70 Definition of

homophone 76 Find an owner for,

77 Veers suddenly 78 Suffix with

rocket 79 GPs, e.g.

at times

Abbr.

85 Hoops

82 Car washers 83 Drink daintily 84 ETA part:

tourney org.

#6 DOWN 1 PC symbol

124 Homophone

2 Script part 3 Sweet treat that's tiered 4 Chicago

12 Robbery

14 Mere hint

13 Lowest point

15 Biblical name

of Palestine

16 Log-on name

17 Green gem

minerals

29 Big name in

waffles

30 Noble Brit

hit

39 4x4, for short

25 Road 180

27 Location

98 Will certifier. White 102 Bro or sis 5 Telegraphic 103 Trail mix code creator muncher. 6 Scarlett's Butler

mavbe 105 Definition of 7 Large couch homophone 8 Accedes 9 Brand of cat food

#6 109 However, for short 10 Lug around 112 Sounding off 11 Victorious cry

86 Definition of

#5

95 Label

e.g.

91 Aspiring

homophone

attv.'s exam

96 Garden tool

97 Writer Nin

113 Pesky annoyance 114 Little

setback 115 Petting zoo female

116 "Annabel Lee" writer 117 Great joy

118 Petting zoo female

119 Homophone

120 Homophone

123 Homophone

#5

32 "My mistake!" 35 "Insecure" 121 Homophone co-star Rae 36 Clutter-free 37 Feel poorly 122 Homophone 38 Elvis Presley

machine 43 Horse's gait 44 "Mask" star 46 Novice,

45 On - with in slang 47 Goddess of agriculture

52 Allude

53 Oodles

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55 Like a K-6

57 Top seller

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59 Producing

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60 Film prefix

63 Hubbub

65 "The King

66 Weed -

(lawn

72 Corn

product)

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particles in

with "Cop"

58 Feigned

54 "The World

According

42 — Goldberg

reggae 84 Mimic 85 Three trios **87** To be, to Henriette

79 "Band on the

80 Surrealist

81 Speaks

83 Kin of

Salvador

Run" singer

88 More apt to complain 89 "Check," at a poker table

school: Abbr. **90** Dam creation 91 — Tar Pits 92 Like some

huts or hats 93 Penitent sort 94 Safari shelter 99 Michael of R.E.M.

100 Singer such 61 Insect feelers as Pavarotti 101 "Shucks!" 62 Aug. follower 102 "Yes, -!" ("Indeedy!")

64 Sweetheart 103 Vietnam's capital **104** Bury 106 Latvia's

71 Short-billed capital

107 Paris hub 108 Actress 110 Barbers

Pinkett Smith 73 Fat-removal job, for short cut it 74 Inca's home 111 Ugly beast 75 Basil, for one 114 Sow or cow

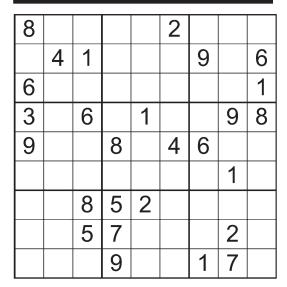
119

124

118

123

Weekly **SUDOKU**



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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112

115

120

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10 18 22 19 23 25 28 35 42 43 48 53 56 65 70 76 82 83 88 93 98 105 09 110 111

113

117

122

Puzzle answers page 11

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The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for the position of Information **Technology Director.** Duties include, but are not limited to, management, technical, and administrative work to plan, secure, and supervise the County's computers, information technology

coordinate, implement, operations, and data resources. The successful candidate will oversee the purchase of computer hardware, software, and attached systems, manage system integration and specialized programs, and maintain and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the county's information technology services. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated expertise in network infrastructure,

IT project management,

and cybersecurity, along

with excellent communication and troubleshooting skills. Knowledge of Windows and Windows Server is required.

A Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or Information Systems is preferred. Candidates with a combination of education and experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree in these areas will be considered. Certifications in various Microsoft software, Wide Area Networks, Local Area Networks, security, and web development are also preferred.

This is a full-time position with benefits exceeding \$25,000 annually, which include vacation and sick leave, life and health insurance, and retirement. Annual salary range is \$50,000 - \$70,000. Hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Evening, weekend, holiday, and flexible/irregular work schedules may be required.

Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application and resume to be considered for the position. A complete job description and link to the application are available on the Patrick County website at https://www.co.patrick. va.us/Jobs.aspx. Applicants must be willing to submit to a background check and drug screen. While the position is open until filled, the review of applicants will begin on June 16, 2025.

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Wednesday, June 4, 2025 - **11**

(Please Note: Meeting/event information must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday before the desired publication date. Email to dhall@theenterprise.net.)

Meetings

Monday, June 9

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

Thursday, June 12

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

Wednesday, June 18

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

Events

Monday, June 2 - Thursday, June 5

Wonder Junction VBS will be held at Stuart Church of Living Water from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dinner can be requested at 5 p.m. for children. Pre-registration is available at Stuartlivingwater.com, or by calling the church office, (276) 694-3322.

Thursday, June 5

Patrick County Public Animal Shelter will be closed to the public.

Friday, June 6

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

Saturday, June 7

Jeb Start Volunteer Rescue Squad will hold its monthly community breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. Plates are \$10 each and dine in, carryout, and curb services are available. Call (276) 694-6171 to place

Stuart's Knob Hike, 9 a.m., Stuart's Knob Trailhead; Lakeshore Trail Hike, 10 a.m., Amphitheater Trailhead; Turtle Time, 1 p.m., Visitor Center; Magic Trees, 2 p.m., Shelter 4; Fairy Stone Hunt, 4 p.m., Shelter 4; Going Batty, 8 p.m., Beach Breezeway, Fairy Stone State Park.

Sunday, June 8

Fairy Stone Park: Moonshine Hollow Hike, 10 a.m., Visitor Center; Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m., Shelter 4; Fayerdale: The Missing Town, 2:30 p.m., Shelter 4; Fungal Friends, 4 p.m., Shelter 4, Fairy Stone State Park.

Monday, June 9

Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m., Shelter 4, Fairy Stone State Park.

Tuesday, June 10

Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m., Shelter 4; Turtle Time, 2 p.m., Visitor Center, Fairy Stone State

Wednesday, June 11

The Patrick County Food Bank will distribute food boxes from 8:30-11 a.m. at 108 Commerce Street, Stuart and again from 5-6:30 p.m. Boxes will also be distributed from 8-10 a m. at Fellow ship Church in Ararat and from 5:30 p.m. until out days from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring an instrument, or just Speedway's "Speedway in Lights" featuring 3 milof boxes at the Community Building in Meadows come and listen.





Household pickup once a week - \$30 month Dumpsters for residential and business use available.



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Company Mark Pendleton

Jason Pendletor

Native Plants and Pollinators, 11a.m., Shelter 4; Turtle Time, 1 p.m., Visitor Center; Fairy Stone Hunt, 2 p.m., Shelter 4; Blobs in Your Backyard, 4 p.m., Beach Breezeway; Full Moon Campfire, 9 p.m., Amphitheater, Fairy Stone State Park.

Thursday, June 12

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Junior Cassady and friends. Hot dogs, buns, Cole slaw, condiments, and beverages will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring side dishes/desserts to share.

Turtle Time, 10 a.m., Visitor Center; Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m., Shelter 4; Insect Safari, 2 p.m., Shelter 4, Fairy Stone State Park.

Friday, June 13

Woodland Mindfulness, 10 a.m., Shelter 4; Fairy Stone Hunt, 1 p.m., Shelter 4; Turtle Time, 2 p.m., Visitor Center; Roosting in the Rafters, 3 p.m., Beach Breezeway, Welcome Campfire, 7 p.m., Amphitheater, Fairy Stone State Park.

Saturday, June 14

Red Bank Ruritan Club will celebrate 70 years, 12-4 p.m., 1828 Red Bank School Road, Claudville. Music will be provided by The Country Boys, Jordan Morrison and the Foothill Boys, and Goodfellers. Food and refreshments will also be served. Bouncy house, face painting, and more activities for children. Bring your own lawn chair.

The Ararat Ruritan Club will serve a country breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. The cost is \$10 per plate, which includes sausage, ham, apples, eggs, gravy, pancakes, homemade biscuits, and water, juice, or coffee.

Francisco's 2nd annual Car Show and Cruise In will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 7100 NC Hwy 89W, Westfield, N.C. Everyone is welcome to bring their vehicles and the entrance fee for the car show is \$20. Cruise-in parking will be free.

Monday, June 16 - Thursday, June 19

Middle Cross Missionary Baptist Church will hold Vacation Bible School nightly, 6-8:30 p.m., 59 Wayside Road, Stuart.

