

Workforce training surges as P&HCC grows for third straight year



Patrick & Henry Community College President Dr. Greg Hodges said the college is seeing growth in enrollment and workforce certifications.

By Taylor Boyd

As it gears up for the 2025-26 academic year, Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) is poised for a third consecutive year of enrollment growth.

“We have, for the last three years, grown each year, and in fact, this is the first time in two decades that the college has experienced overall enrollment growth,” P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges said.

Between its three sites, Hodges said about 3,000 students will attend, pursuing either an academic or workforce track.

Still, while proud of the recent growth streak, Hodges remains cautious. “We know the reality of the region regarding its population and recognize what’s been called in higher education the enrollment cliff, or demographic cliff, where there’s simply fewer people in a given area. We know that that’s likely going to hit. We kept saying in the middle part of this decade, so we’ll see,” he said.

(See Workforce p. 6)



Front row (left to right): Easton Conner, Colston Collins, Jensen Harbour, Easton Taylor, Robbi Campbell. Middle row: Lucas Hall, Tobin Simmons, Caylin Edmonds, Ian Martinez-Tejeda, Hunter Thomas, Lane Cameron. Back row: Coaches Corey Edmonds, Brandon Simmons, Michael Hall, Bentley Stanley.

Patrick County Ozone Allstars make history with third-place finish at DYB World Series

The Patrick County Ozone Allstars not only captured the Virginia state championship — they also made history by finishing third in the Dixie Youth Baseball (DYB) World Series.

This marks the first time a Patrick County team has reached that level of success.

The Allstars traveled to Lexington, South Carolina, where they posted a 3-2 record in the tournament, losing to Mississippi 3-4 (pool play game) and South Carolina 2-4, but defeating Florida 8-7, Georgia 15-2 and Arkansas 2-1. With rain being a big factor the games were delayed and doubled each day.

Facing South Carolina again in the semifinals, they came up short 1-6 and were eliminated from the tournament. Mississippi and South Carolina were the two teams that made it to the championship game with S.C. winning.

After their elimination, the coaching staff learned that Patrick County had received the tournament’s prestigious Sportsmanship Award — a recognition that Coach Brandon Simmons called a true win for the team and a testament to their values and character.

Coach Brandon Simmons has led the team with the motto, “Blowing minds and making signs,” and the team accomplished just that while representing PC well. The coaching staff would like to give a huge shout out to these boys for working so hard to accomplish this goal and to our community for all of the love and support. The team hopes that they made Virginia proud.

Food ministry closes Rotary Field site, ends senior program



Volunteers pack food boxes in an assembly line at Disaster Relief Food Ministry in Bassett.

By Taylor Boyd

Disaster Relief Food Ministry has closed its Patrick County distribution site at Rotary Field in Stuart and ended its senior food box program, but the organization continues working to address the community’s food insecurity needs.

The nonprofit implemented the changes in

June.

Carol Willard, who started the group with her husband, Jimmy Willard, said he has been experiencing heart issues since February.

“He’s got like five blockages in his heart, and he was having these spells of when he would

(See Food Ministry p. 2)



Paul Vivier is displaying his work at the Left of Center Art Space throughout August.

PCHS grad explores fleeting moments in Roanoke art exhibit

By Taylor Boyd

Paul Vivier, a 1988 Patrick County High School graduate, is showcasing a collection of paintings and sketches this August at Roanoke’s Left of Center Art Space. His work captures mo-

(See Roanoke Art p. 8)

Community comes together for National Night Out



By Pat Delaney

Law enforcement and first responders welcomed the community for an evening of fun, fellowship and food at the National Night Out, held at DeHart Park on August 5.

Community members were able to spend time with members

of the Patrick County Sheriff’s Department, as well as representatives from the local Fire Departments, Virginia State Police, Virginia State Parks, and several local service organizations.

“It’s a great turnout tonight,” said Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith. “This is our fa-

vorite time of the year as the sheriff’s office to be able to fellowship and give back to the community that we serve.”

On this night, they were serving up hot dogs with all the toppings, chips and drinks for all those in attendance. The relaxed setting allows



for personal interaction between the Sheriff Department and those they serve.

“It means every- thing,” said Smith. “We can’t exist unless we have a strong bond

with the community, and this is what National Night Out is all about.”

Blue Ridge Regional Library taps Chapman for interim post



Melissa Chapman will serve as the Blue Ridge Regional Library system's interim director.

By Taylor Boyd

Melissa Chapman became interim director of the Blue Ridge Regional Library system following the retirement of director Rick Ward in July. The system's board will advertise, interview, and hire a new permanent director. Chapman said she is unsure how long she will serve in the role. "It could be three months, but it could be longer than that because you want to make sure that you vet somebody so you do have a good candidate," she said. Chapman said she is excited to serve in the capacity. "I just think of myself as a placeholder for whoever comes after, and

making sure that the ship stays straight and upright," she said. Despite the temporary nature of her appointment, Chapman has goals she hopes to accomplish, including tightening collection development policies. "I'd like to see if I could start working on letting people know everything that we have and advocating" for the libraries "because I think many people don't know what kind of resources we have. We have databases that could help students with their homework, and we have all of these programs that people can take advantage of — and most of them are free of charge," she said. Chapman has served as the library system's cataloger for 12 years, responsible for inputting all materials into a catalog so patrons can view and check them out. "So most everything we have kind of comes across my desk. Of course, books and DVDs and other stuff, but I also have the E-books and the audio records will also come my way, the literacy bags and toys. It's just a lot of different things that get put in the system," she said. Chapman holds a master's degree in library science from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she worked in the special collections department as a student. After graduating, she worked at Matthews Public Library as its adult services librarian.



Lucille Hundley and Lisa Martin share a fun moment together at The Landmark Center Assisted Living.

Landmark Center to host senior care Lunch & Learn

Senior Care Options and What to Expect will be the topic of a Lunch and Learn at The Landmark Center in Stuart on Wednesday, August 20 at noon. Community Relations Director Lisa Martin will speak to attendees about the five types of senior living options: independent living, senior living, skilled care, memory care, and in-home care. Participants will learn the differences among the types, their costs and how to pay, and what services and amenities to expect with each. This presentation is perfect for caregivers and anyone who wants to learn more about options for now or in the future. Boxed lunches will be served, and the event is FREE to all. Please RSVP to The Landmark by August 18 if you plan to attend, 276-694-3050. The Landmark Center is an assisted living community offering full time and respite living options, as well as a memory care community for seniors with dementia. Anyone wishing to tour the community after the program will be accommodated.

Food Ministry

(cont. from page 1)



Disaster Relief Food Ministry closed its Patrick County distribution site at Rotary Field in Stuart in June.

even bend over or start to do something he would almost pass out. It went out for a little bit there, and we actually had to reel him back in," she said, noting her husband has stepped back from day-to-day responsibilities. As a result, Willard said other volunteers stepped up to fulfill the six food box distributions the ministry had been doing monthly. "The thing of it is though, a lot of people think it's just coming and throwing food in a box and trucking it up the road, but it's not. I mean it takes a lot, unless you're here doing it you really don't understand what it takes. It just got to where everybody was tired," she said. In May, when volunteers were packing the food boxes, Willard said she asked them for suggestions on how to proceed. "This wasn't a decision that me and Jimmy made because this isn't just our ministry, mine and his, this is all of ours ministry. Everybody talked and they come to the conclusion that if we gave up the senior program and then close the site at Patrick County that would help alleviate some of the load," she said. The ministry's board of directors approved the plan. In a public announcement letter, the group said its volunteers have served tirelessly and their well-being is vital to continuing its mission. "Reducing the load now allows them the necessary rest and renewed strength for the days ahead, while maintaining their compassionate connection with those we serve. Please know that this decision was made with much prayer and unity. We remain hopeful for future opportunities to grow and expand," the letter stated. About 600 boxes were distributed monthly through the senior program between Patrick and Henry counties. As the group will no longer need to drive to

Roanoke for senior program supplies, Willard said it expects to use the fuel savings to buy additional food for regular food boxes. "We only closed the site at Rotary Field. We will continue to do the mobile at Ararat and Meadows of Dan, and the people have been told they can come there and pick up their food box, a regular one. They can also come down here" to Bassett, Willard said. She added that Patrick residents were already doing that before the Rotary Field site opened. "We just want people to know that we're not closing down by any means," she said. Willard said the organization also has a volunteer pickup day when boxes are delivered to individuals. "Most of them are elderly, they can't get out and stuff like that. We're still going to be able to do that. A lot of those are still distributed in Patrick County, the majority of them are in Patrick County," she said. As the group is affiliated with and gets food from God's Pit Crew and Feeding Southwest Virginia, Willard said anyone in the state is eligible to receive food boxes. People can also receive boxes from multiple organizations if needed. Ministry Fundraising Committee Chair and Board of Directors member Starr Nicholas said Patrick residents can also receive food from the Patrick County Food Bank and multiple churches. "It's not like we've completely left them. We just cut out that one center," Nicholas said. Those in need of an emergency food box can contact the organization for assistance. The group distributes boxes at its Bassett location, 24A Governor Stanley Highway, on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m. The mobile food pantry visits Smith Broth-



er Trucking in Ararat from 10-11:30 a.m. and Meadows of Dan Baptist Church from 1-2 p.m. the last Saturday of each month. Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 993, Stuart, VA 24171. For more information, visit drfminc.com, Facebook.com/DisasterReliefFoodMinistryInc, or contact Willard at (276) 229-6272 or drfm.inc@gmail.com.

Pets of the Week



The shelter has a lot of kittens and cats, every size, shape and color. So many sweet dogs have come in, too. This is a wonderful spayed female mix. All these dogs and cats deserve a permanent loving home. Adoption fees are only \$10. 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. Check out videos and more pictures of these cats and dogs on the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League Facebook page. It also provides pet food assistance and is always in need of pet food donations, especially cat food. Contact blueridgeawl@gmail.com for details. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League website at www.blueridgeawl.org.

Seats still available for September genealogy classes

A few spots are still open for the series of four genealogy research classes that will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bassett Historical Center on the first four Tuesdays in September — Sept. 2, 9, 16, and 23. The classes are free and open to the public, but space is limited to 12 participants. When you sign up for the first class, you'll automatically be registered for the remaining three sessions. To reserve your spot, call the Bassett Historical Center at 276-629-9191.

