

Supervisors vote to close part of Dogwood Road despite resident opposition

By Taylor Boyd
Despite strong objections from residents, the Patrick County Board of Supervisors voted to close a portion of Dogwood Road in front of Hardin Reynolds Memorial School (HRMS) at its Monday, Sept. 8 meeting.

The measure passed on a 3-1-1 vote. Vice Chairman Andrew Overby, of the Dan River District; Steve Marshall, of the Blue Ridge District; and Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, supported the closure. Clayton Kendrick, of the Mayo



Residents held "No Road Closing" signs during the meeting to protest closing Dogwood Road near Hardin Reynolds Memorial School.

River District, opposed it, while Chairman Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, Patrick County Public Schools, which requested the closure. Wood is employed by

the potential danger to students.

"I don't want it on my conscience if a child were to get hit crossing the road from HRMS to the gymnasium," he said. "It is a dangerous area. I think quite frankly, everybody's inconvenience of driving around is immaterial compared to a child getting hit."

"Safety of children. I'm always going to default to safety of children and staff. Always," Marshall said.

Perry said school safety issues extend (See Dogwood p. 13)



Schools Superintendent Jason Wood (left) discussed the road closure as Shannon Harrell, of the Blue Ridge District (right), listened.

School board outlines next steps for HRMS after approval of road closure

By Taylor Boyd
The Patrick County School Board on Sept. 11 discussed next steps for Hardin Reynolds Memorial School (HRMS) following the Board of Supervisors' vote earlier in the week to close a section of Dogwood Road in front of the campus.

The supervisors' Sept. 8 decision—made despite vocal opposition from residents—was framed as a student safety measure. School officials have long identified the road as a hazard during routine safety audits, and the closure allows the division to move forward with new traffic and parking plans.

Superintendent Jason Wood said the division is grateful for the board's action.

"That has been on the safety audits for multiple years, multiple principals, so it's not something new that we've needed, and we know there's been an issue in our school division," he said. "So, we're just thankful for that support and putting school and student safety first."

Wood said the division has received questions about how car riders will enter the school once the road is closed and whether they will be forced onto Abram Penn Highway.

"We've had a plan to create a car rider line in front of the school. We needed additional parking in front of the school on the hardtop basketball courts," he said.

He presented board members with a rough sketch showing how the lanes would work, noting that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will provide official plans now that the project is moving forward.

"We will have many additional parking spots, there'll actually be three lanes through there. Those parking spots closest to the school will actually have its own lane, so if you're there and you need to get out while car riders are there, you would still be able to get out," Wood said.

To address concerns about the visibility coming up Abram Penn Highway towards HRMS, Wood said School Resource Officers (SROs) will help monitor traffic during peak hours.

"The SRO plans are to park there in the morning for car riders and buses, and the same thing in the afternoon," he said. "Again, we always pride ourselves in putting the safety of our students and staff and families first."

Wood said he wants the community to know (See School p. 13)

County indicates support for stoplight at Patrick Springs intersection

By Taylor Boyd
After two accidents in a five-day span, the Patrick County Board of Supervisors again raised concerns about the dangerous intersection of U.S. 58, South Mayo Drive, and Spring Road in Patrick Springs. The discussion came during the board's meeting on Monday, Sept. 8.

Clayton Kendrick, who represents the Mayo River District, said the intersection seems to be getting worse as more accidents occur.

"Last Friday, a really good friend of mine was severely hurt in a two-vehicle accident, broke his shoulder, got bruises all over his body. Then this past Monday, my daughter and three grandchildren were in a bad



Steve Allen



Galen Gilbert

wreck that totaled both cars at the same intersection," Kendrick said.

He noted his aunt was also killed in a crash at the same intersection years ago.

"I don't know what we can do with it. I've sent messages and pictures to" Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, "to see if he can do anything about it, but I think something else needs to be done," he said.

Board Chairman Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, said he was told the stoplight in front of Walmart was partially funded by the company. He asked whether the county would consider paying for a light at the Patrick Springs intersection rather than waiting on the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Kendrick suggested a grant might be available.

"The Smart Scale grant? We're actually talking to VDOT tomorrow about that for that intersection," County Administrator Beth Simms said. (See County p. 3)

Annual agricultural fair was a 'winner'



The midway lit up at night with fun rides, food, and games.

By Jessica Dillon
From thrilling rides to quilt competitions and livestock displays, the 71st annual Patrick County Agricultural Fair offered something for everyone. Held Tuesday through Saturday, Sept. 9-13, the fair brought together vendors, charities, and community groups, creating a lively hometown atmosphere that drew large crowds.

Sherry Glenn of Glenn's Way was delighted with the turnout.

"It's been a great night. It's been a great week. Anytime I can come out and do something for the community, I love it," she said.

Her tent served chicken, but she also set out free samples.

"I set out the free samples, you know, just give somebody a chance to, maybe who doesn't have enough, still enjoy the meal," Glenn said. "I was

here last year, and I always enjoy being at the fair, always enjoy being a vendor here. I hope more people will come out and enjoy Patrick County."

Pamela Smith of the Ruritan Club also praised the week.

"It's been a fun week at the fair. Lots of giveaways, lots of people. Perfect weather. It couldn't have been any better," she said, adding attendees visiting the midway seemed to enjoy the offerings.

"One (ride) that goes up, and then it just kind of sits, that's when you hear the most screams. I have no idea what that ride is called, but the carousel and hobby horses are my favorite," Smith said. "Classics like cotton candy, too."

Tammy Clark, an attendee, agreed that the (See Annual p. 13)



DAR marks Constitution signing

To promote Constitution Week, Colonel Abram Penn Chapter NS-DAR members Mary Martin, Julie Brannon and Ann McConnell, installed a display at the Patrick County Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library. The Daughters of the American Revolution initiated the observance in 1955, when the service organiza-

tion petitioned Congress to dedicate September 17-23 of each year to the commemoration of Constitution Week. Congress adopted the resolution, and on August 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into Public Law #915. Wednesday September 17, 2025, marks the 238th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution.

Early voting begins Sept. 19

In-person early voting for the Nov. 4 election begins Friday, Sept. 19, and will continue through Saturday, Nov. 1. Virginians will vote for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates and other local offices. A full list of candidates in all 2025 races can be found online. Virginia Dept. of Elections: Candidates & Referendums. Every county and city offers early voting, but voters are only allowed to vote early in the jurisdiction in which they are registered. To vote early in-person, registered voters should go to a designated early voting location for the jurisdiction in which they are registered, present their ID and cast a ballot. Early voting locations vary by jurisdiction. Each locality in Virginia sets its own early voting location(s) and hours of operation. Some jurisdictions offer early in-person voting at multiple satellite locations throughout the early voting period. Dates and times vary by jurisdiction. Curbside voting is also available for those with disabilities and those over 65 who wish to vote in person. Contact your general registrar's office for more information regarding voting hours, additional locations and ballot drop boxes. A list of acceptable forms of identification can be found online. Requested absentee ballots will begin being mailed no later than Sept. 19, including ballots to registered military and overseas voters. Any registered voter can request an absentee ballot either in person, by mail, online (Citizen Portal) or by contacting their general registrar's office. The deadline to request a mailed absentee ballot is Oct. 24. Registered voters do not need a reason to request an absentee bal-

lot. Absentee ballots can be dropped off at the general registrar's office or designated drop box location during the early voting period or at polling locations on Election Day. Absentee ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Nov. 4 and received by noon Nov. 7. Anyone with visual or manual dexterity impairment has the option to vote an absentee ballot using an electronic marking tool. The deadline to register to vote and cast a regular ballot is Oct. 24. Afterward, voters can register and vote through same-day registration and cast a provisional ballot. Same-day registration must take place in person either at an early voting location for the jurisdiction in which the voter intends to register or at their designated polling location on Election Day. Voters with questions about absentee or early in-person voting can call their general registrar's office or the Department of Elections at 1-800-552-9745 or email info@elections.virginia.gov. Important dates for the Nov. 4 election cycle: Sept. 19 – Early voting begins. Oct. 24 – Deadline to register to vote and cast a regular ballot. Oct. 24 – Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail or online. Oct. 25 – Same-day registration begins. Anyone registering and voting at the same time will have to cast a provisional ballot. Nov. 1 – Last day of early voting. Nov. 4 – Election Day Nov. 7 – All mailed ballots must be received by the general registrar's office by noon. Nov. 14 – Deadline for local electoral board to certify provisional ballots. Dec. 1 – State Board of Elections certifies results.

Portion of road to be closed Oct. 6

Beginning on Monday, October 6, Virginia 683 (High Point Church Road) will be closed to through traffic from 0.07 miles from Virginia 679 (New Hope Church Road) to 0.74 miles from Virginia 682 (Big A School Road) to replace the bridge over South Mayo River. Weather permitting, this closure is scheduled for completion Friday, November 21. A detour will be used, and directional signs will be in place to assist travelers.

National observance highlights farmer, workplace safety



Producing the nation's food and fiber is an important job, but it's also a dangerous one. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors are still the most dangerous in America. According to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injury, there were 448 fatalities in 2023—equal to 20.3 deaths per 100,000 workers, compared to 3.5 fatalities per 100,000 for all U.S. industries. Transportation incidents and contact with objects and equipment were the leading causes of death for farmers and farmworkers. During National Farm Safety and Health Week, Sept. 21-27, farmers and employers are reminded that safety should always remain top of mind. Since 1944, the observance has been held during harvest season, one of the busiest and most dangerous times of year for farmers. Many must drive slow-moving farm equipment on public roadways to complete their harvests, which increases risky encounters with drivers. "Hard work and long days are part of everyday life for farmers, but harvest season often brings the longest hours and the highest stress," said Matt Nuckols, chair of the Virginia Farm Bureau Safety Advisory Program. "Prioritizing safety during this time is essential." Themed "Safety First, Avoid the Worst," this year's observance will emphasize the importance of physical and mental well-being of those working in agriculture. Daily themes include equipment and rural roadway safety; farmer health and wellness; generations of farming; confined spaces; and ATV and UTV safety. Two free webinars will be held each day throughout the week, hosted by AgriSafe—a nonprofit organization representing health professionals and educators who strive to reduce health disparities in agricultural communities. The webinars will cover important topics like preventing serious injuries, youth safety on farms, natural disaster recovery, keeping farming in the family through resilience and health, grain bin and manure pit safety, and more. Interested individuals may register for the webinars online. "The AgriSafe Network plays a vital role in promoting the safety and well-being of our farmers," Nuckols added. "This week's focus on safety is also a great opportunity to highlight the valuable resources they provide." To continue promoting farm and roadway safety, the VFBF Farm Safety Program launched its inaugural SAFER contest. The challenge encourages community groups and civic and youth organizations to create visual displays depicting the size difference between farm equipment and regular vehicles. Anyone is welcome to participate, and campaigns are taking place across the state with prizes awarded in three categories. Learn more about the SAFER contest. Additional farm safety resources can be accessed through the VFBF farm safety website, which addresses topics such as accident response, agricultural hazards, mental health and rural road safety. Site content also includes links to safety resources offered by other farming advocacy organizations. For a suite of resources addressing youth farm safety, visit cultivatesafety.org.