Friday, June 20

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

Sunday, June 22 - Wednesday, June 25

New Hope Church of the Brethren will hold Vacation Bible School from 6-8:15 p.m. Dinner will be served nightly for children. Call and leave a voicemail at (276) 930-2121 if you need a ride on the church van.

Ongoing

The Monday Market at Fairy Stone State Park will be held every Monday, rain or shine, through Labor Day from 5-7 p.m. at Shelters #3 & #4. This is a cash only market and parking is free.

he Coffee Break Café hosts live music on Tues

Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and inside yard sale is held. Proceeds used to buy supplies. Members meet on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's office, located on Wood Brothers Drive, in the basement. New members are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

Ararat Alzheimer's Group LLC group meets at the Fellowship Church in Ararat on the second Thursday each month at 12 p.m.

ta Community Center on the third Tuesday each month at noon. Both groups welcome new members and invite caregivers to attend. Literature is also available.

Vesta Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at the Ves-

The Patrick County Quilters' Sit-N-Sew, 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.

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

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

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

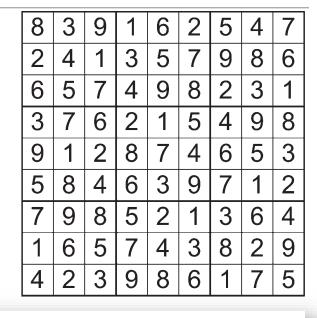
The Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food. Music and dancing are 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food, music 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. Call or text Ann Walker, (276) 732-0509, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Patrick County Senior Citizens group is sponsoring three upcoming trips — three-days, two-nights to Lancaster, Pa., June 18-20, and a one-day trip on August 2 is planned to NarroWay Dinner Theatre, Fort Mill, South Carolina. A two day, one night trip to the Abingdon and Bristol areas of southwest Virginia departing Tuesday, November 18 and returning Wednesday, November 19. Chartered bus transportation, shopping opportunities at Thee Draper Village in Draper, Virginia, one night's accommodation, a buffet dinner, and breakfast at the historic Martha Washington Inn in Abingdon, admission to the 4-mile Bristol Motor lion Christmas lights and Christmas Village, admission to the Barter Theatre's Christmas Show, "Elf: The Musical," baggage handling, taxes, and all gratuities. Deadline is Aug. 15. For additional details, call (276) 694-3917.

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OBITUARIES

Opal Mae Fain Wilson (Mas)

Mrs. Opal Mae Fain Wilson (Mas), age 81, of Stuart, VA passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family May 27, 2025 at Sovah Health in Martinsville. She was born in Patrick County on February 23, 1944 to the late Hobert McKinley and Ida Dollarhite Fain. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Neal Jackson Wilson, her brothers Calvin Fain and Alvin Fain, along with two infant brothers.

Opal was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and sister known to many by the name "Mas," lovingly given to her by her granddaughters. She was the owner and talented of Special Events Eve-



complishment and joy of her life was her fam-

Opal is survived by her three children and one son-in-law, Sandra Wilson, Gary Wilson, Angie Largen (Mike), all of Stuart, VA, and a daughter-in-law Michelle Wilson of Salem, VA; five granddaughters, Hannah Largen (New York, NY), Elizabeth Wilson (Boone, seamstress NC), Cassidy Largen Creek Rd; Stuart, VA (Boca Raton, FL), Kari ning Wear, common- Wilson (Raleigh, NC), ly recognized as "the and Lauren Largen dress lady." Opal en- (Charlottesville, VA); joyed any occasion to two sisters and one dress up and take her brother-in-law, June granddaughters shop- Williams and Mildred ping, and made cook- Clement (Johnny) of ing a large meal for the Stuart, VA; one brothfamily look effortless. er and sister-in-law, Anyone who knew her Melvin Fain (Shelby) knows that she would of Patrick Springs, say the greatest ac- VA; and her sister-in- Therapy Connection.

law Brenda Wilson of Axton, VA. She also leaves many nieces, nephews, and friends who will sadly miss her.

