

# Candidate for supervisor arrested on felony charges



Malcolm Roach Sr.

**By Staff Reports**

A candidate for the Patrick County Board of Supervisors has been arrested on multiple felony sex offense charges, according to Sheriff Dan Smith.

Malcolm Roach Sr., 70, of 170 Fairystone Church Loop in Stuart, was arrested Monday, June 9, on 10 felony counts of attempting to possess bestiality materials.

Smith said his office executed a search warrant at Roach’s residence on January 8. Computer devices seized during that search were analyzed by the Virginia State Police High Tech Crimes Division.

According to Smith, the analysis indicated that multiple bestiality websites were accessed between February 13–15, 2024. He also alleged the analysis showed attempts to delete content related to those websites.

Patrick County Commonwealth’s Attorney Dayna Bobbitt said the charges stem from indictments handed down by a grand jury seated in Patrick County on June 2.

An indictment is not a determination of guilt, but rather a finding that enough evidence exists to proceed to trial.

The indictments allege that Roach “unlawfully and knowingly attempted to produce, distribute, publish, sell, transport, finance, possess, or possess with the intent to distribute obscene material depicting a person engaged in sexual contact with an animal,” Bobbitt said.

Each offense is classified as a Class 6 felony, which carries a potential sentence of up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$2,500, or both.

“These charges reflect the Commonwealth’s commitment to thoroughly investigate and prosecute crimes involving obscene and exploitative content,” Bobbitt said in a Monday release.

“These investigations are lengthy, technical, and can be complicated,” Smith added. He said the investigation is ongoing.

Patrick County Sheriff’s Lt. Steve Austin is

**(See Roach p. 3)**

# Democratic Primary Election set for June 17

Voters participating in the Democratic Primary Election will head to the polls on Tuesday, June 17. All polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A sample ballot is printed in this newspaper showing the names of the candidates.

Voters are also reminded to bring an acceptable form of identification with them on Election Day, as Virginia law requires that all voters present an acceptable form of identification when voting. Any voter who does not have acceptable ID may sign an ID confirmation statement.

A registered voter needing to vote early may do so in person at the Registrar’s Office, located at the Patrick County Veterans’ Memorial Building, 106 Rucker St, Rm 216C, Stuart. The office is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The final day for early voting is Saturday, June 14, at 5 p.m. For additional information contact the Registrar’s Office at (276) 694-7206.

Patrick County polling places and their locations are:

**Dan River District**

Ararat - Ararat Ruritan Bldg. 4711 Ararat Hwy.

Claudville - Claudville Community Bldg. 1828 Red Bank School Rd.

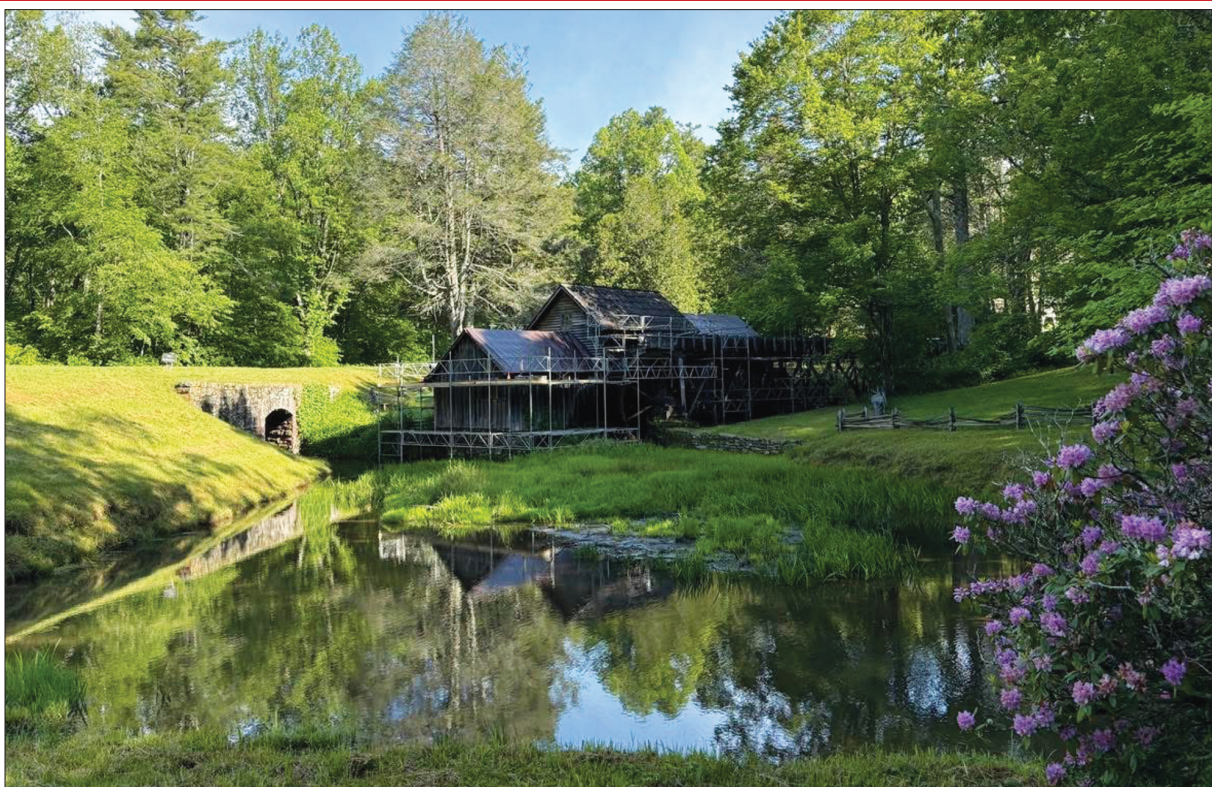
Willis Gap - Willis Gap Community Center 144 The Hollow Rd. Peters Creek District

Dry Pond - Peters Creek Community Bldg. 2130 Dry Pond Hwy.

Patrick Springs - Patrick Springs Fire Station 181 Spring Rd.

Russell Creek – New Hope Community

**(See Democratic p. 3)**



Renovation is currently being done to repair Mabry Mill’s roof.

# Renovations underway to repair roof at Mabry Mill

**By Taylor Boyd**

Construction to replace and preserve the shake roof of Mabry Mill for future generations is currently underway.

The renovation, which started earlier this month, is expected to be completed in July.

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation Communications Director Rita Larkin said the organization is contributing more than \$100,000 for the project.

“Any other costs are being addressed by the National Park Service,” she said.

According to a June 3 release, scaffolding will surround the mill and limit access to the building’s interior during the renovation project. Park visitors will still be able to explore the adjacent turn-of-the-century structures and trails.

“This roof replacement project required extensive planning

**(See Mabry Mill p. 2)**

# Shelton & Williams to Headline Final PCMA Show Before Summer Break

**By Taylor Boyd**

Shelton & Williams will headline the Patrick County Music Association’s (PCMA) final show before its summer break on Saturday, June 28.

The event will be held at the Rotary Building in Stuart. Doors open at 5 p.m., with music beginning at 6 p.m.

PCMA President Denny Alley said Shelton & Williams, a trio, will perform a mix of country and bluegrass music.



Shelton & Williams will headline the Patrick County Music Association’s (PCMA’s) Saturday, June 28 show.

Patrick County High School (PCHS) auditorium.

While last month’s show drew a good crowd, Alley said its attendance was affected by conflicting events, including graduation

at the Patrick County High School.

“We didn’t do the greatest, but we didn’t do the worst,” he said.

Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education

Team, with proceeds supporting firearm safety education for local youth.

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

# Swink plans to put financial expertise to work as Smith River Supervisor

**By Taylor Boyd**

Rick Swink hopes to put his financial expertise to work for Patrick County if he is successful in his November bid for the Smith River District seat on the Board of Supervisors.

A financial advisor with Edward Jones, Swink said his professional background in personal finance and budgeting gives him a solid foundation to help the county navigate fiscal challenges.

“While personal finance and public finance are slightly different, the basics are the same,” said Swink, 40, who currently works remotely for the firm’s home office.

He will face Malcolm Roach in the race. Incumbent Doug Perry is not seeking reelection.

Swink said he decided to run after hearing from several community members and spending time in prayer.

“Apparently, being new to the area is a good thing. I moved here back in September, and one of the hesitations I had



Rick Swink is seeking the Smith River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors in the November election.

about this is because I was new to the area that I thought I might not be well-received, but apparently new to the area is a pro in a lot of people’s books,” he said.

Swink relocated here from the New River Valley. Since considering a run for office, he said he has binge-watched Board of Supervisors meetings

to get up to speed.

“It seems to me there’s kind of a need for transparency and responsibility—both fiscal and to the citizens of the county and the district—and freedom to live the way people want to live out in this part of the state,” he said.

Swink noted that many residents value the absence of zoning laws and want to maintain the ability to do what they wish with their property.

“And balancing that with people’s desires to not have certain things nearby them is a little bit of a decision to make, but there is a responsibility to the citizens of the district to vote in their best interest,” he said.

On transparency, Swink said he’s heard concerns about closed-door meetings and wants to better understand what topics are legally required to be discussed in executive session.

“Me being new to the county, I don’t know how pervasive that is. This is just what I’ve

**(See Swink p. 3)**



# Mabry Mill

(cont. from page 1)



The renovation, which started earlier this month, is expected to be completed in July. Rebecca Adcock (in foreground) visited the work site recently.

to ensure historical accuracy. This initiative is being undertaken with the assistance of the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC). The HPTC will install hand-riven white oak shakes crafted by Cumberland Mountain Craftsman based in Harrogate, Tenn. This vendor was carefully selected for its attention to detail and ability to create the 6,000 authentic shakes required," the release stated.

Foundation Vice-President of Engagement Kevin Brandt said the organization's community of stewards has a long-standing commitment to preserving Mabry Mill.

There are a number of critical needs at this historic site, which can be addressed by leveraging donor support in conjunction with our partnership with the National Park Service. We look forward to continuing to support the preservation of this treasured site," he said.