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Marriage Licenses

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

- John Diaz - Debra Archambault
 - Robert Marshall - Sheri Hughes (June)
 - John Clemment Capistrano - Brooklyn Bowman
 - Brandon Hawks - Kayla Hawks (June)
 - Matthew Spence - Melissa Felts
 - Ethan Seaver - Jessica Bickell
- James Hatcher - Kaila Cole
 - Dustin Hazelwood - Christina Mills
 - James Bertka - Nicole Dailey
 - John Sumner Sr - Regina Sumner
 - David Parsons - Katherine Alderman
 - Rodney Jenkins - Jhona Belarmino

One license issued in May was recently filed:

- James Hawks - Stacy Bentley

Applications accepted for agricultural program

Farm Credit of the Virginias (FCV), a lending cooperative serving Virginia, West Virginia and western Maryland, announced that they are now accepting applications for the second round of grant funding through their Agricultural Career Enhancement (ACE) grant program.

The goal of the ACE grant program is to support agricultural career development programs at post-secondary education institutions serving FCV’s territory, including those in agricultural sciences, agricultural technology, agricultural education, agribusiness, conservation and more. The ACE grant program allows the Association to meet their mission to serve the agriculture industry by investing in the advancement of agricultural education.

ACE grants will be awarded for up to \$10,000 in funding. Funding will be considered for agriculture-related programs at postsecondary education institutions that are either located in FCV’s territory or that

serve students from FCV’s territory. ACE grants will not be awarded to individuals, private farms, cooperative extension or agricultural research programs. Additional terms and conditions are available on the print and online application forms.

ACE grant applications will be accepted August 1 through September 30, 2025. ACE grants will be awarded in November 2025. Applications and additional program details can be accessed at the following link: FarmCreditofVirginias.com/ACE

Brad Cornelius, CEO of FCV, said, “We are pleased to support the future of agriculture in our rural communities by offering this important grant program for a second year. We realize the great impact postsecondary education institutions have on the next generation of agriculture professionals and are proud to offer ACE grant funds to help strengthen those institutions’ agriculture-related programs, which in turn will bolster the rural economy throughout our footprint for years to come.”

Families urged to pack back-to-school lunches safely

Back-to-school shopping usually means backpacks, notebooks and lunchboxes. But don’t forget to add food safety to the list.

Young children, especially those under age five, are more likely to get seriously sick from foodborne illness. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reminding parents, caregivers, and anyone packing school lunches to follow a few simple food safety steps.

“As the school year begins, we want families to keep food safety top of mind,” said USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Administrator Dr. Justin Ransom. “Young children are more vulnerable to foodborne illness, and we want to make sure they stay healthy and ready to learn.”

Here are USDA’s top food safety tips for the school year.

Keep cold foods cold

Use at least two cold sources, such as gel packs, frozen water bottles, or frozen juice boxes. Place them on top and bottom of perishable items like meat, poultry, and eggs. This helps keep food out of the Danger Zone, which is between 40 and 140 degrees F. In this range, bacteria can grow quickly and cause illness.

Choose the right lunchbox

Use an insulated lunchbox. Paper bags are not a safe choice because they tear and leak as cold items thaw, which allows cold air to escape.

Keep hot foods hot

For hot foods like soup or chili, use an insulated container. Fill it with boiling water and let it sit for a few minutes before adding food. Dump out the water, add the hot food, and keep the lid closed until lunchtime. Hot foods should stay at 140 degrees F or higher.

Plan for Virginia to complete broadband access unveiled

Virginia has published a proposal to complete the Commonwealth’s goal of providing high-speed internet connection to all homes, businesses, and community centers, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said last week.

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) published the Commonwealth’s Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Final Proposal which, once approved, will award \$613 million in federal funding to connect the last 133,500 Virginia locations not yet covered by high-speed internet services.

When Youngkin took office in 2022, there were 435,924 customers left unserved in Virginia. With a combination of federal and state resources, the Commonwealth has funded connections to all customers statewide except 133,500 remaining customers. The plan published for public comment today will bring that number to zero.

“Day one, we made a promise to connect all Virginia homes and businesses to reliable, high-speed internet, and these grants, once approved, will fund the last step to keeping that promise,” said Youngkin. “All Virginians should be proud that we are the nation’s leader in broadband connections, having built 3.5 times more con-

nections in the past four years than any other state. And with the new rules approved by Secretary Lutnick that cut red tape, we are able to do it while saving \$200 million taxpayer dollars, a 25 percent savings.”

The grants for broadband installation, administered by DHCD, will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) for final approval. The funding will connect 133,500 customers to reliable, high-speed internet and leverage \$434 million in private investment from internet providers.

Under the new “Benefit of the Bargain” grant application process at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Virginia received double the applications, showing robust interest in the program’s streamlined requirements established by the Trump Administration. Through the partnership, Virginia will connect all unserved homes and businesses while also controlling costs.

Virginia’s Final Proposal is now open for public comment for a 7-day window before it is submitted to the NTIA for final approval.

More information on Virginia’s Final Proposal can be found at dhcd.virginia.gov/bead.



AITC welcomes applications for educator grants

Are you an educator who’s always wanted to plant a school garden? Or maybe you want to organize farm-to-table activities.

Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom wants to help teachers integrate creative agricultural projects and learning experiences inside and outside their classrooms. Through its educator grant program, the nonprofit provides funding for teachers to expand children’s understanding about the sources of their food and fiber, and how farming and agriculture impact their daily lives.

AITC will award over \$30,000 for the 2025-26 school year to support educator projects. Teachers and other organizations like 4-H clubs and FFA chapters that work with schools and parent-teacher associations can apply for up to \$500 for agriculture-related initiatives.

“Many students have little connection to where their food comes from, and these grants help bridge that gap,” said Lynn Black, Virginia AITC’s director of education. “Through hands-on projects like learning gardens, egg incubators and growing systems, teachers can bring agriculture to life in their classrooms. These projects also offer lasting educational benefits, with many being used across different grade levels and even among entire schools.”

The deadline for grant applications is Oct. 13. However, applications received by Aug. 15 are eligible for AITC’s “early bird” notification. This early decision lets educators begin their projects at the beginning of the school year. Instructors who complete the application early will be notified by Sept. 8.

Grant projects can occur at school, during home learning or in the community, and may include learn-

ing gardens, STEM integrations or unique agricultural experiences for students. Previous projects ranged from classroom hydroponic gardens to composting systems and student-led mini farmers markets. Some attended local Ag Day events, while others took part in farm-to-table activities—cooking produce that they grew.

Last year, AITC awarded 68 grants, totaling over \$33,000 and reaching 25,000 youth. One project was led by Emalee Owens, a kindergarten teacher at Fredericksburg Academy in Fredericksburg. She and her students built a schoolwide sensory garden with herbs and native vegetation for pollinators and wildlife.

“Our students participated in every part of our garden plan,” Owens said. Through cultivating and harvesting herbs and native plants, students learned about plant nutrition, life cycles, insects and pollination. Academic lessons about the garden covered math, science, language arts and social studies.

“Most importantly, our garden helped students develop a deep personal connection to the natural world,” she said. “All of our students enjoy picking herbs and viewing the wildlife that’s attracted to the garden. These lessons will stick with them for a lifetime.”

To apply for a grant, or to learn more about educational activities available through Virginia AITC, visit virginia.agclassroom.org/teachers/

The Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes a greater understanding and appreciation of agriculture through education and outreach activities. To learn more and support, visit virginia.agclassroom.org.

- Follow the four steps to food safety**
- *Clean: Wash hands with soapy water for at least 20 seconds before, during, and after handling food. *Clean and sanitize lunchboxes regularly.
 - *Separate: Keep raw meat and poultry separate from fruits, vegetables, and other ready-to-eat foods. *Discard any containers or bags that held raw items.
 - *Cook: Use a food thermometer to make sure foods are cooked to a safe internal temperature.
 - *Chill: Use two cold sources to keep perishable foods below 40 de-

grees F. Discard leftovers if they enter the Danger Zone (between 40 and 140 degrees F) for more than two hours.

For more information about food safety, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) or email MPHotline@usda.gov.

Access news releases and other information at USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service’s (FSIS) website at www.fsis.usda.gov/ newsroom. Follow FSIS on X at @usdafoodsafety and USDA on Instagram at @usdagov and Facebook at @usda.

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Wins: Part 2

In a July newsletter, I discussed some wins in recent legislation.

Since that newsletter, I secured another legislative win which, if passed by the Senate, will help Fairlawn, Virginia.

Despite its location in Pulaski County, the community of Fairlawn shares the same ZIP Code, 24141, with the City of Radford.

As a result, confusion often arises.

Last autumn, this ZIP Code issue presented a significant challenge.

Following Hurricane Helene, several localities were designated eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance.

For several days, Pulaski County was designated eligible while Radford was not.

Since Fairlawn residents have an identical ZIP code to Radford, FEMA's online portal to request Individual Assistance (IA) blocked them!

My bill to remedy this situation and secure a unique ZIP code for Fairlawn was added to a larger bill that recently passed the House. Both Virginia senators have a companion bill.

Recent legislative progress also spells victory for Ninth District national security and defense programs.

The reconciliation bill invests funds in submarine technology and nuclear forces.

\$4.6 billion will support the development of a second Virginia-class attack submarine, while \$2 billion will help accelerate development of nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missiles.

All of the U.S. Navy's submarines are now nuclear-powered and they account for roughly 50% of U.S. nuclear warheads, according to the Department of Defense.

Located just outside Virginia's Ninth District, BWXT Technologies in Lynchburg continues to develop nuclear technology to



Morgan Griffith

Representative

power our submarines.

Earlier this year, BWXT announced the opening of the BWXT Innovation Campus. This center will focus on nuclear technology advancements for land, sea and space.

As BWXT grows its operations, the reconciliation bill allows groups like BWXT to develop America's nuclear armed forces.

Additionally in the reconciliation bill, \$1.4 billion goes to expand the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) industrial base, \$120 million for the development, procurement and integration of long-endurance UAS for surveillance, and hundreds of millions of dollars related to UAS.

In the 21st century, warfare methods are shifting. UAS drones are used increasingly for military operations.

Just look at the Russia-Ukraine war.

This July, it is estimated that Russia launched more than 6,400 drones and missiles into Ukraine while Ukraine launched more than 3,000.

ABC News reports that July set new records for the intensity of cross-border attacks.

The Russia-Ukraine war is a sign of things to come, and that is partly why we boost military spending in unmanned aerial systems.

Virginia's Ninth District is no stranger to drones: in 2015, the first Federal Aviation Administration-approved drone delivery mission in U.S. history took place in Wise County.

One of the groups involved in this mission, the Health Wagon, helped plan the drone mission to deliver medical supplies to the

Remote Area Medical clinic.

Now, the Ninth could be a key leader in the research of drones for defense purposes.

For years, Virginia Tech has been a leader in drone use for multiple purposes. Virginia Tech helped open a UAS testing center in 2013 and later a drone park facility in 2018.

