



# THE ENTERPRISE

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



State Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, (left) met with the Patrick County Board of Supervisors at Crossroads Cafe for a legislative meeting. Jonathan Wood, chairman, is seated beside Stanley; Clayton Kendrick, Andrew Overby, vice chairman, and Steve Marshall are pictured on the right.

## Legislative stop in Woolwine brings issues to forefront

**By Taylor Boyd**  
State Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, sat down with the Patrick County Board of Supervisors last week in Woolwine to hear firsthand the concerns facing the county — from broadband access and aging volunteer squads to emergency planning and rural healthcare. Stanley said he decided to hold the June 24 meeting to discuss issues the supervisors believe are affecting the county. “I thought it was very important that, as I usually do, to tour the district ... to listen to them” about the issues and problems that need to be solved, he said. “You learn a lot from the people that really are at the local level than you could ever learn from the lobbyists. We serve these areas. This is our job, and the best thing we can

do is make sure we know what their needs are and also work with them on ideas,” he said. Stanley said his legislative package for the year will be based on feedback from constituents across the district, with plans to hold similar meetings in every locality he represents, including one in Henry County on July 27. “We usually do this every year, and now we’re going to do it even more intensively because we’re having a change in the administration,” he said. Stanley said he chose Crossroads Cafe in Woolwine as the meeting location because “it’s all the county. Patrick County’s Patrick County, it’s not just Stuart. I had meetings this morning in Stuart” with County Administrator Beth Simms and (See Legislative p. 2)

## From first card to top role: Luna-Ojodeagua leads library

**By Taylor Boyd**  
Becoming the new branch manager of the Patrick County Library is a dream come true for Somer Luna-Ojodeagua, who officially stepped into the role on June 2. She took over after former branch manager Garry Clifton retired at the end of May. “I always said my dream job is to work in a library in whatever format that is, and the fact that less than two years ago I got to do that was a dream come true. But this position takes the cake. I am honored and excited,” Luna-Ojodeagua said.



Somer Luna-Ojodeagua started her first day as the Patrick County Library’s branch manager on June 2.

Following Clifton feels like stepping into big shoes. “It’s a little intimidating to be honest,” she said. Taking on the role is also a full-circle moment for Luna-Ojodeagua, who received her first library card from Clifton when she was seven years old on the bookmobile. “I remember that day clearly. It was at

Patrick Springs Primary School, and I just remember the feeling of holding this responsibility in my hand. This card that I could check out books with, and books were my passion even then,” she said. Raised in a single-parent household with no siblings, books became her companion. (See Library p. 12)

## Society seeks names of Revolutionary War soldiers with local ties

**Monument planned ahead of Semiquincentennial in 2026**

The Patrick County Historical Society and Museum is seeking the names of soldiers who served in the American Revolutionary War and were born, lived, or are buried in the area that became Patrick County. Nearly 240 names of Revolutionary War veterans are already on the list and will be engraved on a large granite monument to be placed in front of the historical museum at 116 West Blue Ridge Street in uptown Stuart. The monument will honor all who served in the War for Independence with a connection to Patrick County. Residents who believe they have an ancestor who served are encouraged to provide the soldier’s name, birth and/or death dates (if known), and any information about their service. If you are unsure whether your

ancestor served, the historical society will check its list and, if needed, attempt to verify the information through research. To submit a name or ask questions about the project, contact the monument’s sponsor, John W. Martin, at 336-706-9350 or call the museum at 276-694-2840. The deadline for submitting names is July 31. While some space will remain available for additions after that date, it will be easier and more affordable to include names before the monument is engraved and installed. The monument is scheduled to be installed later this year and formally dedicated in 2026, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution—also known as the Semiquincentennial.

## Proposed Patrick Central School marker moves closer to reality

**By Taylor Boyd**  
The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) advanced the proposed Patrick Central School marker in the process toward becoming a state highway marker on June 12. Patrick Central School, a segregated institution that served African American children in Patrick County, operated from 1952 until 1966, when desegregation took place. During its 14 years of operation, approximately 600 students attended the school. Fourteen teachers and three principals also worked there. The Patrick County Board of Supervisors approved giving its support for the historical marker at a March meeting. In a letter to Mary Sawyers, who is leading the effort, DHR Highway Marker Program Manager Jennifer Loux said the actual marker text has not yet been approved. “In the coming weeks, DHR staff will conduct a detailed fact check of the proposed marker text and will work with you to edit and finalize the draft that will be presented to our Marker Editorial Commit-

tee. Our objective will be to cover the most historically significant elements of the topic within the 700-character length limit,” the letter stated. The goal is to present the final text to the Virginia Board of Historic Resources for official approval on Sept. 18. As of June 17, Sawyers said she is waiting to speak with DHR staff about finalizing the marker text. “It’s got to be approved by us and them. We got to cut from what” we submitted. “She’ll (Loux) probably tell us what we need to do. She’ll probably advise us,” she said. Sawyers said the group is still raising money to have the marker erected. She estimates they’ve raised about \$2,500 of the approximately \$3,500 needed. “It’s very exciting. It’s going to be the Black marker in Patrick County, right,” she said. Those interested in donating to help fund the project can mail checks to Sawyers at 340 North Franklin Road, Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/PatrickCentralSchool-Stuart,Va](https://www.facebook.com/PatrickCentralSchool-Stuart,Va).

## K9 Crash nabs fugitive after multi-agency pursuit

A Mount Airy, N.C., man was arrested after a vehicle pursuit that ended in Patrick County, due to the tracking skills of Patrick County Sheriff’s Officer K9 Crash. Demarko Antonio Moore, 35, of 1119 Blevins Store Road, was charged with being a fugitive from justice, according to Sheriff Dan Smith. The incident began around 5:15 p.m. on June 19, when the Surry County, N.C., Sheriff’s Office notified Patrick County authorities that they were in pursuit of a vehicle heading into Virginia on Route 103. The chase continued into Claudville, where the suspect vehicle turned onto Hatcher’s Chapel Road. Near the intersection of Big Dan Lake Road, the driver allegedly fled on foot into the woods. Multiple Patrick County deputies responded, including Senior



Demarko Antonio Moore



K9 Crash

Deputy Dustin Dillon and his K9 partner, Crash. With Surry deputies assisting, Crash quickly picked up the scent and began tracking. The K9 successfully located Moore hiding along a creek bank and appre-

hended him. Moore was taken into custody and treated for a dog bite to the leg. Moore was wanted in North Carolina for a felony probation violation. He was held in the Patrick County Jail until June 24, when

Surry County authorities extradited him. “Crash is a valuable member of our team. He prevents our deputies from being ambushed in dangerous searches such as this,” Smith said in a June 26 release.

# Chamber Chat



By Rebecca Adcock

*"The beginning is mostly luck. The end is mostly choices."* ~ James Clear.

I think that fits how most businesses start. Luck and grit to start. But in the end, it's all the choices that one makes that can either make the business successful or not. Part of those choices is to continue to evolve, being open to changing hours, how one does things or investing in new technology. So many choices happen. The Chamber of Commerce is here

to help those businesses with making choices. Our educational lectures are a way to encourage people to think about different ways of growing their businesses, our sponsorship and advertisement opportunities allow businesses to market themselves to new clients and our resources are here to help give solid foundations for those businesses to make the right choices.

Our June worked to provide our local businesses with ways to explore new options with our SWAM and eVA training. Registering with the state can be a new opportunity for many businesses looking to grow beyond our county borders. We will be taking a summer break in offering educational classes in July and August, but starting back in September we are partnering with Patrick & Henry Community College to provide some quick entrepreneurial workshops. These one- or two-hour classes will cover Excel for Business, Smartphone Video Advertisement, Taking your Social Media to the Next Level, How to Establish Business Credit, and Billing Customers. These classes will be offered at the Patrick County site for anyone. Chamber members will be eligible for reimbursement...this is one of the perks for being a chamber member!

We also attended a meeting this month with our Regional Director for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This was a great time to meet her in person and discuss how the program is going for Patrick County. Helping to get kids interested and continue to read is fundamental to their success in life and as part of our local future workforce. I encourage everyone to take the time to read with your kids, grand-

kids, nieces and nephews.

In between the festivals and events happening throughout the month, we also attended the Patrick County leadership graduation at the Reynolds Homestead. We applauded these participants for taking time to learn about our county and look for ways to help and lead. Another meeting this month was the health-care meeting at The Landmark Center. Thanks to Lisa Martin for hosting this meeting where area providers of home health, VA benefits, hospice and other supportive services were in attendance.

We encourage everyone to make a choice this month and get out to support local events, fundraisers and businesses. The "Fourth of July" is just around the corner and there are several events happening this weekend. Kick off the 4th of July at the Stuart Farmers' Market for finding great locally grown food to use on your grill. Head up to Vesta for their Old Time Fourth Celebration and then back to Stuart that evening for fireworks at Dehart Park. Saturday will be full of trips to Fairy Stone State Park or Philpott for cooling off, followed by the Star-Spangled Saturday music concert at the Stuart Farmers' Market starting at 4 p.m. Enjoy two bands, food truck and beverages.

For more information on events, the entrepreneurial classes, and business resources in general, contact the chamber office at (276) 694-6012 or email me at [director@patrickchamber.com](mailto:director@patrickchamber.com).

Welcome to new business joining the Chamber in June 2025: Janice's Junk Joint.

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

## Legislative

(cont. from page 1)

Sheriff Dan Smith, along with some of his officers. "And then, I wanted to come out here in the Woolwine area where I love. I love coming out here and we heard about the restaurant, so we wanted to come eat, break bread, and hear their ideas," Stanley said.

### Volunteers

Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, said a new regulation regarding drug boxes places a burden on volunteer rescue squads to meet requirements for securing and storing them.

Stanley expressed concern that volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) and fire departments are being left behind.

"We're not equipped financially to hire full time like say Roanoke City is," he said.

Noting that his son is a 23-year-old paramedic, Stanley said long hours and stress discourage younger people from volunteering with EMS, unlike in previous generations.

Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District, said some volunteer squads are thriving, but others are aging out.

"And that's across the county," he said.

Stanley said the average volunteer age in Franklin County is in the 50s.

"Ours is over 60," said Vice Chairman Andrew Overby, of the Dan River District.

"And they're not being replaced," Stanley said.

Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo River District, said the volunteers are dedicated.

Stanley added that they love their community and asked the board for ideas to address the issue.

Marshall suggested continuing partnerships with private companies.

"So you have that public-private thing," he said.

Perry said reopening Stuart Community Hospital could help reduce the number of long-distance travel times for volunteers.

Marshall said the county currently funds all fire departments, but hard decisions may be needed.

"There might come a time when we have to say, and I don't know how you'd set the standard on this and you'd hurt some peoples' feelings, is 'this is a functional fire department and this is not,' and the taxpayers are going to fund' the functional departments. "It's a hard decision, but that's the kind of thing you need to do," Marshall said.

On the other hand, Perry pointed to recent improvements.

He said CCDF Fire & Rescue and Vesta Volunteer Rescue Squad had only one or two members each at one point.

"CCDF has made an amazing comeback and they're running a good portion of their calls. Vesta Rescue, because the county supported them when they couldn't support themselves, they're starting to grow and starting to run calls. So, if you cut them off then will that be the beginning of the end or does that give them the ability to get their feet back underneath them and reestablish themselves? So, where's that balance," Perry said.