Previous Mill projects include rebuilding its waterwheel and wooden flume.

While the Foundation doesn't have a set list of planned projects for the Mill, Larkin said the group will continue to raise funds for keeping it open to the public and an educational

area for visitors.

"We just work closely with" the National Park Service "and figure out what steps they want to take next. The first step was the roof, and now we'll work with them on whatever they feel like is the next best way to preserve the Mill," she said.

Larkin said the Foundation also has the Rocky Knob Cabins on its radar for needing repairs, but doesn't have any plans for it at the moment.

Larkin doesn't believe the Park Service has anyone planned to lease the Mill's restaurant this year. The restaurant was last operated about two years ago.

"They do have a gift shop in there operated by America's National Parks," she said.

Over the summer, the Blue Ridge Music Center will host free Milepost Music concerts at the mill on the first and third Sundays of each month from 2-4 p.m. through September.

The June 15 concert will feature Carrie Hinkley and Virginia Hollow.

Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rebecca Adcock said she's hopeful the renovations will have a positive impact as they're going to spruce up the mill.

In addition to the roof repairs, Ad-



The work was funded by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and the National Park Service and is expected to increase tourism in the Meadows of Dan community and the county.

cock said renovations will be done to pillars inside the building and planks along the water wheel side. The park service will also potentially backwash the flume to make it function better and dredge the pond.

"Once they get done with Mabry Mill, they are moving down to Puckett's Cabin to restore it," she said.

Adcock believes more people will visit the area to see the work being done.

"It's the same thing with the road. A lot of people are upset with the (U.S.) 58 expansion, but it also has driven a little bit of tourism cause people are interested to see the progress and the scope of the work. I think it holds true for the parkway service as well and projects going on with the Mill. So, we anticipate some increase in traffic there and then at the Puckett's Cabin when things are restored," she said.

Felecia Shelor, owner of the Poor Farmers' Market in Meadows of Dan, said the work to repair the mill will have a beneficial impact on the community as a whole.

"We're really happy to see this, and relieved. If Mabry Mill had not been maintained and restored and repaired it would not be complete devastation, but extremely devastating to Mead-

ows of Dan," she said.

During the peak season, Shelor estimates the mill attracts about 500-1,000 visitors daily.

"It's just the main tourist attraction here in Meadows of Dan. It's a huge impact, so we're really grateful that the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation has chosen to invest in it," she said.

However, because the mill is made of wood, Shelor said it's going to need more repairs in the future.

"It's not like a one-time fix on any of these things. It has to be a consistent, federally managed effort to keep it all maintained well, and that's where something has gone wrong in the last 15 years," she said.

Before the late 15 years, Shelor said maintenance to the mill and the parkway was great. She added the road sides were mowed, the overlooks were pristine, and campgrounds, picnic areas, historic places, and rail fences were maintained.

"Now, it's not nearly maintained well enough, and that can't fall to the fundraising organization, which is generously helping restore the roof on Mabry Mill. This is a federal government problem...because the federal government owns the property," she said.

## Chamber Chat



Rebecca Adcock at Mabry's Mill helping on a project.

**By Rebecca Adcock**

And then, one fairy night, May became June. ~ F. Scott Fitzgerald. I am unsure if it was fairies or Father Time that sped this calendar up to flip the page to June. We are already half way done with the year. Where are you on your 2025 Goals list? Myself, behind but making small steps toward progress.

May was filled with meetings and events. The Chamber hosted our lunch and learn "Pre-Venture Planning for Entrepreneurs" on Tuesday, May 6th. We had a great turnout and look forward to working with the individuals who attended as they work to develop their business ideas.

I attended the lun-

cheon for the Patrick County Education Foundation. The Foundation is raising funds to be able to initiate their Patrick Promise. This program covers the cost of tuition for Patrick County students to attend Patrick & Henry Community College for free. Thank you to the Board of Supervisors, the County EDA, Primland, and many private donors who are making this program a reality for our youth and investing in education for Patrick County.

The big event for the month for the Chamber was attending the Federal Bank of Richmond's Investing in Rural conference. This year's conference spotlighted the strategies and solutions that support economic

strength in rural communities — embracing empowerment, working together, and leveraging assets.

These extra meetings were in addition to the regular monthly meetings that involved the Downtown Revitalization project for Stuart. This project is slowly moving along. We hope to be completely under contract for construction of facade improvements by the end of July.

I attended the Outdoor Recreation plan meeting at Reynolds Homestead. This meeting highlighted some of the initial plans for enhancing outdoor recreation in Patrick County.

I would also like to highlight a few events that took place with the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation. They received news that their large implementation grant for Blue Ridge Rising was awarded. Blue Ridge Rising is the initiative to unify all the gateway communities that are along the Blue Ridge Parkway. This action plan provides a comprehensive regional strategic plan to advance travel, outdoor recreation, and related economic development in the 29 counties and gateway communities

along the parkway. This action plan is the result of over two years of community meetings and strategic planning that the Chamber and other community stakeholders were a part of. One aspect of the plan is to have an ambassador representative from each of the 29 counties. I am the ambassador for Patrick County. We had a conference call this month to share the news of the grant award and work on the next steps. Due to my role as ambassador, I was able to meet with Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation staff at Mabry Mill this past Friday to talk with news outlets about the restoration work that is starting on Mabry Mill's roof and then moving on to the Puckett Cabin. I know how much we all love the parkway and want to see it maintained and enhanced for visitors and residents. I invite anyone to register and attend the Blue Ridge Rising Summit, which will be held July 8-10th in Roanoke.

All these meetings were in addition to our many local events that start the summer seasons. Both our farmers' market, Stuart and Fairy Stone, opened for the season. The First

Friday Summer Jam season kicked off in May as well as the Strawberry Festival that turned out to have a great weather day for record vendor turnout.

June looks to be as busy. Longer daylight means more time to get out there and en-

joy Patrick County. For complete event listings, visit the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce's website at [www.patrick-chamber.com](http://www.patrick-chamber.com) or call the office (276) 694-6012.

(Adcock is the executive director of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce)

## Pets of the Week



This lab mixed female is a sweet girl, but will do best as an only pet.

The shelter is drowning in kittens. Several more have come into the shelter. Please save the life of a mom cat and/or kitty.

This red girl was found on Church Hill Lane in Woolwine. No one came looking for her. Such soulful eyes and a sweet personality.

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

find information about these and other available pets in need of a forever home. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination.

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League provides pet food assistance and information about low-cost spay/neuter services; we are always in need of pet food donations. Contact [blueridgeawl@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgeawl@gmail.com) for details.

To see more pictures and videos of the cats and dogs at the shelter, visit our Facebook page at Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League.

email us  
DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET

## Norris

Memorial Services

Visit our website for pricing:  
[www.norrismemorialservices.com](http://www.norrismemorialservices.com)

1500 Kings Mtn Rd.  
Martinsville, VA,  
276-638-2778



# Democratic

(cont. from page 1)

Commonwealth of Virginia

Sample Ballot

County of Patrick

Democratic Party Primary Election

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Instructions to voters

To vote for a candidate, use a black pen to fill in the oval next to the name, like this:

If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.

If you make marks besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

Lieutenant Governor

Vote for only one

Levar Marcus Stoney

Babur B. Lateef

Aaron R. Rouse

Victor R. Salgado

Ghazala F. Hashmi

Alexander J. Bastani

Attorney General

Vote for only one

Shannon L. Taylor

Jay C. Jones

End of Ballot

Authorized by the Electoral Board of the County of Patrick, Patrick County Office Bldg, 106 Rucker St., Room 216C, Stuart, VA, 24171

The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. Any reproduction of this MAY NOT be printed on white paper. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate. For state requirements, see §24.2-622 and §24.2-656 of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530

Church, 1863 Clark House Farm Rd  
**Mayo River District**  
Critz/Stella - Hardin Reynolds Elementary School 3597 Dogwood Rd.  
Liberty - Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department 3125 County Line Rd  
**Blue Ridge District**  
Meadows of Dan - Meadows of Dan Community Bldg. 2858 Jeb Stuart Hwy

Stuart Fairgrounds - Hooker Building, Rotary Field, 420 Woodland Dr.  
Stuart Community - Stuart Community Center (Patrick Henry Community College, Patrick Site) 212 Wood Brothers Dr.  
**Smith River District**  
Elamsville - Fairystone Fire Station 6687 Fairystone Park Hwy.  
Woolwine - Smith River Rescue Squad Bldg. 9962 Woolwine Hwy.

# Roach

(cont. from page 1)

leading the investigation in coordination with the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office and the Virginia State Police.

Roach was released on a \$7,500 secured bond.

Last month, Roach announced his candidacy for the Smith River District seat on the Patrick County Board of Supervisors.

He attended the regular board meeting on Monday, June 9. Speaking afterward, he said he was shocked by the charges.

He said authorities initially seized his computer while investigating the death of his wife, Angela Laprade Roach.

“On the computer they found pornography. I’m not denying it, it’s there. But I counseled with a young guy who was on meth, and he come to my house quite often, would spend an entire day, and he’s doing well,” Roach said, adding that he made the mistake of letting the man use his computer.

“I came in, and I actually caught him looking at porn,” Roach said. “He lost his computer privileges, and that’s basically the whole story. There’s nothing else to it.”

He said he doesn’t know what the authorities have done or are trying to do. “But at this time, all I can do is just push the paperwork onto an attorney and go on,” he said.

Roach said he still intends to run for the Smith River District seat in the November election.

“Why not?” he asked.

Roach has not yet submitted the necessary paperwork to qualify for the ballot. “I was going to do it today (Monday), but I was busy,” he said, chuckling.

“You know what? God is always in control, always. So, while I was there (sheriff’s office), I actually got to talk to a young guy, another young man who I helped with meth, but unfortunately, he had a relapse. But God put me in the right place at the right time, and I got to talk to him today too, so God makes good things come from bad,” Roach said, adding that people will make up their own minds.