Pets of the Week



This sweet, young Boxer/Shepherd mix is such a good girl and would love a forever home. This gorgeous German Shepherd is available for adoption. All dogs and cats deserve a permanent loving home. Free spay/neuter and rabies vaccinations. Call the Patrick County Public Animal Shelter at (276) 694-6259, visit the shelter or their Facebook page, to find information about these and other available pets in need of a forever home. Adoption fees are \$10 and include spay/neuter and rabies vaccination. Check out the videos of many of these dogs on the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League Facebook page. The group also provides pet food assistance and always needs pet food donations, especially cat food. Contact blueridgeawl@gmail.com for details. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League website at www.blueridgeawl.org.



Congressional staff to visit

Congressman Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available locally on September 24. Staff will be in Henry County from 10– 11:30 a.m. in the Henry County Administration Building, Summerlin Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville. They will be available in Patrick County from 12:30 - 2 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart. Call the Christiansburg Office at 540-381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at 276-525-1405 with any questions.

Norris Memorial Services

Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com



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



County

(cont. from page 1)

“Even if we have to throw skin in the game, I think there’s enough people in the county that would be willing to tighten up the belts a little bit more in the budget cycle to kind of help to make sure that happens,” Wood said.

Wood added he personally avoids the intersection.

“Because I’m not pulling out of that intersection with basically five lanes of traffic in the intersection across with me trying to pull a 25-foot trailer with a tractor. I purposefully avoid that intersection,” he said.

Wood said VDOT may be able to provide a rough estimate of the cost for a stoplight.

“I know some people probably wouldn’t be happy with the inconvenience. I know a lot of people I think would be much happier with it,” he said.

Doug Perry, of the Smith River District, said sunlight played a role in one of the recent crashes.

“All the flashing lights and rumble strips—it’s not going to prevent someone looking east into the sun and not being able to see the lanes of traffic before they pull out in there. So, a stoplight’s pretty much the only way you’re going to fight the sun,” Perry said.

Kendrick added that when the four-lane was designed at the intersection, some VDOT officials opposed the current turn lane.

“One of the engineers” working on the plans “called it a suicide lane,” he said.

He warned the situation will worsen once road construction in the Vesta area is complete.

“It’s going to be more traffic, more

truck traffic and everything else, so something needs to be done there,” Kendrick said.

In other business, the board also: *Heard from Galen Gilbert, who echoed the call for a stoplight.

“As bad as I hate to say it, it seems like the right person has not passed down there. I don’t know what’s going to happen down there, I don’t know what’s going to be the solution to it, but VDOT has done a study that said that intersection needed to be daylighted, and they done that study many, many years ago,” Gilbert said.

He added the study also suggested fixing the curb at the Patrick Springs Post Office.

“None of it’s been done yet. So, I think that intersection needs to be relooked at, and something done,” he said.

*Heard from Steve Allen, the county’s former EMS Coordinator, about the county’s Emergency Medical Services.

“It’s very heartbreaking that after all the years working with the volunteers to get the training equipment we needed for classes. The Patrick County Fire and Rescue Association paid for part of that equipment out of their funds, not funds that the board of supervisors give them. They raised money from back in the ’90s for the Fire and Rescue Association to have things fire and rescue needed,” he said.

Allen said equipment has since been given to Ambulance Services of Lexington, which will operate locally as Patrick County EMS. He noted the county paid for two pieces of equipment, including a training trailer,

and that some rescue squads wired their buildings for its use.

“That was just wasted money now that the rescue squads paid,” he said.

Allen added Patrick County EMS plans to have two ambulances on the road.

“The county has two ambulances right now until people start dropping out on account of what the board of supervisors has let the hospital take over. How is the hospital going to improve anything over what the county already has with just two ambulances—they’re not because they’re going to be doing their interfacility transportation and trying to run some 911 calls,” he said.

*Heard from Ed Pool about the legal review of the proposed solar ordinance and a cease-and-desist letter sent to the Planning Commission regarding false claims.

The distribution list in the email “looks like the entire Planning Commission” received the document, as well as the board. “It’s from a fella, Josh Stanfield, in Yorktown, Virginia. It’s in reference to apparently Facebook postings by one of the supervisors,” Pool said.

*Heard from Steve Ferring, who

again requested his park recommendations be added to the Oct. 20 meeting agenda for consideration. He said his proposals would be cost neutral.

*Heard from Patrick County Education Foundation Chairman Dr. Stewart Roberson about the Patrick Promise.

*Scheduled a public hearing for the Oct. 20 meeting to amend the fiscal year 2025-26 budget.

*Heard a broadband update from Riverstreet Networks and Appalachian Power.

*Approved invoices for Freehouse Meadows of Dan Brewery–Cockram Mill Complex.

*Approved updated tourism sponsorship grant applications.

*Released a \$90,000 check to the Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department for the purchase of a truck.

*Adopted a resolution accepting the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy plan and approved the county’s participation in the opioid settlement with the Sackler family.

*Approved the Aug. 11 and Aug. 25 meeting minutes.

*Approved bills, claims, and appropriations.

*Heard supervisors’ reports.

Appropriations bill passes hurdle in House, heads to Senate

The U.S. House of Representatives voted and passed H.R. 4553, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, according to a Thursday release from U.S. Congressman Morgan Griffith.

Griffith, R-Salem, introduced an amendment to the bill that increases funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy. This bill funds critical activities that bolster industries important to the people of Southwest Virginia.

Following passage of the bill, Griffith said he was “glad the House adopted my amendment to the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, which directs additional millions of federal dollars to the

DOE Office of Fossil Energy. This is a critical office that develops innovative technologies for America to pioneer on the global stage.

“The bill also supports nuclear energy innovation. Virginia’s Ninth District is exploring the potential of nuclear energy and is home to an abundance of natural resources and emissions reduction technologies,” Griffith said. “With this powerful combination, we can burn coal cleaner than anywhere else in the world and guide the world towards a cleaner and more sustainable future.”

He added that by advancing the appropriations bill, “we can secure America’s electric grid, lower energy costs for consumers and unleash American energy dominance.”

August General Fund Revenues exceed forecast

General fund revenues increased 7.0 percent (\$286.9 million) year-over-year through the first two months of Fiscal Year 2026 and that for the month of August, total general fund revenues increased 6.8 percent (\$132.7 million) versus August last year, Gov. Glenn Youngkin said.

Compared to the official forecast assumed in Chapter 725 and accounting for monthly variations in tax collections, revenues exceeded projections for the month by 6.2 percent (\$122.0 million) and are ahead of forecast by 6.5 percent (\$266.5 million) year-to-date, representing a strong start to the fiscal year.

“Virginia remains in an incredibly strong financial position two months into this fiscal year, driven largely by increased individual income and sales tax revenue,” said Youngkin.

“With the addition of August’s excess revenue collections to the FY 2025 revenue surplus and end-of-year balances, the Commonwealth currently has more than \$1.8 billion in incremental

revenues available as we begin the process of developing the next biennial budget that I will introduce in December.” Youngkin added “Virginia is the destination where companies from around the world are investing and building their future, with \$135 billion in capital investment commitments since January 2022 from companies expanding in the Commonwealth. These results reflect the underlying strength of Virginia’s job market, financial position, and opportunities for all Virginians.”

“Through the first two months of the fiscal year, Virginia continues to see revenue collections outperforming our expectations,” said Secretary of Finance Stephen E. Cummings. “While national macroeconomic indicators suggest a period of slower growth, our prudent FY 2026 forecast already assumed lower growth than last year and the Commonwealth continues to see revenue collections exceeding forecast as we begin the process of developing the revenue forecast for the 2026-28 biennium.”

Three things to know about scams

Here are three important things to know about fraud right now.

First, most scams today are often run by highly organized international criminal networks, not individuals acting alone. These mafia-style organizations use stolen money to fund abusive criminal activity around the world, including Southeast Asian fraud compounds that rely on human trafficking, forced labor, and torture. Fighting scams isn’t just about protecting your life savings, it’s also about cutting off funding to these inhumane and violent organizations.

Second, just as you take steps to protect your health or home, you can take steps to safeguard your finances. This means taking actions like blocking unknown callers, using strong and unique passwords for every account, enabling two-factor au-

thentication on your online accounts, freezing your credit, checking your credit report regularly, and shredding documents that contain personal information.

Third, if you do fall victim, report the crime, as fraud is notoriously underreported. Reporting isn’t just about helping authorities catch criminals. It also helps expose the true scale of the problem and the need for fraud-fighting resources. The AARP Fraud Watch Network recommends reporting to your local police to create an official record and to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at IC3.gov.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff’s Office reported the following:

*Samuel Odell Coleman, 40, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Aug. 18 with seven counts probation violation. Deputy M. Nester was the arresting officer.

*William Stanley Lewis, 61, of Blythe, GA, was charged Aug. 19 with one count each DWI and possess firearm by convicted violent felon. Deputy J. Fain was the arresting officer.

*Kenneth Dane Gray, 55, of Claudville, was charged Aug. 19 with one count each fail to appear, violation of home/electronic incarceration, disregard law enforcement command: continue to drive 20+ mph - endangered, and reckless drive>endanger life/limb/property. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Samantha Craddock, 34, of Bassett, was charged Aug. 22 with fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Senior Deputy H.R. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Randy Michael Kingsley, 39, of Patrick Springs, was charged Aug. 23 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Taylor Renee Haynes, 25, of Bassett, was charged Aug. 23 with one count each fail to comply with terms of pretrial services and possess Schedule I or II drugs. Deputy J.L. Fain was the arresting officer.

*George Kevin Rucker, 42, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 23 with two counts strangle another causing wounding or injury, and one count each assault, malicious wounding, abduction by force, etc. to deprive of liberty, and attempted murder 1st degree. Sgt. J.C. Fortner was the arresting officer.

*Mark Anthony Tate, 50, of Pilot Mountain, N.C., was charged Aug. 26 with petty larceny. Senior Deputy D. Dillon was the arresting officer.

*Jeffrey Allen Carter, 57, of Collinsville, was charged Aug. 27 with one count each climb into/on vehicle/boat/etc., to commit crime and manipulate mechanics set in motion of vehicle/boat. Carroll County made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Jared Ray Lawson, 25, address unavailable, was charged Aug. 27 with two counts grand larceny and one count enter dwelling at night. Sgt. W.L. Higgs was the arresting officer.