Just this May, Virginia Tech announced the launch of a new research center dedicated to drone research for defense.

Virginia Tech's Counter UAS Research and Testing Center will help the Department of Defense and law enforcement mitigate threats posed by drones.

UAS are just one piece of the puzzle in our renewed military investments.

Another key enhancement in the reconciliation bill includes strengthening our defense supply chain and building our munitions stockpile.

Many have voiced their concerns about American munition production falling behind.

In a recent hearing, Democratic Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee Adam Smith highlighted the need to build capacity for critical munitions.

Through hundreds of millions of dollars, the reconciliation bill enhances the development and procurement of a wide range of weapons.

\$100 million is also dedicated to the production of small and medium ammunition. While it remains to be seen which ammunition factories aid in this effort, I will continue supporting Radford Army Ammunition Plant and its role in helping America meet its defense ammunition demands.

By equipping our soldiers with traditional ammunition and modern advanced weaponry, American armed forces will be best positioned to win or deter a potential conflict.

I am confident that these continued developments of our armed forces and enhancements of our ammunition stockpiles will go a long way in projecting American strength to the world.

Through American strength, we can achieve peace.

From ZIP Code improvement to military readiness, Congress is delivering wins.

Letters to the Editor

Trump's dismantling of USAID will cost lives

Though it's hard to pick one Trump policy among so many cruel and heartless abominations, I will choose one for this letter - the dismantling of USAID, the United States Agency for International Development.

Firing thousands of its employees has put many long-time, dedicated, knowledgeable people out of work - people with families and homes and bills to pay - not merely "faceless bureaucrats." One 37-year employee interviewed recently on NPR said he was sent an email giving him six hours to "clean

out his desk" and "vacate the building." Besides no advance notice, he received no reason for his termination. This person was proud of the work that he was doing and wanted to continue to help people and advance U.S. interests.

Lacking anything resembling human kindness or compassion, Donald Trump and his band of merry DOGE-meisters decided to simply stop distributing vaccines, medical supplies, and food already designated to be sent out to needy people. They gave no advance warning and allowed no phase out period that might help other organizations try to fill the USA void.

While we cannot solve all the world's problems, the USAID was doing good work that benefitted the United States in many ways - helping us gain friendships and alliances with other nations, saving millions of lives, and even preventing the spread of diseases that might very well come to America.

Will the NEXT pandemic that arrives in our country be even worse

than COVID? This heartless and, in fact, stupid policy may come back to haunt us, and Donald J. Trump and his billionaire buddies may not be so lucky in the future. If some of them actually succumb to the next virus, their "chickens

will have come home to roost," though many regular folks may die needlessly too, unfortunately.

The Holocaust resulted in the deaths of some six million Jews before and during World War II, but USAID aid cuts could cause more than 14 million additional deaths by 2030, according to a warning published by researchers in the Lancet, a respected medical journal. Is this something that our "shining city on the hill" wants on its record? Does eliminating USAID to help fund corporate CEOs' tax cut extensions really make sense? Did you see the headline that CEO pay went up ten percent in 2024?

Former President George W. Bush, in a video cited by BBC news on July 2, 2025, told USAID employees that they "showed the great strength of America" through their work and their "good heart." Former President Barack Obama added, "Gutting USAID is a travesty, and it's a tragedy because it's some of the most important work happening anywhere in the world."

One might ask Donald Trump and his many Christian supporters, WWJD (What Would Jesus Do)? I guess it's hard to see the misery, suffering, and death you're causing from a corporate board room or a perch at Mar-a-Lago.

John Reynolds,
Critz

What Do You Say When You Talk to Yourself?

By Bryan Golden

You have just completed a major work project before the deadline. Having worked diligently and spending your own time, you're proud of the results and can't wait to impress your boss. You show him the project and he immediately begins to criticize it and you. The criticism is completely unwarranted. What do you say to yourself? "I've failed again" or "He must be having a bad day, I know I did an excellent job"?

You've thought of an innovative idea for a business that you really believe in. Excitedly, you tell your spouse who finds only faults with your idea. He tells you it'll never work. Seeking another opinion, you confide in one of your closest friends. She has nothing positive to say either. What do you say to yourself? "Why can't I ever come up with good ideas" or "I know my concept is good, I'm going to go with it"?

You're a volunteer at a civic organization. You make a suggestion for a fundraiser and the president of the organization tells you it's a bad idea that won't work. What do you say to yourself? "It's no problem if they don't like my ideas, I'll still help anyway I can" or "If they don't like my suggestion, they can do it themselves"?

You help your neighbor move some furniture. Several months later, you ask them for help carrying some heavy items to the dumpster. He tells you he's too busy and doesn't have time. What do you say to yourself? "Fine, last time I help him or anyone else" or "No big deal, I'll ask one of my other friends to help"?

There's a job opening where you work. The position is something that you always wanted to do. It's a great opportunity and would be a promotion. You're not sure if you have enough experience. What do you say to yourself? "I'll apply, I've

got nothing to lose" or "Why bother applying, I've got no chance"?

You can probably relate to one or more of these illustrations or have experiences that are similar in nature. Comments of all sorts are volunteered by everyone; friends, family, coworkers, bosses, acquaintances, and even strangers.

People are constantly giving you their unsolicited opinions. There's nothing you can do, it's human nature. What's important is what you say to yourself, not what others say to you.

Without discrimination, your brain believes whatever you tell it and immediately goes to work figuring a way to make the statements happen. Your mind processes your self-talk 24 hours a day. Don't say to yourself phrases you don't want to come true.

Tell yourself things that help rather than hurt you. You want to be saying things such as I can do this, I am capable, I'm a good person, I can learn what I need to know, I can make it work, and good things will be happening.

Whatever it is that you say to yourself, you are right. Occasionally, I have a student tell me that he or she can't do something. I tell them if that's the way they feel, they are right. But if someone says, "I can do it," they are also right. Remarking "I can't do this" is different than saying "I need help" or "I don't understand." Asserting, "I can't" is a final conclusion rather than making an effort to seek a solution.

Be aware of and monitor what you say to yourself. Don't tell yourself anything that's not going to help and assist you in achieving a positive outcome. Always engage in positive self-talk.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2025 Bryan Golden.

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The Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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A photograph of a white, two-story building with a red door and a small porch, surrounded by lush green trees and a large weeping willow tree on the left. A large wheel is visible behind the building.

A photograph of a charming, light blue wooden building with vertical siding and a red door. A large, dark wooden water wheel is attached to the side of the building. The scene is set in a snowy landscape with bare trees in the background, suggesting a winter setting.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Harvey Hahn, MD. Used by permission from www.lifeand-health.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA.)



Early incident relegates Berry to 35th at Watkins Glen

An early setback in Sunday’s Go Bowling at The Glen at Watkins Glen International left Josh Berry and the No. 21 Freightliner team with a frustrating 35th-place finish after starting 24th.

Just after the start of Stage 2 in the 90-lap race on the fast road course in upstate New York, Berry was running behind Chase Elliott, who slowed to make a green-flag pit stop. The cars behind Berry didn’t check up in time, making contact that sent the Freightliner Ford Mustang into the steel barrier.

The caution eventually flew for debris from Berry’s car, and Berry lost a lap. The team made repairs to the front splitter and left-rear

quarter panel before sending Berry back out, still one lap down.

Berry ended Stage 2 in 38th but was the first car a lap down, earning the free pass to return to the lead lap. Restarting from the rear to open the final stage, he posted competitive lap times, but opportunities to regain track position were scarce. The only caution all afternoon outside of the Stage breaks came for Berry’s earlier incident, eliminating any chance for a yellow-flag strategy to work in his favor.

Berry and the Wood Brothers team will regroup and turn their focus to Saturday night’s Cook Out 400 at Richmond Raceway.

Brightspeed introduces Bright Futures Scholarship for P&HCC students



P&HCC’s Tiffani Underwood accepts the Brightspeed Bright Futures Scholarship donation from Brightspeed’s Sabrina Anderson.

Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation announced two new scholarships for fall 2025 thanks to Brightspeed, the nation’s third-largest fiber builder empowering homes and businesses with reliable, high-speed connectivity. Two deserving Patrick & Henry students will each be awarded a Brightspeed Bright Futures Scholarship, a \$2,500 tuition-based scholarship.

“The generosity of community partners like Brightspeed is ensuring that our students have every opportunity to attain a financially stable future for themselves and their families,” said Tiffani Underwood, P&HCC Foundation executive director, adding, “We are so honored to offer this generous support to our students in the 2025-2026 academic year.”

To be eligible, students must meet the following criteria:

*Student is enrolled in or is enrolling in Patrick & Henry Community College

*Student must have a 2.5 GPA or greater

Student lives in Martinsville, Collinsville, Fieldale, Horsepasture, Glen Court, Axton, or Stuart

Students will be awarded the scholarship during the summer 2025 selection period to support tuition during the fall 2025 or spring 2026 semester.

“At Brightspeed, we’re committed to expanding opportunity through connection—whether it’s high-speed internet or access to higher education,” said Sabrina Anderson, Brightspeed local marketing manager – East Region. “We’re proud to invest in the futures of Patrick & Henry students who are working hard to create brighter paths for themselves, their families, and their communities.”

PCHS Sports Schedule			
The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of AUGUST 15-23:			
8/15	7pm	Football	at Blacksburg
8/19	7pm	Volleyball	vs Magna Vista
8/21	1pm	Golf	at Radford (River Course)
8/23	12pm	Volleyball	at Bassett
	1pm	Football	at Graham (Bluefield, VA)

Workforce

(cont. from page 1)

“We have about 2,000 on the academic side. Those are the Pell-eligible programs—transfer programs, and career and technical education (CTE) programs like welding and mechatronics—things students can use Pell dollars to fund,” he said.

Hodges estimates about 1,000 students are enrolled in workforce or FastForward programs.

“Those are the short-term credentials like phlebotomy, powerline, CDL (Commercial Driver’s License)—where students spend a few weeks in class, then take the certification exam and go straight into employment,” he said.

Hodges estimates P&HCC will offer hundreds of classes across its academic divisions.

The largest area of enrollment growth has been in short-term workforce certification programs.

“We were 23 to 24 percent up from last year, which mirrored what we were up the two years prior,” he said.

Of the students in Pell-eligible programs, about half intend to transfer to a four-year college, and the other half are pursuing CTE degrees.

“The CTE side has increased just a little over the last few years, but we still have about a 50-50 split on the academic side. Workforce—those numbers are continuing to grow exponentially,” he said.

Hodges attributes the growth in workforce programs to demand in the local economy.

