



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)

## 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 up-town 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.

## 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.

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



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

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.

“So I knew at that moment, ‘I’ve got this. I can choose what I read with this card,’ so it was a defining moment for me,” she said.

Over the years, she continued visiting the bookmobile, with Clifton witnessing her growth. Eventually,

(See Library p. 12)

## 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 Committee. 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://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

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-



K9 Crash

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 applaud 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).

[DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET](mailto:DHALL@THEENTERPRISE.NET)

OBITUARY  
SUBMISSION  
DEADLINE MONDAY  
AT NOON

Norris  
Memorial Services

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

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



## 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 (RSVP) 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/>







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 biological 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.

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







# Crossing the Lines

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

Supervisors fund demolition of unsafe homes across county

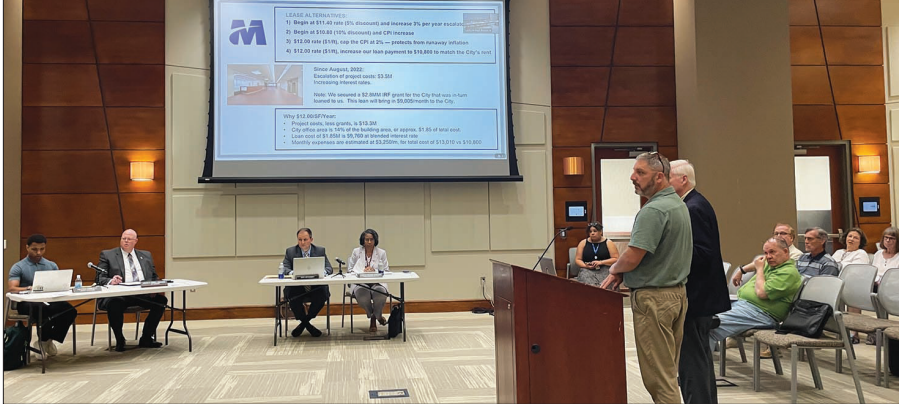


This house, located at 307 Greyson Street in the Collinsville District, is scheduled to be demolished as part of a county-wide project to address dilapidated and unsafe structures. The county will use \$390,000 from its general fund balance to demolish and/or remediate a total of 49 unsafe structures.

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.

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.

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.”

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, the official tourism bureau for Martinsville-Henry County, was recognized for its role in promoting local culture and creativity. In 2023, the region saw \$72.8 million in visitor spending, supporting more than 800 jobs and generating \$3 million in tourism-related tax revenue. Sarah Hodges, director of tourism and talent development, accepted the award on behalf of the organization. “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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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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Worship Services 11 am

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Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am  
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Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm  
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11:00 Worship Service  
office@stuartbaptist.org

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JULY  
MARKET  
EVENTS

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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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Stuart Farmers Market



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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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 power-generating structures?  
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 Fitzgerald  
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

DOWN

- 1 Central idea  
2 Certain sax  
3 Skinny  
4 Cash drawer

- 5 Opposer  
6 One who's hardly saintly  
7 Tool set, e.g.  
8 Guyana-to-Bolivia dir.  
9 "Money — object"  
10 Escalade  
carmaker  
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  
Irving  
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  
Butterfield  
94 Relative of a wood engraving  
96 Petrol units  
97 "Give — rest"  
101 Gut bacterium  
102 Radio knobs  
103 Celebrity photographer  
Herb  
104 Even a hint of  
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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# 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

*Mj. Butler*  
Clerk

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

- Meetings
- Monday, July 14

The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Patrick County Administration Building.
- Tuesday, July 15

The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Patrick County School Board Office.
- Wednesday, July 16

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

- Events
- Friday, July 4

4th of July Bluegrass and Old Time Music Competition from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Vesta Community Center. Banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bands, vocals, and flat footling competitions with three levels each: children, teens, and adult, and cash prizes for the top three competitors. The opening ceremony will be held by Patrick County VFW Post 8467, and the quilts of valor will be presented at 10 a.m. Hot-dogs, BBQ, lemonade, soft drinks, and desserts will be for sale. The quilt show will be by Mountain Top Quilters. The event also includes a tractor show and games for children. Bring your own lawn chairs.

Tuesday, July 8

The Drug-Free Patrick County Coalition will meet from 12-1 p.m. at the Stuart site of Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC).

Thursday, July 10

Patrick County Senior Citizens Group meets at 11 a.m., Hooker Building at Rotary Field, Stuart. Entertainment by Philip Adams. Beverages provided. Attendees are asked to bring salads and/or desserts to share.

Saturday, July 12

The Patrick Springs Ruritan Club will be having its annual fish fry dinner, 4-7 p.m., at Patrick Springs Park in Patrick Springs. Proceeds will help the club to sponsor community service projects including scholarships for high school graduates, backpack program for students and other events. The meal will include fried fish, beans, corn, slaw, roll, drink and a dessert. Eat-in or takeout. Auction of cakes and pies to be held.