### Planning and preparation

Perry said he believes the county's biggest weakness is a lack of planning and preparation.

"Our critical incident access management plan I feel has a lot to be desired," he said.

Stanley asked what deficiencies exist and whether there are plans in place.

"We don't have policies that say, 'listen. This happens, this is what you do,'" Marshall said.

Perry said the school system is better prepared



A few residents also attended the meeting. Pictured in the background are, from right to left, Crystal Harris, Galen Gilbert, Ed Pool and Malcolm Roach.

than the county.

"If we had, say, an active shooter in the county administration building, we don't have a plan for that. If we do have a flood, there's no real plan for that. Who's getting called out? Who's staging and where do we stage and where our equipment comes from," he asked.

While EMS Director Scottie Cassell has mutual aid agreements with surrounding counties, Perry questioned how the county would handle a full-scale response.

"And there may be some things on paper, but if you don't go over it, if you don't train with it, if you don't work with the other agencies, then you have that chaos when you try to put it together in a real world scenario," he said.

Perry said starting with base plans and training would help.

"I think everybody is on the same sheet of music, and they're like, 'yes, we need to do it,' but then time, money, and getting things together. I know Scottie Cassell's drinking out of 10 fire hoses," in terms of a pressing schedule. "And so, when do we plan this? When do we set that up," he said.

Stanley said it would help if the state had something in place.

Marshall replied that the state likely has blueprints for what Perry is describing.

"We just don't have the resources to put it together," Perry said.

"It's just the idea of how do you have someone from the state or an agency in the state that can educate and coordinate with the local governments," Marshall said.

Chairman Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, added the county could benefit from an outside perspective.

"You know, most of us have been here for a long time, but it's nice to have somebody who's not from here" take a look at it, he said.

### Broadband

Kendrick said progress on broadband expansion in the county is extremely slow.

"I'm afraid the money's going to run out, or they're going to start taking it back and we need it bad. You take this area from right along in here back down to Fairy Stone Park, you can't hardly use a telephone," he said.

Stanley, who frequently drives through the area, said he takes a longer route just to get a cell signal when he knows he has to make a call.

Kendrick said some telephone and internet customers sometimes wait a month for phone service repairs.



Members of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors prepared to meet with Stanley to discuss volunteers, broadband, county preparedness, and other issues affecting the county.

"You got a lot of people talking about jobs, a lot of people could make good money working from home if they had something reliable for internet. That's something that really hurts," he said.

Stanley said when co-ops got involved in installing fiber optic cables, it was a good development.

"But then APCo (Appalachian Power) and other companies saw this as an opportunity, as a slush fund. I have fought the railroads because the railroads weren't letting crossings occur unless you give them a hundred grand. Well, a hundred grand might be just to connect four people and then the" company "says it's not worth it," he said.

Stanley said that after he spoke with people in the fiber optic industry, it was suggested that fiber may be obsolete within five years.

"Then it'll all be satellite. Our problem has always been, in the rural areas especially, is it's hard to bury cable underground. Your problem that you're having right now has been APCo," he said.

In areas where APCo doesn't hold broadband contracts, Stanley said it isn't allowing other companies to use its utility poles.

Perry noted RiverStreet Networks had a deal to run lines on electric poles, but the poles were in poor condition.

"I think they spent about a week behind my house replacing poles and they had a tag on them from 1957," he said.

Stanley said many of the poles are rotten and must be replaced, which slows the process.

"Every pole they get it's rotten and needs to be replaced, it slows them down to a crawl," he said.

He emphasized that access to the internet is vital for the region's future.

Stanley and the supervisors also discussed the county's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) rate, the need for affordable housing, School Resource Officers (SROs), and other issues impacting the county.

## Pets of the Week



Brother and sister kitties, about 10 weeks old, are available for adoption. They are best buddies and would love to stay together.

Roxie is great with all people, especially children. She is a very sweet girl and knows all basic commands. Best to a home without another female dog.

They are all so deserving of a permanent loving home. Free spay/neuter and rabies vaccinations. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter or their Facebook

page, to find information about these and other available pets in need of a forever home. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination and fill out the spay/neuter assistance form.

Dog shuttle coming in July. The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League also provides pet food assistance. We are always in need of pet food donations, especially cat food. Contact [blueridgeawl@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgeawl@gmail.com) for details. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League website at [www.blueridgeawl.org](http://www.blueridgeawl.org).

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## Portion of Ararat Highway to be closed

Weather permitting, on Saturday, July 12, and Sunday, July 13, Virginia 773 (Ararat Highway) will be closed to through traffic from Virginia 781 (Lower Water Bridge Lane) to Virginia 648 (Kibler Valley Road). The closing is needed to make a large pipe replacement. The pipe replacement is located approximately 0.58 mile east of Virginia 781 (Lower Water Bridge Lane).

Advanced notice message boards and signs will be installed on Virginia 773 (Ararat Highway) and adjacent routes. A signed detour will not be established. Motorists will have to seek alternate routes during the closure.

## New ABC laws now in effect

Five laws impacting the operation of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC), its licensees and applicants for ABC licenses went into effect on July 1. The Virginia General Assembly passed the following Virginia ABC-related legislation during the 2025 session and Gov. Glenn Youngkin has since signed them into law.

**\*Cocktails-To-Go Made Permanent:** HB 2058 and SB 811 removed the pending sunset for the delivery of wine, beer and cocktails-to-go by licensed third-party delivery providers. These bills, in conjunction with prior legislation, continue the same public safety protections, including those related to packaging and labeling, that have been in place.

**\*Serving Canned Cocktails:** SB 868 will allow mixed beverage licensees to serve the entire contents of a canned cocktail to a single patron if the container is 16 ounces or less and the cocktail's alcohol by volume content is no greater than 15 percent.

**\*Human Trafficking Training:** HB 2033 requires Virginia ABC to include a human trafficking training module, created by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, in the Authority's Responsible Sellers & Servers: Virginia's Program (RSPV) training program.

**\*Underage Tobacco and Hemp Sales:** HB 1946 and SB 1060 created a working group to address enforcement of underage sales of tobacco, liquid nicotine and hemp products. Virginia ABC's Bureau of Law Enforcement, which conducts an underage buyer program focused on alcohol and tobacco retailers, will contribute to this working group.

**\*Tied House Exceptions:** HB 1703 and SB 834 clarified the existing statutory exception to allow a manufacturer, bottler or wholesaler to obtain a retail license if the manufacturer, bottler or wholesaler does not sell or otherwise furnish, directly or indirectly, alcoholic beverages or other merchandise to the retail licensee.

## Raccoon on Stella Road tests positive for rabies

A raccoon found on June 19 on Stella Road near the intersection of Stella Loop Road in Patrick Springs has tested positive for the rabies virus. Anyone having information regarding any exposure to this animal (bite, scratch or contact with saliva by open wound or eyes, nose, mouth) should contact the Patrick County Health Department at (276) 693-2070. Exposures also include direct contact between a pet and the rabid animal. You may also contact Patrick County Animal Control at (276) 694-3161.

This incident is a reminder that rabies is present in Virginia wildlife such as bats, raccoons, foxes and skunks which sometimes infects domestic animals like dogs and cats. Rabies is caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system and is lethal if proper medical care is not given following an exposure to the virus. The most common source of exposure to rabies is a bite by a rabid animal. Rabies may also be transmitted by saliva from a rabid animal coming into contact with open wounds, the mouth, eyes or nose.

The West Piedmont Health District would like to remind all residents to follow these important rabies prevention guidelines:

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

\*Seek medical treatment promptly for any animal bite to ensure appropriate and timely evaluation and treatment. All animal exposures must be taken seriously.

\*Do not approach wild animals, especially raccoons, bats, foxes, or skunks. If you think a wild animal needs help, contact the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources at (804) 367-1000 or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for guidance.

\*Bring stray domestic animals, especially if

## Rotary Club donates to animal shelter in memory of Paula Drady



Stuart Rotary Club Productions presented supplies and food to the Patrick County Animal Shelter in memory of Paula Drady. Drady was an active member of Stuart Rotary and a champion of rescue animals. Pictured are Wayne Kirkpatrick and Liz Pierce, co-chairmen of the Beach Music Festival Committee, and Wanda Vaden, Deputy Animal Control Officer.

## Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

\*Austyn Todd Schleeper, 29, of Portsmouth, was charged June 19 with one count each obtain money by false pretense, stolen property, and grand larceny steal. Senior Deputy A. Kinney made the arrest for Suffolk County.

\*Stevan Keys, 38, of Patrick County Jail, was charged June 20 with four counts of fail to obey court order. Deputy D. Spence made the arrest for Henry County.

\*Lauren Audianna Hayden, 26, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged June 21 with fail to comply with terms of bond. Deputy S.L. Horn was the arresting officer.

\*Billie Jo Nelson, 31, of Spencer, was charged

June 21 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

\*River Lee Helms, 27, of Woolwine, was charged June 24 with computer solicitation, child. Inv. Tennille E. Jessup was the arresting officer.

\*Alvin Lee Hurley, 53, of Patrick Springs, was charged June 25 with robbery. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges made the arrest for Martinsville.

\*Samantha Craddock, 34, of Bassett, was charged June 25 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

\*Leonard G. Branch, Jr., 50, of Collinsville, was charged June 26 with grand larceny. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.



Steep Canyon Rangers

## An evening under the stars with Steep Canyon Rangers

The Steep Canyon Rangers will perform at 7 p.m., Saturday, July 5, at the Blue Ridge Music Center's amphitheater at milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway just south of Galax, Va., as part of the Deep Roots, Many Voices Summer Concert Series.

The Steep Canyon Rangers have long held traditional bluegrass paramount, while possessing an exceptional ability to incorporate influences from other genres such as country, jam, and Americana.

The North Carolina natives rose to the top of the bluegrass genre, headlining festivals such as MerleFest and Grey Fox Bluegrass after forming in college. Over its 25 year career, the band has received recognition from well beyond the world of bluegrass and its members have earned a reputation as some of the most influential songwriters in Americana today. In a 2024 interview, Gar-

ret K. Woodward of Rolling Stone called the band, "one of the most sought-after groups in Americana, bluegrass, and indie-folk."

The Steep Canyon Rangers has released 14 studio albums including the Grammy-winning Nobody Knows You (2012) and the Grammy-nominated live album North Carolina Songbook (2019), which was recorded at MerleFest and features covers of songs by North Carolina-born artists, including James Taylor, Doc Watson, and Thelonious Monk. The album drew acclaim and topped the Billboard Bluegrass Chart for multiple weeks after its release.

The band recently released a new album, Live at Greenfield Lake. It captures the magic of the group's chemistry, their unparalleled harmonies, and the rich songwriting that has made them one of the most critically acclaimed groups in Americana music.

The Steep Canyon Rangers members are Graham Sharp (banjo, vocals), Mike Guggino (mandolin/mandola, vocals), Aaron Burdett (guitar, vocals), Nicky Sanders (fiddle, vocals), Mike Ashworth (drums, dobro, guitar, vocals), and Barrett Smith (bass, guitar, vocals).

This concert is sponsored by the Yadkin Arts Council.

Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$45 the day of the show for adults and \$20 for children 12 and younger. Advance tickets are available at BlueRidgeMusicCenter.org. Tickets can be purchased on the evening of the performance at the admission gates.