“We are in an economy now where you can get a very good-paying job with a family-sustaining wage with that short-term credential. Look at programs like CDL and powerline—where in just a matter of weeks, you can go through training, get that certification, and go straight to work,” he said.

He pointed to the Stuart site as an example, where students in the heavy equipment operator course can immediately work on the U.S. 58 expansion project.

“When students have that opportunity and the economy supports it, we’re seeing students take advantage of it. Everything we do is about the economic gains of our students. The only reason we open the door is what we call the ‘JOB degree.’ We award fancy credentials with fancy acronyms, but it’s ultimately all about getting to that JOB degree,” Hodges said.

While the greatest long-term economic gains may come from four-year transfer programs, Hodges said not all students can wait that long to see returns.

“So what we do is stack the credentials. For example, you can come and get a short-term health-care certification, go straight to work, and then come back for the

LPN or RN program. From there, you can go on to earn a BSN. We embed and stack those credentials to ensure students gain economic mobility en route,” he said.

Hodges said there are plenty of good-paying jobs in the community, and P&HCC is proud to serve as a training partner to help students access them.

“Fifteen or 20 years ago, we had a crisis of jobs in our community. That’s gone. Now we have plenty of good-paying jobs—we just need to get folks trained for them,” he said. “There is very much an economic renaissance happening in our community, and that’s leading folks to shift career fields, perhaps, and that’s leaving a hole in some areas that we’re trying to fill.”

Future Plans

Looking ahead, Hodges said an announcement about the Patrick County Education Foundation’s Patrick Promise is also expected in late September or early October.

While he couldn’t share details yet, Hodges said, “It’s something that’s been many years in the making. We’re very excited about it. We’ll make sure all of our local partners are well informed, but I think it’s going to be transformative for the citizens of Patrick County.”

On the main campus, P&HCC received \$2.6 million to renovate its building trades program.

“We already have a building trades program, but it’s got a pretty small footprint. We’re temporarily going to take the building trades program over to MET II and put them in space there while we renovate the space on the main campus, which will be in Philpott, to significantly increase that footprint,” Hodges said.

Construction is expected to begin this year, with the goal of opening the new space by fall 2026.

P&HCC also is considering its next steps across all campuses, he said.

“What determines that is what the economy needs—what the job growth opportunities are. We’re in conversations with some employers now to determine their needs, and that drives what money we go after and what grants we apply for,” he said.

Before launching or expanding programs, Hodges said the college consults local employers and school divisions to identify needs, then reviews its labor market indicators to confirm job availability.

“If that data says yes, then we write the grant, seek funding for equipment, and begin offering the program,” Hodges said. “Every program we offer is about creating opportunities for students and meeting the needs of our community.”

Use caution around buses and crosswalks as classes resume

With more than one million Virginia students heading back to school this month, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is reminding motorists to stay alert in school zones and around school buses to help keep students safe and avoid costly tickets.

Students will commute on foot, by bicycle, school bus, or in private vehicles, making it critical for all drivers to use caution.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, school buses are the safest way for students to get to and from school. However, students are most vulnerable when walking to and from the bus and during loading and unloading.

VDOT urges drivers to be patient and attentive in school zones and near buses. Children are small and can be hard to see.

In Virginia, it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus with flashing red lights and an ex-

tended stop sign. This applies to motorists approaching from the front or overtaking the bus from behind. Drivers do not need to stop if the bus is on the opposite side of a median or barrier, but they should remain alert for students crossing the road.

Some local governments have also installed speed enforcement cameras in school zones. These cameras, which are not operated by VDOT, monitor driver speeds during designated hours. Violators can be fined.

Tips for Drivers:

- Be patient. Buses make frequent stops.
- Yellow lights mean the bus is preparing to stop. Slow down.
- Stop when red lights are flashing and the stop sign is extended.
- Watch for children at bus stops or crossing the street.
- Stay alert near schools, especially during

pickup and drop-off times.

- Don’t drive distracted. Put electronic devices away and focus on the road.
- Tips for Parents and Guardians to Share With Students:
 - Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes early.
 - Stand back from the street — at least five big steps from the curb.
 - Use sidewalks when available. If not, walk facing traffic.
 - Cross streets only at marked crosswalks or intersections.
 - Follow crossing guard instructions and pedestrian signals.
 - Look for traffic before stepping off a bus.
 - Limit use of electronic devices while walking.

For more safety information, visit www.virginiaadot.org.

THANK YOU FOR READING

Crossing the Lines

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

Henry County secures state grant for Commonwealth Crossing site

Henry County will receive \$750,000 in state grant funding to support site development at Lot #3 of the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre, part of a major statewide effort to prepare industrial sites for future business investment.

“This grant is a major step forward for Henry County,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Adams. “Preparing Lot #3 at Commonwealth Crossing for future development strengthens our position in a competitive market. With 100 acres and rail access, this site has tremendous potential. Getting the engineering and design work done now ensures we’re ready when the next opportunity comes.”

Adams noted that recent success

in attracting major employers like Crown Holdings and Press Glass came in part from having project-ready sites. “Combined with record levels of industrial permitting and steady business interest, this investment reflects the kind of momentum we’ve worked hard to build, and we’re committed to keeping it going,” he said.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin recently announced a total of \$40 million in Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) development grants for 13 sites across the Commonwealth. Of that total, \$35.9 million will go directly toward development, with an additional \$4.1 million supporting a new accelerated site characterization initiative.

Mayor defends city manager’s record, questions coverage

Tensions in Martinsville are again running high, after the city council placed City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides on paid administrative leave and approved funds for a forensic audit during a July meeting.

Shortly after those actions, it was reported that Ferrell-Benavides was one of four finalists for the city manager’s job in Elgin, Texas. She visited there for a meet-and-greet and to interview for that position.

“I don’t blame her,” Mayor LC Jones said. “You’re in a place of uncertainty. She’s got council members who have continued to disrespect her, accuse her falsely in public, call other cities, dredge up old issues. That’s a lot.”

Jones criticized coverage of her in Texas, referencing articles in the Martinsville Bulletin that included a detailed report on her visit and an interview with her.

“I saw the Bulletin article,” Jones said. “Why was it so important to fly all the way to Texas for that? That interview could’ve been done on the phone. It just feels like a targeted attack.”

Jones said he wonders who funded the trip, and questioned the na-



ture of the interview itself.

“Is this an actual interview that she participated in, or is this a consensual conversation between him and her that he recorded and then turned into an interview?” he asked.

During a segment on Star News, Martinsville Bulletin reporter Bill Wyatt said his employer coordinated the trip to Elgin, Texas. Ferrell-Benavides agreed to an on-the-record interview and thanked him via text after the stories were published, Wyatt said.

23 years in, investigators still pursue justice in Short family killings

New DNA testing, fresh leads and continued resolve keep Short family case active

Henry County Sheriff Wayne Davis was a patrol officer on Aug. 15, 2002. He had been on the job for only two years when he responded to a call at the Oak Level home where Michael and Mary Short lived with their 9 year-old daughter, Jennifer.

“I was the first responding patrol officer,” Davis said. “That call came in as a well-being check.”

At the scene, he found Michael Short, 50, and Mary Short, 36, dead. Both had suffered a single gunshot wound to the head. The phone line to the home had been cut, and two .22-caliber shell casings were found — one near each of the bodies.



Jennifer was missing. Authorities initially thought she had escaped and scoured the area around the home. They later believed she had been abducted by her parents’ killer or killers. About six weeks later, human remains found in Rockingham County, North Carolina, were determined to belong to Jennifer. She, too, had suffered a single gunshot wound to the head.

Authorities believe the murders and abduction occurred between midnight on Aug. 14, 2002, and 9 a.m. the next morning. It remains unclear how long Jennifer was alive after her abduction.

Although the anniversary this year marks more than two decades since the Short family incident, the case isn’t cold, and Davis hasn’t forgotten.

“I have been with this case since the initial 911 call. This investigation is extremely active,” he said, with authorities pursuing new DNA testing, fresh leads, and the same goal: to bring those responsible to justice.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Henry County Sheriff’s Office at 276-638-8751, Crime Stoppers at 276-632-7463, or the FBI Tip Line at 1-800-225-5324.

New city policies aim to improve oversight, restore trust

The City of Martinsville has implemented new purchase card and travel/training policies, with more policy updates expected in the coming weeks.

The changes went into effect Aug. 1. Acting City Manager and Police Chief Rob Fincher said the city is reviewing all of its policies and employee manual to determine what needs to be updated.

“It’s been a while since it’s been updated, and so it’s time,” Fincher said. “We do a regular routine review of all policies.”

A group of city employees reached out to other localities to compare practices. Fincher said they prioritized the purchase card and travel/training policies first, because those were the ones that came under scrutiny and drew the most public attention.

“What better way to help reestablish trust than to set out, modify our policies, put them in place, and

make certain that people adhere to them,” he said. “That increases professionalism and trust all the way around.”

Fincher noted that Martinsville and Henry County’s sheriff’s offices and police departments already have regular policy review processes, and that “there’s no such thing as a perfect policy. It has to be continually reviewed and updated. So, although we just enacted these, I’m sure there may be some additional changes.”

“These will probably be updated again. As we go along, we find out, ‘Hey, this form doesn’t work well. Let’s switch this form up,’” he said.

Fincher said the policy revisions were a request from city employees.

Work on the new policies began about a month ago, during Fincher’s first stint as acting city manager. After returning to the position in late July, he said he pushed to get them finalized.

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Free fitness space opens at Baldwin Park

A new fitness court—featuring Virginia’s first-ever open-air fitness studio—officially opened at the top of Baldwin Park on July 30. The new space offers free, accessible exercise opportunities to the Martinsville community and is available during the park’s open hours.

“This is the first Fitness Court Studio in the state of Virginia,” said Kendall Davis,



The Baldwin Park Fitness Court and Studio officially opened with a ribbon cutting on July 30.

makes this different is this, right here. It’s open workout space—space you can use for Zumba, for dance, for all types of fitness that don’t involve weights.”

The court is part of a national initiative promoting accessible public fitness spaces. Baldwin Park was selected for its increasing use as a community event hub, including recent celebrations like the Juneteenth Festival.



1-3-5-7-9



1-3-5-7-9



1-4-7-9



1-4-7-9:15



1-3-5-7-9

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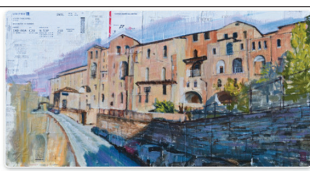
(cont. from page 1)

A photograph of a modern building with a curved, glass-enclosed walkway overlooking a swimming pool and a mountain landscape. The building has a long, horizontal profile with large glass windows. The walkway is curved and follows the edge of the pool. The pool is in the foreground, and the mountains are in the background under a blue sky.