*Sammy Wayne Smith, 53, of Ararat, was charged Aug. 28 with one count each drive motor vehicle while license is revoked/suspended and possess Sch. I or II drugs. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Tyler James Anderson, 28, of Mt. Airy, N.C., was charged Aug. 28 with warrant of extradition. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Jordan Hollis Belcher, 18, of Woolwine, was charged Aug. 29 with reckless drive. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*Christopher Wayne Bowman, 37, of Stuart, was charged Aug. 30 with one count each drive motor vehicle while license is revoked/suspended and possess Sch. I or II drugs. Deputy C.L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Dylan McCoy Henderson, 22, of

Stuart, was charged Aug. 30 with fail to appear. Sgt. J.G. Pickerel was the arresting officer.

*Joshua Daniel Holt, 37, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 1 with two counts assault. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

*Taylor Renee Haynes, 25, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 1 with two counts probation violation. Sgt. D.A. Ullring was the arresting officer.

*Joshua Daniel Holt, 37, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 2 with contribute to delinquency of a minor. Inv. Tennille E. Jessup was the arresting officer.

*Megan Hollie Smith, 39, of Fieldale, was charged Sept. 3 with fail to appear. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Stephanie Dawn Davis, 47, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Sept. 4 with probation violation. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Jennifer Ann Hunt, 39, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 4 with drive motor vehicle while license is revoked/suspended. Senior Deputy N.A. Wolfe was the arresting officer.

*Thatcher Lindwood Robertson, 29, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Sept. 4 with two counts probation violation. Sgt. E.J. Litz was the arresting officer.

*Amari Pounds, 21, of Martinsville, was charged Sept. 5 with fail to appear. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Taylor Renee Haynes, 25, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Sept. 5 with property damage. Sgt. D.A. Ullring was the arresting officer.

*Greta Annette McAdams, 56, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Sept. 5 with property damage. Sgt. D.A. Ullring was the arresting officer.

*Anita Ann Green, 44, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Sept. 5 with property damage. Sgt. D.A. Ullring was the arresting officer.

*Sammy Wayne Smith, 53, of Ararat, was charged Sept. 7 with disregard law enforcement command. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Logan Matthew Waldron, 28, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Sept. 8 with seven counts probation violation. Sgt. I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

*Jessica Renee Bailey, 38, of Stuart, was charged Sept. 9 with probation violation. Senior Deputy J.S. Kendrick was the arresting officer.

*Larry Dean Martin, 52, of Bassett, was charged Sept. 10 with fail to appear. Deputy J.L. Fain was the arresting officer.

*Leonard G. Branch, Jr., 50, of Collinsville, was charged Sept. 10 with fail to appear. First Sgt. Barry Vipperman was the arresting officer.

*Zachary Dalton Scales, 29, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Sept. 10 with probation violation. Senior Deputy T. Dalton was the arresting officer.

*Jeffrey Jennings Guilliams, 54, no address available, was charged Sept. 11 with two counts probation violation. Senior Deputy H.R. Hylton was the arresting officer.

Defending U.S. Energy

“I make no apology for being pro-U.S. energy. I make no apology in saying that the United States needs more electric power. I make no apology in saying that we can get that electric power through...small modular reactors, nuclear, fusion, and coal...”

Those words were part of my response to Congressional Democrats as I managed rule debate on the U.S. House floor this month.

The House was considering the rule for the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

This appropriations bill is one of the 12 appropriations bills. Other appropriations bills include defense, homeland security, agriculture and rural development, etc.

I led the Republican side during the debate on the rule.

I managed the floor and the debate with my Democratic colleagues.

Later, I also spoke in support of an amendment I offered for the energy and water development appropriations bill.

My amendment directs over \$6.8 million to the DOE Office of Fossil Energy.

The DOE Office of Fossil Energy leads innovative projects to reduce emissions from fossil energy production and use.

The technologies they test and develop can be deployed across the United States and around the world. Such technologies reduce fossil fuel emissions, produce cleaner energy and make our planet more sustainable.

These innovations help America lead on the world stage, showing others that coal, natural gas and oil can be used in



Morgan Griffith

Representative

ways that bolster energy security as well as environmental progress.

My amendment passed and made its way into the full energy and water appropriations bill.

The amendment is just one provision in the bill that helps unleash American energy dominance.

We also increase investments in new baseload geothermal energy sources and direct greater funding to expedite the creation of new nuclear reactors.

Small modular reactors are one source of reliable and affordable energy that can help meet domestic energy demands, particularly in Virginia.

Thanks to greater energy demands fueled in part by data center development, Virginia imports more electricity from other U.S. states than any other.

This dependence on other states puts a strain on our electric grid, and its consequences can be problematic. During a peak heat wave this summer, part of our region faced potential blackout threats.

Securing Virginia’s electric grid could be bolstered by the deployment of nuclear energy and small modular reactors.

This summer, Governor Youngkin announced a grant of almost \$200,000 to search for private investment and federal funding to prepare Wise County for an advanced nuclear reactor.

Nuclear energy is not the only beneficiary supported by the energy and water development appropriations bill.

The energy and water development appropriations bill funds groups like the Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other related agencies.

The Army Corps will receive federal funding to carry out civil works, environmental and other engineering-related projects.

Virginia’s Ninth District is divided into four Army Corps districts: Huntington District, Norfolk District, Wilmington District and Nashville District. Army Corps projects in these four various districts are often related to flood mitigation and wastewater treatment.

Earlier this year, tens of millions of dollars went to Lee County for a Lee County Sewer Improvements project.

The Army Corps help is appreciated by many in our communities, and I did not hesitate to speak in support of funding their programs in an earlier separate Rules Committee hearing.

House passage of the energy and water development appropriations bill is a step in the right direction.

While more legislative work is needed, I am committed to supporting all-of-the-above energy policies that advance American energy production and institute reliable forms of baseload power.

These actions will help lower energy costs, reduce potential blackout threats through a strengthened electric grid and deliver constant, reliable power to American communities.

As I continue engaging on the House floor or elsewhere, I will make no apology in advocating for sensible energy policies that deliver for the Ninth District of Virginia and the entire United States.

That includes advocating for use of high-quality Southwest Virginia coal and natural gas.

(NOTE: On 9/11/2001, foreign terrorists tried to end the American Dream. On 9/10/2025, an unknown terrorist attempted to do the same in assassinating Charlie Kirk. The American Dream, founded on the ideals of unalienable Rights granted to all by their Creator, will survive. The terrorists of this world, foreign and domestic, cannot kill this truth.)

How Do You Treat Waiters?

By Bryan Golden

The way you treat others offers a window into the type of person you are. Your interaction with people, whose job it is to serve you, reflects on your character and offers a glimpse into the way they will react to you.

When you behave in a condescending manner, you are sure to elicit a negative reaction. Immediately, the person you are talking down to will be put off, even if they don’t show it. You will squelch any inclination for the other person to go out of their way to help you. At most, they will do no more than the bare minimum necessary to keep you mollified.

Corporate CEOs like to observe how job candidates treat waiters. These corporate captains have found that how a prospective employee treats a waiter offers a clear picture of the type of person he or she is. Someone who is polite to you but discourteous to a waiter does not have desirable interpersonal skills. They tend to be abrasive, causing friction among coworkers and subordinates.

Your treatment of waiters isn’t just significant in business settings. A survey by a dating service discovered that being rude to waiters tops the list as the worst dining etiquette. It is a real turn-off to be in the company of someone who is mean spirited.

Anyone can treat a waiter well when there are no mishaps or mess-ups. The real indication of a person’s true nature is how they react when there are problems. What do they do when a waiter makes a mistake or their meal is not what they had hoped for? Do they get indignant, make a scene, and jump down the waiter’s throat? Or are they gracious and magnanimous?

No one likes to be berated when they make a mistake. Some waiters are better than others. Some are more conscientious. You can’t manage their behavior, but you do control yours. If you can’t han-

dle a problem when you are eating out, how can you be depended on to handle life’s real predicaments?

People, who are rude to waiters, erroneously believe they are displaying power and authority. They mistakenly think their behavior will impress others. Anyone who attempts to elevate their status by stepping on others will ultimately fall flat on their face.

People with integrity and character treat everyone with courtesy and respect, regardless of their occupation, financial, or social status. They don’t view themselves as being above or below anyone else.

The way you treat people determines to a large part how they treat you. Not everyone will respond to kindness and consideration. But everyone will react negatively to berating. Your best bet for bringing out the best in people is to treat them with respect.

If you expect the worst from people, your attitude will project this and your low expectations will usually be met. If you anticipate the best, people tend to try to live up to those expectations so as not to disappoint you.

People crave approval and recognition. If you start out rejecting someone, they will feel there is no chance to please you and won’t even try. However, when you say please, thank you, and can you help me, others will make an extra effort to accommodate you.

Treat waiters, and everyone you encounter, with dignity. In so doing, your relationships with people, even strangers, will improve. You will still find some individuals you just can’t deal with. But they will be much more of an exception. You can never go wrong by treating another person well.

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.

Letters to the Editor

Chicago

(Fox News, Bill O’ Reilly, Newsmax, NBC 5 Chicago, Daily Signal, Illinois Policy)

In 2020 I wrote an article published in The Enterprise entitled, Will The Lives In Chicago Ever Matter? In that article from 2016 to 2020 there were 2,928 murders and 15,665 shootings.

In the last 10 years, from 2016 to 2025, there has been 7,000 people in Chicago murdered. 84% of the crime was black on black. The police only solved 35% of the murders, 65% were not solved.

This past Labor Day, 61 people were shot, 9 people killed, and 52 injured by shootings. No arrests were made. I guess the progressive Democrats who run the city really don’t care about the lives and safety

of the people, not that I thought they ever would.

However, they spent millions of dollars on Bidens Immigration policies. According to NBC Chicago, the City of Chicago spent more than \$612 million providing emergency shelter and other services for illegals. NBC 5 found the bulk of that money - nearly \$500 million - has gone to two companies: Kansas-based Favorite Healthcare Staffing, which staffed the shelters and Kentucky-based Equitable Social Solutions, which together with another company, Reloshare, helped identify property owners and turned once-vacant warehouses in Chicago into migrant hotels.

NBC 5 reported how Favorite Healthcare Staffing routinely billed the city for 84 hours per week - per staffer, including overtime - rates that city alders called “exorbitant” even after the contract was re-negotiated to lower the hourly costs. When it came to the build-

ings-turned-hotels with Equitable Social Solutions, some building owners were guaranteed \$150,000 a month if hundreds of migrants remained in their building.

The budget for Chicago ending of 2025 is \$146 million short. The 2026 Budget is projected to be 1.15 billion. Chicago is basically bankrupt. Who pays for this mismanagement ---taxpayers. Chicago also cut 2,103 police positions but at the same time added 184 administrators. Another indication that Chicago does not care about Chicago lives.

Other Issues:

The murder of Irina Zaruska aboard a Charlotte train in late August shows the stunning moments after Decarlos Brown, Jr. fatally stabbed the Ukrainian woman in the throat, as surrounding passengers gathered their belongings and moved away from the dying woman. I have just one question - why did no one help her?