Parking opens at 5:15 p.m. and is free. The amphitheater gates open at 5:45 p.m. The concert begins at 7 p.m. The Bluffs Restaurant will be on site with food for purchase. Concertgoers may bring their own food and beverages. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

they appear ill or injured, to the attention of local animal control authorities. If you think a stray animal needs help, contact your local animal control office for guidance.

\*Have your veterinarian vaccinate your dogs, cats, ferrets, and selected livestock. Keep the vaccinations up to date. State law requires all dogs and cats over the age of four months be vaccinated against rabies.

Confine your pets and livestock to your prop-

erty.

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

For more information about rabies, visit: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/animal-contact-human-health/rabies-control/>

## Iran



### Morgan Griffith

Representative

Since the 1990s, one of the greatest U.S. foreign policy challenges has been Iran.

Iran is a leading state sponsor of terrorism, funding proxy wars and supporting Islamic terrorist groups like Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen.

Despite different approaches to the Iranian regime, the Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump and Biden Administrations all recognized the inherent threat posed by Iran if it obtained the ability to create a nuclear weapon.

Recently, Israel's bombing campaign, designed to damage Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear capabilities, cut into Iran's defensive capabilities.

It should be no wonder then that President Trump acted quickly in an attempt to eliminate the immediate and significant threat posed by Iran potentially possessing nuclear weapons.

President Trump authorized the deployment of B-2 stealth bombers to drop bunker buster bombs on the nuclear facilities of Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan. It should be noted that only the United States of America has this type of massive ordinance penetrator (MOP) bunker busting bomb and the aircraft to deliver it.

Nicknamed "Operation Midnight Hammer", we continue to monitor reports of the level of damage to Iran.

However, some in Congress are challenging the President's power to authorize such a strike.

The Executive Branch's powers related to military action date back to the country's founding.

President Thomas Jefferson is one of the first who authorized armed forces to protect U.S. assets without Congressional authorization.

Jefferson deployed

a squadron of naval forces under Commodore Richard Dale, a Norfolk-based naval officer.

Barbary pirates terrorizing the Mediterranean Sea were an immediate and present threat to safe passage of American vessels, commerce and goods.

Because Jefferson did not have all the information about the threats to American shipping, he instructed Dale to take necessary actions to protect American ships and citizens against potential aggression.

Unbeknownst to Jefferson, one of the Barbary States, Tripoli, had even declared war on the United States!

Dale's squadron blocked Tripolitan corsairs in Gibraltar, blockaded Tripoli harbor and ensured the protection of American merchant ships.

On August 1, 1801, the USS Enterprise defeated a Tripolitan corsair in battle.

It made sense for Jefferson to act without consulting Congress. But he did not endorse unilateral war power authority.

Later in 1801 in his annual address to Congress, Jefferson asked for formal and expanded powers.

Congress heeded Jefferson's request, allowing naval commanders to seize Tripolitan goods and vessels.

U.S. Marine Corps action against Tripoli and the other Barbary states during this period is forever immortalized in the Marines' Hymn, which begins:

"From the Halls of Moctezuma to the shores of Tripoli;

We fight our country's battles

on the land as on the

sea..." \*\*\*

Some might say presidential military directives and consequent congressional action during the First Barbary War could serve as a parallel to today.

As I stated to multiple groups before the U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear targets, I believed that if the President determined there was an opportunity to eliminate an immediate and significant threat to the United States, the President's powers as Commander-in-Chief allow him to dispose of such threat.

In this case, the threat was Iran's nuclear program.

Trump's limited action consisted of no military presence on Iranian ground, and U.S. strikes were limited to the three nuclear facility targets.

Going forward, Congress has a role in working with the President on addressing more broad military action, as Congress did in the First Barbary War.

Since the U.S. strikes, Iran's parliament voted to close the Strait of Hormuz. This move could pin U.S. Navy ships in the Persian Gulf with no exit.

Iran also launched retaliatory strikes at a U.S. base in Qatar.

While Congress continues to monitor Iran's military actions, it is essential that our legislative body exercises its authority to assess what, if any, future U.S. action is needed.

If there is a U.S. mission that is more broad in scope and expands from an imminent threat action, I believe the President must come to Congress for a Declaration of War or an Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF).

I pray for the safety of our troops and their families. But because it has long been the policy of this country to not allow Iran to have nuclear weapons, I stand by Trump's decision to target Iran's nuclear weapons sites.

\*\*\* Language was changed in 1942 to include "air."

## Letters to the Editor

### Thank You from Meadows of Dan Backpack Program

On behalf of the Meadows of Dan Elementary School Backpack Program, we extend heartfelt gratitude to all who have made monetary donations and given of their time and energy to keep at risk students supplied with nutritious weekend meals. This outreach would not be possible without your concern for the wellbeing of the children in our community. Because of your tremendous generosity we were able to send home packages of food from the first week students returned to school and throughout the entire 24/25 school year.

The Board members and volunteers of the backpack program look forward to our continued work with Meadows of Dan principal Mrs. Rosina Turner, facility and staff during the 2025-26 school year to help ensure the health and safety of our children. Once again, thank you to all who assist in making the Backpack Program a success during the

2024-2025.

If you would like to make a donation to the MODES Backpack Program you may simply go to the Skyline National Bank's drive-in window in Meadows of Dan, located across the road from the Family Dollar Store at the intersection of Willis Road and Jeb Stuart Highway, let the teller know you would like to make a donation to the Meadows of Dan Backpack Program and they will deposit your gift directly into the Backpack checking account. Or you may mail your donation to Tammy Franklin 7206 Squirrel Spur Rd, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120 or Pam Royall, 10366 Squirrel Spur Rd., Meadows of Dan, VA 24120

Should you have any questions you may call Tammy Franklin, (276) 728-8235.

With Much Appreciation,  
Tammy Franklin, president,  
Meadows of Dan Elementary School Backpack Program

### Join the 3%: donate at the July 8 Blood Drive

It's time for the blood drive again. This month's drive is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the John D. Hooker Building.

Save time with RapidPass: Donors can speed up the process by completing the health history questionnaire in advance using RapidPass, available the day of the drive at [www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass). Bring a printed copy or save it to your phone.

Prepare to donate: The American Red Cross recommends getting a good night's sleep, eating a healthy meal, drinking plenty of water, and bringing a photo ID.

Make an appointment: Schedule a time through the Red Cross Blood

Donor App, by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (733-2767), or online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) by searching ZIP code 24171.

Our goal this month is to collect 22 whole blood units and 2 double red cell units.

Why donate? Fewer than 3% of Americans donate blood. Join this life-saving group—your donation could make a critical difference for someone in need.

Free gift: All donors will receive an exclusive pair of Red Cross sunglasses, while supplies last.

Our volunteers look forward to welcoming you and making your donation experience a pleasant one.

Gene Stirewalt  
Stuart

## Opinion Editorial

### In times of transition, rethinking the value of college

For more than 60 years, Patrick & Henry Community College has lifted students and their families into better lives. Now we're also redoubling our efforts to bring in students who never previously thought about higher education, who were ignored by colleges, or who started and stopped because life got in the way.

As clean, lean, and high-tech manufacturing have contributed to the lowest unemployment rates in decades, we face new challenges. While our region has made significant improvements in employee participation rates, more than one-fourth of adults aged 25-54 are not formally engaged in the workforce—which means that they may have gig jobs or work for cash, but have no steady paycheck to fall back on. That could hold them and their families back, and it's also a drag on efforts to keep growing our regional economy.

P&HCC is part of a national effort, led by the Achieving the Dream Network, to reinvent what community colleges do by playing a deeper role in the well-being of our communities and everyone who lives in them—not just our students. We've been rethinking how we can help promote community vibrancy—for our students and for the entire region. That starts by not waiting for students to come to us but by helping as many people as possible find a place in our community's growing economic vitality.

We're partnering with the faith-based community to find those who have been left behind, including par-

ticipants in a ministry-based addiction recovery organization. And as the number of Latino students on our campus has quadrupled over the past three years, we're paying attention to how our community is changing—and will change even more dramatically in the years to come. We're also trying to give people who drive across the state line for work the skills that will let them find better jobs closer to home and help the Southside thrive.

But we need to do more, and we want to work with any organization that can connect us to people seeking new opportunities and better lives. Too many people think that college isn't for them, would take too long, or cost too much. As part of Virginia's FastForward initiative, we offer the quickest, most affordable training program in Virginia, with financial assistance available to cut costs even more. We call it our "J-O-B degree" because it is focused on short-term training—weeks, not years—for high-demand jobs that are available now, in our region, while creating pathways for further education that can build a career.

Community colleges like P&HCC have always provided an open door for anyone seeking higher education. Today, we're even more committed to making sure that our entire region thrives as the result of our efforts, and that anyone who wants to improve their lives will not be left behind.

J. Gregory Hodges, PhD,  
President of P&HCC

## Ad sales open for award-winning Patrick County Magazine

Advertising reservations are now open for the award-winning Patrick County Magazine, which earned the "Best Magazine Guide" honor at the 2024 Southwest Virginia Tourism Awards—for the second consecutive year.

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce is currently

selling ad space for Volume 5, the fall 2025 edition, produced in partnership with Patrick County Tourism.

The magazine features stories about Patrick County's best-known attractions and hidden gems, and it continues to be popular with both residents and visitors. It is dis-

tributed at regional events, visitor centers and local businesses across the area.

The deadline to reserve ad space is July 18. To reserve space, contact the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce at 276-694-6012 or email [director@patrickchamber.com](mailto:director@patrickchamber.com).

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*Postmaster: send address changes to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 348, Stuart, VA 24171-0348. Subscription Rates: \$32 per year in Patrick County; \$45 per year in state; \$45 per year out of state. Single copies \$1.00.*

# Patrick Pioneers

Fleming DeHart and Sons

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week's story about Alice Thompson DeHart brought several questions about her husband, their large estate, and the historic Woolwine community of Hartville. This week, I'll do my best to provide some answers.

Alice Thompson (1886-1971) married Isaac Carrell "Ike" DeHart on September 24, 1931. Alice was Ike's second wife. His first wife, Miss Mollie Jane Hash (1867-1938), was the daughter of James Henry Hash (1841-1920) and Sarah Frances Thompson (1843-1907) of the Long Branch community in Franklin County, just over the Patrick County line.

Interestingly, Alice Thompson's father, Waddy Thompson (1848-1921), was the brother of Sarah Frances Thompson Hash — making Alice and Mollie first cousins. So, Ike's first wife's mother was the sister of his second wife's father!

Ike DeHart was the eldest son of Fleming DeHart (1838-1923) and Millie Jane DeHart (1838-1899). In the 1850's, Fleming DeHart built a grand home, licensed distillery, and flour milling business on the site of what is now the I. C. DeHart Memorial Park. Fleming would name his large estate Hartville and even establish a post office for shipping whiskey. As the eldest son, Ike inherited his father's home, business, and land, following the long-standing English tradition of passing

**THIS J. H. de HART MANSION HOME**

**A REAL HEALTH RESORT SHELTERED BY THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RANGE. MILD TEMPERATURE. GOOD PURE SPRING WATER. NO FLOODS OR WIND STORMS. JUST A LOVELY HEALTH RESORT TO MAKE YOUR FUTURE HOME, WITH IMPROVED ROAD CONVENIENCES LEADING EVERYWHERE.**



This home and farm is for sale because of old age. I have desirable property in Stuart, Virginia, that gives my Grand Children a chance to be educated and their mother a chance to do a mercantile business. No fault to the home other than to meet family needs.