5:00 PM - 8:30 PM



@leftofcenterartspace
24 Campbell Avenue SW, Roanoke, VA 24011



Vivier estimates he has been

“I was in my 30s, and I started getting frustrated by everything that was digital not being permanent. Everything that I was doing was just getting overwritten in

Left to cherish the memories of Mrs. Wood are her four children, Wanda Martin (Rudy) of Charleston, West Virginia, James Wood, Jr. (Aleta) of Bassett, Virginia, Glenda Rakes of Ridgeway, Virginia, and Betsy Gwynn (Gene) of Leland, North



The funeral service for Mrs. Wood will be held on Friday, August 8, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at

Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor David Gaylor officiating. Burial will immediately follow in Blackberry Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service on Friday morning at the funeral home. Flowers will be accepted, or a memorial donation may be made to the Blue Ridge Therapy Activity Fund, attention: Dee Via, 105 Landmark Drive, Stuart, VA 24171 (please make the check payable to Blue Ridge Therapy Connection). Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

The time it takes him to complete a piece varies by size. Larger works can take three weeks to a month.

For more information about Vivier or to view his work, visit www.vivier.net.

READ MORE AT WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

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**OBITUARY SUBMISSION
DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON**

Parks and Rec accepting football sign-ups for grades K-7

The Patrick County Parks and Recreation Office is now accepting football registrations for the 2025-26 school year. Students in grades K-7 as of the 2025 school year are eligible to participate in the department's football program.

Registration forms are available at all elementary schools. Parents may also call the recreation office at (276) 694-3917 to register their children. The deadline to register is Sept. 2. Games will be played in October and November.



Educational program at Virginia State Parks

State parks offer engaging educational field trips for students of all ages

Virginia State Parks invites educators to move their classrooms to the outdoors this school year, allowing students to explore nature through a variety of hands-on educational programs. With 43 parks across the commonwealth, Virginia's state parks are uniquely positioned to bring science, history and environmental education to life in real-world settings. Park rangers guide students through interactive programs that complement the Virginia Standards of Learning. "We want every student in Virginia, whether in traditional classrooms or learning from home, to have access to enriching outdoor educational experiences," said Chief of Education and Interpretation

Katie Shepard. "Our parks are living classrooms where students can explore ecosystems, discover wildlife and engage with the state's rich cultural history." Field trip opportunities range from guided nature hikes and fossil hunts to reenactments of colonial life and conservation projects. Homeschool families can take advantage of customizable group programs, flexible scheduling and themed homeschool days held throughout the year. Teachers, homeschool groups and educational coordinators are encouraged to visit www.virginia-stateparks.gov/find-a-park and contact a park near them to discuss field trip options and specific learning goals.

Tourism surges in Virginia with \$35.1B in visitor spending

Gov. Glenn Youngkin and the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) recently announced that Virginia's tourism industry generated a record \$35.1 billion in visitor spending in 2024 — a 5.4% increase from the \$33.3 billion reported in 2023. Overnight visitation rose to 44.7 million in 2024, up from 43.6 million in 2023, surpassing pre-pandemic levels for the first time and setting a new record. "In 2024, a record-breaking one million additional overnight visitors chose Virginia, drawn by our unmatched beauty, rich heritage, and welcoming communities," Youngkin said in a statement. "Those visitors traveled from farther away, stayed longer, and spent more, generating a record \$35.1

billion in direct spending. This unprecedented level of economic activity not only supports hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs and strengthens local businesses, but it also generates crucial state and local tax revenues that help ease the tax burden for Virginia families." Travelers spent an average of \$96 million per day in Virginia last year, up from \$91 million in 2023. Visitor spending directly generated \$2.5 billion in state and local tax revenue — a \$100 million increase year over year. The state reported that tourism revenue saves the average Virginia household \$990 annually in taxes. Tourism supported more than 229,000 jobs in Virginia in 2024, (See **Tourism** p. 13)

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Thessalonians(KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Genesis 38, who was the first individual killed by God for being wicked? Cain, Er, Onan, Gomorrah
3. How long had the woman been sick that touched the hem of Jesus' garment? 1 month, 6 months, 3 years, 12 years



4. From 1 Kings 6, who constructed the first altar covered with gold? Gideon, Josiah, Noah, Solomon
5. How often does the Year of Jubilee come around, once every how many years? 5, 25, 50, 75
6. How often does the Year of Jubilee come around, once every how many years? 5, 25, 50, 75

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Er, 3) 12 years, 4) Solomon, 5) 50, 6) Darius

Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church
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Meadows of Dan, Virginia
Rev. Tommy Gosnell
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Worship Services 11 am

Risen Lord Catholic Church
59 Mountain View Loop
Stuart
(actually in Patrick Springs)
276.236.7814
Office Hours (Tue-Thu 8 am-3 pm)
Mass Schedule
Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness
260 Spring Rd., Patrick Springs, VA - 276-694-6357
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Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm
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www.stuartbaptist.org
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11:00 Worship Service
office@stuartbaptist.org

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Super Crossword

GAMEPLAY

- ACROSS**
1 Served in blazing liquor
7 Longtime executive of the Oakland Raiders
14 Utters words
20 Tulip relatives
21 Divider of musical measures
22 Began vigorously
23 Classic board game played by judges between trials?
25 Put in a box
26 Ending for priest
27 Gets frantic with fear
28 Oil rig part
30 Feel sore
31 Russian war vessel on which a classic board game is played?
35 Person knocking over a drink, e.g.
38 "— queen!" ("You go!")
39 Grandiosly
40 "Toodle-oo!"
41 Bauxite, e.g.
44 Publish anew
47 Neighbor of Mich. and Ill.
- DOWN**
1 Big ice sheet
2 They may be chapped
3 Toby brews
4 Space station until 2001
5 'C'mon, help me out here"
6 Will subject
7 Bubbling over
8 Knight's weapon
9 Containing smelling waste
10 TV title ET
11 Cruella
De — ("101 Dalmatians" meanie)
12 Like purchases gotten via the program
13 Close using stitches
14 Cleaned with a broom
15 Ballpoint, e.g.
16 Put up tents
17 Sharp as —
18 Maker of GOLEAN cereals
19 Dutch genre painter Jan
24 Preludes
29 Janitors' tools
31 Actress
Lively
32 Injure
33 "Got it now"
- ACROSS**
50 Review of a classic board game?
54 Quiver
56 Tangle up
57 Trifecta, e.g.
58 1/60 min.
60 Like some noisy little dogs
61 —OPs (CIA tactics)
62 Maple or oak
64 Morally rigid
68 60% of cinco
69 Classic board game that's popular with inhabitants of heaven?
73 Make whole again
75 San Francisco's region
76 Don of radio
77 Tennis match unit
80 First-string players
82 Springfield's Flanders
83 Singapore sling liquor
85 Havana resident, to Havanans
87 Infatuate
89 Classic board game played at a shindig?
93 Tennis court divider
- DOWN**
94 Of atomic weapons
96 "... or — thought!"
97 Filly's father
98 Mexican
81-Down
99 "Combat!" actor Morrow
101 Captured with a rope
104 Classic board game you keep making people play even though they have no interest?
111 Appeal
112 Voting group
113 One causing fright
114 Ovid's "— Amatoria"
117 Regard highly
119 Shop dedicated to selling a classic board game?
123 Prickly plant
124 Snooty sort
125 "Everything's good here"
126 "Marty" star
Borgnine
127 When a check to a landlord is due
128 "— what your country can do for you ..."
- DOWN**
34 Nail file stuff
35 Throat bug
36 Analgesic targets
37 "I'll pay for this one"
42 Exuberant war cry
43 Ending for Siam
45 Commercial lead-in to -gram or -matic
46 Turn the car toward
47 Ballet promoter, e.g.
48 "Huh-uh!"
49 Teetotalers
51 About
52 Landscaping plant
53 Step
55 Has food
59 Pack tightly
63 "My People" writer Abba
65 A, in French
66 Wolfgang Puck's restaurant
67 Bring forth
70 Make juice of
71 Ethel
Merman's "— Was a Lady"
72 "The jig —!"
73 Normandy city
74 — Reader (eclectic quarterly)
- DOWN**
78 — nous (between us)
79 Trifled (with)
81 \$\$\$
84 Possibilities
86 — -Terre (capital of Guadeloupe)
88 U.S. region with aging factories
90 — bean
91 Journalist
Burnett
92 Actress Duff
95 "Neato!"
98 Rave about
100 Tooth type
102 Lack of vigor
103 Beats it
104 Sudden flood
105 More aged
106 Staff anew
107 "Papi Chulo" co-star Matt
108 School, in Soissons
109 Prefix with -hedron that means "twenty"
110 Like brine
114 Related
115 Nevada city
116 "Let it stand"
118 Hi- — graphics
120 Author Anaïs
121 Hitler Mel
122 Brother of DDE's follower

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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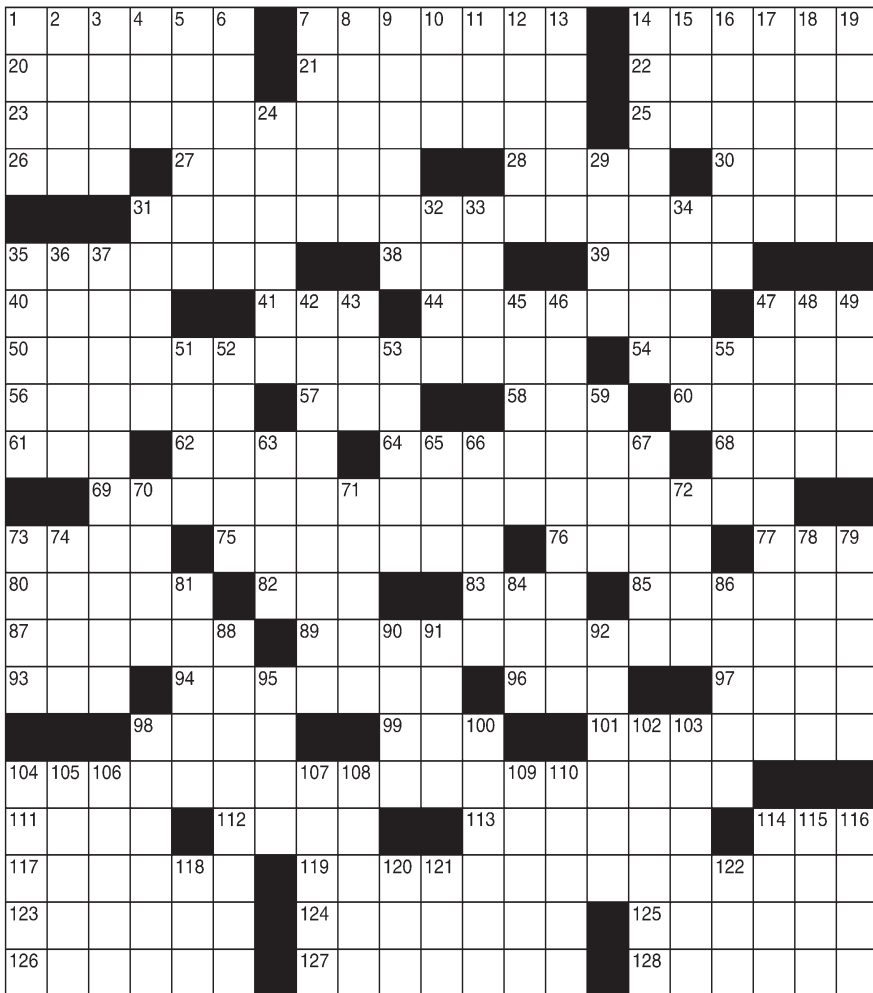
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HELP WANTED