“People who know me know, and people that don’t (know me) can come to a conclusion. They’re entitled to that,” he said. “But I’m not going to run, I’m not going to hide, I’m not going to stay at home. This is me, take it or leave it.”

# Indictments issued in June

Grand jurors in Patrick County handed down more than 30 indictments on June 2, according to records in the Patrick County Court Clerk’s Office.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt, but a grand jury’s determination that enough evidence exists to warrant a trial.

Those named in the indictments are:

- \*Jonathan David Bocock, 38, of Stuart, hit and run, Nov. 9.
- \*Justin Wyatt Woodall, 43, of Claudville, possession of Schedule I or II drugs, Aug. 21.
- \*Nathaniel Lawrence Barker, 29, of Meadows of Dan, strangulation, Sept. 23.
- \*James Devontae Flood, 24, of Martinsville, one count each uttering and forgery, Oct. 3, 2023.
- \*Ivy Rayne Hollinger, 32, of Stuart, one count each possess ammunition by felon and possession of Schedule I or II drugs, Feb. 4.
- \*China Marie Welch, 31, of Riner, one count each possession of a firearm by non-violent felon, and larceny of a firearm, on or between Feb. 25-26, 2024.

- \*Terry Lee Cardwell, Jr., 55, of Madison, NC, one count each burglary and possession of burglary tools, March 26.
- \*Daniel Wayne Reynolds, 71, of Patrick Springs, one count each possession of a firearm by violent felon and concealed carry by felon, Aug. 29, 2024.
- \*Franklin D. Rose, Jr., 39, of Stuart, one count each malicious wounding, violate protective order with injury, and violate protective order by stalking, on or between Dec. 5, 2024, and Jan. 14, 2025.
- \*Joshua Christopher Herring, 40, of Lawsonville, N.C., two counts possession of Schedule I or II drugs, on or between Jan. 17 and Feb. 4.
- \*Lawrence Wesley Forehand, 64, of Capron, malicious wounding, Oct. 5.
- \*Kelly A. Forehand, 63 of Capron, malicious wounding, Oct. 5.
- \*Maranda Lee Castano, 43, of Stuart, possession of Schedule I or II drugs, Feb. 14.
- \*Andrew Roy Hill, 39, of Stuart, malicious wounding, Dec. 19.



# Flag Day display installed at library

In honor of Flag Day 2025, Ann McConnell and Julie Brannon, members of the Colonel Abram Penn Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution NSDAR (DAR), installed a display at the Patrick County Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library. Flag Day is celebrated June 14 and commemorates the adoption of the Flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

# Painter scholarship awarded



The Eldon Ray Painter Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Lexi Cutchins (center), by Sharon Shepherd (left) and Tommy Shepherd.

# Swink

(cont. from page 1)

been hearing from people here that I’ve spoken to... so it’s going to be a learning experience for me on what legally should be in behind-closed-door meetings and what can be public,” he said.

Still, Swink believes maximizing what is visible to the public is a good thing.

While he hasn’t yet studied the county budget in depth, Swink said he’s concerned by what he’s seen and heard—particularly the reliance on contingency funds and the lack of earmarked allocations within the general fund.

“Everything’s just kind of lumped into a general fund rather than divvied out, earmarked for specific things,” he said.

He also cited concerns about the potential for tax increases.

“You can’t always avoid raising taxes because costs of everything are going up all the time, but doing whatever we can to minimize or to not raise taxes is important,” he said.

Swink, who earned a degree in residential property management from Virginia Tech, worked in real estate and property management from 2007 to 2019 before transitioning into financial advising.

While he hasn’t yet laid out specific goals for his term if elected, Swink said he plans to listen closely to his constituents.

“For me, it’s just going to be listening to the people that talk to me, listening to the folks here in the Smith River District and seeing what they want and trying to get those things done,” he said. “I’m new to even the decision to run, so what I hope to accomplish is what the citizens of the district want me to accomplish.”

Swink is also an active member of the Smith River Rescue Squad and the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department. He lives with his American bulldog, Sam, and is learning to keep chickens. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, camping, riding his motorcycle, and sitting by the fire pit.

# Marriage Licenses

According to records in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk’s office, the following marriage licenses were issued in May:

Jody Adkins Jr. - Amber Robinette	Shannon Pack - Jakelynn Boyd
Chadwick Moore - Collette Ellis	Charles Page - Allison Boyd
Freddie Willard Jr. - Joy Howard	Kerrie Hill - Brandon Royal
Johnny Brown - Lauren Crews	

Stuart, attempted 1st degree murder, Nov. 6.

- \*Rodney Aaron Turner, 32, of Stuart, assault and batter on law enforcement officer, Nov. 9.
- \*Jasmine Marie Chapman, 21, of Stuart, possession of Schedule I or II drugs, Nov. 6.
- \*Danny Ray Harris, AKA Donny Ray Harris, 43, of Martinsville, possession of Schedule I or II drugs, Nov. 20.
- \*Griffith Coy Goodyear, 35, of Stuart, one count each burglary, intentional damage, and violate protective order, Jan. 23.
- \*Dionte Morris Nowlin, 23, of Stuart, threat to kill in writing,

- \*Steven Ray Joyce, 51 of Stuart, possession of Schedule I or II drugs, Sept. 3.
- \*Katelyn Briona Dunn, 19, of Stuart, possession of Schedule I or II drugs, Sept. 16.
- \*Billie Jo Nelson, 31, of Stuart, assault and batter on law enforcement officer, Oct. 28.
- \*Richard Lee Byrd, 44, of Patrick Springs, break and enter, Dec. 20.
- \*Brianna Michelle Morgan, 28, of Critz, possession of Schedule I or II drugs, Jan. 17.
- \*Matthew Ryan Scott, 39, of Patrick Springs, unauthorized use of a vehicle, Dec. 8.



# Are Blackouts or Brownouts Coming?

Many families have prepared for the return of summer.

Plans include pool parties, barbecues and vacations.

Some plans will account for summer heat. Air conditioning and other tools will be increasingly used to keep homes cool.

This increased electricity demand means that our electric grid will be under greater stress.

We are already hearing of potential breaking points this summer in our electric grid.

The Friday before Memorial Day, Energy Secretary Wright issued an emergency order directing the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to ensure a coal-fired power plant in Michigan remained operational.

Wright issued the order to minimize the risk of blackouts ahead of the high electricity demand expected.

New Orleans is part of MISO, a regional grid operator that provides transmission service to all or part of 15 U.S. states as well as Manitoba, Canada.

Notwithstanding keeping the plant open, the New Orleans metro area suffered a large and unexpected power outage during Memorial Day weekend. At the blackout's peak, more than 100,000 customers lost electricity.

According to news website Axios, utilities were aware of the strain on the grid for at least 48 hours before the disruption.

Reports confirmed that two of the region's nuclear power plants lost connection to the grid. One was due to expected maintenance, the other was unexpected. Constrained by a lack of energy supply, grid operators cut power to customers in New Orleans.

Entergy, an electric utility company in the region, said that the forced outages directed by MISO were done to



**Morgan Griffith**

Representative

prevent a larger scale and more prolonged power outage from impacting the electric grid.

This blackout was not the only major power outage in recent memory.

On April 28, Portugal and Spain witnessed the worst blackout in their history, affecting 55 million people, per British newspaper The Guardian.

Airports were shut down, cars drove on streets without traffic lights, hospitals resorted to backup generators and some people were stuck in elevators!

While the Iberian Peninsula blackout continues to be investigated, it is interesting to note that on April 16, Spain reported its first weekday where its national power grid was 100% reliant on renewable power.

A coincidence? Maybe, maybe not!

Coincidentally, in a recent Virginia Tech press release, professor and Power and Energy Center director Dr. Ali Mehrizi-Sani highlighted how the systems that control these clean energy sources are more susceptible to blackouts.

As parts of the world transition to renewable energy sources like wind and solar, the lack of seamless grid adaptation to the use of these sources, as illustrated by the blackout in Spain and Portugal and by experts like Dr. Mehrizi-Sani, threatens destabilization of electric grids and more blackouts.

For years in Congress, I actively warned about the threats posed by leftist policies that attempted to gut our grid's reliance on fossil

fuels and convert to renewables.

Federal policies, like the Obama-era "War on Coal" and the Biden Administration's so-called Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), shunning reliable baseload forms of energy like coal and natural gas have made our electric grid more vulnerable to failure.

California's reliance on renewables continues to subject residents to rolling brownouts. California has since, seemingly, mitigated the issue, but accordingly has one of the highest electricity rates in the country.

In 2013, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) announced plans to close eight coal-fired power units, citing a flat demand for power.

They have already closed five, but have opened several natural gas power plants.

TVA customers have experienced rolling brownouts as energy demand increases.

I have already introduced a bill this year to help improve our electric grid.

H.R. 3632, the Power Plant Reliability Act of 2025, allows states and regional grid operators to delay proposed closures of baseload power plants forced on them by state or federal mandates and regulations until a reliability solution is implemented.

This bill was passed by the House Energy Subcommittee on June 5.

There are also elements of the House reconciliation bill that support our electric grid.

In the House bill, we curtail some IRA tax credits, which disincentivize coal and natural gas power plants. We kept the incentives for nuclear because of its significant potential for baseload power.

We also create an energy project insurance pool to help protect energy investors from permits being revoked for coal, oil, critical minerals, natural gas or nuclear installations.

This de-risking compensation fund will make it harder for federal policies to discourage and phase out these reliable sources of energy.

I will continue advocating for reliable energy solutions that secure America's electric power grid!

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

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

## Letters to the Editor

### Lessons from Mr. Rigney, then and now

I recently had the opportunity to glance at the applications submitted for the George D. Rigney Memorial Scholarship, which was presented at the Senior Awards Assembly on May 8. The applications for this scholarship showcased the character, aptitude, scholarship, and leadership skills of numerous seniors.

While I didn't know any of these students, nor did I participate in the selection process, the presentation of this scholarship was very important to me. It was an opportunity for the graduating seniors and their families to be reminded of the great teacher, who was once a senior class sponsor for so many years. As part of his duties, he helped plan graduation and he announced the names of the boys as they began their walk across the stage.