Front Dimensions 70 x 16 feet. Rear Tee for dining room and kitchen, 40 x 16 feet. All two story. Two story porches on three sides of building. Ten rooms 16 x 16 feet. All hard wood floors and nine foot pitch. Four rooms 8 x 8 feet. Four halls 8 x 16 feet. Ten Soapstone fire places. Ten factory made mantels with French bevel plate mirrors, some costing over \$100 each. Three stairways. This commodious home and 102 acres of fine fruit and farm land, situated two miles north of Woolwine, Virginia, on improved highway No. 40 leading to Ferrum, Rocky Mount and Roanoke. Woolwine has a new High School building costing over \$45,000.00 and a good prospect of considerable enlargement in the near future. This school is one of the accredited High Schools in Virginia. Woolwine also has a nice large church and one of the largest and best general merchandise stores in Patrick County.

This home has School Bus and Rural mail service less than 200 yards of door, also Electricity and phone services available. This home is one of the best in Patrick County besides being well located in a good section and neighborhood. Its location is about midway between Stuart and Floyd. Only about 30 minutes drive on improved Highways to either town. Good Freestone Spring less than 30 steps of door. Also a good spring about 250 yards away that will supply the home with running water with about 40 foot elevation giving you city water pressure for all general needs, including fire protection.

Other buildings consist of a two-room cottage. One four-car garage. One store house, One office building. One large two-story storage house for farm implements and other commodities. One large repair shop building. One barn and one poultry house.

This home could be used as a Club House, a Tourist Home for health recuperation, or by a doctor that would like a quiet country practice in a non competitive section. Plenty of room for patients that might need daily attention.

There is a good Cottage in the yard for servants if needed.

Its location permits its use for various enterprises in a progressing country locality. Investigate and be convinced.

Interested parties can arrange with J. H. de Hart, of Stuart, Virginia, to show them over this property. Write or phone him when to meet you at the farm. Phone 330.

Mountain Rose Inn former J H DeHart mansion

the family estate to the firstborn. Fleming and Millie Jane would have three sons:

Isaac Carrell "Ike" DeHart (1866-1949)

Joseph Howard "J.H." DeHart (1870-1956)

Darius Ira DeHart (1879-1915)

Fleming DeHart's parents were Thomas DeHart (1798-1852) and Martha "Patsy" Via (1803-1840). Millie Jane DeHart's parents were Aaron DeHart (1801-1861) and Tamar McAlexander (1815-1865), all of Woolwine.

Joseph Howard DeHart married Miss Daisy Via (1877-1953), daughter of merchant and dentist Dr. William Dennis Via (1838-1915)

and Minnie Via (1855-1928), on February 27, 1896. The couple had two children:

George Via DeHart (1898-1933)

Ruth DeHart Smith (1900-1992)

Joseph Howard DeHart established his own mill and the Mountain Rose Distillery Number 250 in Woolwine, which he operated from 1900 until the 1940s, except during Prohibition. People now would know the J. H. DeHart home as the Mountain Rose Inn. J. H. then moved his family to Depot Street in Stuart, where he managed a rooming house that had previously served as both the Riverside Hotel and the

Ashby Hotel. On May 19, 1956, at the age of 86, J.H. suffered a fatal heart attack while watering his garden. He is buried beside his wife, Daisy, at Stuart Town Cemetery.

Darius Ira DeHart married Miss Sarah Elizabeth "Sallie Bett" Hash (1883-1965) on July 25, 1907. Sallie Bett was also the daughter of James Henry Hash and Sarah Frances Thompson Hash, and the sister of Ike's first wife, Mollie — adding yet another layer to these intertwined family connections.

Darius and Sallie Bett had three children:

Herman Isaac DeHart (1908-1977)



**Flemin DeHart with his grandchildren: Ruth and George, standing behind him, and Darius' children, beside him and in his lap.**

Clipping from Terry Trefry

R. C. and Darius DeHart, and families, of Hartville, Patrick county, came up Sunday to spend the day with Hon. J. A. L. Sutphin, and family, near Topeco. They made the trip in a new Studebaker car in a little over two hours, the distance being 25 miles. This trip was made in quick time considering some of the roads gone over.

Floyd Press, Oct. 15, 1914

Noel Edmond DeHart (1910-2003)

Mildred Frances DeHart (1911-1998)

Sadly, on January 4, 1915, Darius was killed in an accident at his father's roller mill in Hartville. He was just 35 years old. Darius was laid to rest at the DeHart Family Cemetery in Hartville. After his death, Sallie Bett and her children lived in the large home of her sister Mollie and brother-in-law Ike. Ike had no bi-

ological children with either Mollie or Alice.

For those interested in the DeHart family's involvement in licensed distilling, Jack Sullivan has written an excellent blog post titled "The DeHarts of Virginia: Moonshine in the Sunshine," which can be found at pre-prowhiskeymen.blogspot.com.

For questions, comments, or ideas, please contact Woody at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

## Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

**Ask Rusty - When Will Funds Stolen from Social Security be Replaced?**

**Dear Rusty:** When will the funds stolen from the SS Fund be replaced? They used Social Security when the government ran out of money and used it for illegals. I think the funds should be replaced except for legitimate payments to Social Security recipients. This money was never meant to be used by the federal government to pay their bills. *Signed: Concerned Senior*

**Dear Concerned Senior:** I must tell you that no funds have ever been "stolen" from the Social Security Administration (despite the persistent myth). All money received by SS (from payroll taxes, interest on investments, and income tax on SS benefits) is - and always has been - immediately converted to special issue government bonds (investments) which are held in the Social Security Trust Funds, and which

pay interest (at the current federal bond rate). Those bond investments held in reserve have been, and are, used only to pay benefits to those who have earned them by contributing to Social Security via payroll taxes for at least 10 years (40 quarters). Only US citizens and legal residents can get Social Security benefits (illegal aliens cannot receive Social Security benefits).

For information, repayment of the special issue bonds held in SS reserves occurs every day, because incoming revenue has been insufficient to pay all Social Security benefit costs for several years now, which means that the bonds must be redeemed regularly so that full benefits can be paid to all SS recipients who have earned them. There were about \$2.8 trillion in SS reserves as of the end of 2023, but that balance is steadily decreasing (due to being redeemed to pay full benefits). As of the last report by the Trustees of Social Security, the reserves will be depleted in about 2033, unless Congress passes reform legislation to restore SS to full solvency.

FYI, the Association of Mature American Cit-

izens (AMAC) is working hard to prevent depletion of the Trust Fund, suggesting to Congress a way to reform the program so future generations can fully benefit from it, with AMAC's Social Security Guarantee proposal (see this). AMAC is constantly working to prevent depletion of the SS Trust Funds, which would result in an across the board cut in everyone's benefit by about 23%. AMAC works every day in Washington D.C. to ensure Social Security is here for many generations.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.*

## Is Exercise Medicine?

Part 2

### Role of Natural Killer Cells

One of the important issues we have identified is the role that natural killer (NK) cells have in immune function. NK cells are a sub-type of lymphocytes. They make up about 5-15% of all your lymphocytes, which in turn make up around one-third of all your white blood cells (WBCs). These are the ones that respond to help you fight infection, as opposed to red blood cells (RBCs) which contain the hemoglobin that transports oxygen throughout the circulatory system.

What makes normal functioning NK cells so interesting and important is that they do not require any knowledge, prior instruction, or memory of an invader to identify, attack, and destroy it. No antibodies are required, no previous exposure or vaccinations (just like the conditions presently dominating the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic). If you isolate NK cells from a healthy person and put them into a culture with cancer cells, it only

takes a few hours before most of the cancer cells are dead! How this happens is largely beyond the scope of this article. BUT... I will tell you how exercise improves NK cells function.

Catecholamines (epinephrine, for example, is one of them) are released into the bloodstream during exercise. NK cells have receptors on their surface that respond favorably to these catecholamines, making NK cells move around more, and become more active in their assault against your body's enemies (both foreign and domestic). Research showed that after 30 minutes of moderate exertion on a stationary exercise bicycle the number of lymphocytes in the bloodstream increased by 100%.<sup>2</sup> And, the specific sub-type of lymphocytes that increased the most, 400-500%, was the NK cells! Researchers continued taking blood samples, and within only 5 minutes from stopping exercise, about half of all those NK cells had left the bloodstream and entered adjacent tissues

looking for a fight to win.

### Call to Action

These types of laboratory findings have hopeful implications for the current pandemic, suggesting (but not yet proving) that those who follow the recommended guidelines for regular exercise could reasonably expect to have a much greater margin of safety for their immune function when they are exposed to others around them who are actively shedding viruses (of all types). What those recommendations are, and how one might go about beginning to implement them into daily practice, will be the topic of upcoming articles, along with additional encouraging research findings relating to exercise and immune function.

*(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Franklin V. Cobos II, MD. Used by permission from https://timetogotready.org/ Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA.)*



Restaurant and retail building at historic Mabry Mill site on the Blue Ridge Parkway, milepost 176. NPS Photo.

## Concession opportunity available at Mabry Mill Restaurant

The National Park Service (NPS) is accepting proposals for a concession contract on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Mabry Mill (milepost 176). A business opportunity to provide Food & Beverage and Retail services in the restaurant and gift shop adjacent to the historic mill is outlined in a newly released prospectus document. Services under the new contract are expected to begin January 1, 2026, and will be for a 10-year term.

This is a re-release of this concessions solicitation. First advertised in the summer of 2024, no bids were received. The NPS has revised some of the financial aspects of the prospectus, which has changed the value of the overall

concession contract opportunity. Anyone interested is encouraged to submit a proposal.

Interested parties can access the prospectus on the NPS website. A site visit is planned for July 16, 2025. Those interested in attending the site visit must register by emailing [BLRI\\_Concessions@nps.gov](mailto:BLRI_Concessions@nps.gov) no later than one week before the scheduled date.

To submit a proposal in response to this solicitation, notify intent to William Gordon, Commercial Services Specialist, via email at [William\\_Gordon@nps.gov](mailto:William_Gordon@nps.gov) no later than September 3, 2025. Proposals are due October 1, 2025. All questions related to this business opportunity should be directed to William Gordon.

## Mountain Valley awarded CHAP Accreditation

Community Health Accreditation Partner, Inc., (CHAP) announced today that Mountain Valley, a local non-profit hospice and palliative care organization, has been awarded CHAP Accreditation for hospice services under the CHAP Standards of Excellence.

CHAP Accreditation demonstrates that Mountain Valley meets the industry's highest nationally recognized standards. The rigorous evaluation by CHAP focuses on structure and function, quality of services and products, human and financial resources and long-term viability. Simply stated, adherence to CHAP's standards leads to better quality care.

Along with CHAP Accreditation, Mountain Valley also achieved CHAP Certification in Pediatric Care at Home for their Love's PEAK pediatric hospice program. "By achieving CHAP Accredita-

tion, Mountain Valley has shown a commitment to excellence," said Nathan DeGodt, CHAP President and CEO. "We are excited to begin our partnership with Mountain Valley by offering support in its commitment to providing quality care and continuous improvement."

"CHAP Accreditation affirms what we strive for every day—that the care we provide is compassionate, consistent, and held to the highest standards," said Tracey Dobson, President and CEO of Mountain Valley. "This recognition reflects the dedication of our entire team to meet people where they are with excellence, dignity, and heart."