FSA is looking for temporary office assis-

tance thru **September 30, 2026 to help deliver "The American Relief Act of 2025,"** which was signed into law on Dec. 21, 2024 and provided the U.S. Department of Agriculture with more than \$30 billion to deliver disaster recovery assistance for farmers and livestock producers. This position will help support the implementation of the Emergency Livestock Relief Program and the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program which will provide assistance to producers for necessary expenses due to losses due to weather related events in 2023 and 2024. Resumes can be submitted in person to the Patrick County FSA office at 135 Stonewall CT, Stuart VA or by email to travis.bunn@usda.gov.

The Patrick County Registrar is accepting applications from qualified applicants for the position of Chief Deputy Registrar. The position assists the Director of Elections and General Registrar in registering voters, maintaining voter records, and in effectively conducting and accurately ascertaining the results of local, state, and federal elections held in Patrick County in accordance with all relevant state and federal laws and regulations. The successful candidate must have excellent customer service skills and the ability to maintain confidentiality. Knowledge and experience in office procedures and equipment are required.

This is a full-time position with annual benefits in excess of \$16,000, which include vacation and sick leave, life and health insurance, and retirement. Annual salary range is \$32,000 to \$34,000. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, evening, weekend, holiday, and flexible/irregular work schedules may be required.

A high school diploma or equivalent is required; an Associate's degree is preferred. Previous experience as an election official is preferred. Proficiency in Microsoft Office, specifically Word and Excel, is required.

The Patrick County employment application and a complete job description are available at https://www.co.patrick.va.us/ Jobs.aspx. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application and resume to be considered for the position. The position will remain open until filled. Applicants must be willing to submit to a drug screen and background check. The County of Patrick

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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.)

Meetings

Wednesday, Aug. 20

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

The Blue Ridge Regional Library Board meets at 12 p.m., Patrick County Library.

Events

Wednesday, Aug. 13

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

Fairy Stone Park — Little Mountain Falls Hike, 9 a.m., Amphitheatre Trailhead, Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m., Shelter 4; Mysteries of the Whitetail Deer, 2 p.m., Beach Breezeway, Blobs in your Backyard, 3 p.m., Beach Breezeway.

The Carroll County Genealogy Club will meet at 2 p.m. The club is located next to the Historical Society and Museum on Main Street in Hillsville.

Thursday, Aug. 14

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Herbert and Tina Conner. Pizza, tossed salad, and beverages will be provided to all attendees, who are requested to bring desserts to share with the group.

Fairy Stone Park will hold a Oak Hickory Trail Guided Hike, 9 a.m., Shelter 4; Living with Black Bears, 3 p.m., Shelter 4.

Friday, Aug. 15

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

Stuart Farmers Market will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Great selection of fruits, vegetables, baked items, meats, eggs, plants, craft items. Blood Pressure Checks by Blue Ridge Nursing & Landmark Center.

Fairy Stone Park: Little Mountain Falls Hike, 9 a.m., Shelter 4; Woodland Wellness, 10 a.m., Shelter 4; Fairy Stone Hunt, 1 p.m., Shelter 4; Turtle Time, 2 p.m., Visitor Center; Goblintown Iron Mine Walk, 4 p.m.; Visitor Center; Welcome Campfire, 8 p.m., Amphitheater.

Free community meal, 4-6 p.m., Ross Harbour Methodist Church, 6260 Elamsville Road, Stuart.

Saturday, Aug. 16

9th Annual Bike Ride, Car Show/Cruise In & Fish Fry at Mt. Nebo Holiness Church, 30598 JEB Stuart Hwy, Spencer. Sign in begins at 9 a.m.; ride at 10 a.m. No fee to ride. Fish fry starts at 8 a.m.; car show starts at 9 a.m. No fee to enter. For more information, call Angie Penn (276) 732-6014. For ride information, call David Hylton (276) 692-5878.

Fairy Stone Park — Whiskey Run Hike, 9 a.m., Stuart's Knob Trailhead; Turtle Time, 11 a.m., Visitor Center; Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m., Shelter 4; Moonshine Murders, 1 p.m., Shelter 4; Friends of Fairy Stone meeting, 2 p.m., Shelter 3; Fayerdale: the Missing Town, 3 p.m., Shelter 4; C.S.I: Creek Scene Investigation, 4 p.m., Shelter 4.

Sunday, Aug. 17

Fairy Stone Park — Moonshine Hollow Hike, 10 a.m., Visitor Center; Native Plants & Pollinators, 11 a.m., Shelter 4; Fairy Stone Hunt, 12 p.m., Shelter 4; Turtle Time, 1 p.m., Visitor Center; Magic Trees, 2 p.m., Shelter 4; Fungal Friends, 4 p.m., Shelter 4.

The annual Griffith Family Reunion will be at the Griffith Valley Homeplace. A covered dish lunch will begin at 1 p.m. and all family and friends are invited.

Homecoming at Ross Harbour Methodist Church, 6260 Elamsville Road, Stuart. Special music by Four for One starting at 10 a.m.; worship at 11 a.m. with Pastor David Gaylor. A meal will follow.

Open Bluegrass/Country jam session, 1:30 - 4 p.m., Bassett Ruritan Club, 277 Philpott Dam Road, Bassett. Free admission. For information call Randy, 276 629-8296.

Monday, Aug. 18 - Wednesday, Aug. 20

Revival at Ross Harbour Methodist Church, 7 p.m., 6260 Elamsville Road, Stuart. Special music on Monday by Phillip Adams, Tuesday by Swift Creek, and Wednesday by Roger Adams. Speakers are Dave Taylor on Monday, Ronnie Gibson on Tuesday, and Sam Trent on Wednesday.

Thursday, Aug. 21 – Saturday, Aug. 23

Alzheimer's Yard Sale, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Alzheimer's Office in Stuart.

Friday, Aug. 22

Stuart Farmers Market is open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Great selection of fruits, vegetables, baked items, meats, eggs, plants, craft items. Stuart Rotary on site with Ag Fair Exhibit Info.

Sunday, Aug. 24

High Point Baptist Church will meet at a different location for worship. The church will gather at Wayside Community Church, 3520 Wayside Road, Stuart, to celebrate their Homecoming. The outdoor worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by a community cookout. For details, call Pastor Wayne Moore, (336) 793-7991.

Friday, Aug. 29

Stuart Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Great selection of fruits, vegetables, baked items, meats, eggs, plants, craft items. Information provided by the Patrick County Master Gardeners & Stuart Rotary on site with Ag Fair Exhibit Info.

Clark's Cuts offers haircuts from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the upstairs area of the Basset Ruritan Club. Suggested \$15 donation. All proceeds go to the Bassett Ruritan Club. Walk-ins are welcome.

Friday, Aug. 29-Monday, Sept. 1

Stuart Church of Living Water (formerly Stuart UMC) will hold its 18th annual Labor Day Flea Market featuring 125 - large 25'x30' vendor spaces. Vendors may set up on Thursday, August 28 for free. Worship service on site, Sunday morning at 8 a.m. with Pastor Tommy Shepherd. From Stuart, follow Rte. 58 East (JEB Stuart Highway) 8.7 miles to 25767. Parking for \$1 per vehicle. All proceeds support the church's mission and outreach ministries. For more information, call Alex, 276-229-8488 or the church, 276-694-3322. No alcoholic beverages allowed.

Saturday, Aug. 30

Live Bluegrass Music at Fairy Stone State Park, Saturday, August 30, 7 p.m., Shelter 2. Discover the roots and evolution of bluegrass as the Kitchen Pickers perform live.

Fairy Stone State Park presents — For Goodness "Snakes" (and turtles too), 2 p.m., Shelter 2.

The Patrick County Food Bank will hold a memorial service in memory of Dudley Clark at the Rotary Building from 3-5 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 4

The Patrick County Agricultural Fair exhibit coordinators will be accepting quilt entries from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Memorial Building at Rotary Field in Stuart.

Saturday, Sept. 6 - Sunday, Sept. 7

The Patrick County Agricultural Fair exhibit coordinators will be accepting all fair entries (except quilts) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart.

Saturday, Sept. 13

Sycamore Baptist Church will hold a fundraiser for the Children's Shoebox Ministry starting at 6 p.m. Music will be by the Sycamore Sisters with refreshments to follow.

Sunday, Sept. 21 - Wednesday, Sept. 24

Middle Cross Missionary Church will hold a Fall Revival with Sammy Frye at 7 p.m. Music will be by Patrick County High School Praise and Worship, Too Young Too Old, and The Bishops.

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Wednesday, Oct. 8

Volunteers for the Woolwine October Festival Community Apple Peeling starts at 8 a.m. at the Woolwine Fire Department. Lunch is provided.

Thursday, Oct. 9

Volunteers for the Woolwine October Festival needed at 4 a.m. to start making apple butter at the old Woolwine Fire Department, 8:30 a.m. – Fried Apple Pie Making in the cottage. Lunch is provided.

Saturday, Oct. 11

Woolwine Annual October Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department grounds in Woolwine. FREE Admission. Dancing and music by Jordan T Morrison & the Foothill Boys, Larry Sigmon & the Virginia Girls and The Friday Night Band (in playing order). Apple butter for sale, bake sale, crafts, etc. Concessions include hotdogs, chicken BBQ sandwiches, fried apple pies, desserts, and beverages. Craft vendors welcome at no charge. Call 276-229-8241 for more information.