Everyone has heard about the assignation of Charlie Kirk. Every time there is a shooting, the Democrats push for gun control. Chicago has one of the strictest gun laws in the country. Chicago is a prime example that gun control does not work. Getting rid of guns does not get rid of violence. Strict law enforcement is what controls criminals.

Never in the history of our country has prayer been more important. We should be praying for our country every day. The rise of nihilistic violence like Irina Zaruska and Charlie Kirk is going to continue. The progressive left encourages it and celebrates it.

Pray for our country.

William Salser,
Stuart

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Patrick Pioneers

John Henry Harbour
By Beverly Belcher Woody
John Henry “Henry” Harbour was born on December 19, 1893, in Stuart, Patrick County, Virginia, the son of Samuel James Harbour and Mary Keziah “Kizzie” Foley Harbour. His roots ran deep in the Pole Bridge community, where his grandparents Marion J. Harbour, Nancy L. Terry, Mack Tyler Foley, and Elizabeth Ruth Wright had tilled the land before him. Henry grew up in the hills of Patrick County alongside his brothers, William Russell and George McCoy Harbour, and helped work the family farm.

Like so many young men of his generation, Henry’s quiet life as a farmer was interrupted by war. On June 5, 1917, he registered for the draft in Patrick County. His registration card describes him as of medium height and build, with blue eyes and black hair—a simple country boy whose world was about to expand far beyond the Blue Ridge.

In the summer of 1918, Henry boarded the troopship Titan at Newport News, Virginia, departing on August 22 with the 62nd Provisional Company, July Replacement Draft. Assigned Service Number 2967862, he entered service as a Private in Company B of the 6th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army.

Though far from home, Henry’s heart remained in Patrick County with his sweetheart, Mattie Susan “Susie” Shively, the daughter of Peter David Shively and Louanna Jane Hancock Shively. Born on the very same day as Henry—December 19, just five years apart—Susie and Henry shared more than a birthday. They shared dreams of a future together. During his service, Henry wrote her letters whenever he could, pouring out his affection and his homesickness across the ocean.

Recently, a small collection of World War I letters written by Private Henry Harbour to his sweetheart, Mattie Susan “Susie” Shively, were shared with the Bassett Historical Center by one of Susie’s grandsons, Dr. Greg Foley. I am so grateful to Fran Snead and Pat Ross for posting them online on the historical center website. <https://www.bassetthistoricalcenter.com/get-history2.php?GetID=108>.

May 30th, 1918
Dear Susie,
I will drop a few lines to let you know I am

living and well. I guess you are having a good time up there. We are having a time down here. They are giving us double time.

Susie, I wish I could see you. Well, I will see you some day if I live. Well, until then tell people up on Pole Bridge that I am just as (sorry) as ever.

Well, I got to go to bed. Well, I don’t get any time to do anything.

So I will close and write soon and write me a long letter.

From your loving friend,
John H. Harbour

As the months wore on, the tone of his letters reflected the weight of separation. In his last surviving letter to Susie, dated *March 27, 1919*, he confessed:

Dear Susie,
I will answer your kind letter I got yesterday and was glad to hear from you. This leaves me well and hope when these four friends (promise) to _____ it will find you well and enjoying life.

Well, Susie I was thinking that you had forgotten me. This is the first letter I have gotten from you since August. You said I had forgotten you but I have not. I would like to see you and talk with you. I have a lot to tell you. Susie, you don’t know how bad I want to see you. I am thinking about you all the time.

I have gotten a good place to stay. I am staying with a Dutchman sleeping in the parlor but there is no time for me over here. I am getting the Army blues. Well, I guess my lady will be married by the time I get back. I don’t know when I will get home. I guess Tony has gotten back by this time. I think if they don’t send me home pretty soon, I will go wild. Well, I am getting sleepy for I have not been sleeping any for 3 nights.

So I’ll close. Answer soon.
From your loving friend,
PJHH

Tragically, Henry never made it home to Susie or to the hills of Patrick County. On May 11, 1919, at just 25 years old, Private John Henry Harbour died in France. Whether from wounds of battle, illness, or the devastating influenza pandemic that claimed so many young soldiers,



Pvt. John Henry Harbour

his sacrifice was the same—the ultimate price for freedom.

His body was returned to Virginia and laid to rest in the Foley Cemetery in Elamsville, among family and the familiar ridges he had always called home. Decades later, his brother McCoy Harbour ensured his memory would never fade by applying for a military headstone, a flat bronze marker inscribed simply: “Pvt. U.S. Army, WWI.”

Henry Harbour’s story is not only one of duty and sacrifice, but also of love and longing. His letters to Susie remain treasured pieces of history—fragile paper carrying words that outlived the young man who wrote them. They remind us that behind every name carved in stone is a life full of hopes, dreams, and love left behind.

Private John Henry Harbour stands among the many young men from Patrick County who gave everything in the Great War. Though he never returned to the life he began in the Virginia hills, his name, his service, and his love story endure—an everlasting testament to the cost of freedom.

Thank you again to Dr. Greg Foley, Fran Snead, and Pat Ross for sharing these precious letters. If you have a question, comment, or idea for a story, you may reach Woody at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – I’d like to retire early, but don’t want my Social Security reduced

Dear Rusty: I will be 65 this year and my husband is 72 (he retired in 2019 at age 66). I would like to retire and enjoy some time with him before he gets too much older. I do not want to have my benefits cut by retiring earlier, but I don’t see a way to be able to do that. My benefit will be \$1343 on my full retirement age (FRA). If I took half his retirement when he retired, it would be less than mine. If I take early retirement and he passes away before me, would I get his full benefit as his survivor, or will it be cut? We are trying to figure it out. His current benefit (before Medicare Part B) is \$2978. It’s very confusing. *Signed: Confused and Wondering*

Dear Confused: Whenever any Social Security benefit is claimed earlier than full retirement age (FRA), the monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you were to retire at age 65, your Social Security benefit would be reduced by about 13% - in other words, if

your FRA (age 67) amount is \$1343, at 65 you would get about \$1164. And at age 66 you would get about \$1253 per month.

Whether you would be entitled to a “spousal boost” from your husband depends on how your FRA amount compares to 50% of his FRA entitlement. If your FRA amount is less than 50% of his FRA amount, then you would get a “spousal boost,” but the amount of that boost would also be reduced if you claim before your FRA. (Note: from the numbers you provided, you may be entitled to a spousal boost and, if so, it would be applied by Social Security when you claim).

Also, FYI, if you take SS before your FRA and are still working, Social Security has an annual earnings test which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. If you earn more than \$23,400 in 2025, you will likely not get all of your monthly SS payments (SS will take away some monthly benefits if you exceed the earnings limit). Of course, if you retire from working, this will not be a problem, because earnings before you claim SS won’t count toward the limit.

When you claim your SS retirement benefit now will not affect your survivor benefit from

your husband later. If your husband passes first, your benefit as a surviving spouse would be based on the amount your husband was receiving at his death. But if you were to claim your widow’s benefit prior to your FRA, your survivor benefit would also be reduced (the amount of reduction depends on how much before your FRA you claim your survivor benefit). If you claim your widow’s benefit at or after you FRA, you will get 100% of the amount your husband was receiving at his death (instead of your own smaller amount). It will only be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age.

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

Physical Activity Is Medicine!

Have you ever thought about how much money you spend on medicine each year? Have you ever done the math? Perhaps the money is not coming directly from your pocket as the insurance company eats a large chunk of the costs. Either way, I want to challenge you to add up what you have spent on medicine this year and keep track of it until the end of this year, and see where you end up.

On average, each American spends about \$1,000 per year on pharmaceuticals. This puts the United States in first place in the world for usage of pharmaceuticals. In fact, it is 40% more than what the next country (Canada) spends. America also ranks number one in usage of antipsychotics, drugs for dementia, respiratory problems, and rheumatoid arthritis. One of the reasons for this could be that rates of chronic disease, such as heart disease, diabetes, and Alzheimer’s disease are greater than in other developed countries due to high levels of obesity, lack of physical activity and poor nutrition.

It is amazing how willing we are to spend

tremendous amounts of money on medication, and yet, we are so unwilling to consider alternative ways to treat and prevent disease. One of the cheapest and most effective forms of medicine is physical activity! A very wise philosopher once said:

“Lack of activity destroys the good condition of every human being, while movement and methodical physical exercise save it and preserve it.” – Plato

Movement of the human body is extremely powerful and provides so many physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual benefits. Research proves that not only can physical activity prevent chronic disease and illness; it can actually assist with treatment of disease and improve quality of life. According to the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), regular physical activity can provide the following benefits in relation to chronic disease:

- *Lower the risk of stroke by 27%
- *Reduce the incidence of heart disease and high blood pressure by approximately 40%
- *Reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer’s

disease by approximately 40%

*Reduce mortality and the risk of recurrent breast cancer by approximately 50%

*Lower the risk of developing Type II Diabetes by 58%

*Lower the risk of colon cancer by over 60%

*Active individuals in their 80s have a lower risk of death than inactive individuals in their 60s

*Can decrease risk of death by 40%

*Adults with better muscle strength have a 20% lower risk of mortality (33% lower risk of cancer-specific mortality) than adults with low muscle strength.

These are powerful statistics to showcase how physical activity can play a key role in preventing the development or recurrence of chronic diseases.

(To be continued in part 2)
(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Dominique Wakefield, MA, CPT. Used by permission from www.lifeandhealth.org Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

Cougars 'put it all together' in 55-7 victory over North Stokes



Avone Kidd pushes into the end zone for one of his two touchdowns.



The Cougar defense with a tackle for a loss.

By Pat Delaney
The Patrick County Cougars wasted no time getting on the scoreboard, exploding out of the gate with a 75-yard kickoff return for a touchdown and never looking back in a commanding 55-7 road win over the North Stokes Vikings on September 12.

"We're a lot better than we've been playing, and we just had to put it all together." "This week we really focused a lot more on what we need to do to win, and the guys really bought into it, and they were getting after it tonight," said Cougar head coach David Morrison.

Calvin Lancaster took the opening kickoff 75 yards behind solid blocking, giving the Cougars the 7-0 lead just 13 seconds into the game.

The defense came up big with a Zach Holt interception on the Viking's first drive, giving the offense the ball near midfield. The Cougars quickly drove the ball downfield, ending with a 4-yard Avone Kidd touchdown run.

When the Vikings mishandled the ensuing kick-



Strong Start at Bristol for Berry Cut Short by Fire

The Bass Pro Shops Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway offered Josh Berry and the No. 21 Motorcraft/Quick Lane team a chance to extend their run in the NASCAR Playoffs, but instead, an early fire brought their postseason to an abrupt end, leaving them with a 39th-place result.

The 500-lap event opened with unexpectedly severe tire wear, a scenario that typically plays to Berry's strengths. After starting 10th, he surged into the top five by Lap 39 and was running third when he made a green-flag pit stop on Lap 55 for four fresh tires and fuel. Back on track, he quickly worked from 12th up to seventh.