I did not attend the awards ceremony this year, but I wonder how many of the men in attendance had a memory of Mr. Rigney clearly enunciating every syllable of their name at their own high school graduation. I also wonder how many of them reflected on those much needed grammar lessons taught in Mr. Rigney's classroom. However, I expect that many of the men mostly remember the mornings before school started when they congregated in his room just talking about whatever was on their minds. He provided love, guidance, and education to so many people in Patrick County with ease and willingness between 1967 and 1998.

Mr. Rigney made graduation a reality for many students who might

have otherwise given up on the possibility. For struggling students, he arrived in June for summer school helping them meet their English requirements. He wrote countless references for jobs, scholarships, and college admission applications. His dedication to his students and his profession supersedes that of most teachers.

I was informed that a young man by the name of Cameron Collins received the scholarship this year. I assume he is kind with a genuine concern for others and desires that everyone be treated fairly just as Mr. Rigney did. Congratulations to Cameron!

This weekend I plan to visit Mr. Rigney's grave and place a small garden flag covered with little graduation hats. I take this little flag up there every May and leave it all summer. I then place it in the trunk of my car and leave it until the following year. It is getting old and faded, and I would buy a new one if I could find a similar one. I also fill up the bird feeder that I previously placed on the other side of his stone. Animals and school were two of his three favorite things, although family was always first for him, and he had a huge one.

I have told both my boys, Braxton (a JAG officer in the US Army) and Rigney (a teacher) to always find a "Mr. Rigney" to guide them in their daily work. It is my hope that graduates everywhere will find a "Mr. Rigney" to guide them through college and career endeavors.

Marsha Marcela,  
Boone, N.C.

### Building Patrick County's future, together

In our respective roles dedicated to promoting an increasingly prosperous Patrick County, we want to take this opportunity to express a very special thanks to Patrick's elected leaders and those whom they appoint.

As has been reported here, the Patrick County Education Foundation and Patrick & Henry Community College have been quite active recently in promoting the Patrick Promise, an opportunity for Patrick County High School graduates to attend P&HCC at a cost that is free to the family. We have been motivated to promote the Promise because PCHS graduates who enroll at P&HCC have not had the same benefit that their peers from Martinsville and Henry County have enjoyed. By leveling the playing field, the Patrick Promise is, also, a direct investment in Patrick's economic development and can serve as an effective mitigant for families who may otherwise rule out a community college education for their child because of financial stress.

We are very grateful that this community investment has been enthusiastically embraced by the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, the Patrick County School Board, and the Patrick County Economic Development Authority through their recent actions. And we say, simply, thank you!

Indeed, the leadership provided by these three leading bodies within Patrick sets a valuable tone for all other potential donors. Matter of fact, when we approach individual or corporate donors with our ask for their support, one of the first questions we receive is "Is the County providing support?" We are very excited, and again grateful, that we can proudly report that our county

leaders are leading the way with this key investment in Patrick's future.

The Board of Supervisors, School Board, and Economic Development Authority join several businesses, other foundations, PCHS alumni, and individuals in moving the fundraising for the Patrick Promise to the point that we should be able to launch this valuable opportunity for PCHS graduates in the not-too-distant future. As we do so, we recognize that for the investment to have a sustained, year after year effect, funding will continue to be needed across the community.

So, on behalf of everyone who has stepped forward to date, including our County leaders, we invite you to consider how you may join this effort to strengthen our County. You can visit our website (web address) to make your one-time or recurring gift at any time.

By giving to the Patrick Promise, we will all realize a win-win-win proposition:

-A win for individual graduates who can earn meaningful credentials that lead to in-demand, high-wage jobs.

-A win for employers who need a steady pipeline of talent to keep their businesses competitive and growing.

-A win for Patrick as more people live better, healthier lives, thereby contributing to the economy, supporting their families, and building a stronger, more vibrant Patrick County for all of us.

Thank you for your support of the Patrick Promise and an increasingly thriving Patrick County!

Dr. Stewart Roberson, PCEF Board Chairman,

Dr. Greg Hodges, P&HCC President

If you enjoyed the recent columns by Ben Williams and Holly Kozelsky, they are available weekly in the Henry County Enterprise

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# Dan River downs Cougars in regional semi final



Easton Harris tags out the Wildcat runner.

**By Pat Delaney**  
The Dan River Wildcats ended the season for the Patrick County High Cougars in the Class 2 Region C semifinal game, played at Ferrum College on June 2. The Wildcats rode two big innings to an 11-1 win.  
Dan River scored 5 runs in the second and the fourth, putting the game out of reach behind strong pitching.  
“Their pitcher pitched really well, you can’t take anything away from him. He did a hell of a job. Hats off to him and the game he played,” said

Cougar head coach Tal Swails. “We’re good enough to compete in that game. We just had a bad day.”  
The Cougars finished the season with a 15-5 record.  
Coach Swails said after the game of how proud he was of his team, including his five seniors. For Chance Corns, Gavin Fain, Easton Harris, Noah Jessup and Jackson Horton, it may have been their last game in Cougar green and gold, but what they accomplished with their teammates has been remarkable.



The Cougars gather between innings.

“I’m so proud of those five guys,” said Swails. “They’ve been great stewards of Cougars baseball. They’ve been in the program since they were in the seventh grade, and they’re going to be missed dearly, but they’ve had great careers, and they’ve got

nothing to be ashamed of. They can be disappointed about this game, but they’ve all had incredible careers” including the 2023 state championship. “They’ve been to the peak, and now they’re in the valley, and that’s baseball.”



Laila Rodriguez



Greenly Elliott



Kayla Bartley



Rachael Gooch

## Four Lady Pats earn NJCAA Division III First Team All-America Honors

Four standout student-athletes from P&HCC’s Lady Pats softball team have been named to the 2024-25 NJCAA Division III Softball All-America First Team. This recognition comes on the heels of a historic season that saw the Lady Pats finish as national runners-up at the 2025 NJCAA DIII Softball World Series.  
The four Lady Pats earning First Team All-America honors are Laila Rodriguez (shortstop), Greenly Elliott (outfielder), Kayla Bartley (pitcher), and Rachael Gooch (catcher).  
These student-athletes were instrumental in leading P&HCC to the regular season championship, which included a deep run to the national championship game, where the Lady Pats ultimately finished second to North Dakota State College of Science.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment not just for these four phenomenal athletes, but for our entire program. This honor reflects the commitment of our players, coaches, and supporters to building something special here,” said Athletic Director Brian Henderson.  
“To have four players named NCAAA First Team All-American is incredible. These young women put in the work every day and pushed each other to be great. I’m proud of their growth, their leadership, and the legacy they’ve left for future Lady Pats,” said Head Coach Robbie Campbell.  
To view the full list of NJCAA Division III Softball All-Americans, visit:  
<https://www.njcaa.org/sports/sball/2024-25/div3/all-americans/index>

## Sports Briefs

**All-District honors for Cougars baseball**  
Six Cougar baseball players were named to the Three Rivers All-District team for their outstanding play this season. Leading the way was 1st Team outfielder Jaiden Wilson.  
Receiving 2nd team All-District honors were shortstop Noah Jessup, catcher Erik Martinez-Tejeda, outfielder Gavin Fain and at large player, Christian Hylton. Receiving honorable mention All-District honors was first baseman, Jackson Horton.  
**Four Lady Cougars make soccer all-district team**  
The Lady Cougars soccer team had four named to the Three Rivers All-District team.  
Earning second team honors were forward Kyra Titular, forward, Raeli Moran, midfielder Kendall Williams, and defender Daryl Lynn Combs.  
**Cougar Track & Field shines at VHSL State Championships**  
The Patrick County High Cougar track team had some impressive performances at the VHSL Track & Field State Championships at James Madison University, June 6-7.  
Gracen Conner took second place in the 200M, with a time of 26.25, just a fraction off the winner’s time. Conner also placed 5th in the 400M.  
Sadie Martin placed 4th in the 3200, and 6th in the 1600. In the boys 3200, Noah Hiatt finished 14th and Hunter Martin finished 15th, as well as 17th in the 1600. Fisher Martin took 17th in the 800.  
The relay team of Ellianna Montgomery, Cameron Rakes, Callie Wood, and Sadie Martin placed 7th in the girls 4x800. In the boys 4x800, Noah Hiatt, William Overby, Hunter Martin, Fisher Martin took 9th, and the team of Fisher Martin, Nathan Callahan, Glenn Stovall, and Xavier Torres-Seda placed 15th in the 4x400.

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## PCHS Volleyball Camp for K-6th graders

Patrick County High School will offer a volleyball camp for elementary aged kids. The camp is a great opportunity for those interested in learning or improving their volleyball skills, and maybe one day, getting to play for the Lady Cougars.

The camp is July 14-15 at the PCHS gym. The cost for the camp is \$30 on camp day. Campers will receive skills training, a T-shirt and more.  
For more information, email [heidi.moore@patrickk12.va.us](mailto:heidi.moore@patrickk12.va.us).



Journey Moore has been named Three Rivers District Player of the Year.

## Moore named district player of the year; six Lady Cougars named all-district

**By Pat Delaney**  
Journey Moore was named Three Rivers District Player of the Year. Moore ranked in the top three in the district in most offensive categories, including a .529 batting average, and won five games as a pitcher.  
The Lady Cougar softball team had six players named to the Three Rivers All-District team. Leading

the way was senior Lilly Hazelwood, named to the 1st team at second base. Also making the 1st team was catcher Journey Moore, pitcher Jenna Woods, and Taylor Lawless as the designated & flexible player.  
Hayden Lawless was named to the 2nd team as an at large player, and shortstop Lauren Hazelwood earned honorable mention honors.  
(See Sports p.8)



# Crossing the Lines

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

### Rawls sues city manager, deputy over removal from council meeting

Martinsville City Council member Aaron Rawls filed a civil rights lawsuit June 2 in federal court alleging his First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments were violated at a March 25 Martinsville City Council meeting.