Ongoing

Monday Market at Fairy Stone State Park, rain or shine, 5-7 p.m. at Shelters #3 & #4. Cash only market. Free parking. Runs through Labor Day.

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

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

Inside yard sale to benefit Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC. Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members meet on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's office. New members are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

Vesta Alzheimer's Group LLC meets at the Vesta Community Center on the third Tuesday each month at noon. Both groups welcome new members and invite caregivers to attend. Literature is also available.

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

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

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

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

Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food. Music and dancing are 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food, music and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m.

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LEGAL

ABC NOTICE

Dyani 142 Corp trading as Robert's Market and Grill, 3918 Fairystone Park Hwy, Stuart, Virginia.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for an Off Premises Beer & Wine license.

Kamlesh Brahmhatt,
Director (Owner)

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.



LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Patrick County Planning Commission will have a regular business meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be at the Patrick & Henry Community College (Stuart site) in the Community Room.

LEGAL



Public Notice Roadway Discontinuance Public Hearing

Route 694 (Dogwood Road)
Patrick County

Monday, September 8, 2025, 6 p.m.
Patrick County Administration Building
Third Floor Board Room
106 Rucker Street,
Stuart, VA 24171

From: Intersection of Route 697 (Crossover Drive)

To: 0.06 mile east of Route 697 (Crossover Drive)

Length: 0.06 mile

In accordance with §33.2-908 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will consider discontinuance of the segment of Route 694 (Dogwood Road) in Patrick County as described above. This matter is being considered upon request of the Patrick County Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Patrick County School Board.

Citizens interested in giving written or oral comments may do so at the public hearing. VDOT staff will be available to discuss information regarding the proposed discontinuance. Please contact Lisa Hughes with any questions at 276-629-2582, 1-800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Salem District Civil Rights at 540-387-5552, 1-800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

LEGAL

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF

568 Laurel Ridge Estate Road, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120
In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$193,325.00 dated October 17, 2022 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Patrick County on October 21, 2022 as Instrument Number: 220001897, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W Blue Ridge St, Stuart, VA 24171 on September 29, 2025 at 2:00 PM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: All that certain tract or parcel of land with all improvements thereon and appurtenances and rights of way thereunto belonging, and being in the Blue Ridge Magisterial District of Floyd County, Virginia, being Lot 13, containing 4.9142 acres, as shown on that certain plat of survey prepared by Larry G. Rakes, CLS, dated October 29, 1984, and recorded in Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Patrick County, Virginia, in Plat Cabinet I, Slide 15-C; and Together with that right to use the roadways shown the aforesaid plat of survey, for ingress and egress to State Route #601, as set forth in Deed dated November 19, 1984, recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 240, Page 592. Tax ID: 4414.00.111.
TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 25-008945)
Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans Law Group PLLC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orlans.com The Vendor Covius Holding Services will be used in conjunction with this sale.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION OF APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A PLAN FOR GRID TRANSFORMATION PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1 A 6 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2025-00098

On July 15, 2025, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") a petition ("Petition") for approval of its Electric Distribution Grid Transformation Plan ("Grid Transformation Plan") and for a Grid Transformation Rate Adjustment Clause ("G.T.-RAC") pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia. The Company is not requesting any associated cost recovery at this time, but requests that the Commission approve the deferral of any costs and investments related to the Grid Transformation Plan.

The Company states the Grid Transformation Plan will benefit customers by: (i) improving the resiliency of the Company's grid; (ii) transforming the grid to enable future technology advancements; (iii) enhancing service reliability; (iv) supporting economic development and community growth; (v) supporting clean energy; and (vi) increasing public and worker safety. The Company proposes to improve its grid automation through investments in Distribution Automation Circuit Reconfiguration ("DACR") and technologies that will prepare the grid for distributed energy resources. The Company states that DACR involves installing "smart" reclosers, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, circuit ties, voltage support, and reconductoring, in order to provide maintenance benefits and improve the safety of the grid. The Company also proposes to invest in new substations and to upgrade components such as transformers on the distribution system to increase the reliability and resiliency of the grid.

The Company states it is not currently seeking any cost recovery for its investments in the Grid Transformation Plan but is requesting approval to defer the costs of the Grid Transformation Plan subject to approval in a future filing. The Company estimates that the first phase of the Grid Transformation Plan will take approximately three years, and cost approximately \$135 million. The Company asserts it will only seek recovery of approximately \$122.3 million through the G.T.-RAC, while the remaining \$12.7 million comprises transmission investment that APCo does not propose to recover through the G.T.-RAC. The Company states that it plans to seek its first recovery of costs in late 2026.

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on APCo's Petition. A hearing on the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company's Petition shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on October 28, 2025. On or before October 21, 2025, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/webcasting; or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on October 28, 2025, the Hearing Examiner appointed to this case will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On October 28, 2025, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene the evidentiary portion of the hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff ("Staff").

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

Electronic copies of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Elisabeth M. Bruce, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia, 23219, or ebuce@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Petition and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/case-information.

On or before October 21, 2025, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/case-comments/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00098.

On or before September 17, 2025, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation electronically on counsel to the Company, Staff, and any other respondents. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00098. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before September 17, 2025, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00098.

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

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

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Firefighters demonstrate vehicle extraction techniques at National Night Out



By Pat Delaney
Members of the Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department showed off the tools and skills it takes to extract crash victims from a car at the National Night Out at DeHart Park on August 5.

Deputy Chief Clint Weidhaas explained to the gathered crowd how his crew would extract someone from a wrecked car, while describing the amazing tools used. He

stressed the need for the tools to do the job of extraction, as well as the need for more in the community to become members of volunteer fire departments in the county.

The crew systematically took the car apart as they demonstrated what it would take to remove a victim in various scenarios, including removing roof, which can be necessary to get someone out without causing further injury.

Protesters raise funds for displaced Cotton Mill residents



National and local concerns converged on Aug. 2 when anti-Trump protesters added a bucket to collect support for the displaced residents of Cotton Mill Apartments. Over a three-hour period, \$363 was collected to help those who have been moved to The Dutch Inn in Martinsville during repairs to their homes in the Dobyns Road facility. This was not a PC Democrats-sanctioned event. (Contributed)

Tourism

(cont. from page 9)

nearly 5,000 more than in 2023. Direct travel employment is now at 95% of pre-pandemic levels. However, staffing shortages remain, particularly in the lodging sector.

"Tourism is more than just an economic driver — it plays a foundational role in sustaining Virginia's workforce," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Juan Pablo Segura. "One out of every four restaurant jobs and one out of every four recreation-sector jobs in the commonwealth are entirely supported by visitor spending. The ripple effects of tourism touch every corner of Virginia."

VTC President and CEO Rita McClenny credited the momentum to strong marketing and local partnerships.

"Through strategic marketing and close collaboration with statewide partners, VTC is driving new demand and encouraging longer stays across Virginia," McClenny said. "From coast to cliff, our diverse destinations continue to captivate. As we look ahead to milestone moments such as the VA250 commemoration, Virginia is poised to play a leading role in how visitors engage with history, culture, and adventure."

Tourism Economics provided the annual data for VTC. The report is based on domestic travel (from within the U.S.) by visitors who stayed overnight or traveled more than 50 miles from home. Full data and methodology are available at vatc.org/research.

Joanne Hill celebrates 80th birthday surrounded by family and friends

Joanne Hill of Stuart, an occasional feature writer for The Enterprise, celebrated her 80th birthday with friends and family on Sunday, Aug. 3.

The event featured entertainment from family members and Minnie Pearl, and Debbie's Catering served a barbecue dinner followed by watermelon and birthday cake.

Hill's grandchildren served as greeters at the sit-down dinner, and the band 2 Young 2 Old played a variety of music for dancing and listening.

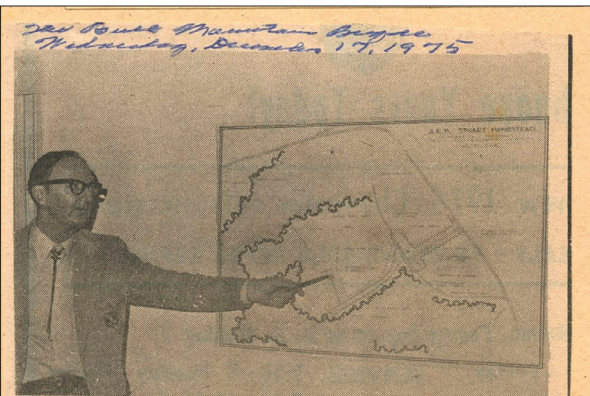
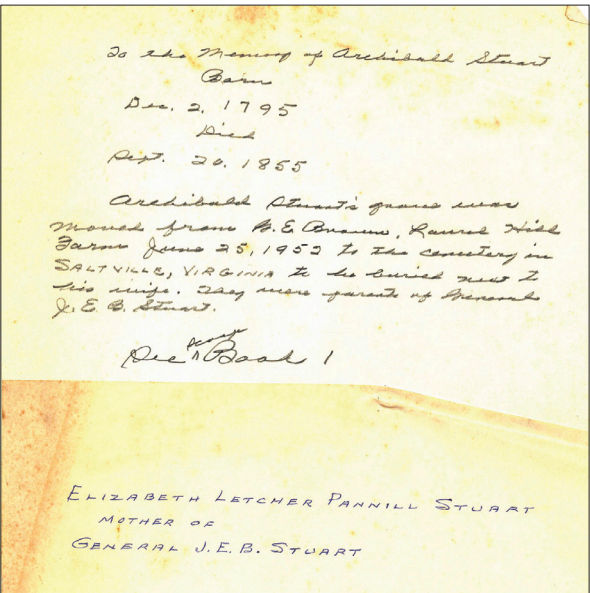
The celebration began with a heartfelt rendition of the national anthem by Tina Conner, followed by the Pledge of Al-



Joanne Hill, in red, is pictured with her four siblings. From left: Frances Radford, Evonne Hill, Nelson Hill, Hill, and Louise Hansen.

legiance. Veterans served in the U.S. military. Veterans related to Hill were honored, as well as all veterans who have expressed to everyone who attended and to all who helped make the celebration possible.

Laurel Hill's Many Histories: Icy's Scrapbooks



Stuart Memorial Plans Received

Ben H. Bolen, Commissioner of State Parks, explains the proposed JEB Stuart Memorial which will be located at the Stuart Homeplace off Rt. 773 near Ararat. Plans call for a rustic memorial, the major focus being an interpretive platform located on the site of the homestead. The platform would contain information on JEB Stuart's life as well as direct attention to the old well site, the old slave cemetery, and Slate Mountain.

The grounds, which will be enhanced by split rail fences and picnic tables also contain the Stuart cemetery.