But trouble struck soon after when flames erupted from the right side of the Motorcraft/Quick Lane Mustang. Berry tried to nurse the car for several laps, but as the fire intensified and smoke filled the cockpit, he was forced to pit. He climbed out and made it safely to the pit wall, but his night, and his Playoff hopes, were over.

After being checked and released from the infield care center, Berry told reporters he felt like the team had a car capable of winning, which was his best chance to ad-

vance to the Round of 12.

"The car was really good," Berry said. "That was going to fall right into our wheelhouse to have a really good night. We were able to make it pretty long on that first set of tires, and I think we were set up in a really good spot."

Berry thanked crew chief Miles Stanley and the No. 21 team for the speed they've had throughout the Playoffs, even if the results didn't show it.

“We’ve been up front. We’ve qualified well. We had the issue at Darlington bottoming out, last week we got clipped by the 9, and now our car catches on fire,” he said. “The cars have been fast, and the performance has been good. If we just had a little bit of luck, I feel like we’d be in a much better spot. Honestly, I think the way this one was playing out we would’ve 100 percent had a chance to win tonight.”

With Bristol behind them, Berry and the Motorcraft/Quick Lane team will regroup and turn their focus to next Sunday's Mobil 1 301 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, determined to make the most of the remaining races left on the schedule.



Calvin Lancaster returns the opening kickoff 75-yards for a touchdown.



The Cougar defense held the Vikings to under 100-yards total offense.

on the loose ball, taking the game for the 55-7 win.

On offense, Calvin Lancaster picked up 148 yards on 9 carries, averaging 16 yards per carry. Avone Kidd ran the ball 8 times for 127 yards and two touchdowns, and Antwain Mitchell had 100 yards on 6 carries and a touchdown. Jayden Corns had two touchdowns.

for 429 yards on 29 carries a carry.

offensive line play was a

ning performance. "That's

ve got to have those line-

re starting to come to-

to replace as many guys

Defensively, the Cougars were all over the Viking runners, stopping many plays for a loss, making it even tougher for North Stokes to extend drives. The Cougar defense swarmed the ball, using team speed to track down the Viking ball carriers. "We don't have a great deal of size, but what we are blessed with is a good bit of speed," said Morrison.

s are going to be a little bit of Wheeler Helms and Jackson Callahan had 6 tackles each, with Calvin Lancaster, Aiden Frazier and Josiah Shelor each chipping in 4 tackles.

...further into the season.” Kicker Erik Martinez-Tejada was perfect on the night on extra point attempts, going 7-for-7.

third quarter, and only The Cougars return home for a September 19
own in the last seconds of matchup with Chatham.

PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of September 22-27:

9/23	7pm	Volleyball	vs Glenvar
9/25	7pm	Volleyball	at James River
9/26	7pm	Football	at Carroll County



Journey Moore goes up for the kill.

Varsity Volleyball Gets Two Wins

By Ashlee Mullis
The PCHS Volleyball Team traveled to Bassett, Tuesday, September 2, winning in straight sets, 25-20, 25-19, and 25-17. Jayden Callahan had 6 kills, 6 aces, and 8 digs. Sydney Tatum had 6 kills and 3 blocks. Camille Gonzalez had 20 assists, 4 kills, and 2 aces. Journey Moore had 4 kills, 4 aces, and 1 block.

The Lady Cougars went to Carroll County, Thursday, September 4, winning in straight sets with scores of 25-19, 25-20, and 26-24. Moore had 8 kills, 11 digs, and 4 aces. Gonzalez had 27 assists, 11 digs, 3 kills, and 2 aces. Callahan had 8 kills and 10 digs. Tatum had 4 kills and 2 blocks, and Brooklyn Barner had 5 kills. The Cougars will travel to Floyd, September 11.

Volleyball teams get wins at Floyd

Volleyball teams get wins at Floyd

By Ashlee Mullis
On Thursday, September 11, the JV and Varsity Volleyball Teams traveled to Floyd to take on the Lady Buffaloes.

The Varsity Cougars won 3-1 with set scores of 25-15, 25-19, 24-26, and 25-16. Camille Gonzalez had 32 assists and 3 kills. Sydney Tatum had 15 kills, Jayden Callahan had 13 kills and 6 digs.

Madison Scott had 7 aces and 13 digs. Journey Moore had 6 kills, 8 digs, and 2 aces. The JV team won

Jayden Callahan receives the serve from Floyd. 2-0 with set scores of 25-22 and 25-21. Bailey Thompson led the way with 3 kills, 12

digs, and 4 aces. Madison Martin had 3 kills, and Meredith Wood had 7 assists.



Jayden Callahan receives the serve from Floyd.

2-0 with set scores of 25-22 and 25-21. Bailey Thompson led the way with 3 kills, 12 digs, and 4 aces. Madison Martin had 3 kills, and Meredith Wood had 7 assists.

Crossing the Lines

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

Tin Ridge facility to strengthen U.S. supply chain, boost local economy

Henry County will soon be home to the nation's first large-scale tin processing facility.

Nathan Trotter, the largest tin and solder alloys manufacturer in North America, announced it will invest \$65 million to construct Tin Ridge, a metal production and processing facility at the Patriot Centre Industrial Park. The 115,000-square-foot facility will be built on Tract 4 of the park and is expected to create about 118 new jobs once operational.

Tyler Morris, vice president of Nathan Trotter, said the family-owned business was founded in 1789 in Pennsylvania by Nathan Trotter. The company currently operates four tin refining and finishing plants in



State and local officials joined with Nathan Trotter officials to ceremoniously break ground on the project Sept. 9.

Pennsylvania. The Henry County project will be its first outside the state.

"We're here to break ground on a state-of-the-art facility focused on helping the U.S. produce and recycle more tin and tin alloys for mission-critical de-

fense systems as well as commercial purposes," Morris said. "The U.S. considers tin a critical mineral. That's a word you hear a lot nowadays, right, as people have started to focus again on the raw materials that feed our economy. That's what we're here

to do amidst intense competitive pressures around the world for metals that will produce essential technologies." Without tin, Morris said there would be no electronics, semiconductors, data centers, flat-panel displays or fighter jets.

Tin is also used in circuit boards and electronics components for countless commercial and government applications, including defense systems, smartphones, electric vehicles, batteries, advanced robotics and aerospace technologies.

"This project demonstrates how government and business can work together to improve the lives of Americans, boost national security and strengthen our economy," he said.

Morris said the new facility represents an upstream move for the company, which traditionally focused on downstream products.

"Now we're trying to move as far upstream as we can and secure this supply chain. That's the idea, to have as durable of a supply chain as we can in the U.S.," he said.

Henry County was chosen in part because of its pro-business attitude, skilled workforce, utilities and transportation infrastructure, Morris said. Proximity to the port of Norfolk was also a key factor.

BZA reverses decision, allows Oak Level Raceway to open



Oak Level Raceway owner Carl "Bo" Miller.

The Henry County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) reversed its previous decision and will now allow Oak Level Raceway to open following a Sept. 10 special called meeting.

The approval came in a 5-0 vote.

During the special called meeting, Planning, Zoning & Inspections Director Lee Clark, A.I.C.P. said additional information was learned by his office that wasn't known by the applicant, Carl "Bo" Miller, or staff at the time of the original Aug. 27 vote, where the special use permit was denied.

"First, the applicant Mr. Miller, who is not the land's owner, discovered that a business license has been paid for and issued by Henry County's Commissioner of Revenue Office for Fork Mountain Raceway each and every year since 2007, even though events and operation of the track ceased at about that time," he said.

Clark said the stated intent of these renewals was to maintain the option to re-open the race-track. He also reviewed and verified the county issued business licenses.

Judge appoints special prosecutor to review Martinsville whistleblower report

A special prosecutor has been appointed to review a whistleblower report involving Martinsville city government, Commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Hall said Wednesday.

Hall said Martinsville Circuit Court Judge G. Carter Greer signed the order. He added that the prosecutor is working with someone on the Virginia State Police — "someone who specializes in just this type of activity," Hall said, as part of the review.

Hall said the city's attorney, Sands Anderson, told him during a phone call that the report indicated possible criminal activity. But Hall stressed that he must rely on evidence, not secondhand accounts.

"I can't go to a judge, law enforcement or others and say 'because Sands Anderson said so.' I have to have the evidence," Hall said.

Hall declined to identify the prosecutor, saying the paperwork remains under seal.

Hall noted that after closed session on Thursday, August 7, city council Martinsville terminated the employment contract of Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, who had been serving as the city manager. The council also the law firm of Sands Anderson to turn over its investigation to the Martinsville Commonwealth's Attorney's office.

In a release, Hall said he and his colleagues met virtually with Sands Anderson attorneys on August 18. "They confirmed that they had created a report based on their investigation. We requested a copy of the report and any evidence that it was based on. Sands Anderson stated that they would need further clarification" from city council.

The council approved a second vote on August 26, directing its attorney to "release to the Commonwealth's Attorney printed versions of the report that deal with any criminal activity so that the Commonwealth's Attorney may take action as necessary.

"We subsequently received a heavily redacted report prepared by Sands Anderson. We again requested that we receive the unredacted report and any evidence that it was based on," Hall said. However, that has not been provided as of Wednesday.

MHC Historical Society opens annex filled with rare treasures



Vampire killing kits are among the rare artifacts on display in the new annex.

The Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society opened the doors of its new annex Sept. 6, inviting the community to step into a space filled with rare antiques, unusual artifacts and the passion of two people determined to preserve history.

The annex showcases the extraordinary collection of Dr. Mervin and Virginia King, longtime supporters of the museum who wanted to ensure their treasures could be shared with the public. Inside, visitors are greeted with everything from toys and steam engines to rifles, Indian artifacts and delicate pieces of ivory.

"This is mostly the collection of Virginia and Dr. Mervin King. They built this building for them to show off their collection," said volunteer Jack Stewart. "We have a wide array of displays here. Not just toys, but steam engines and rifles, Indian artifacts, ivory."

The opening felt more like a celebration than a ceremony. Families played games, children enjoyed activities, and a food truck set up outside while people wandered through the glass cases filled with history. Admission for kids was free, underscoring the society's goal of making the experience accessible to the next generation.

Stewart said none of it would have been possible without Dr. King's relentless energy.

"He was like an energetic rabbit," Stewart said. "He was in here every day, working on this. He's got just a good eye for displaying."

Rides, food, and fireworks highlight Henry County Fair

The fifth annual Henry County Fair will take place Wednesday, Sept. 24, through Saturday, Sept. 27, at Martinsville Speedway.

The event is sponsored by Henry County, the Henry County Department of Parks and Recreation, Jones & DeShon Orthodontics, VisitMartinsville, Bassett Furniture, B99.9, SW Virginia Gas, Hooker Furniture, Bryant Radio Supply, Sarver Properties, Campbell Family Foundation, and The Phillips Group, Inc.