Mr.

of

Billy

Willard Leath

motorcycles,

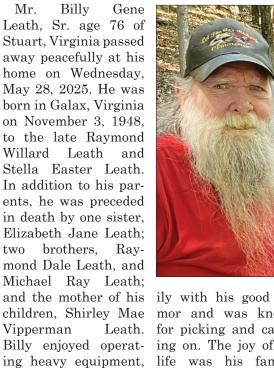
and shooting guns. He

was a likeable person

who made friends eas-

celebration Opal's life will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at Moody's Funeral Home Chapel in Stuart with her son-in-law, Mike Largen, officiating. Burial will follow in the Fain-Handy cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service and other times at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mike and Angie Largen. Flowers will be accepted or memorial donations may be made to the Fain-Handy tery Fund, % Mildred Clement 612 Rye Cove 24171. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

The family would like to thank all of the hardworking nurses and staff that cared for Opal, including Christy Handy, the superb staff of The Landmark Center and Blue Ridge Billy Gene Leath, Sr.



and the mother of his ily with his good humor and was known for picking and carrying on. The joy of his life was his family; fishing, he looked forward to spending time with each of them and his eyes lit up when his ervcies.com.

grandchildren called him Papa.

Mr. Leath is survived by four children, Billy Gene Leath, Jr (Donna), Michael Leath (Carol), Tina Young (Eric), and Rhonda Barrett; 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren; siblings, Barbara, Carolyn, Pat, Tamma, and Wade; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service for Mr. Leath will be private with his son, Pastor Michael Leath officiating. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the services and condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfunerals-

Amy Lynn Midkiff Grinnan

Amy Lynn Midkiff area where she spent Nancy Midkiff and aunt Mary Washington Hos- ed in death by her fapital in Fredericksburg, following a three-year battle with cancer. She ginia on July 10, 1967, the daughter of Bruce and Mary Lou Midkiff. As an infant, Amy re-

Grinnan, age 57, passed her childhood and adult away on May 16, 2025 at years. She was precedther, Bruce Midkiff and Virginia. Amy died her husband, Douglas Grinnan.

Left to cherish her was born in Stuart, Vir- memory are her son John W. Grinnan, her mother Mary Lou Midkiff and her sister Melba Howard and huslocated with her family band Doug. Amy is also to the Fredericksburg survived by her aunt,

and uncle, Herbert and lmogene Hall and numerous cousins. No services

planned at this time. The family is in the care of Mullins & Thompson Funeral Service. A loving obituary written by her son can be viewed https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/fredericksburg-va/ amy-grinnan.

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LEGAL

Trustee's Sale 465 McMoon Ln, Stuart, VA 24171 (Parcel ID: 5116-72)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 26, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$233,750.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Patrick, Virginia on April 26, 2021, as Instrument Number 210000905. the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on July 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM, in front of the building housing the County of Patrick Circuit Court, 100 N. Main Street, Stuart, VA 24171, the property designated as being in the Smith River Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Containing 23.231 acres, as shown on Plat of Survey entitled "David William Alexander Johnson and Tawnya Lea Johnson," prepared by R. Cleve Lawson, LS, dated April 5, 2017, and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office as Instrument Number 170000736. Together with a non-exclusive easement over and along McMoon Lane for ingress and egress to State Route #635, as set forth in prior Deeds. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$23,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Morris & Partners, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 5310 Markel Road, suite 201, Richmond, VA 23230, File No. 23-000232, Tel: 804-525-1570.

Health officials issue reminder about rabies risks, precautions

This time of the year horses, it is important to cats, and selected livewildlife tends to be more active and is more likely to have interactions with domestic animals of all sizes, according to health officials who issued a reminder about the risks of rabies to both animals and humans.

The most common source of exposure to rabies is a bite by a rabid animal. Rabies may also be transmitted by saliva if a rabid animal comes into contact with an open wound, the mouth, eyes, or nose.

Virginia law requires four months of age and older be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian, and that vaccinations be kept current. While rabies vaccines are optional for livestock and other larger animals such as

6:00 - 8:30 NIGHTLY

Everyone Welcome!

remember the best strategy for prevention is vac-

To protect against possible rabies exposure, it is important to follow these guidelines:

· If your pet and/or livestock has been in contact with an animal that might be rabid, check for injuries and contact your local animal control office.

· Seek medical treatment promptly for any animal bite to ensure appropriate and timely evaluation and treatthat all dogs and cats ment. All animal exposures must be taken seriously.

> Do not approach wild animals, especially raccoons, bats, foxes, or skunks. If you think a wild animal needs help, call the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (https://dwr.virginia.gov) or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for guidance.

· If a domestic animal appears ill, injured or need help, contact your local animal control office for guidance.