Mountain Valley provides a variety of hospice services to patients and their families in 18 counties across North Carolina and Virginia.

## Opinion Editorial

### "Big, Beautiful Bill" bolsters electric grid, helps protect Americans from blackout threats

As the U.S. Congress continues to deliberate on a reconciliation package to deliver to President Trump's desk ahead of July 4, Congressman Morgan Griffith (R-VA) penned an op-ed on the package's benefits for America's electric grid.

Read his full op-ed in the Washington Examiner here or below.

The intense heat wave battering the United States pushes America's electric grid to the brink and threatens potential power outages. But House Republicans offer a policy change that bolsters our grid and helps protect Americans from blackout threats.

Communities across much of the country face scorching temperatures, prompting power companies to take notice and act accordingly.

In my part of Virginia, local power companies affiliated with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) are encouraging their customers to reduce electricity use. This request appears to be based on an announcement from the TVA.

Alerts of potential breaking points in America's electric grid are not unique to the TVA and are unfortunately becoming more and more frequent.

The Friday before Memorial Day, Energy Secretary Chris Wright issued an emergency order directing the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the Midwest grid operator, to keep a coal-fired power plant in Michigan in operation. These emergency actions are authorized for up to 90 days at a time under Section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act.

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

MISO runs North to South from Manitoba and Michigan down to Louisiana and a portion of East Texas.

Notwithstanding keeping the plant in Michigan 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 knew high demand was likely that weekend. However, they had no extra power capacity. When one plant went down, their customers were plunged into darkness.

Reports confirmed that two of the region's nuclear power plants lost connection to the grid. One was due to expected maintenance, while 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 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 shut down, cars drove on streets without traffic lights, hospitals resorted to backup generators and some people were stuck in elevators!

The Iberian Peninsula blackout continues to be investigated. Lots of finger-pointing is going on between Spain's grid operator, the government and plant operators. But 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.

Leftist policies that attempted to gut our grid's reliance on fossil fuels and convert to renewables have pushed America's electric grid to the brink.

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.

But House Republicans offer a potential policy change that levels the playing field and openly welcomes baseload power.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act curtails some IRA tax credits which disincentivize coal and natural gas power plants. We maintain the incentives for nuclear because of its significant potential for baseload power.

Republicans 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 energy sources.

As extreme summer heat continues to threaten potential power outages, we must secure and equip our electric grid with reliable energy solutions.

We do not need to follow in Spain's footsteps and make Iberian Peninsula-style blackouts the norm.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act helps Americans avoid blackout threats by instituting reliable forms of baseload power.

Rep. Morgan Griffith

## Griffith announces STEP Inc. will receive grant

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded STEP Inc., located in Franklin County, Virginia, a \$1,296,059 grant. The funding supports head start and early head start projects. U.S. Congressman Morgan Griffith (R-VA) issued the following statement:

"Solutions that Empower People (STEP) serves communities in Franklin and Patrick Counties. This grant for nearly \$1.3 million helps STEP support its head start and early head start programs."

According to its website, Solutions That Empower People

(STEP), Inc. is a dynamic community action agency that provides services at significant milestones throughout life. Programs are designed to partner with individuals and families to help them overcome adversity and enhance their quality of life through community, economic, personal, and family development.

In a recent Health Subcommittee hearing with Congressman Griffith present, Secretary Kennedy noted President Trump's Budget request recommends Head Start continue to receive funding equal to the FY 2025 enacted level.

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# Crossing the Lines

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

## Supervisors fund demolition of unsafe homes across county



This house, located at 307 Greyson Street in the Collinsville District, is scheduled to be demolished as part of a county-wide project to address dilapidated and unsafe structures. The county will use \$390,000 from its general fund balance to demolish and/or remediate a total of 49 unsafe structures.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors appropriated \$390,000 from its general fund balance to demolish 39 unsafe structures throughout the county during its meeting Tuesday, July 24.

Enforcement actions will also be taken on other properties in need of remediation.

The project also includes remediation of nine properties.

Chairman Jim Adams, of the Blackberry District, said the board has heard loud and clear from residents that blighted and unkempt properties are a concern, and were highlighted in the results of a recent survey.

The action taken Tuesday “shows

that we’re not just listening, but we’re doing the legwork to respond. While the board has long recognized these issues, the feedback we received through the comprehensive planning process helped reinforce the need to prioritize this effort and commit the necessary resources. We approached this carefully, following the proper process and respecting property rights, to ensure we’re making a decision that benefits the entire community,” Adams said.

Of the 39 properties to be demolished, 17 are in Vice Chairman Joe Bryant’s Collinsville District, including the one structure scheduled to be remediated. The estimated total cost in that district is \$119,000.

## Bassett Furniture pays homage to the past with WWII truck



Andrew Doss at the wheel of the GMC CCKW 353.

Bassett Furniture unveiled a piece of history to its employees on May 15: a GMC CCKW 353 cargo truck. Manufactured in the 1940s and used during World War II, the truck represents the company’s wartime contributions. Bassett Furniture produced wooden truck beds for the military after securing a contract in Detroit.

“We dedicated the Bassett Furniture company across the street from our main office as a facility to manufacture the truck beds,” said Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Jeb Bassett. “We also made training rifles—no action to them—just something for the troops to carry as they were training.”

Efforts to procure a truck like the one Bassett contributed to during the war had been ongoing for years. Finding one in good condition proved difficult, as many were left overseas after the war ended. “We even sent a couple of guys

to military shows, and they said, ‘You’re probably not gonna find one, and if you do, it’s gonna be in terrible shape,’” Bassett said. The company got lucky when Bassett’s brother-in-law spotted the truck listed on Facebook Marketplace in North Carolina.

“We got excited. I sent it to our CEO that night, and he said, ‘Buy it.’ So we contacted the seller and said, ‘We’ll wire your money on Monday.’”

Bassett Historian Andrew Doss explained the importance of the company’s contribution during the war. “At a time of war when factories weren’t running, jobs weren’t really available because the government had told them to stop producing so many materials. Only necessary items were being made,” Doss said. “These cargo beds were considered important because they couldn’t make metal beds anymore—there was a shortage of metal.”

## Council approves lease, hears report on aging water infrastructure



The city discusses leasing options for the former BB&T building. Martinsville Police Chief Robert Fincher (seated, second from left) substituted as the primary contact in City Manager Aretha Ferrell Benavides’ absence. The circumstances surrounding her absence were not made public.

Martinsville City Council met June 24 in the lecture hall at the New College Institute to discuss aging water infrastructure and finalize financing options for leasing the former BB&T building at 1 Ellsworth St.

Council selected from four options and ultimately approved a lease at \$12 per square foot, increasing the city’s loan payment to \$10,800.

The council also heard a presentation from Drew Arnold, project engineer with Dewberry; other company officials; and Mandy Muse, the city’s director of water resources. The group presented findings from Dewberry’s Asset Management Plan for Martinsville’s water and sewer systems.

The city’s infrastructure, valued at more than \$600 million, includes components as old as 100 years. Much of it—dating back to the 1920s—has exceeded its typical service life of 30 to 110 years, according to discussion at the meeting.

Dewberry Engineers assessed the condition of the city’s systems and developed an Asset Management Plan aimed at optimizing the entire lifecycle of water and sewer infrastructure, equipment, and facilities. The plan outlines

how the utility can maintain, upgrade, and replace assets to ensure reliable service, mitigate risks, and meet service-level goals in a cost-effective and sustainable way, officials said.

In recent years, Martinsville has focused on wastewater interceptor repairs, small waterline replacements, and equipment upgrades. However, maintenance is increasingly reactive rather than proactive.

A 2024 engineering study of the city’s wastewater treatment plant prompted the full Asset Management Plan to help guide future improvements and avoid critical failures, according to discussion.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an affordable water burden is defined as 1.5% of median household income for 5,000 gallons per month. In Martinsville, with a 2023 median household income of \$42,434, that equates to \$53.04 per month.

Currently, customers pay \$33.31 for water and \$32.64 for wastewater—totaling \$65.95, which exceeds that affordability threshold. A rate study is underway, but results depend on the recommendations and data from the Asset Management Plan, officials said.

## Civic spirit and student talent recognized at annual Hooker Awards

The 23rd annual Clyde Hooker Awards were presented to VisitMartinsville and longtime Piedmont Arts supporter Marty Gardner. The awards also included five scholarships awarded to seniors to help further their education in the arts.

The individual recipient of the Clyde Hooker Award was Marty Gardner, who has more than six decades of acting and support for Piedmont Arts. Gardner has participated in major capital campaigns, served on numerous committees, managed exhibitions, and continues to advocate for the museum throughout the community.

Executive Director Heidi Pinkston said the award was “long overdue” and praised Gardner’s vision. “No one is more deserving. Marty, your vision, tenacity, and unwavering commitment have helped Piedmont Arts flourish into the community jewel it is to-



Marty Gardner earns the Clyde Hooker Award.

day.” VisitMartinsville’s mission perfectly aligns with Piedmont Arts’ vision of connecting our community through the arts. Their commitment to storytelling, placemaking, and local pride helps cultivate a strong sense of identity for Martinsville-Henry County and reinforces the essential role that the arts play in our economy and daily lives,” said Piedmont Arts board president-elect Olivia Garrett.



1-3-5-7-9



1-4-7-9:15



1-3-5-7-9



1-3-5-7-9



1-3-5-7-9

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# From courthouse to cloud: Genealogy meeting to explore AI tools



Today it takes just a few clicks of your computer for AI to translate the cursive writing. (Screenshot from Family Search)

The Genealogical Society of Rockingham and Stokes Counties (GSRs) will hold its next meeting on Sunday, July 13, at 2:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Danbury Public Library, located at 1007 Main St., Danbury, N.C.

Former GSRs president Pat Edwards will be the featured speaker. She will present a program about how artificial intelligence (AI) is being used in genealogical research and will share examples of how AI can help uncover new insights into family history.

Following the presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, enjoy refreshments, and connect with others interested in genealogy.

For generations, genealogists pored over dusty courthouse ledgers and fragile documents to find birth, marriage, death, and estate records. These documents were often written in elaborate cursive, which could



For years researchers went to the courthouse to find documents which were always written in fancy cursive handwriting. (Courtesy of Debbie Brown)

be difficult to decipher. But the digital age—and now AI—has transformed the process.

With tools like Ancestry.com and FamilySearch, records that once took hours to locate can now be retrieved in seconds. Recent developments in artificial intelligence

even allow software to read and transcribe cursive handwriting, further simplifying research.

What once took a trip to a courthouse or hours in a library archive can now be done with a few clicks—and increasingly, a few keystrokes and prompts.

## Carol Christiana Thornton

Mrs. Carol Christiana Thornton, age 88, of Meadows of Dan, Virginia passed away on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at her home. She was born July 11, 1936, in Pleasantville, New York to the late George and Audrey Hagan Christiana. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, George Lumpkin, Sr.; her second husband, Wesley Burton Sehen; and her brother, Bobby Christiana. Carol was a member of Meadows of Dan Baptist Church. She enjoyed being involved in her church, staying active, and traveling. One of her greatest joys was



spending time with her family. Carol is survived by her husband, Dick Thornton; her children, George Lumpkin, Jr., Mick Lumpkin, Carol Thornton, Audrey Aldana, and Tommy Lumpkin; twelve grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; brothers, Michael Christiana, Jerry Christiana, David Christiana, Chris Christiana, and Byron Christiana; and a sister, Margie Bandas.