The five count suit names City Manager Aretha Ferrell Benavides and Martinsville Sheriff's deputy Reva Keen in their personal capacity. It was filed in Danville by William H. Hurd, of the Richmond-based law firm Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott.

The 15 page filing requests judgment against Keen and Ferrell-Benavides, "jointly and severally, for compensatory" and punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial, and/or alternative damages. The filing also asks for attorney fees and costs incurred by Rawls, and demands a jury trial.

The filing states that Rawls used the time allotted to him during a recent council meeting to criticize the leadership of the city, and to declare his opposition to a pay raise for the City Manager.

In response, an armed deputy sheriff, allegedly acting at the direction of the City Manager, immediately seized Rawls and forced him to leave his chair, leave the meeting, and leave the building where the meeting was being held.

**Davis brings light to community, special needs stories through the lens**

Daydream Photography is more than a business—it's a mission. Run by Adam Davis, the studio has become a familiar presence at community and charity events throughout Martinsville and Henry County. With a focus on supporting special needs families and highlighting moments of genuine connection, Davis uses his lens to showcase the heart of the community.

"I really started for special needs. My daughter is nonverbal and autistic, so I noticed that there was no photography business in the industry for special needs," Davis said.

Motivated by a personal gap in the market, Davis began partnering with local businesses like The Ground Floor to build his portfolio. As his business grew, so did his mission.

"No one was featuring small businesses or the town in the light that it should be, so I ended up creating Martinsville Mondays and started to photograph local events, starting to build our community up," he said.

Daydream Photography offers portraits, headshots, and wedding photography, but Davis says the heart of his work lies in filling gaps within the community—by uplifting others and capturing moments that might otherwise be overlooked.

Davis first discovered photography around age 14, during a class at Pied-



Aaron Rawls

The suit states that on March 25, the city council held a regular public meeting for the transaction of public business. as a council member, Rawls attended the meeting and took his seat on the dais along with other council members.

Ferrell-Benavides was also present at the meeting, and, while she has no vote, she also sat on the dais along with council members.

Keen was also present at the meeting "for the ostensible purpose of providing security. Keen was dressed in her uniform as a Deputy Sheriff and was displaying her badge of authority and was visibly carrying a firearm along with other paraphernalia typically used by law enforcement officers for the purpose of subduing subjects of arrest as needed," the suit states.

### Man rescued from Bowen's Creek after apparent medical emergency

A man was pulled from Bowen's Creek in the Bassett area on Tuesday, June 3, after experiencing an apparent medical emergency while swimming, according to Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis.

Davis said the man is believed to have suffered a medical episode while in the water, prompting a rescue by his family members.

"He subsequently had to be rescued from the water by his family members," Davis said. "Those same family members initiated CPR and continued until the rescue units arrived on scene and took over."

The Henry County Sheriff's Office received a call reporting a large gathering at the scene and responded to assist with crowd control so emergency personnel could provide medical treatment.

Once the Bassett Volunteer Rescue Squad arrived, first responders took over CPR efforts and were able to achieve a return of spontaneous circulation—successfully restarting the man's heart, Davis said.

The estimated "downtime," or



Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis

the period the man was without a heartbeat, is believed to be about eight minutes. Davis said the initial 911 call came in at 5:16 p.m., and the Bassett squad arrived at 5:24 p.m. He estimated that the man's family performed CPR for approximately 10 minutes before EMS crew members took over.

The man was later airlifted from a nearby landing zone at Mount Hermon Church of the Brethren by Air Life 1. His identity and current condition have not been released.

### Patriot Players hit a high note with Sister Act



The P&HCC Patriot Players' production of Sister Act ran through June 8.

The Patriot Players at Patrick & Henry Community College opened their latest production, Sister Act, on May 30. The disco-infused comedy blended soul music and a convent setting in a lively onstage spectacle that had the audience cheering after nearly every number.

The two-hour performance marked one of the group's more mature shows, with themes that may not be suitable for young viewers. Still, it drew an opening-night crowd of more than 100.

The story follows "Delores," a lounge singer who finds herself hiding in a convent after witnessing a crime. Over time, she grows from a self-centered performer to a valued member of the struggling Covington community. The heart of the show emphasizes joy, transformation,

and the power of chosen family.

"It's a show about joy, resilience, and community," said producer Devin Pendleton.

The performance ran smoothly, despite a few minor technical hiccups. "Tonight, during 'Overnight,' Eddie's rip-away costume didn't work. We've probably done it 50 times. This was the first time it didn't work—he was supposed to reveal into white and then back into the cop look. But that's live theater," Pendleton said.

Pendleton also highlighted the regional talent involved in the production. "Folks ask me all the time, 'Where do you get these folks? Are they professionals?' They're all right here—Martinsville, Eden (N.C.), Roanoke. They're all local and regional," he said.

### Bass contest relocates to Smith River Complex, breaks attendance records




Bryant Radio's 53rd annual bash — a 6X National Sound Pressure League (NSPL) event and a bass wars sound competition was held at the Smith River Sports Complex for the first time this year.

"The only time we ever stopped was the three years from the COVID


the contests are getting louder," Bryant said.

Bryant said the change was driven by a desire to accommodate the event's growing popularity and respond to concerns from nearby residents. Moving the contest to a dedicated outdoor venue gave participants more space—and volume—without interfering with neighborhood peace.


"I said, why not? You know, so we built the car up and took it to the show, and since then we've been rolling," Bryant said. The store, now in its 53rd year, still brings a specially equipped Honda with a custom sound system to the competition.




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**Coleen Fulcher Shough**

Coleen Fulcher Shough, age 96, passed away on June 1, 2025. She is survived by daughters, Susan McDonald of Aiken, SC and Rita (John) Arrup of Huntersville, NC; granddaughters, Katie (Polo) Lopez and Kelly Paige Arrup, and a loving extended family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Eldon Shough, her parents, seven siblings, her son-in-law, and her great-grand-



son. Although recently residing in Aiken County, SC, she dearly loved her hometown and her home church

of Providence United Methodist Church in Patrick Springs where a graveside service will be held on Friday, June 6, 2025, at 1:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Providence United Methodist Church, 1021 Providence Drive, Patrick Springs, Virginia 24133. Online contributions may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Dalton Lee Derrow**

Dalton Lee Derrow entered the world quickly and joyfully on February 15, 2025, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Even in his earliest days, he was known for his radiant smile – smile so bright and contagious it brought light to everyone around him. His giggles filled every room with warmth and joy, and those cherished moments will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. Dalton passed peacefully in his sleep on May 30, 2025. Though his life was brief, he left a lasting impact of love.

Dalton is lovingly survived by his mother, Alice Helms Derrow, and father, Justin Scott Derrow, both of Harrisonburg, Virginia; his big sister, Olive Riane Derrow, of Harrisonburg, Virginia; his grandparents, Earlene and Clayton Helms, Brent Derrow and Liz Porcaro; and his great-grandparents, Robert Smith,



Francis Derrow and Evona Helms.

He is also survived by his aunts and uncles; April Helms and her devoted partner Jackson Hawes, Jeff and Jessica Jones, Ethan Derrow, Carla and Paul Pavon, Christina and Jake Snyder, and Ashley Whitehead; Dalton was dearly loved by many great uncles, aunts, cousins and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his grand-mother, Vicki Smith; great-grandfathers, Coy Helms, Warren Derrow, and Earl Spady; great-grand-mothers, Janice Smith

and Mary Rose Spady; his uncle, Justin Helms; and his cousins, Zachary Ross and Zachary McBee.

A service to celebrate Dalton's life will be held on June 14, 2025 at Conner's View Primitive Baptist Church in Meadows of Dan, Virginia. The family will receive friends and loved ones beginning at 12:00 noon, with the service to follow at 1:00 p.m. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

In honor of Dalton's bright and joyful spirit, the family kindly asks attendees to wear bright and cheerful colors to reflect the sunshine he brought into all of our lives.

For friends and family in Harrisonburg and beyond who are unable to attend, a separate celebration of life service will be planned and announced at a later date. Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

**Sports**

(cont. from page 6)

**Three Lady Pats named NFCA NJCAA DIII First Team All-American**



Greenly Elliott

Patrick & Henry Community College softball standouts Kayla Bartley, Laila Rodriguez, and Greenly Elliott have been named to the NFCA NJCAA Division III First Team All-American Team. This national recognition is one of the highest accolades in junior college softball and is a reflection of the trio's standout performances throughout the 2025 season.

Kayla Bartley, one of the nation's leading pitchers, was a dominant presence in the circle this season. Her power, unmatched competitiveness, and ability to rise in big moments made her a cornerstone of the Lady Pats' postseason run.

Laila Rodriguez, a returning member of the 2024 national championship team, brought leadership and relentless energy to the field each game. Known for her versatility and speed, Rodriguez was a game-changer both offensively and defensively.

Greenly Elliott, also a 2024 national champion, set the tone for the Lady Pats as leadoff hit-



Kayla Bartley

ter and center fielder. Her ability to ignite the offense and cover ground in the outfield was instrumental in the team's success.

Together, these All-Americans helped lead P&H to a national runner-up finish in 2025, continuing the program's run as one of the elite in NJCAA Division III softball.

Head Coach Roger Campbell praised the student athletes for their remarkable achievements, saying,

"Kayla, Laila, and Greenly are the heart of our team. They've set the standard for what it means to be a Lady Pat—tough, selfless, and committed to excellence. What they've accomplished is nothing short of extraordinary, and they've helped put P&H softball on the national map. I couldn't be prouder."

The NFCA NJCAA Division III All-American Team is selected by a committee of coaches from across the country and honors the top players in the nation at the two-year level.



Senior Lilly Hazelwood was honored prior to the Dan River game.



Journey Moore tags out the Dan River runner.