· Have your veterinarian vaccinate your dogs,

stock. Keep the vaccinations up to date. State law requires all dogs and cats over the age of four months be vaccinated against rabies.

· Confine your pets and livestock to your property.

· Securely seal garbage containers with lids to deter wild animals.

If you are bitten by a wild or stray animal do not panic. Wash the wound(s) thoroughly with warm soapy water and contact animal control, your healthcare provider, or the health department for further recommendations.

For more information on rabies, contact the Pittsvlvania-Danville Health District at (434) 433-3545 or via email at environmentalhealthpdhd@vdh.virginia.gov. You may also visit the Virginia Department of Health's website at http://www.vdh.virginia. gov/epidemiology/epidemiology-fact-sheets/ rabies/ or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at https://www.cdc.gov/ra-

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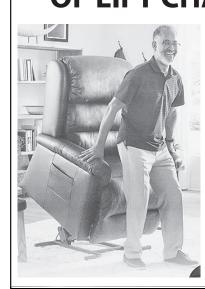
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Top readers listed in Woolwine Warrior Readers program

The top readers are:

the Warrior Reading program during the fourth free snack. In addition, students who read the that you will continue reading over the summer!

Woolwine Elementary School announced the quarter of the 2024-25 school year. Each student most books in each grade also received a free names of its top readers who participated in who reached their grade level goal received a book. Congratulations everyone, and we hope



Pre-K - Colton Edwards



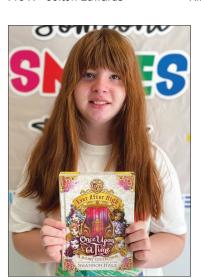
Kindergarten-Georgia Cockram



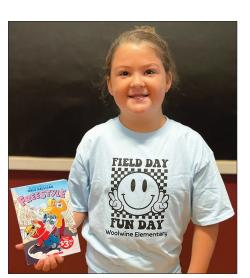
First Grade-Lexi Hubbard



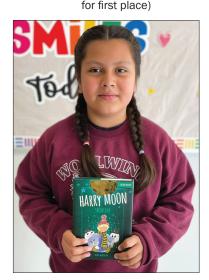
Second Grade-Joanna Shelton, Cayleigh Harbour, Merritt Cockram (tied



Third Grade-Lillian King



Fourth Grade-Kinley Fisher



Fifth Grade--Sophia Otero-Garcia



Sixth Grade-Wyatt Rodgers



Seventh Grade-Lacie Bullins

SCC -

(cont. from page 6)

their efforts in receiving their are." college credentials. He spoke of Sir Isaac Newton's laws of nounced the graduates' names motion, and how they related to the graduates. He shared, "It is the crux of law number three that I really want to send to the students. This opposite reaction and action; it is a choice for you. Life is about choices. So, I challenge you. Do not be afraid to take the path less taken. Do not let others direct and guide and make you feel different from who you

Dr. Ashley Morrison anto the audience. Dr. Shockley and Dr. Candace Holder, Senior Vice President of Academics and Student Affairs, presented degrees, diplomas, and certificates to the students who participated in the ceremony including fall, spring, and summer graduates.

During the ceremony's conclusion, students participated in the traditional 'turning of

the tassel' as friends and families applauded. As they move the tassel from the right side of the cap to the left, it symbolizes the transition from student to graduate.

SCC is currently registering students for fall classes. If you have any questions about applying for college, financial aid, or career choices, contact Student Services at (336) 386-3264 or studentservices@surry.edu. Fall classes begin Au-

Your County



The Board of Supervisors have forgotten that they are just a mouthpiece for the citizens here. They need to learn to listen again!



Malcolm Roach

Patrick County Board of Supervisor Smith River District

paid for and authorized by Malcolm Roach

Construction Academy begins at SCC in June

Through Surry Community College's Construction Academy, students can learn job ready skills in Construction, Electrical. Carpentry. Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning. Subjects covered will include construction basics, career exploration, OSHA-10 for construction, job shadowing, and interview skills. Tuition is free if you complete the course.