Funeral service for Mrs. Thornton will be held on Monday, June 30, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. at Meadows of Dan Baptist Church with Pastor Michael Shockley officiating. Burial will follow in the Sehen-Knowles-Eden Cemetery in Meadows of Dan, Virginia. Family will receive friends from 12:00 noon until the time of the service at the church. Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

## James Green Quesenberry

Mr. James Green Quesenberry "J.G.", age 75 of Meadows of Dan, Virginia, passed away at his home Friday, June 27, 2025. He was born in Meadows of Dan, Virginia, on January 1, 1950, to the late Parker Davis Quesenberry and Mary Ellen DeHart Quesenberry. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Odell, Ronnie, and Elmer Quesenberry; a sister, Ruth Q. Harbour Winfield; a niece, Vicki Harbour Purdy; and a nephew, Jeffrey Harbour. He never met a stranger, loved



to laugh, and was the best father to his daughter. J.G. is survived by his devoted daughter, Mary Ann Quesenberry of the home; and several nieces and nephews. A celebration of life service for J.G. will be held Monday, June 30, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Lonnie Hylton and Pastor Terry Martin officiating. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until the time of the service on Monday evening at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to J.G. Quesenberry Memorial Fund, c/o Moody Funeral Home, P.O. Box 307, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

service for J.G. will be held Monday, June 30, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Lonnie Hylton and Pastor Terry Martin officiating. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until the time of the service on Monday evening at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to J.G. Quesenberry Memorial Fund, c/o Moody Funeral Home, P.O. Box 307, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting [www.moodyfuneralservices.com](http://www.moodyfuneralservices.com).

A celebration of life

## Kathy Lea Gauldin

Kathy Lea Gauldin, 73, born April 18, 1952, passed away at Sovah Health in Martinsville on June 19, 2025.



The daughter of Robert and Thelma Lewis, she is survived by spouse Glenn Gauldin and children Chris Owens (and spouse Holly Owens), Jeni Owens (and spouse Don Williams), Joey Owens and Gina Owens, as well as grandchildren Kade Berent, Lilliana Lawson and Meina Owens.

Over the course of her life, she worked with mental health patients but was most proud of her time as a hospice nurse. During this time, she collected stories of patients who had near-death experiences. She wrote

a book that she gave away freely to many of her patients and family titled 'Standing Where Angels Stood', which her children will seek to publish. She enjoyed painting and after meeting a man that could not read, she created a painting depicting the path to salvation which missionaries would later send thousands of prints to several countries.

She was the best of us, the most loving mother and grandmother one could imagine, and has left a hole in many hearts. A celebration of life will be held on Monday, June 23, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at Wright Funeral Service Chapel. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, her family requests donations in her name to the SPCA to honor her lifetime love of animals and helping animals in need. Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.wrightfuneralservices.net](http://www.wrightfuneralservices.net).

erated countries. She was the best of us, the most loving mother and grandmother one could imagine, and has left a hole in many hearts. A celebration of life will be held on Monday, June 23, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at Wright Funeral Service Chapel. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, her family requests donations in her name to the SPCA to honor her lifetime love of animals and helping animals in need. Wright Funeral Service & Crematory is serving the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.wrightfuneralservices.net](http://www.wrightfuneralservices.net).

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# PATRICK PULPITS

## Freedom to Choose

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

In Romans 6: 16-23 the Apostle Paul discusses that as Christians we have the freedom to choose one of two masters – sin or righteousness. He emphasizes that sin leads to death and righteousness through Jesus leads to eternal life. Only because of Jesus' victory over sin are we provided with this freedom to choose.

Paul says that prior to Christ, sin was a slave master, bringing its victims to destruction. Sin ruled the day. When Jesus came, sin had nearly controlled the whole world. Man did not know the true God. And the Jews, His chosen people, had lost their relationship with Him. As a result, they did not recognize Jesus because they were looking for an earthly king to overcome the Romans. Satan was the prince of this world prior to Jesus coming. This is because man has limited power in of himself, and he comes under the control of Satan when he doesn't know or accept God.

God through Noah, Abraham, and Moses tried to form a nation that would represent Him to the world. But the influence of the sin of neighboring countries caused the Israelites many times to lose their hold on God. Sin is so attractive at the beginning, but it becomes very deadly.

It wasn't until Jesus came that God's love and justice were fully manifested. His life of love, compassion, and self-sacrifice fully reflected the Father in heaven. Then when Jesus bore the sins of the world on the cross, man had the choice to accept Him and choose righteousness or to remain in sin and be lost. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be cleansed of sin (1 John 1: 9).

In time, Paul says we become dead to sin, desiring to choose righteousness at all times. Thus, as Jesus makes salvation possible and the Holy Spirit gives us power, we receive not only the gift of justification (forgiveness), but also the gift of sanctification (transformation) and eternal life. We have this assurance because it is promised in His Word and God never fails us.

The joy we can have today is that Jesus is coming soon to take His people home (John 14: 2,3). The coming mark of the beast test will determine who has truly been sanctified and prepared to go. This test simply requires being faithful to Jesus and His Word in spite of pressures to do otherwise.

What an awesome future we can look forward to. And it's because Jesus gained the victory over sin and Satan that we can choose to have freedom from sin today and heaven tomorrow.

## BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Cheirut (KJV) in the *Old or New Testament or neither?*
2. In Galatians, "Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through \_\_\_\_\_ serve one another." *Friendship, Honesty, Love, Hope*
3. From 2 Corinthians, "Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is \_\_\_\_\_." *Hope, Freedom, Love, Liberty*
4. In John 8, "If the \_\_\_\_\_

therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." *Heart, Worship, Celebration, Son*

5. From what book's 6:7 does it say, "For he that is dead is freed from sin"? *Isaiah, Daniel, Mark, Romans*

6. How many times is the word "independence" mentioned in the Bible? *0, 2, 11, 17*

ANSWERS: 1) *Neither*, 2) *Love*, 3) *Liberty*, 4) *Son*, 5) *Romans*, 6) *Zero*

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**July 5:** Star Spangled Saturday Concert Series 4pm

**July 11:** Blood Pressure checks with the LandmarkCenter & Blue Ridge Nursing Center

**July 18:** Rise & Shine Kids Market Vendors

**July 28:** Monthly Master Gardeners Program & BloodPressure checks

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## Super Crossword

NEW ORDER OF BIRDS

- ACROSS**
- 1 They're filled at filling stations
  - 9 Causes of some winter roof leaks
  - 16 Two or three
  - 20 Its capital is Springfield
  - 21 Good time to shop and save
  - 22 1977 hit for Electric Light Orchestra
  - 23 Bird hanging around
  - 25 Bottom-of-the-barrel bit
  - 26 "Grace and Frankie" co-star Lily
  - 27 Me, in Marne
  - 28 Take a chair
  - 29 Spike for a rock climber
  - 30 lcky food
  - 33 Bird with a pronounced lower back?
  - 36 Elite police unit
  - 41 35mm camera type
  - 42 Holy Week follower
  - 43 Bird with an affliction?
  - 48 Lead-in to lateral
  - 49 It flows through Köln
  - 50 Rocker
  - 51 "Ammonium" has three
  - 52 Single's first half
  - 54 Response to "You weren't!"
  - 55 Jazz great
  - 58 Give a bird a monetary reward?
  - 60 "God Love Us" rapper
  - 61 Pecans and cashews
  - 64 Eggs
  - 65 Slow-moving reptile with a bird on its back?
  - 73 Aussie critter
  - 74 Outer surface
  - 75 911 VIP
  - 76 Waterway full of birds?
  - 82 Billfold bills
  - 83 Employee welfare agcy.
  - 84 Daisy type
  - 85 Daisy of "Li'l Abner"
  - 86 Pull along
  - 88 Old paper sections
  - 89 Bub
  - 90 Share employment hours with a bird?
  - 95 Actress
  - 98 Boating blade
  - 99 "Are we out of danger?"
  - 100 Bird starring in "The Birds"?
  - 104 Wise — owl
  - 105 Novelist Loos
  - 106 Two times LI
  - 107 Neighbor of Okla.
  - 109 "You did not just say that!"
  - 115 Will of "The Waltons"
  - 116 Jacket with bird hues?
  - 120 Coastal eagle
  - 121 100% correct
  - 122 Overpraises
  - 123 Old booming jets, in brief
  - 124 Catholic prayer books
  - 125 Pre-release software trial
  - 5 Opposer
  - 6 One who's hardly saintly
  - 7 Tool set, e.g.
  - 8 Guyana-to-Bolivia dir.
  - 9 "Money — object"
  - 10 Escalade
  - 11 Wood for dartboards
  - 12 Certain belief in God
  - 13 Impromptu
  - 14 Country south of Sicily
  - 15 — admin
  - 16 Extra installations
  - 17 Courage in adversity
  - 18 Big surprise
  - 19 Like the operas "Parsifal" and "Lohengrin"
  - 24 Wee devil
  - 29 Free TV ad
  - 31 Thai tongue
  - 32 Texter's "Yowzal"
  - 34 Website ID
  - 35 Family mem.
  - 36 Run very fast
  - 37 Guitarist's pedal effect
  - 38 Resting
  - 39 That's partner
  - 40 Boatload
  - 41 — -fi movie
  - 44 Tabriz native
  - 45 Stephen of "Utopia"
  - 46 Actress
  - 47 Suffix with cartoon
  - 52 Break off
  - 53 — -Tass
  - 55 Slip-up
  - 56 Allow to
  - 57 Zodiac feline
  - 58 H.S. junior's hurdle
  - 59 Hostess snack cakes
  - 61 — degree or another
  - 62 Consumer
  - 63 Neighbor of Okla.
  - 66 Helen of —
  - 67 Abbr. on a food carton
  - 68 "Dr." of rap
  - 69 It's in bronze
  - 70 Greek goddess of the hearth
  - 71 Doug who is married to Kamala Harris
  - 72 Just one bite
  - 76 Websites' "front covers"
  - 77 Ones taking a close look
  - 78 Awardee, say
  - 79 Texter's "I think ..."
  - 80 Alternate wd. spelling
  - 81 "A mouse!"
  - 83 Circus cries
  - 86 Feeling gratitude
  - 87 Not 'neath
  - 88 Post-Q string
  - 90 Baby's cry
  - 91 "Little piggy"
  - 92 "— for Evidence" (Sue Grafton novel)
  - 93 "Hugo" star
  - 94 Relative of a wood
  - 96 Petrol units
  - 97 "Give — rest"
  - 101 Gut bacterium
  - 102 Radio knobs
  - 103 Celebrity photographer
  - 104 Even a hint of the hearth
  - 108 Spy Aldrich
  - 110 Spanish greeting
  - 111 Shutter piece
  - 112 Short letter
  - 113 God of war
  - 114 "You ... over there ..."
  - 116 Engine wheel
  - 117 Singer Rita
  - 118 Slap cuffs on
  - 119 Fruity quaff

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Puzzle answers page 11

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# CLASSIFIED

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# LEGAL

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, July 14, 2025 on the proposed ordinance authorizing the payment of bonuses as outlined in §15.2-1508 of the Code of Virginia.

The hearing will be held in the 3rd floor Courtroom of the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia.