The memorial, a project of the Patrick County Bicentennial Commission, "...captures the openness, the spaciousness and the beauty of the county and offers the visitor an unique insight into the past and into the lives that made Patrick County and Virginia great."

The commission hopes to dedicate the memorial the end of June.

By Tom Perry

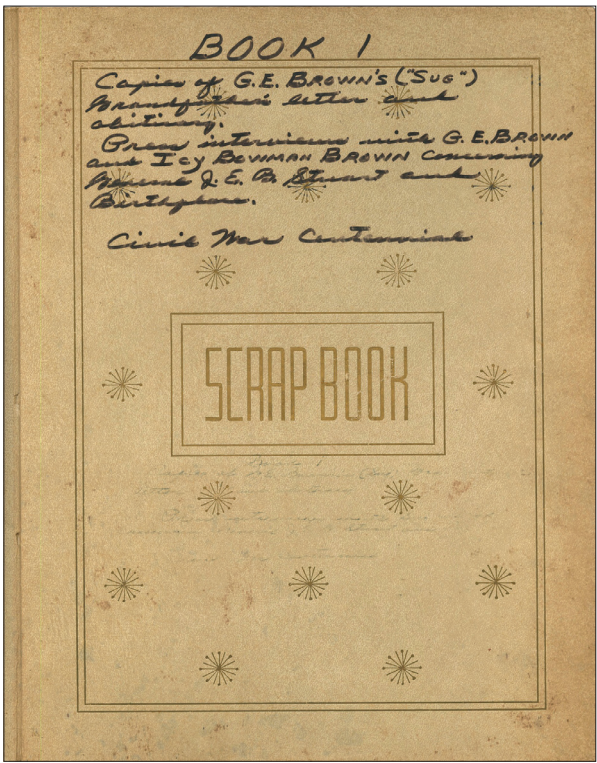
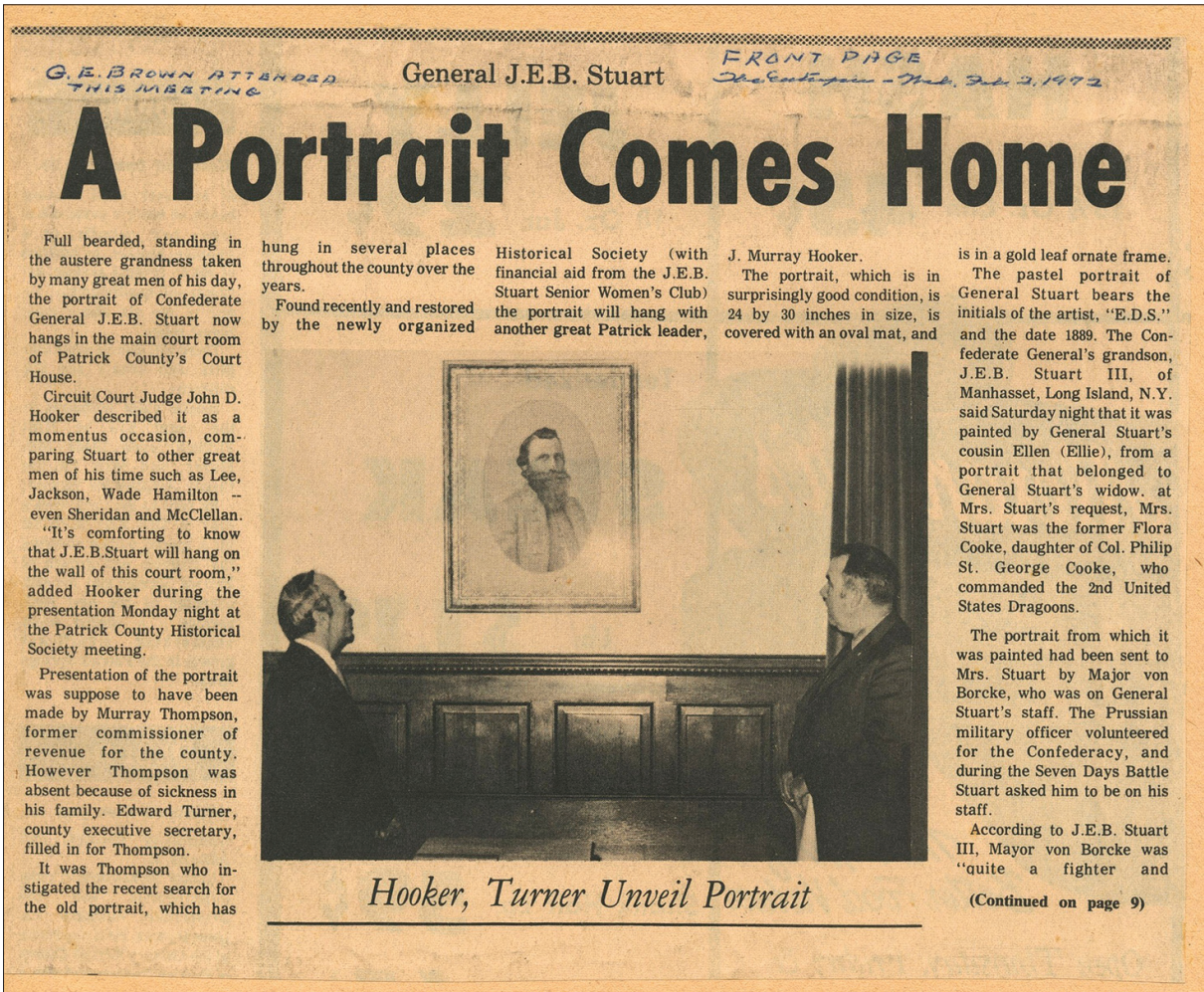
Several years ago, I found myself alone in the office of the J. E. B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, Inc. While browsing, I discovered the scrapbooks of Icy Bowman Brown, the last private owner of the property. During my youth, Icy had shown me these books, which then were at least a dozen. I used these books for research on my book on "The Dear Old Hills of Patrick:" J. E. B. Stuart and Patrick County, Virginia. The book covers my relationship with Icy and her husband, along with our efforts to save the site.

I found many interesting tidbits of history relating to the birthplace. One is that in 1952, members of the Stuart family approached the Browns about moving Archibald Stuart, who had died in 1855, to Saltville, Virginia, to rest beside his wife, Elizabeth Letcher Pannill Stuart, in the appropriately named Elizabeth Cemetery. The cemetery is named for Patrick Henry's sister, also known as Madam Russell.

George Elbert "Sug pronounced Shug" Brown (June 16, 1908 to February 13, 1991) married Icy Bowman (November 2, 1907 to July 9, 1990). On August 10, 1941, the couple had twins George William Brown (August 10-14, 1941) and Elbert Bowman Brown (August 10, 1941-March 28, 1994). The loss of one baby led the couple to keep Bowman at home even though he had Down's Syndrome. Years after her death, I discovered a lock of hair from the dead son in one of Icy's scrapbooks. The Browns lived and worked on this farm known as Laurel Hill for nearly all of the twentieth century.

In 1957, George Elbert Brown exercised the Power of Attorney on his father's estate due to Thomas Brown's age and disability. Four years later, George acquired his mother, Lillia Sparger Brown's land, just as the Centennial of the Civil War began in the early 1960s.

In December 1932, the Commonwealth of Virginia placed a historical highway marker, possibly written by Douglas Southall Freeman, at the farm to commemorate J. E. B. Stuart's one hundredth birthday. For sixty years, it was all that noted the significance of the property. Many people stopped at the next house up the road from the sign, and there they met



George Elbert and Icy Bowman Brown. If you visited "Shug" and Icy to ask about Laurel Hill, you would be given an introduction by viewing scrapbooks collected by Icy and a walking tour by "Shug" and when you were just about to leave, they would walk into their closet and hand you a brick they believed came from the house Jeb Stuart was born in. Years earlier, Tom Brown picked up the bricks from his pasture to plant a tobacco crop. Oral tradition is that he filled in the Stuarts' old well, and his son brought most of the rest into his home to give away to tourists. I found one of these bricks in the Bassett Historical Center, and over the years, many people have told me they have one of the Laurel Hill Bricks.

Icy served on the Board of Directors of the United Fund, Patrick County Bicentennial Commission, R. J. Reynolds Hospital Auxiliary, and the Patrick County Historical Society. She was a member of the National Trust of Historic Preservation and the Virginia Historical Society.

Perusing the scrapbooks, you can see how much Icy and her husband, George Elbert "Sug" Brown, did to try to save the site, including plans around the 1976 Bicentennial of the United States, which did not come to fruition. There are multiple newspaper clippings from Patrick County newspapers, The Enterprise and The Bull Mountain Bugle, including Judge Hooker accepting the portrait of J. E. B. Stuart that hung in the courthouse until Martin Clark took it down. There was Glenn Handy portraying J. E. B. Stuart, horse and all, in the bicentennial parade in 1976. As part of Patrick County's celebration of the Civil War Centennial on May 10, 1964, "Shug" Brown gave tours of Laurel Hill.

Preserving Laurel Hill was the dream of many of these families, but no more than Icy and "Sug." It was this dream that led this author to their front door as a child, and a dream to preserve the Laurel Hill Farm. Without Icy's



preserving the history of her farm, we would know much less about the Laurel Hill Farm.

My mother told a story that in the summer of 1969, she drove her white 1964 Volkswagen Beetle to the front yard of the small white home visible today from the house site at Laurel Hill. That July, men from Earth first walked on the moon, and the Beatles were recording their final album, Abbey Road, in London. My mother was a tall, slim woman with black hair, and I, her son, was nearly nine years old with blondish hair and green eyes. We walked to the front door because I had fixated on the farm's Virginia Historical Highway Marker titled "Stuart's Birthplace." As only a boy could, I questioned her every time we passed by until she stopped at the house, hoping to satisfy my interest.

This was the first of many days "Shug" Brown led me around the pasture, speaking of the property's history and his memories of the locations of the Stuart house, white and slave cemeteries, and the old well used by the Stuarts. This was the first of many days Icy Bowman Brown showed me her scrapbooks full of information about Laurel Hill and every Christmas card she ever received. That day in 1969 and many times later, I noticed the picture on the end table when I entered the home. The black and white photo showed a seated man in a military uniform with a full beard, a saber, knee high boots, and a large, plumed hat. For George Elbert "Shug" Brown and his wife, Icy Bowman Brown, James Ewell Brown Stuart was a member of the family.

Thanks to Eric and Amy Brown Sawyers for allowing me to scan Icy Bowman Brown's scrapbooks and helping to preserve this vital part of our history.

Coming next week: A Gentleman and a Scholar Burke Davis.

email us

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