The 8-week long course starts June 2 and runs through July 31. No classes will be held from July 1-4. The classroom time is scheduled Mon-



Surry Community College is offering a Construction Academy from June 2 to July 31. Tuition is free if you complete the course. To register, contact The Pilot Center at (336) 386-3618 or pilotcenter@surry.edu.

student.

on Surry Community Colshadowing schedule will Center at (336) 386-3618 System.

be determined for each or pilotcenter@surry.edu. The Construction Acad-

The classes will be held emy is sponsored by Surry Community College, lege's Dobson campus in Carolinas AGC Foundadays and Wednesdays the K-Building. To reg-tion, and the North Carfrom 2 to 4:30 p.m. A job ister, contact The Pilot olina Community College





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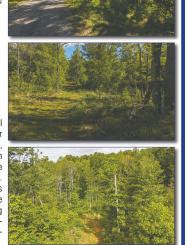


Multiple Wooded Tracts for Sale in Woolwine VA Online Auction Ends Thursday, June 26th at 3 PM TBD SHORTCUT DRIVE, WOOLWINE, VA 24185 **Bid NOW at VAAuctionPro.com**

Are you searching for recreational land or a new building site in Woolwine, VA? Look no further than these 5 offerings that are being sold at auction. This auction features +/- 154 acres that is split into 5 offerings. Each offering ranges from 18 to 55 acres. Purchase one or multiple lots to get your desired acreage!

> OFFERING #1: +/- 26.557 ac OFFERING #2: +/- 55.452 ac OFFERING #3: +/- 36.279 ac OFFERING #4: +/- 19.360 ac OFFERING #5: +/- 18.851 ac

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 per offering is required on the day of sale. Close on or before August 11th, 2025. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 3 PM on June 26th, 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 Gallimre. Matt@gmail.com. You can also contact Realtor Booie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or Realtor Jason Underwood at 540-230-9516.

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



Blue Ridge Land & Auction

Spending Plan

(cont. from page 1)

"And we do need to keep our parks and recreation for tourists to have something to come back to," he said before making the motion to increase the tax by 1%.

Overby asked how much revenue the 1% increase would gen-County Administrator Beth Simms said approximately \$140,000.

Overby then seconded the mo-

Later in the meeting, Commissioner of Revenue Glennda Morse noted that since the TOT is collected on a calendar-year basis, the county would not receive the full \$140,000 in the current fiscal

Simms estimated the TOT would generate approximately \$70,000 in FY2026 and \$140,000 in subsequent years.

Wood agreed with Perry, saying visitors use many county services.

"I know we've talked about some of those. I know the Sheriff's Department had to help lost people more than once—people getting injured out there doing different things," he said.

Wood added that TOT rates have never influenced his travel

Perry noted that local volunteer fire departments and the ropes team recently hiked about a mile into the woods and down a cliff to rescue someone.

"The ropes team's equipment is expensive. A lot of times you don't get a lot of uses out of it because as soon as it starts to wear it becomes unsafe for rescue. I know they pull from the general fund to support that," he said.

Overby said he doesn't think the 1% increase would deter visitors.

"Like you (Wood) said, I don't pay any attention when I go places. Quite frankly, ours is still very small compared to what it is in other localities, especially places that have a lot of tourism. You know, it's not uncommon to find places with 13-14 percent, so I don't think it's going to make much of a difference," he said.

Perry said the biggest trend he's seeing is increasing parking fees.

"I had a friend that got back from someplace—they were charged, I want to say, \$20 a night to park at a hotel they were already staying at," he said.

Marshall said that while he agreed with the need for additional revenue, he disagreed with increasing the TOT as the method.

"I think the effect this would have, in contrast with the effect it would have on tourism, just doesn't pan out for me," he said.

In other matters, the board:

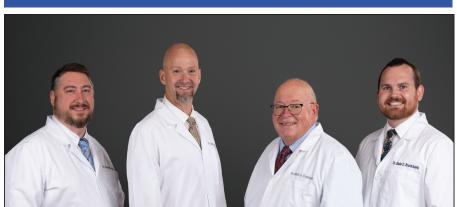
*Approved keeping the personal property tax rate the same in a 5–0 vote. The motion was made by Overby and seconded by Marshall.

*Awarded the 2027 general real estate reassessment contract to Vision/Wampler-Eanes.

*Awarded a contract for repairing the Patrick County Jail HVAC to Handy Rentals, with the provision that if Handy is unable to match the warranty offered by Vipperman Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Inc., the contract will be awarded to Vipperman. Since Handy has since withdrawn its bid, Vipperman will be awarded the contract.

*Approved a contract with Triangle Electric for HVAC and electrical system upgrades at the Patrick County Circuit Court.

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