Henry County Parks and Recreation Director Roger Adams said the fair will feature rides, games, food, entertainment, and animal exhibits.

"With our fair we always specialize in entertainment, so we will have some awesome rides. We'll have over 20 rides that will be split



between rides for younger children and rides for teenagers and adults," Adams said.

Each night will include two ground

shows, beginning with the Jurassic Kingdom Show, a dinosaur-themed attraction.

"Then we have the Pompeyo Amaz-

ing Dog and Magic Show, which is a little bit different. They've been here for a few years, they were on "America's Got Talent," so they're adding a magic portion to that," he said.

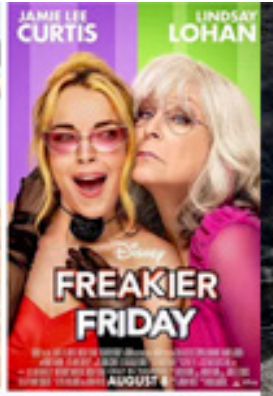
The agricultural contest will feature competitive exhibits in several categories, including fresh fruit and vegetables, miscellaneous agricultural products, flowers and plants, quilts, crocheting, textiles, and more.

"We have all the wonderful animals from Affinity Acres, and you can really see a wide variety of animals. They bring their camel, they've had an armadillo, a porcupine, just all kinds of animals that you can see and interact with," Adams said.

Concerts will also be a highlight of the fair.



1-3-5



1-3-5-7



1-3-5-7



1-2-4-5:30-7-8

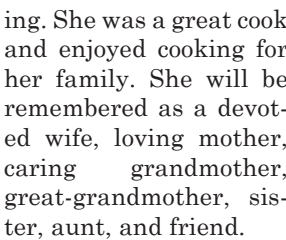


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\$5 tickets
Hollywood Cinema
beside Walmart
Martinsville 276-656-3456

Raymond (Ray) Branscom Rakes

James Vernon Aliff,
September 2, 1939 -
September 11, 2025
Martinsville — Pre-
ceded in death by father
James Edward Aliff;
mother Laura Emily
Dalton Aliff; wife Sally
Davis Aliff; children
Peggy, Ann, Darrell, Jam-
mie; sisters Jane Farm-
er, Lillian Farmer, Clara
Bell Aliff, Annie Aliff,
an infant brother and
sister; and friend Vir-
ginia Howell. Survived



Left to cherish the memories of Mrs. Hazelwood are her four children, Wayne Hazelwood, David Hazelwood, Kenneth Hazelwood, and Lisa Boles (Darrell); grandson,

by sister, Laura Ruth Aliff; stepdaughters Angel Curtis (Terry), Elena

(Charles) of Raleigh, NC, Jeannette Gore (Al) of Hillsborough, NC, Brenda Crawford (Jesse) of Ridgeway, VA, Carol Kestin (Phil) of Aiken, SC; and his brother, Gary Shelor (Marlene) of St. Stephens Church, VA, along with many nieces and nephews.

A private family service was held in remembrance of Terry with arrangements handled by Moody Funeral Services.

Brandon Boles (Alyssa); great-grandson, William Ray Boles; sister, Lucy Nowlin; brother, Thomas Clifton (Gayle); and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral for Mrs. Hazelwood will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Reverend Darrell Boles officiating. Burial will immediately follow in High Point Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Saturday afternoon. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Woltz Hospice Home, P.O. Box 325, Dobson, North Carolina 27017. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Rigler, Rachael Min-
gus; grandchildren Peg-
gy Selden (Benjamin),
Tabitha Cox (Austin),
Amanda Curtis, Mark
Harmon, Billy Harmon
(Betty Angel), Christian
Pounds, Gabriella Arm-
strong, Magdalen Cur-
tis, James, Patricia, and
Charlotte Mathison, and
several great-grandchil-
dren.

In the famous words of our Papaw, "See you later."

in Stuart, VA.

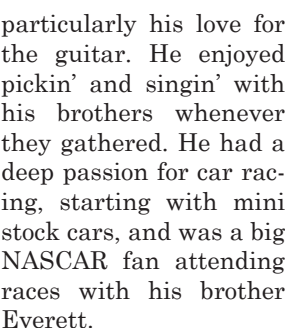
The family would like to thank the nurses, doctors and staff at Sovah Health - Martinsville and Mountain Valley Hospice for their support and compassionate care. Memorials may be made to Mountain Valley Hospice at PO Box 325, Dobson, NC 27017. Online condolences made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Raymond (Ray) Branscom Rakes, 89, of Stuart, VA passed away on September 4, 2025. Born on September 10, 1935 in White Gate, VA he was the son of the late Elder Dewey Branscom Rakes and Viola May (Sink) Rakes.

Ray proudly served in the United States Navy from 1954 to 1960, as a Boatswain's Mate aboard the USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754). He later worked for Northrup Grumman as a field service engineer and had a distinguished career in various locations, including Kelly AFB, TX, and Hill AFB, UT.

Ray's life was filled with love, adventure, and creativity. In 1955 he married Roberta Sims with whom he had two children, Cathi & Randy and lived in California. He was actively involved in the South Bay community theater scene, best known for his portrayal of Sancho Panza in *Man of La Mancha*. Ray also built a ranch in Floresville, TX where he raised horses, ponies, and farm animals. He also trained quarter horses for competitions. Ray married Ann Tomich in 1984, and together they built up the ranch and spent many joyful years ranching and hosting grandchildren during the summers.

Music played an essential role in Ray's life.



In his later years, Ray and Ann retired in Stuart, VA where Ray was a proud member of the Mountain Home Masonic Lodge No. 263, receiving the honor of Mason of the Year in 2010. He was also an active member of Stuart Baptist Church, managing the church's sound system and serving his community in numerous ways. Known for his sense of humor, Ray affectionately adopted the pseudonym "Kadiddlehopper," inspired by the Red Skelton character Clem Kadiddlehopper.

Ray is survived by his brother, H. Everett Rakes (Linda) of Stuart; his daughter, Cathi Yates of Athens, AL; his stepdaughter, Rena Fer-

family and faith, Jimmy had a variety of interests that brought him happiness. He enjoyed fishing, playing the banjo, and taking long walks. He was also an avid fan of the Washington Commanders football team. Jimmy's kind spirit and warm heart will be missed by all who knew him. His legacy of love and faith will continue in the hearts of his family and friends.

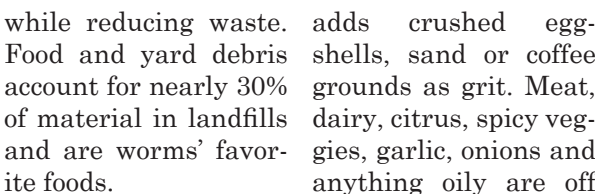
Left to cherish the memories of Jimmy Belcher are his mother, Elva Louise Pendleton Belcher; a brother, Danny Belcher; a sister, Deborah Belcher Quesinberry; three nephews.

rell (John) of Overland Park, KS; his grandchildren Trista Burgreen (Justin) of Athens, AL, Tori Reece (Kurtis) of Newport Coast, CA, Cindy Ferrell (Kevin) of Overland Park, KS, Ryan Yates of Moorpark, CA, and Sean Ferrell of Overland Park, KS; his great-grandchildren, Juniper Reece and Caleb Ferrell; brother-in-law, Robert Most of Stuart and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

Ray was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Ann (Tomich); his son, Randy; his sisters, Lulu Mae Dalton (Edward), Gladys Barnard (Charles Lee), Mary Jane Lumpkin (Rick), Shirley Jean Rakes; his brother, James Rakes (Noveleen); and several beloved nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025 at 11:00A.M. at Stuart Baptist Church in Stuart, VA, with Pastor Thomas Walker officiating. Burial will be private. Family will receive friends 30 minutes prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the PAWS (Patrick County Animal Welfare Society), P.O. Box 743, Stuart, VA 24171, in Ray's memory. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Wiggling worms are not the most glamorous members of the garden, but they're one of the most essential.



But there was a learning curve.

"I got my first worm bin for Christmas a few years ago and set it up without doing my homework," Anita recalled. "I came downstairs one morning and the worms had escaped. Hundreds of worms were wig-
gling all over the family room floor. It was a mess."

She overfed them, which caused excess moisture to build up—not ideal for worms. Now Anita only feeds once a week, ensuring conditions stay damp but not wet.

"Worms are vegetarians," she explained, and prefer produce scraps, cardboard, chopped leaves and grass clippings. She

adds crushed eggshells, sand or coffee grounds as grit. Meat, dairy, citrus, spicy veggies, garlic, onions and anything oily are off the menu.

Today, large storage tubs in her basement house around 10,000 red wigglers. She brews nutrient-rich “tea” by mixing 2 tablespoons of castings per gallon of water to fertilize crops through irrigation.

For those seeking the benefits without raising worms, producers like Debbi and GB Little of Turkey Island Growers & Worm Farm in Henrico step in.

GB became interested in castings after learning about farms and vineyards using them to naturally boost crops. Inspired, he and Debbi decided to experiment. After applying worm castings, their struggling

tomatoes started doing
“10 times better.”

Seeing a market opportunity, they increased production. Today, they manage several worm pots and windrows holding countless red wigglers. During peak season, a single 200-gallon pot yields 80 to 150 gallons of castings in roughly two months.

“The worms will eat about 100 pounds of material in two or three days during this time of year,” GB said. “They’re voracious.”

Thanks to their hardiness and the area's relatively mild winters, production runs year-round. Once ready for harvest, worms are scooped out and castings are screened and kept cool, moist and shaded—preserving valuable microbes for customers.

Selling through Facebook, local farmers markets, garden shows and websites, buyers range from home gardeners to

small farms.

Read the full article and see pictures in Virginia Farm Bureau's Summer Cultivate magazine.

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PATRICK PULPITS

Show horse or work horse?

By Van Yandell
James 1: 22-23 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. If any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass.”

Just after retirement, a group of us that had worked in carpentry, plumbing, electrical and related areas of construction formed a group called The Area Christian Builders.

We built church additions, projects at children’s homes and other Christian related venues. At times we had as many as twenty people on a job. The relationships we established both among ourselves and the people we served have lasted a lifetime.

Most of our work was done in the late 1990’s and early 2000’s. Our bumper stickers read “My Boss is a Jewish Carpenter,” (Matthew 13: 55-56).

On a roofing job, one of the women in our crew asked if I could show her the basics of roofing. Techniques of applying three-tab or architectural shingles requires about a five minute orientation and she nailed down several squares of roofing on that job (a square is 100 square feet).

On a small storage building at a children’s home, nine of us divided into three groups. Group one built the floor framing and deck, group two built the wall framing and sheathing and group three built the roof trusses. By three pm, the roofing was on and the doors were built and hung. By four o’clock we were on our way home. That one made headlines!