Sunday, July 13

The descendants of John Preston Williams will have their annual reunion at the Hughes Shelter in Trot Valley. All relatives and friends are encouraged to come and bring a covered dish starting at 11 a.m. Lunch will be at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, July 16

The Patrick County Food Bank will distribute at its Stuart site from 8:30-11 a.m. and again from

5-6:30 p.m.; Fellowship Church in Ararat from 8-10 a.m. and at the Meadows of Dan Community Building starting at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, July 18

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

The Rise & Shine Youth Market will be at the Farmers' Market, 8 a.m. – noon, 320 Chestnut Road, Stuart. The market is a local youth-led makers and growers' market for youth aged 8 to 18.

Saturday, July 19

The Mayberry Book Festival, sponsored by The Perry Family Scholarship, will be hosted at the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, 301 North Main St., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The 8th annual Rock Castle Descendants Reunion will be held at 12 p.m. at Slate Mountain Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Meadows of Dan. Bring old photographs, artifacts, stories, and a covered dish. If you have any questions email Beverly Wood at [rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com](mailto:rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com) or call (276) 692-9626.

The 50th annual Elgin Reunion will be at Fairystone Volunteer Fire Station with a potluck lunch at 12 p.m.

Ongoing

For a list of ongoing events, check our Facebook page or visit [www.theenterprise.net](http://www.theenterprise.net).

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## Law eases transit rules for small school districts

Last week, Gov. Youngkin signed HB 2720, patroned by Del. Terry Austin, allowing rural school districts with fewer than 4,500 students to explore alternative student transportation methods. Virginia is now one of ten states to allow this level of flexibility in small school divisions.

“Today we’re breaking down barriers that have limited our communities for far too long,” Youngkin said at the ceremony in Botetourt County. “House Bill 2720 represents the innovative thinking Virginia needs to ensure every student, regardless of where they live, has access to quality education and extracurricular opportunities. By empowering our local school boards with flexibility and choice, we’re putting students first and allowing communities to find transportation solutions that work best for them.”

This legislation allows qualifying school boards to enter partnerships with community colleges, contract private transportation providers, and utilize ride sharing and carpooling services to supplement traditional school bus routes. These options are crucial for rural districts like Botetourt County, which serves 4,424 students across an expansive and geographically diverse area.

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“Better transportation options mean better access to education,” Youngkin added. “When we remove barriers and empower local decision making, we create opportunities for every Virginia student to succeed. That’s what House Bill 2720 is all about: putting students first.”

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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://



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

www.brll.lib.va.us/index.php 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							
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		Yoga 5:15*		Yoga 1:15*		Sit & Stitch 11:00		CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY									
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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											
		Yoga 5:15*				Not Your Mother's Book Club 5:00											
	14		15		16		17		18		19						
Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club 9:00		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Sit & Stitch 11:00		Journaling Junkies 11:00							
		Summer Reading Program 11:00		Retired Teacher's 11:00		Storytime 10:30 Bookmobiles											
LEGO Club 4:00		Family Movie 1:30		Yoga 1:15*		Open Art Studio 1:00											
		Yoga 5:15*				Teen Program 2:00											
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Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club 9:00		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00				The Joy of Watercolor Painting with Cindy Howe 11:00							
		Summer Reading Program 11:00		Paint Like Georgia O'Keeffe 10:30*		Storytime 10:30 Stuffed Animals											
Boots on the Ground Line Dancing Class 1:00*		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		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.									
		Summer Reading Finale 11:00															
LEGO Club 4:00		Yoga 5:15*		Yoga 1:15*													



# 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.

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

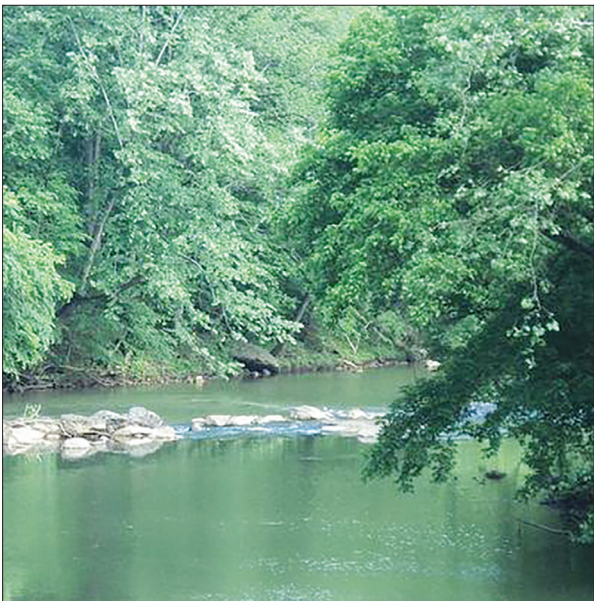


Photo courtesy of DRBA

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