**Lady Cougars beat Dan River, fall to Chatham in regional playoffs**

By Pat Delaney

Due to rainy weather, the Patrick County High Lady Cougar softball team had to wait four days to get their Regional playoff first round game on June 2 against Dan River. After giving up a first inning home run, the Lady Cougars came right back with two runs in the bottom of the first, and would get the win, 10-5.

Lady Cougar starting pitcher Hayden Lawless, after giving up the first inning home run, struck out the next two batters and held Dan River scoreless for the next 4 innings, strik-

ing out six.

After being honored in a pre-game ceremony, senior Lilly Hazelwood led the Lady Cougars at the plate, going 3-4 with a home run and 3 RBIs. Journey Moore was 3-3 on the night with 2 RBIs and Hayden Lawless was 1-3 with 3 RBIs.

The next night, the Lady Cougars made the trip to the Botetourt Sports Complex in Troutville for the regional semi-final matchup with Chatham, falling 7-0 to end their season.

The Lady Cougars finished the season with a 17-5 record.

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# PATRICK PULPITS

## Stick Built Evangelism

By Van Yandell

Matthew 7:26-27 “And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

Carpenters sometimes use the term “stick framing” to describe a type of residential construction. Stick framing utilizes dimensional softwood lumber (spruce, pine, fir) to construct the skeletal/framing system of a house.

The cases of tornados and hurricanes destroying entire communities have exceeded any foreseeing of such events. We could not have imagined just a few years ago that such massive damage could occur.

As of May 28th, 2025, 1018 touch-downs of tornados had been reported in the continental United States according to a major news network.

Things change, and that includes weather patterns. Shifts in atmospheric conditions are an anomaly that even the most knowledgeable of meteorological prognosticators could not have foreseen.

Excuses have been offered such as the burning of fossil fuels, for these changes. The arrogance of mankind to think we could alter God’s creation is almost humorous. When we begin to think/believe we are in control, disasters are looming on the horizon.

Spanish fishermen began to notice the warming waters in the Pacific we know as El Nino in the 1600’s, nearly 300 years before man began to burn fossil fuels. No one then had anything to offer as an excuse. It was and continues to be a natural phenomenon that makes it appear the climate is changing every few years.

The massive evaporation of Pacific waters due to the El Nino effect, created levels of flooding in North America, Europe and in September of 2023, Libya in North Africa. Resulting snow accumulations in mountainous areas also were much greater than normal.

To use such natural occurrences as political footballs speaks volumes about those that pervert information to meet their own agenda.

The weather anomalies causing the excessive wind storms and destruction like our current generations have never seen will likely continue. One obvious solution is to change our building techniques.

My first mission assignment to Kenya left me with many memories. One of those memories was watching a construction crew place hand cut stones into a building wall. Four very strong young men were required to place the large rectangular stones in place.

That wall will be standing a thousand years from now. If a wind comes to blow it down, our entire planet will be blown away. Built long ago, many buildings such as that one are still standing and as strong as ever.

Traveling in Europe we notice buildings, especially the castles and cathedrals that were build millennia ago, still in use and showing very little sign of wear and tear.

On a construction job in Spain, I asked a member of the church, “Why are you building a church for a congregation of 120 that will hold 3000? His response, “In a hundred years, it will

be full.” Some are gifted and hopeful to see far into the future. I had not witnessed such rock-solid building materials and techniques as I saw there.

In Gochina, Russia I helped build a church wall of brick laid in pure Portland cement one half meter (about 19 ½ inches) thick.

We slept in a house in Wales that was built in 1595. On Orkney Island, Scotland we prayed in St. Magnus cathedral. The foundation was laid in 1137 and took 300 years to complete. St Peter’s Basilica in Rome was built beginning in 1506 and completed in 1626 replacing the Basilica built by Emperor Constantine in the fourth century.

In Greenock, Scotland we visited the church in which Margie’s great-great grandparents worshipped before sailing to the New World in the 1830’s.

It certainly appears we in America build structures to last a few years, tear them down and build new. Perhaps this is a practice of capitalism but the lives lost in stick built houses and manufactured housing cannot be justified with economic pursuits.

Temporary is not an acceptable word in road or bridge construction. Highways in many countries fail because of inadequate foundations. There’s a lesson in that!

Jesus told His believer-followers to tell the world about Him and the eternal salvation He offered by a faith-based belief in Him crucified for the remission of sin and resurrected.

Have we become as negligent in our obedience of His word as we have in our techniques of building construction? We build houses that will blow away in a tornado or hurricane and those are becoming more and more frequent and destructive. Are we reinforcing the faith in ways that will be dismissed as easily and quickly?

We have become a people that seem to have the attitude “we can do no wrong.” The opposite appears to be the case when our actions and techniques obviously fail. Perhaps storm shelters would be a reasonable addition to any new house build.

The aftermath scenes of a tornado path appeared as scattered toothpicks. This stick framing technique that has been used for years no longer works. It is unsafe in today’s world just as our old methods of evangelism are not working.

The church has become a stick-framed house in tornado alley. It is time to re-evaluate. To see homes reduced to rubble in seconds is alarming and only those affected are noticing. When the church focus is on entertainment and feel good preaching, the stick-frame house effect is sure to follow.

Who knows? You or I may be next to die in a storm. Who will die without the saving knowledge of our Jesus because our evangelism no longer works? We must see every person as someone Jesus died for.

Will we begin to build houses with stone and concrete or continue with the vulnerable methods of the past? At times we have to realize, change is necessary because the old is no longer effective.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher and framing carpenter, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com.

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

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

2. Where did Jesus ride a colt as people strewed branches along His path? Derbe, Jericho, Jerusalem, Joppa

3. Who promised God if He gave her a baby boy no razor would ever touch his head? Rachel, Hannah, Lois, Jezebel

4. What was the river that


the Israelites crossed when they entered Canaan? Pison, River of Fire, Jordan, Tigris

5. From 1 Kings 20, which city’s walls fell on 27,000 men? Jericho, Samaria, Sodom, Aphek

6. Who sold his birthright to his brother? Cain, Esau, Judas, Isaiah

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Jerusalem, 3) Hannah, 4) Jordan, 5) Aphek, 6) Esau

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Meadows of Dan, Virginia  
**Rev. Tommy Gosnell**  
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Worship Services 11 am

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(actually in Patrick Springs)  
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**Reconciliation**  
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

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## Super Crossword

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HIP-HOP

### ACROSS

1 "Toosie Slide" rapper  
6 "Top Chef" host Lakshmi  
11 Mardi Gras city, for short  
15 Wine vessel  
19 French city  
20 Web vending  
21 With, in Paris  
22 Margarine  
23 1996 2Pac album with the hit "California Love"  
25 Flo — ("Low" rapper)  
26 Sainly ring  
27 Mayhem  
28 1986 Beastie Boys album with the hit "Fight for Your Right"  
31 Equine beast  
34 "Paper Planes" rapper  
35 Unit of corn  
36 1988 N.W.A album with the hit "Express Yourself"  
47 "— my case"  
48 Ed of "Radio"  
49 Golfer's drive  
51 Gotten along adequately  
53 50 — ("In da Club" rapper)  
54 Reagan-era mil. project  
56 Boxing great  
57 "Let Me Blow Ya Mind" rapper  
58 Solar beams  
60 1992 Dr. Dre album with the hit "Nuthin' but a 'G' Thang"  
64 Strengthens  
67 How some food is fried  
69 Des Moines natives  
70 2020 Juice Wrld album with the hit "Come & Go"  
74 Novelist Elizabeth George —  
77 Battle-ready  
78 — Typhoon Lagoon (water park)  
82 2010 Nicki Minaj album with the hit "Super Bass"  
84 Strong — ox  
86 Six plus four  
87 Half of dos  
88 Statute  
89 R&B singer Erykah  
91 1980s jeans brand  
94 Fee for the use of a pier  
98 Wastewater  
100 Kin of keno

### DOWN

1 Colorless  
2 Part in a play  
3 — lang syne  
4 Ship's spine  
5 Irish New Age singer  
6 Candy from a dispenser  
7 From — Z  
8 Pioneer Boone, briefly  
9 Actress Rogers of "Bosch"  
10 Actor Baldwin  
11 Magical land of C.S. Lewis  
12 Egg capsule  
13 Bury the — (omit the key part of a story)  
14 College life  
15 Companions  
16 Jai —  
17 Peddle  
18 DJ — Herc (founder of hip-hop in 1973)  
24 Online 'zine  
29 CPR pros  
30 Masking —  
32 "Quiet!"  
33 Actor Keach  
36 Back of a 45  
37 Treasure pile  
38 Hollywood's Zellweger  
39 Enzyme suffix  
40 Skater Midori  
41 Mine metals  
42 Tea vessel  
43 — for tat  
44 Suffix with narc- or neur-  
45 Extended family, to Hawaiians  
46 Actress Gena Lee —

### ACROSS

50 Twitches  
52 "Troy" actress Diane  
54 Hood's knife  
55 Nixing mark  
59 Big primate  
60 Two- — sloth  
61 Taking cover  
62 French for "kings"  
63 Actor Wilson  
65 Strong criticism  
66 Feudal toiler  
67 "Your wish — command!"  
68 LA-to-MI dir.  
71 Zilch, in Peru  
72 Do a sketch  
73 Nutrition std.  
74 Tater  
75 — noir (wine)  
76 Cain's eldest (philosopher)  
79 Les — -Unis  
80 Streisand film of 1983  
81 — Dogg ("Drop It Like It's Hot" rapper)  
83 Robert of "The Sopranos"  
84 Singer Levine  
85 — Hill Records ("Rapper's Delight" label of 1979)  
89 "The Fresh Prince of — Air"  
90 Poking tool

92 Suffix with project  
93 Ontario's capital, on scoreboards  
95 Nairobi natives  
96 "Preach it!"  
97 Portal  
98 Without, in Paris  
99 Greek vowel  
102 Noon nap  
103 Lilylike garden plants  
104 Church song  
108 Lil Uzi — ("Futsal Shuffle" rapper)  
109 Zeno of — (philosopher)  
110 Hitting stats  
111 R&B singer Winans  
112 Omani, e.g.  
113 Tabula —  
114 Shapur barks  
116 "What —!" ("How precious!")  
117 Spicy cuisine  
118 Actress Harper  
119 Bits of land in la mer  
120 TV's — May Clampett  
124 Create a lap  
125 — -T ("O.G. Original Gangster" rapper)