Anyone wishing to view the proposed ordinance authorizing the payment of bonuses as outlined in §15.2-1508 of the Code of Virginia may do so at the County Administration office, Suite 218 located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building.

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

# LEGAL

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION** Case No. CL25000167-00  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104  
Patrick Circuit Court, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, VA 24171  
ESTATE OF KATHLEEN v. JASON MORRIS SCHIFF,  
WILSON SCHIFF TRAVIS COMPTON JR,  
AND PARTIES UNKNOWN

The object of this suit is to:  
TO OBTAIN PROPER SERVICE UPON UNKNOWN PARTIES  
It is ORDERED that ANY PARTIES UNKNOWN WHO HAVE INTEREST IN THE ABOVE CASE appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before July 17, 2025.  
JUNE 9, 2025

*[Signature]*  
Clerk

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# Library

(cont. from page 1)

she brought her own children, who also received their first cards from him.

“My youngest graduates college in August, so he’s seen the whole process. For him to give me my first library card when I was seven-years-old to me being able to take over for him as he retires, it’s a full circle moment,” she said.

Clifton’s support has helped ease her nerves.

“Like, ‘if Garry didn’t think I could do this, he wouldn’t support me,’ so I feel like I could do it. I have tons of ideas, and no one loves this library more than I do, so I’m going to take care of it, and water it, and nourish it, and let it grow and be something that is needed for the whole community because our community needs this library and all it has,” she said.

Luna-Ojodeagua said the library has many underutilized resources, including being one of the few places in the county where people can send faxes or make copies.

“We’re used a whole lot for that. Zoom meetings—they come in and use the quiet room. We have so many resources available,” she said.

She also enjoys showing visitors how to use the card catalog and place holds for books from other branches.

“I show them how to use that resource and how to put holds on books from other branches for them to come here and pick up. A lot of people don’t realize that you can do that. They thought they had to go to another branch to get specific books “because a lot of them can’t go that far away,” she said.

Luna-Ojodeagua said her mission is to make sure everyone can access and benefit from library services.

“And to create more things that we don’t even realize we need to be able to reach everyone,” she

added.

In her new role, she hopes to expand outreach efforts and partner with organizations such as Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), The Landmark Center, and the Patrick County Alzheimer’s Group, LLC.

“I have an aunt that has Alzheimer’s and that’s a group that is dear to my heart, and so I would like to do some outreach, bring some programs in. I don’t want to be offensive to anyone, so I need to speak with the representatives there with the group to see if maybe they could come in and do a Storytime, do short stories, or whether it’s a chair exercise just for them, and maybe we just sit around and talk and share experiences. Maybe they want to read stories to some of our Storytime kids. I mean there’s lots of options and I have lots of ideas,” she said.

Additional ideas include starting a pen pal program between Landmark residents and homeschooled students, and inviting professionals from different careers to speak at the library.

Passionate about literacy, Luna-Ojodeagua also wants to find ways to engage middle school students, who typically only interact with the bookmobile.

“So, I would really like to maybe start a book club or do some kind of things throughout the school year that’s just not like the summer reading program that we have—something that’s a little bit more year-round,” she said.

She’s also interested in bringing language classes to the library, including English, American Sign Language (ASL), and Spanish.

“I don’t know when, but I think being able to have someone in the community that is willing to tutor, teach us those language skills would be super beneficial,” she said.



Retired branch manager Garry Clifton ceremoniously passed the library book scanner to Somer Luna-Ojodeagua at his May 29 retirement party.

While funding is the primary challenge she foresees, Luna-Ojodeagua said getting people through the library’s doors is also important.

“But like I said, the more people realize what we have, I don’t think that would be a big challenge. I would say funding would be the biggest challenge,” she said.

Although her management style and organizational system differ from Clifton’s, Luna-Ojodeagua said that doesn’t mean one is better than the other.

“It’s just getting over that hump and learning it all. But I have a wonderful team, we all love the library and we love each other, and that makes things a lot easier,” she said.

## Library Manager’s Report

June was a fantastic month here at the Patrick County Library. We started off the 2025 Summer Reading Program with fun activities and warm temperatures. This year’s theme is “Color Your World.” Assistant Manager, Samantha Edmondson runs our branch’s summer reading program, and she is fantastic at organizing the programs and the kids always have a blast.

I would like to send a special thank you to Norma Bozenmayer, a dedicated member of the PC Master Gardeners, for helping kick off the first program of the summer and planting a beautiful butterfly waystation around our library sign by the road.

Speaking of roads, Gayle Wagoner, our bookmobile queen, has been keeping them hot while traveling to all parts of Patrick County carrying must reads to her patrons. She is amazing and everyone loves her and the bookmobile.

Leandio Gravely, the Programming Coordinator for the Blue Ridge Regional Library system, hosted nine patrons for a class on learning how to make your own ice cream and waffle cones. Of course, all nine participants left with a smile on their faces and a booklet filled with recipes to make their own frozen treats. Who doesn’t love coming to the library AND eating ice cream on a muggy June day?

The “Journaling Junkies” met and had a great time designing and updating their planners and journals with

new stickers and information. If anyone is interested in joining that group, they meet every third Saturday of the month from 11-12:30. Bring your own journal or planner and supplies or you are welcome to use what we have available in our “Journaling” supply container.

As far as what’s coming up in July in the library, we have continued the Summer Reading Program, along with a weekly movie and popcorn on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. On Wednesday, July 23, Sam and Emme are hosting a “formal” tea party celebrating Jane Austen’s 250th birthday. They encourage participants to dress up in Victorian fashion and be ready for regency era snacks. Registration is required as seats are limited.

Leandio will return in July with a new type of program for our 18 plus participants. “Boots on the Ground” a line dancing class will be on Monday July 21, at 1 p.m. at our PC branch. Registration is free and patrons are encouraged to wear their favorite cowboy/cowgirl boots or country western apparel. Also, in July, Cindy Howe, owner and creator of Ragtop Designs, is hosting a free watercolor class on July 26 at 11 a.m. in the meeting room at the library. If you are interested, please stop by or call and sign up to save a spot for the class. All materials are provided. As per usual, if you are interested in any of our programs, feel free to give us a call at (276) 694-3352 or check us out online at <https://www.brrl.lib.va.us/index.php>



Abigail Brammar, “sitting” on the job at Patrick County Library. (Contributed)

or on Facebook under Blue Ridge Regional Library for further information.

I would also like to thank everyone for their support and encouraging words as I start my new journey in the library management world. I am part of an amazing team, not only here at the Patrick County Branch but with the entire Blue Ridge Regional Library system. I look forward to what all the future holds and am blessed to

have my dream job here at our wonderful library.

For a quick smile—I caught one of our circulation assistants, Abigail Brammar, “sitting” on the job. Sometimes you just have to do what you have to do. She is great at what she does and loves to shelve books.

Until next month, happy reading and come by and see me.

Somer Ojodeagua, PC Library Branch Manager

JULY						PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY						2025		
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday				
			1		2		3		4		5			
		Yoga 5:15*		Yoga 1:15*		Sit & Stitch 11:00		CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY						
	7		8		9		10			11		12		
Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club 9:00		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00					Board Game Day			
		Summer Reading Program 11:00		Book Bingo 10:30		Storytime 10:30 Sharks								
LEGO Club 4:00		Family Movie 1:30		Yoga 1:15*		Teen Program 2:00								
	14	Yoga 5:15*				Not Your Mother’s Book Club 5:00								
Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club 9:00		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00								
		Summer Reading Program 11:00		Retired Teacher’s 11:00		Storytime 10:30 Bookmobiles		Sit & Stitch 11:00			Journaling Junkies 11:00			
LEGO Club 4:00		Family Movie 1:30		Yoga 1:15*		Open Art Studio 1:00								
	21	Yoga 5:15*				Teen Program 2:00								
Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club 9:00		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00								
Boots on the Ground Line Dancing Class 1:00*		Summer Reading Program 11:00		Paint Like Georgia O’Keeffe 10:30*		Storytime 10:30 Stuffed Animals					The Joy of Watercolor Painting with Cindy Howe 11:00			
		Family Movie 1:30		Yoga 1:15*										
Lego Club 4:00		Yoga 5:15*		Jane Austen Tea Party 2:00*		Teen Program 2:00								
	28		29		30		31							
Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club 9:00		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00								
		Summer Reading Finale 11:00												
LEGO Club 4:00		Yoga 5:15*		Yoga 1:15*										

Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. \*Registration required. Walking Club meets at the Food Bank parking lot at the Rail Trail on Tuesday and Thursday morning. Movies this month are all Studio Ghibli films.

# J. E. B. Stuart's Mother: Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart (1801-1884)

By Tom Perry

Born on January 4, 1801, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, to David and Bethenia Letcher Pannill, Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart entered the world less than twenty years after the Treaty of Paris, which brought the United States of America into being. Eighty-three years later, she would pass on after seeing the nation nearly torn apart by the Civil War, and her youngest son would become famous because of it. Sadly, she would outlive all her children except one daughter, named Bethenia after her mother, and a son, William Alexander Stuart, who took on the mantle of family provider for many of his siblings, their widows, and his mother.

In the summer of 1817, she married Archibald Stuart on June 17. Stuart got the marriage license the day before, having it witnessed by Thomas G. Tunstall.

On March 24, 1818, around one in the morning, Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart gave birth to her first child at her mother, Bethenia Letcher Pannill's, home—a daughter named Nancy Anne Dabney Stuart, named for Archibald Stuart's mother. Bethenia Pannill Stuart was born on September 10, 1819, as the second child of Elizabeth and Archibald Stuart at Seneca Hill in Campbell County, Virginia. The third child and third daughter of Elizabeth Stuart, Mary Tucker Stuart, was born on July 20, 1821, at the home of Judge Alexander Stuart near Saint Louis, Missouri.

The first son born to Elizabeth Stuart, David Pannill Stuart, came into the world at one in the morning on September 10, 1823, at Chalk Level in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. William Alexander Stuart was born at midnight on May 3, 1826, the first of the Stuart children born at Laurel Hill in Patrick County. John Dabney Stuart was born at dawn on November 15, 1828, at Laurel Hill.

Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart gave birth to Columbia Lafayette Stuart on May 28, 1830, at Laurel Hill. The eighth of Elizabeth's children, James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart, was born at 11:30 p.m. or a.m., depending on which version of the family bible you view, on February 6, 1833. A ninth child, a son, Daniel Patrick Stuart, was born on April 21, 1834, but died on July 17. This baby may rest near the grave of William Letcher, as the land records mention the graves of William Letcher and others. This child has a marker in the Stuart Cemetery near where Archibald Stuart was buried from

1855 until 1952, when he was moved to Saltville to rest beside his wife, the subject of this article. Virginia Josephine Stuart was born at Laurel Hill on April 20, 1836. In July 1838, Elizabeth gave birth to her last child, Victoria Augusta Stuart.

Four years later, in 1842, memorable events occurred at Laurel Hill. Young James and his brother, William Alexander Stuart, discovered the hornet's nest that the latter would later make famous, recounting his brother's aggressive nature, which would later be reflected in the future General's character. Virginia Josephine Stuart died that May. Elizabeth Stuart lost many of her children, but this was the only girl to die at Laurel Hill. Archibald Stuart's sister, Anne Dabney, the wife of Judge James Ewell Brown, also died that year. Death was an increasingly hard part of life for the Stuarts.