These people were the work horses representing several churches and denominations. I never heard a curse word uttered or any inappropriate comment made on the job. They epitomized the meaning of a Christian worker.

James 2: 17-18 “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

The Bible teaches we have eternal salvation by our belief based on faith. Ephesians 2:

8-10 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Confusion exists in the minds of many concerning our salvation and how it is earned. We cannot earn eternal salvation! Jesus paid the entire price of the redemption of mankind by His sacrificial shedding of blood and death on the cross of Calvary.

The Old Testament sacrificial lamb went to his death bound and forced. Jesus could have called twelve legions of angels (Matthew 26: 53) but did not. He went voluntarily to the cross to shed His perfect blood for the sins of the world.

The concept of a “faith based belief in Christ Jesus” is scripturally sound and scripturally factual. But James points out unequivocally, our works are a demonstration of our faith; not that we have to prove anything, God knows the heart (Romans 8: 27).

Revelation 20: 12b “the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” Opinions are a dime-a-dozen on this verse but implied is that we are judged according to what we have done on earth. This is not to say we are saved by works. And it is not to say we will be excluded from Heaven if we work less than what we may regard as “required.”

I well remember installing the electrical system in a home for challenged adults the night after the 9/11 terrorist attack on America. With another electrician, we discussed what had happened that very morning in New York, Washington D.C. and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Little did I realize that about eight am the next morning, we

would receive a call from a disaster relief leader to serve in New York. As we watched the events of the previous day unfold, the phone rang. In a few hours we were on our way to the disaster site.

On site in New York were thousands of “work horses.” Christians and other Americans showed up to demonstrate our love for our country. Work horses and show horses are plentiful: which do you want to be?

We have work hors-es and show horses in our churches all over the world. The varying types are not limited to a single country or a single denomination. Regardless of the work one is capable of, God will make you a work horse if you’ll allow it to happen. From concrete finishers to prayer warriors, God has a use for us (James 2: 17).

If there is any one single, most important area of work for our Jesus it is to fulfill His mandate to tell the world about Him. Our world is in a state of chaos and it becomes more and more extensive every day.

Without the teachings of God and their manifestation in our world, survival of civilization is indeed questionable.

Show horses may look good but it’s the work horses that make a difference. Leading people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ will indeed make a difference in our world we cannot begin to fathom.

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Make a difference! Be a work horse!

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

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

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

2. From Daniel 4, who had the vision of a tree growing higher and higher until it could be seen by everyone? *Silas, Josiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Solomon*

3. Which book could be summarized, “God, why don’t you stop bad things from happening”? *Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachi*

4. What hour mentioned in the Bible means the last possible moment something can be done? *1st, 3rd, 11th, 12th*

5. From Judges 6, where did Gideon encounter an angel? *Prison, Oak tree, Temple, Well*

6. What was Adam’s occupation in Eden? *Preacher, Shepherd, Carpenter, Gardener*

ANSWERS: 1) *Old,* 2) *Nebuchadnezzar,* 3) *Habakkuk,* 4) *11th,* 5) *Oak tree,* 6) *Gardener*



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Worship Services 11 am

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Super Crossword

APPROPRIATE TIME

- ACROSS**
1 Europe's "City of Light"
6 Part of NEA: Abbr.
10 Kailua Bay's island
14 Evil being
19 — acids
20 Greet the day
21 Muscat's country
22 Maine university city
23 Bisquick or Betty Crocker product
25 Be deemed acceptable
27 Capital of Turkey
28 — -Free (contact lens solution brand)
30 Floor of a fireplace
31 — Cruces
32 Iranian money unit
34 "Tortilla Flat" co-star Hedy
37 Apiary buzzer
40 Mardi —
42 Singer Duane or Gregg
44 Steel-gray element
47 Jazz guitarist with 20 Grammys
51 Dessert named for soprano Nellie
53 Big online brokerage
54 Took off
56 — Na Na
57 Brilliance of success
58 Makes diluted
59 Social-climbing whiz kid
61 Letterman's rival, once
63 Recognize
64 Actress Kosarin or skater Ivanova
66 Yule songs
68 Clumsy sorts
72 1950s-'70s legal drama
76 Hitter in a horseback sport
78 Besides that
79 False name
81 "Hamilton" face-off
82 Grassland
83 "Sula" author Morrison
85 Athlete like Simone Biles
88 Miss Daisy player Jessica
90 Eyeliner flaw
93 "La Cage aux Folles" actor Tognazzi
95 Rooney or Kate of film
96 Warship with two banks of oars
97 What letter carriers carry
100 Grass cutter with an engine
102 Epoch of the first horses
103 Entraps
105 Meg of "I.Q."
106 Genetic helix
107 Little sister of Bart and Lisa
109 Poet Pound
111 Sit-up targets
114 Mexican inn
117 Divan, e.g.
119 Like smooth orange juice
122 "Yeah, that's about right"
126 Newspapers, magazines, and such
128 As a result of
129 Huge heads
130 Shredded
131 Newsy notes
132 Fable writer
133 Pond critter
134 Henchman helping Hook
135 Appropriate time to solve this puzzle?
- DOWN**
1 Like Vatican affairs
2 Kitchen range brand
3 Skating sites
4 Ancient Andean
5 Fly like a kite
6 Amazement
7 Pago Pago's place
8 Aircraft that can land on snow
9 Following
10 "Alley —"
11 Docs' gp.
12 Rosh —
13 Auto racer Al
14 Full of gloom
15 Formerly, archaically
16 Insect-repelling pellet
17 Dollar bill
18 And not
24 Dojo activity
26 Windy month
29 With 45-Down, bad sign
33 "Sort of" suffix
35 Piece of gig gear
36 Baton-waving director
38 Actor Idris
39 Coup d'—
40 Govt. agent
41 Moming warning for sailors
43 Rival of Uber
45 See 29-Down
46 "Don't lose your head"
47 Where pooches get pampered
48 Close behind, as a dog
49 Judges evaluating cases, e.g.
50 City on the Rio Grande
52 Shout
55 Tic- — -toe
59 Element with a 235 isotope
60 Knock sound
62 J.D. Salinger title girl
65 Somalian-born supermodel
67 Long-used maxim
69 Totally original
70 "I want some grub!"
71 Obedient dog, at times
73 Spin
74 In progress
75 Big Apple team, on scoreboards
77 Longtime Nissan model
80 "So yummy!"
84 Algerian port
86 Neck's scruff
87 Had as its source
89 Elvis — Presley
90 Went fast
91 Earth orbiter
92 Those who've broken free
94 Dashboard fuel indicator
96 Journalist Gumbel
98 Air Force officer Curtis
99 Chou En- —
101 Blunder
104 Home: Abbr.
108 Guys writing jingles, say
110 African nation renamed in 1997
111 Poet W.H. —
112 Airship type
113 Muscle twitch
115 Bus driver for Bart and Lisa
116 Go no further
118 Chooses
120 Fail to include
121 Buttigieg of Biden's Cabinet
122 BlackBerry, e.g., in brief
123 Really regret
124 Female seal
125 FDR follower
127 Born as

Weekly SUDOKU

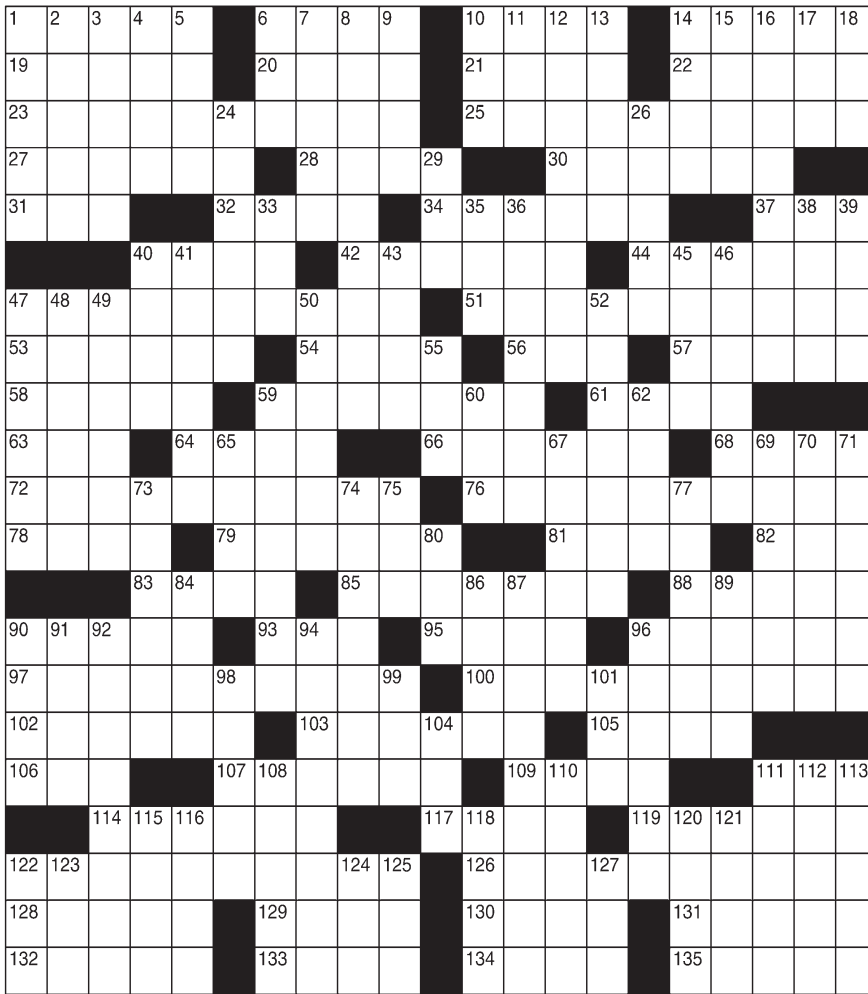
		2	6		9		8	
			5			7	2	
4								
2			4	5				
		4	9	7		2	5	6
3	5			6	8			7
		5	1		6		7	2
							6	1
			7					9

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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(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, Sept. 17

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

Thursday, Sept. 18

The Tourism Advisory Council will meet at 6 p.m. in the community room of Patrick & Henry Community College.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

The Patrick County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will meet at 4 p.m. at the Patrick County School Board Office.

Events

Wednesday, Sept. 17

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and Patrick & Henry Community College will hold an Excel for Business workshop from 1-3 p.m. at the Patrick County site. The cost is \$30.

Thursday, September 18

The Patrick County Library will hold a monthly trivia night with the theme of Back to School with General Knowledge from 6-7 p.m. Dress in your favorite school clothes or team shirt. Come by yourself, bring a friend, or even create a team of four and join us. Registration not Required. Free. Ages 12 to 112.

The Patrick County Republican Committee meets at 6 p.m. in the Motorsports Hall of Fame at Patrick & Henry Community College.

Friday, Sept. 19

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

Ross Harbour Methodist Church will hold a free community meal from 4-6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20

Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department will hold a country breakfast from 6:30-10 a.m. Adult dine-in prices are \$10 and child plates are \$4. All to go plates are \$10 each. Call (276) 930-2113 to place a call in order.