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Puzzle answers page 11

## Weekly SUDOKU

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7	3	8		9				
				8			1	5

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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NOW HIRING

The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for the temporary, full-time position of Reassessment Clerk. The duration of employment will be from July 2025 through the completion of the real estate reassessment in

early 2027. The clerk will work under the general supervision of personnel from the professional firm conducting the real estate reassessment, performing extensive data entry of real estate records and general clerical support to the firm. The desired candidate must possess excellent data entry and clerical skills and be proficient in Microsoft Office. The ability to set priorities, keep confidential information, and work cooperatively with staff of both the county and the professional firm are essential. The successful candidate must be able to work with the public in a courteous and tactful manner and to work independently without direct supervision. The regular work week will be forty (40) hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Hours may vary, however, depending on the requirements of the reassessment firm. Overtime may be required. Hourly wage is \$15.45. This is a temporary position with no benefits. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application and resume to be considered for the position. A link to the application is 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. Applications must be received by Friday, June 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in order to be considered. The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for a part-time Parks & Recreation Assistant. Duties

of the position will include, but are not limited to, operating grounds maintenance mowing equipment, including tractors, mowers, and weed eaters; preparing ballfields; trash and debris collection and disposal; assisting with landscaping; miscellaneous general grounds maintenance tasks; assisting with recreational sporting events; and other duties as assigned by the Parks & Recreation Director. The preferred candidate will have experience with grounds maintenance equipment operation and be able to perform manual labor. A valid Virginia driver's license is required. This is a part-time position with no benefits. Hourly wage is \$15.45. The start date for the position is July 1, 2025 or later. Hours will be scheduled as required between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Evening, weekend, and flexible/irregular work schedules may be required. Hours are limited to 29 or less per workweek. The Patrick County employment application is available at https://www.co.patrick.va.us/Jobs.aspx. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application to be considered for the position. The position will remain open until filled. Applicants must be willing to submit to background and drug screenings. The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

The Patrick County Clerk of Circuit Court office is accepting applications from qualified applicants for the position of Administrative Assistant. The position provides administrative support to the Clerk of Circuit Court and customer service assistance to the general public. This is a full-time position with annual benefits in excess of \$16,000, which include vacation and sick leave, life and health insurance, and

retirement. Annual salary range is \$32,000 to \$34,000. Hours are 8:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Overtime may be required. A high school diploma or equivalent is required; an Associate's degree is preferred. Experience in a legal or court environment is preferred. Proficiency in Microsoft Office is required. The Patrick County employment application and a complete job description are available at https://www.co.patrick.va.us/Jobs.aspx. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application and resume to be considered for the position. The position will remain open until filled. Applicants must be willing to submit to a drug screen and background check. The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

YARD SALE

**Huge Yard Sale** 132 Diamond Dr, Bassett. Thursday-Saturday, June 12-14 from 8am-3:30pm Craftsman tiller, fishing, knives, cast iron, musical instruments and lots of vintage and household items.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR A REVIEW, PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1:15 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, OF THE DECISION TO INCUR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COSTS RELATED TO A SMALL MODULAR NUCLEAR REACTOR CASE NO. PUR-2025-00085

During its 2024 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapter 836 (HB 1491) of the 2024 Virginia Acts of Assembly, which was codified as § 56-585.1:15 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"). Code § 56-585.1:15 authorizes a Phase I Utility, such as Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company"), to petition the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") to review the Phase I Utility's decision to incur project development costs related to development of a small modular nuclear facility ("SMR").

On May 16, 2025, pursuant to Code § 56-585.1:15, APCo filed a petition ("Petition") with the Commission for review and approval of APCo's decision to incur project development costs related to the early development of an SMR in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Specifically, the Petition requests a Commission determination that incurring these costs is reasonable and prudent. APCo does not seek cost recovery in this proceeding but will do so as part of a future proceeding pursuant to Code § 56-585.1 A 6.

APCo states that due to the extensive licensing, permitting, and other development timelines for an SMR, the Company estimates that it will take between seven and 12 years to complete an SMR project. APCo asserts that its decision to take the first steps towards the development of an SMR facility is a reasonable and prudent part of the Company's long-term generation development strategy.

APCo states that it has selected its Joshua Falls site for early SMR project development activities. According to the Petition, Joshua Falls is a Company-owned property within its service territory along the James River in Campbell County, Virginia. The Company states the property has an existing transmission substation and adequate transportation networks, including rail and truck delivery with only minor modifications needed.

The Petition describes APCo's current and future SMR early project development activities. These activities include: (i) program management; (ii) Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") licensing; (iii) reactor original equipment manufacturer evaluation and selection; (iv) communications; (v) new nuclear Quality Assurance Program; and (vi) siting, due diligence, and permitting analysis. APCo further states it has selected an NRC Early Site Permit contractor for the Joshua Falls site; submitted the new nuclear Quality Assurance Program Description to the NRC for review; submitted a grant application for a Department of Energy SMR funding opportunity; and continued engineering and planning activities.

APCo states that it has incurred \$6.5 million in pre-capital improvement expenditures related to its SMR early project development through the end of first quarter 2025. APCo estimates total SMR early project development costs of \$122 million.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Petition, testimony and supporting exhibits for additional details concerning this matter.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on APCo's Petition. On October 9, 2025, at 10 a.m., the Commission will hold a telephonic portion of the hearing, for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before October 2, 2025, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting); or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141 to register. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting).

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

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

Electronic copies of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 E. Cary St., Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [njcoates@aep.com](mailto:njcoates@aep.com). Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information).

On or before October 2, 2025, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition electronically by following the instructions on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00085.

On or before July 31, 2025, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be served electronically on counsel for the Company, any other respondents, and the Commission's Staff. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00085.

On or before August 28, 2025, each respondent may file electronically with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling) any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on the Commission's Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00085.

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

The Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, the Petition, and the public versions of other documents filed in this case may be viewed on the Commission's website at: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information](http://scc.virginia.gov/case-information).

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

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.

LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. CL25000155-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104  
Martinsville Circuit Court, 55 W Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112  
VALLIE W. HYLTON v. JOHN DOE, JANE DOE, UNKNOWN HEIRS  
The object of this suit is to:  
FOR THE COURT TO DETERMINE WHO IS THE OWNER OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 411 FAYETTE ST., CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA. THE DESCENDANTS OF JAMES WILLIAM HODGE, JR., DECEASED, AND JAMES CHRISTOPHER HODGE MAY OWN AN INTEREST IN THIS PROPERTY. TO DETERMINE WHO OWNS THIS PROPERTY THE PLAINTIFF IN THIS CASE IS ASKING THE COURT TO RENDER AN INTERPRETATION OF THE WILL OF LUCILLE HODGE, DECEASED. IN ORDER TO ASSERT AND PROTECT THEIR POTENTIAL RIGHTS OF INHERITANCE, ANY PERSON WHO BELIEVES HE IS SHE IS AN HEIR OF JAMES WILLIAM HODGE, JR. AND/OR JAMES CHRISTOPHER HODGE. It is ORDERED that JOHN DOE, JANE DOE & UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JAMES W HODGE appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 5, 2025.  
June 5, 2025  
*Jean P. Moran*  
JUDGE CLERK

LEGAL

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Patrick County Planning Commission will have a regular business meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be at the Patrick & Henry Community College (Stuart site) in the Community Room.



Request for Proposal Smart Snack Ice Cream

Patrick County Public Schools Food Service Department is in the process of receiving sealed proposals for providing Ice Cream for our cafeterias. Patrick County is located in South/Central Virginia, West of Martinsville. The district has an enrollment of approximately 2,300 students.

You may view the RFP for Smart Snack Ice Cream at [www.patrick.k12.va.us](http://www.patrick.k12.va.us) –Main Page. Or email to ask for it to be sent you at [darlene.rogers@patrick.k12.va.us](mailto:darlene.rogers@patrick.k12.va.us).

If your company is interested, please submit a detailed proposal as per specifications. Sealed bids must be returned with the following information clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Smart Snack Ice Cream".

All bids must be mailed or delivered to:

MAILED:	DELIVERED:
Patrick County Public Schools	Patrick County Public Schools
ATTN: Darlene Rogers	ATTN: Darlene Rogers
School Nutrition Program	School Nutrition Program
P.O. Box 346	132 N. Main Street
Stuart, VA 24171	Stuart, VA 24171

Proposals will be accepted until June 25, 2025, @ 2:00 p.m. There will not be a pre-bid meeting. The proposals will be opened publicly and read at the School Nutrition Office, 132 N. Main Street, Stuart, Va. on June 26, at 9:00 a.m.

In the event that a successful bidder to whom this bid has been awarded should fail to supply the requirements promptly and according to the specifications and prices of the bid item or items, Patrick County Public Schools reserves the right to cancel the award and purchase elsewhere.

Consideration shall be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, cost, financial and technical resources. All responsible vendors, small, local, faith-based, women-owned and minority-owned (SWAM) are encouraged to submit a proposal.

Any and all comments are sincerely encouraged prior to proposal submission. Please contact Darlene Rogers, 276-694-3836 or [darlene.rogers@patrick.k12.va.us](mailto:darlene.rogers@patrick.k12.va.us).