Three years later, in 1845, Bethenia Letcher Pannill, the daughter of "The Patriot" William Letcher and mother of Elizabeth Stuart, died at her home in Pittsylvania County. That same year, 1845, David Stuart Pannill, the oldest son, and Anne Stuart Peirce, the oldest daughter of Elizabeth and Archibald Stuart, both died, ironically, at the same time in the same place, Pulaski, Virginia.

Archibald Stuart died on September 20, 1855, at Laurel Hill. Elizabeth buried him there, high on the hill with a vista of the Blue Ridge, and began to move on with her life. In far-off Kansas Territory, James E. B. Stuart married Flora Cooke on November 14 at Fort Riley with the Episcopal Reverend Clarkson officiating.

On March 24, 1856, Elizabeth appointed Attorney Samuel G. Staples and her son, William Alexander Stuart, as her representatives in handling her affairs. She remained at Laurel Hill. The tax records report that eleven slaves over the age of twelve were living on the farm. There were seven horses worth \$450 and household furniture listed at the same amount.

The following year, she wrote to a "Dear Friend" in September from Laurel Hill, stating that Mary T. Stuart Headen and William Alexander both came by, and Mary stayed, giving her a "great deal of company for me," along with Victoria, who was also present. Mrs. Stuart was in mourning as, on August 2, Columbia Lafayette Stuart, the wife of Peter W. Hairston of Cooleemee Plantation in Davie County, passed away. Peter buried Columbia

at Berry Hill in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Elizabeth wrote to Bettie Hairston, "My home looked very sad when I came here, and the Yadkin will look still more so. Cousin Peter...felt is more depressed than ever...the longest summer I ever experienced."

News from Lieutenant Stuart arrived at Laurel Hill. Elizabeth Stuart passed it on to Elizabeth "Bettie" Hairston, "I received a letter from James's wife the other day, and she writes me that James had received a slight flesh wound in an attack against the Indians and in saving the life of a brother officer...the weather is now so warm and out Sulphur Spring is in full blast." At this writing, The White Sulphur Springs is a wedding venue, having been revived after attempts to turn it into a housing development were made, following its long period of dormancy as a resort hotel throughout the twentieth century. Earlier that year remembering the spiritual matters of his former neighbors James wrote his mother, "I wish to devote one hundred dollars to the purchase of a comfortable log church near your place, because in all my observation I believe one is more needed in that neighborhood than any other that I know of; and besides, 'charity begins at home.' Seventy-five of this one hundred dollars I have in trust for that purpose, and the remainder is my own contribution. If you will join me with twenty-five dollars, a contribution of a like amount from two or three others interested will build a very respectable free church." The future Confederate General showed interest in his birthplace, asking his mother, "What will you take for the south half of your plantation? I want to buy it."

Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart was thinking of selling her ancestral home. In 1858, Victoria wrote in a letter dated April 17 that her mother was going to sell or "bargain her land", Laurel Hill, to "a gentleman of Patrick Court House" and move to Wytheville in the fall, no doubt to live with or near William Alexander Stuart. The sale fell through, and it would be another year before Laurel Hill passed from her hands forever.

Marriage was in the air for the Stuart children. John Dabney married Anne Eliza Kent on January 12, 1858, and Victoria married Nathaniel Boyden on September 13. The family did not forget Archibald Stuart. Elizabeth wrote to James W. Ford about a portrait of Mr. Stuart, expressing interest in buying it. She



Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart

mentions that her son, Lieutenant Stuart, will be in next summer (1859) and may wish to purchase it.

On July 9, 1859, Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart sold the 1500-acre Laurel Hill farm to Robert R. Galloway and Dr. Joseph Hollingsworth for \$12,000. She reserved three parcels, including one acre on the Volunteer Road, "for the purpose of erecting a church," remembering her son James' offer of \$100. The other two reserved parcels include the graveyard of William Letcher and "others," as well as the graveyard of Archibald Stuart. The two new owners from Mount Airy divided the property into two halves, with Hollingsworth receiving the Elizabeth Stuart section and Galloway receiving the William L. Pannill section, which was added in 1828. Additionally, William L. Pannill acquired the Pittsylvania County lands of Elizabeth L. P. Stuart.

After the sale of Laurel Hill, before moving to Danville, local tradition holds that Elizabeth spent a week with her old friends, David Birnett and Margaret Saunders Hatcher, at what is now the Dan Valley Farm in Claudville. A relative of the Hatcher Family, J. O. Hatcher, brother of Alice Hatcher, whom this author interviewed, later owned Laurel Hill.

In 1861, Mrs. Stuart was in Richmond. On February 4, she wrote to her former son in law, Peter W. Hairston, with her left hand as her right was injured, about the approaching War Between the States. She wrote about being "alarmed at the prospect of Civil War" and thought the "panic" would push "Carolina and Virginia to go to war with each other." A few months later, she wrote Robert E. Lee on April 23 about her son James Ewell Brown Stuart, telling Lee that, "As soon as he hears of the Secession, he will fly to place himself by your side. Can you save a place for him...educated under your eyes and was with you at Harper's Ferry. He is greatly attached to you and to all of your family."

The following year, 1862, she was in Danville, where she met Pere Louis-Hippolyte Gache, a Catholic priest detailed to Danville Hospitals. The former Chaplain 10th



Louisiana Infantry wrote from Lynchburg on November 18, 1862, about the "wondrous events in Danville" "a place where Protestantism reigned with such absolute sway... notions which the local people have of Catholicism are derived from ridiculous and slanderous fables...people honestly and sincerely believe Catholics are low scoundrels...I met only one person there who was an exception to this rule, Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart, the mother of the general who has done such wicked things to the poor Yankees." Gache described Mrs. Stuart as a High Church Episcopalian who visited the convent in Danville, searching for a book. She explained to Gache that she had once lived in Saint Louis, Missouri, and while there, she had read a book about St. Ignatius Loyola, which she now wanted to reread. The book was not at the Danville convent, but the Jesuit priest described her as a "marvelous old lady...charming."

Gache stated that Mrs. Stuart told him she believed "most of the doctrines that Catholics hold, and the Protestants reject...I believe in miracles, in the Communion of Saints, and I also believe in confession." Sadness came to the home of William Alexander Stuart in Saltville that year as his wife, Mary Taylor Carter Stuart, died on July 2. The following year, he married Ellen Spiller Brown, the widow of Judge James Ewell Brown's son, Alexander Stuart Brown, on September 3, 1863.

In Danville in 1863, Elizabeth Stuart was the center of a humorous story involving the future mascot of Virginia Tech. Mrs. Stuart rented a house on Wilson Street in Danville. A visitor reported that she had a turkey gobbler tied to her rosewood bedpost to deter theft of food, as the food was becoming scarce in war-torn Virginia. Mrs. Stuart explained, "A friend from the country sent it to her for a Christmas turkey." Elizabeth faced the death of her most famous child the

following year with the death of James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart on May 12, 1864, after receiving a wound at the Battle of Yellow Tavern.

The years passed, and by March 21, 1868, Elizabeth wrote to "Dear Cousin Kitty" from Lynchburg, stating that she had been ill in Baltimore. She told her relative that "one of the greatest miseries of poverty is that I cannot assist those that I would take the greatest pleasure in assisting." The following year, she wrote to Marshall Hairston on January 5 from Saltville, offering to sell land inherited from "Uncle Robert," valued at \$3.66. Elizabeth had joined the family at Saltville. William Alexander Stuart kept the promise he made to his brother James that he would take care of their family, including his mother, his sister Mary, and his sister-in-law, Flora, at his Saltville home.

Mrs. Stuart visited her children. In February 1876, she made her way to the home of John Dabney Stuart, known as West End in Wythe County. The following year, John died on October 2, 1877, and rests today in Wytheville.

Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart died on August 20, 1884, at Elk Garden, Virginia, the home of William A. Stuart in Russell County. Her will divides her estate between her son, John (who preceded her in death), and her daughter, Mary, including a large bedstead, bureau, washstand, chairs, tables, feather bed, and a traveling trunk, along with a few exceptions, such as a gold watch to her grandson, J. E. B. Stuart Jr.

She rests in the cemetery named after Patrick Henry's sister, Elizabeth Russell, in Saltville, along with many of her children. The family moved Archibald Stuart from Laurel Hill in 1952 to lie beside her. Her daughter-in-law, Ellen Spiller Brown Stuart, wrote in the family Bible that she was "one of the most intellectual and cultured women in Virginia."

# DRBA's First Saturday Outing set for July 5

Join the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) on Saturday, July 5, for an approximate 4.5-mile paddle on the Smith River from the South Martinsville Canoe Access to the Monogram Foods Sports Complex Canoe Access. Participants will meet at the South Martinsville Canoe Access at 9:00 a.m. to unload boats and set the shuttle. The access is located at 280 Tensbury Drive adjacent to the Indian Heritage RV Park. This paddle is suitable for most skill levels with some Class I and II rapids. Outings and meetings of the Dan River Basin Association are open to the public without charge.

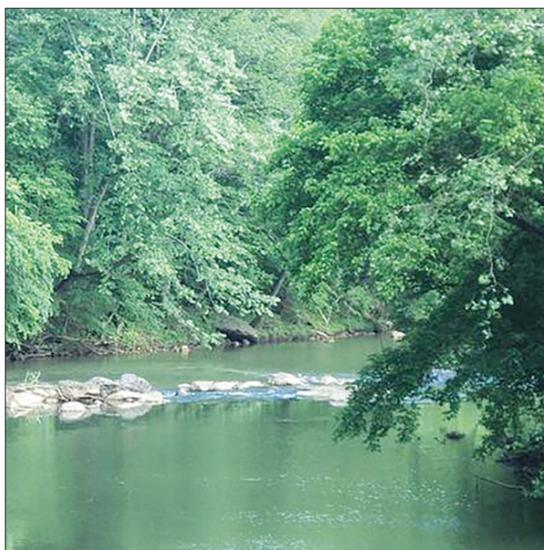


Photo courtesy of DRBA

The take-out is located inside the Monogram Foods Smith River Sports Complex at 1000 Irisburg Road, Axton, VA. Upon entering the Sports Complex entrance, you will travel approximately 0.5 mile before you will see a red maintenance building on your left. Turn left at this building (you will see a "Smith River Trails sign") and follow the gravel road to the canoe launch.

About 0.6 mile into the float, paddlers will encounter a Native American fish weir. The weir is a rough wall of piled

rocks in a "V-shape" with the point of the V downstream. At an opening in that point a basket could be used to catch fish that were funneled to that point by the walls of the weir. The weir was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The visibility of the weir is dependent on water levels.

At the take-out, participants are encouraged to check-out the Sports Complex, a 90-acre multi-use facility with walking/hiking trails, picnic areas and other sports related facilities.

Participants must supply their own boat, pad-

dles, life jackets, water and lunch. Please wear water-shedding artificial fabric or wool (cotton or denim is not recommended); and provide a back-up change of clothing. In order to participate, all participants will be required to sign a waiver.

For more information, contact the outing coordinator Chris Adcock at (434) 228-0860 or by email at lump\_vt@yahoo.com

NOTE: If for any reason the event needs to be cancelled, visit [www.danriver.org](http://www.danriver.org) or our Facebook page by Friday, July 4 for additional information.

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# Take Back Your County

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

**Malcolm Roach**  
Patrick County  
Board of Supervisor  
Smith River District

paid for and authorized by Malcolm Roach