Thank you,  
Darlene Rogers  
Director of Food Service

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Cynthia M. Jones, AA, AS



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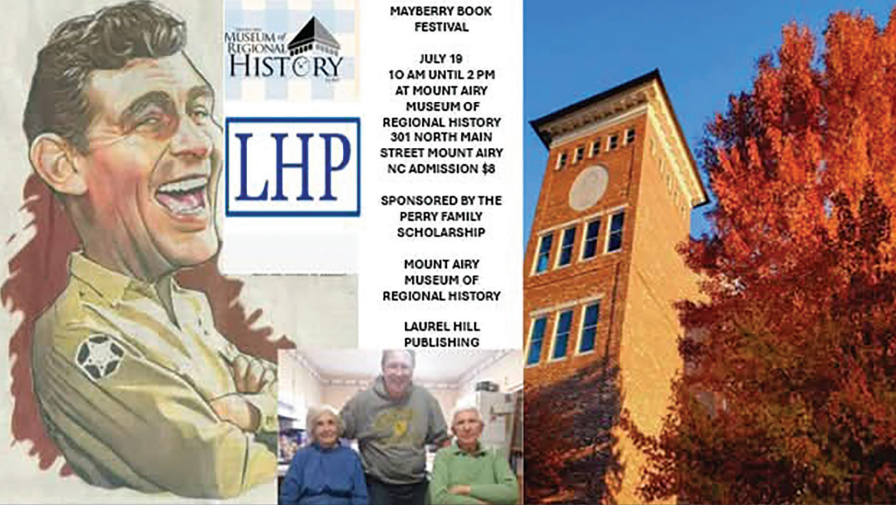
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The Enterprise



# Book festival set to raise funds for Perry Family Scholarship



Mayberry Book Festival, sponsored by The Perry Family Scholarship, will be hosted by the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, 301 North Main Street, Mount Airy, N.C., on July 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This event, held on the 3rd floor, is a fundraiser for the Perry Family Scholarship.

Admission is \$8, and includes the book festival and museum. The festi-

val will feature more than 30 regional authors, including Patrick County authors Bonnie Turner, Marsha Marcela, who wrote “Mr. Rigney.”

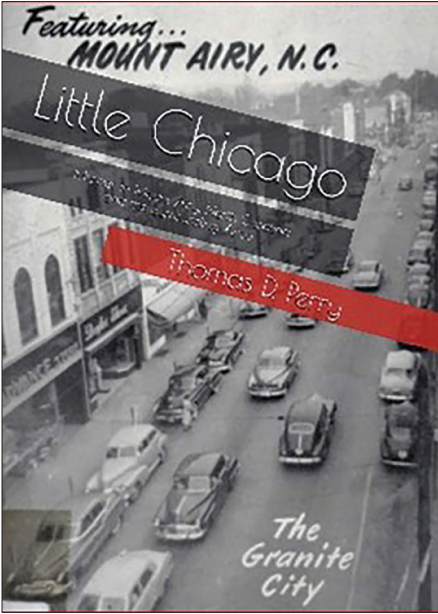
Several workshops will be held, among them ‘Self-Publishing vs Traditional Publishing’ at 10:15 a.m., ‘Guided Creative Writing Contest’ at noon, and ‘Benedict the Bookworm’ Summer Reading Challenge at 1:15 p.m.



Thomas D. “Tom” Perry will join more than 30 regional authors at the Mayberry Book Festival on July 19.

A children’s area also will be available.

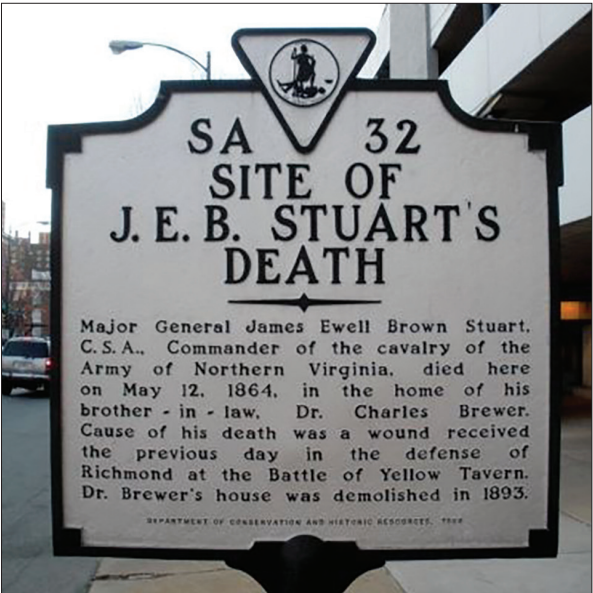
Thomas D. “Tom” Perry will release his new book, “Little Chicago: Murder In Mount Airy And The Surrounding Area.”



The cover of Tom Perry’s new book, “Little Chicago: Murder In Mount Airy And The Surrounding Area.” The book will be released at the festival. Copies are \$15.

rounding Area,” with copies available for \$15. The book also is available on Amazon in paperback, Kindle, and Audible.

## The Death of J. E. B. Stuart



**By Tom Perry**

On May 12, 1864, J. E. B. Stuart was at the home of Charles Brewer on Grace Street in Richmond. He was dying, having been shot in the abdomen by one of George Custer’s Michigan cavalymen at the Battle of Yellow Tavern.

Dr. Charles Brewer married another of Philip St. George Cooke’s daughters and had been with Stuart when he was wounded in 1857 in Kansas Territory by a Cheyenne Indian. H. B. McClellan visited Stuart at the Brewer house after staying with Fitz Lee until a lull in the action at Yellow Tavern. Stuart told him that official papers must be sent through channels. Stuart told McClellan and Venable they must take one of his horses. He wanted a small Confederate flag forwarded to a lady in Columbia, South Carolina, and his spurs to Lilly Lee of Shepherdstown, Virginia, now West Virginia. He wanted his sword given to his son. After hearing of defenses against Sheridan, “God grant that they may be successful, but I must be prepared for another world.”

As McClellan leaves, he meets Jefferson Da-

vis, President of the Confederate States of America, who is coming in. President Jefferson Davis visited Stuart, grasping Stuart’s hand. Davis said, “General, how do you feel?” “Easy, but willing to die if God and my country think I have fulfilled my destiny and done my duty,” Stuart replied. Davis wrote, “He was so calm, and physically so strong that I could not believe that he was dying until the surgeon... told me he was bleeding inwardly and that the end was near.” Mrs. Varina Davis wrote, “Mr. Davis came home and knelt with me praying that this precious life might be spared to our needy country.”

At 1 pm on May 12, the wagon carrying the wounded James B. Gordon passed by the Brewer house, creating some loud noise, which stirred Stuart from his sleep, but he never knew of Gordon’s fate. James B. Gordon was taken to the officer’s hospital on the east side of Tenth Street between Clay and Marshall Streets, where he died on May 18. He was returned to Wilkesboro, where he is buried in St Paul’s Episcopal Church Cemetery. J. E. B. Stuart had written his wife



thinking of Gordon and his men. “North Carolina has done nobly in this army.”

Stuart suffered through pain, holding ice to his side, saying, “I am resigned if it be God’s will, but I would like to see my wife.” Flora Cooke Stuart desperately tried to reach him from Beaver Dam between Fredericksburg and Richmond. At 11:30 p.m., Flora Stuart arrived to find darkness in the house and darkness for the rest of her life as the light of her life was gone.

At 7 pm, ministers came into the room, Rock of Ages was sung. Stuart’s last words were, “I am going fast now. I am resigned. God’s will be done.” At 7:38 pm, Doctors Brewer, Garnet, Gibson, and Fontaine were present with Reverends Peterkin and Kepler when Stuart died.

On May 13, 1864, “George put on his best uniform and went to pay his respects, taking his son with him. A hushed crowd of soldiers and citizens filed slowly into the house. Mourners passed in silence before the billiard table on which Stuart was laid out. The white sheet draped over his legs and torso was smooth as marble and contrasted vividly with his wiry red beard. He can’t be dead. People like that do not die. The boy breathed the scent of flowers as he left the house. Yellow roses were in bloom outside the door, and it would be this, the scent of yellow roses in spring, that for the rest of his

itary capacity of a high order and all the nobler virtues of the soldier, he added the brighter graces of a pure life, guided and sustained by the Christian’s faith and hope.” A.R. Boteler of his staff wrote, “When I announced his death to the couriers, those brave men bowed their heads and wept like children.”

The funeral occurred in the rain on Friday, the 13th, at St. James Episcopal Church, with Reverend Peterkin officiating around 5 pm. Pallbearers included George W. Randolph, Thomas Jefferson’s grandson. Among those in attendance were President Jefferson Davis and General Braxton Bragg. The hearse was covered in black plumes drawn by four white horses that carried Stuart to Hollywood Cemetery. Theodore Garnett wrote, “The interment took place in Hollywood Cemetery, and all that was mortal of the best soldier I ever knew rests there.”

His family’s military tradition continued when his son, Jeb Stuart Jr., served in the Spanish American War and as a Volunteer in World War I. He rests today at Arlington National Cemetery. Flora Cooke Stuart went to teach at the Virginia Female Institute in Staunton, Virginia, which was renamed Stuart Hall in her honor in 1907. She lived until 1923.

The Stuart Monument, sculpted by Fred Moynihan of New York, a student of Edward Valentine, was dedicated on Monument Avenue on May 30, 1907. Theodore Garnett gave a dedication speech with 50,000 present. Granddaughter Virginia Waller Davis unveiled the sculpture and was not amused to have veterans dripping with tobacco juice trying to kiss General Stuart’s granddaughter.

Stuart’s biographer John Thomason wrote, “So, in the thirty-second year of his life, and in the fourth year of his country’s independence, as he would say it, passed Jeb Stuart. All his life, he was fortunate. It was given to him to toil greatly, and to enjoy greatly, to taste no little fame from the works of his hands, and to drink the best cup of living. He died while there was still a thread of hope for victory. He was spared

the grinding agony of the nine months’ siege, the bleak months that brought culminating disasters, and the laying down of the swords at Appomattox. He took his death wound in the front of battle, as he wanted it, and he was granted some brief hours to press the hands of men who loved him and to arrange himself in order to report before the God of Battles, Whom he served.”

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**June 6:** First Friday Fall Summer Jam Series Concert

**June 13:** Great selection of Produce.

**June 20:** Rise & Shine Youth Market & Pressure Canner Gauge Checks

**June 27:** Master Gardeners on site to answer your questions.

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