The Patrick County Library will hold a Retire Ready Roadmap Program starting at 11 a.m., led by Austin Joyce, a financial advisor with Edward Jones. Registration not required. Adults ages 35+ learn to prepare for retirement and make good financial decisions. Free Program. Snacks will be provided.

Tom Perry will release his fiction book about the Legend of Ahart Ridge, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., a folklore story about a witch who lived on Willis Gap. All programs are at the Ararat Ruritan Club, 4711 Ararat Highway, Ararat. Programs are free. Donations are welcome for the Perry Family Scholarship.

Sunday, Sept. 21

High Point Baptist Church will hold its Homecoming and 108th anniversary. Singing by the Walker Family will start at 10 a.m. and preaching will be by Luke Moore. A covered dish meal will follow the service.

The Biggs Family Reunion will be at 1 p.m. at Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church.

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.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Patrick & Henry Community College will hold a Smartphone Video Advertisement workshop from 12-2 p.m. at the Patrick County site. The cost is \$30.

Friday, Sept. 26

A spaghetti supper will be held at the Dobyns Community Building from 4-7 p.m.

The Patrick County Library will hold a Patrick County Library Senior Social starting at 11 a.m. Seniors are encouraged to come visit for an hour and enjoy coffee and pastries. Optional autumn craft is available this month. Free. Registration not required.

Saturday, September 27

The Patrick County Library will hold a Book Bedazzle Class starting at 11 a.m. This is a free event for people ages 12+ to bring their personal book from home and bedazzle it. Free class. Supplies provided other than the book. Registration is required as seats are limited. Please call 276-694-3352 to register.

New Hope Community Church, 1863 Clark House Farm Road, Stuart, will hold a night of music and fellowship featuring Billy C. Smith & Friends starting at 7 p.m. There will be refreshments following the music

Sunday, Sept. 28

Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League (BRAWL) will hold a Create Art for Animals fundraiser at 2 p.m. at Calliope in Stuart. Space is limited and registration is required. All supplies are included for \$30. Register by contacting BRAWL.

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 4:00 AM start making apple butter at the old Woolwine Fire Department, 8:30 a.m. – Fried Apple Pie Making in the cottage. Lunch is provided.

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and Patrick & Henry Community College offer Taking Your Social Media to the Next Level workshop from 12-1 p.m. at the Patrick County site. The cost is \$15.

Saturday, Oct. 11

Woolwine Annual October Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Woolwine Vol Fire Department Grounds in Woolwine. Free admission. Music, in playing order, by Jordan T Morrison & the Foothill Boys, Larry Sigmon & the Virginia Girls, and The Friday Night Band. Craft vendors welcome at no charge. Call 276-229-8241 for more information.

Ongoing

The Patrick County Parks and Recreation Department is holding sign-ups for the grades 4-5 boys and girls basketball season. Games will begin in November, following the football season, and will conclude before Christmas break. The deadline for sign-ups is Monday, September 29. Forms are available at any elementary school or at the recreation department. Questions may be directed to the recreation department at 276-694-3917.

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 Church 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 on 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 Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Appalachian Acoustic Open Jam, every Friday. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for food, with music and dancing, 6:30-9 p.m.; Golden Oldies Open Jam is on the last Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for food, music, and dancing from 6:30-9 p.m.

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LEGAL



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The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Martinsville Residency which includes the counties of Henry, Patrick and Carroll during the winter of 2025-2026. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubbertire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and **may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.**

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>). Applications received by 7:00 PM on Thursday October 2, 2025 may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Martinsville Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday.

Phone: 276-629-2582

Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov

EEO/AA Employer

LEGAL

RFP 2025-MNT-005

The Patrick County School Board is accepting competitive sealed proposals from licensed contractors for Excavating and Site Preparation for a future Multipurpose Building/Wrestling Building at Patrick County High School, 215 Cougar Lane, Stuart, VA 24171. RFP electronic file plans are available from the Architect's office (88knight@concast.net) or School Maintenance Office, Chad Haynes (chad.haynes@patrick.k12.va.us). Proposals will be received on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, on or before 2:00 p.m. at the Patrick County School Board Office, 132 North Main Street, Stuart, VA 24171, and results will be read aloud. A pre-bid conference will be Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Patrick County High School. All interested contractors attending the pre-bid conference must check in at the main office.

LEGAL

Patrick County Public Schools

September 8, 2025

Dear SEAC member/consultant:

The next meeting of the Patrick County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at the Patrick County School Board Office in the Conference Room. A zoom link will also be sent to you.

Please plan to join us on September 23, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

Sincerely,

Andy Bowlin

Director of Special Education

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP 2026-001-43200

LANDSCAPING SERVICES/GROUND MAINTENANCE

The County of Patrick is seeking proposals from qualified professional firms to provide landscaping serves/ground maintenance for multiple sites in Stuart, VA 24171.

Proposal packets may be downloaded at <https://www.co.patrick.va.us/Bids.aspx> or picked up in person at the Office of the County Administrator, 106 Rucker Street, Suite 218, Stuart, VA 24171. Proposals are due no later than Friday, October 3, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Expert: Aging lawmakers threaten stable majorities in Congress



Of the last eight lawmakers to die while in office, all have been Democrats. (Wikimedia Commons/Jarek Tuszynski)

By Zamone Perez

Age is becoming a liability for both political parties in Washington, as majorities are decided by the slimmest of margins. The number of aging lawmakers could impact the midterms and crucial votes going forward, according to political science experts. In the Common-

wealth, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-VA, beat out millennial New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to lead Democrats on the House Oversight Committee.

Connolly served less than five months in the position before going on leave for a cancer diagnosis he would later succumb to.

Charlie Hunt, an associate professor of political science at Boise State University, said a reliance on older politicians is likely to make it harder to build stable majorities in a closely divided congress.

“Regardless of who wins the house next year, I can’t imagine it’s going to be by some huge margin,” said

Hunt. “And so this is going to continue to be an issue where both parties might be putting their majorities into jeopardy if they are relying so much on these much older members of Congress who may have significant health issues.”

The average lawmaker is now 57.5 years old, but there are more members of Congress over the age of 70 than ever before in American political history.

While age is an issue for both parties, the last eight politicians who have died in office were Democrats.

But Hunt said there could be potential pitfalls to completely writing off older lawmakers. He explained that sometimes, a

75-year-old lawmaker is more effective than their 40-year-old peer because of raw experience.

“Age does not automatically correlate to mental acuity, or to effectiveness or skill,” said Hunt. “The other potential concern here by overcompensating is that age can bring with it institutional memory. You’ve spent all this time building relationships and developing expertise in certain policies. You don’t necessarily want to throw the baby out with the bathwater.”

Democrats have nearly double the number of lawmakers over the age of 70 in their caucus than Republicans, although both parties have similar average ages.

See tracks? Think train: SCC encourages use caution around railroad tracks

Tracks are for trains. Walking, bicycling or playing on railroad tracks, train surfing or trying to rush through closing gates to beat an oncoming train are extremely dangerous and illegal.

From September 15-21, 2025, the State Cor-

poration Commission joins Operation Lifesaver Inc. – a nonprofit organization dedicated to rail safety education – in raising awareness about the need for pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists and others to stay safe around railroad tracks and crossings. See Tracks? Think

Train Week (formerly Rail Safety Week) promotes the critical importance of rail safety.

The Railroad Regulation section of the SCC’s Division of Utility and Railroad Safety works in concert with the Federal Railroad Administration to ensure the safe operation of railroads within Virginia. It conducts incident investigations, inspects railroad tracks and bridges to promote the safe movement of freight and passengers throughout the Commonwealth, inspects rail cars and locomotives to ensure compliance with FRA standards, and investigates constituent complaints regarding blocked rail crossings.

Every three hours in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train, according to Operation Lifesaver. Most of these tragedies could have been prevented.

Division Director Lauren Govoni and Virginia Operation Lifesaver coordinator Tracey Lamb

encourage Virginians to remain alert, use caution and obey signs and signals around railroad tracks. Always expect a train, they advise.

“Rail safety is everyone’s responsibility, whether you’re a pedestrian, passenger, photographer, motorist, bicyclist or emergency responder,” Govoni said. “No matter who you are, always use caution around tracks and trains.”

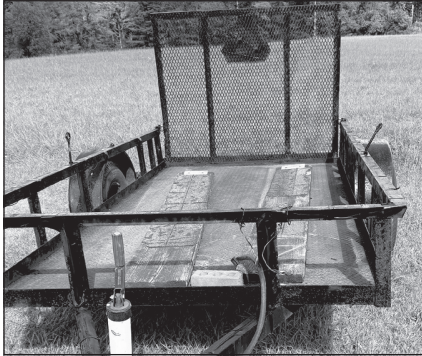
The SCC will partner with law enforcement railroad safety partners and other agencies to spotlight See Tracks? Think Train Week. Daily themes include commuter and transit safety, crossing safety and professional drivers, trespass prevention and photographer safety. Potentially life-saving information will appear on the SCC website and social media pages.

The 82% decrease in collisions nationwide at highway-rail grade crossings during the last 50 years is encouraging, but “there is still more rail safety awareness work to do,” Lamb said. “If your vehicle ever stalls on the track, get out and move away; then call the phone number on the blue Emergency Notification System sign located at the crossing or call 9-1-1,” she said.

Virginia Operation Lifesaver is administered by the SCC’s Division of Utility and Railroad Safety, which offers educational sessions and can be reached by phone at 804-371-1588. To learn more about railroad safety and railroad education in Virginia, visit the division’s website or the Operation Lifesaver website.

ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION SAT., SEPT. 27th, 2025 – 10 AM

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Numerous TOOLS - AUTOMOTIVE EQUIP. & PARTS -
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2000 John Deere 4300 Tractor w/J.D. 420 Front End Loader & Forks (1 Owner – 4x4 – sync reverser and 164 hrs.), **1987 Running Bear utility trailer** 5'x10' w/detachable loading ramp, street tires & rims and diamond plate steel bed ready for decking.

NUMEROUS TOOLS: Craftsman air compressor, Honda EM 3500 SX generator, North Star pressure washer, Hunter front-end alignment machine, Craftsman welder, Miller Matic 185 welder, basic automotive computer equip., Delta 10" table saw, impact wrenches, gas leaf blower, Poulan limb saw, Stihl chain saw, Stihl weed eater, new car dolly, topside creeper, alum. ramps, shop lights, parts washer, portable oil drain, engine stand, engine lift, Acuturn brake lathe, stacking tool boxes, rolling carts, parts cabinets, acetylene torch set, drill press, drill bits, pipe bender, tow ropes, bench grinder, pipe bender, tire & wheel lift, 30' ext. ladder, floor & bottle jacks, air hose reels, shop vac, trouble lights, air tanks, headlight testers, metal barrels, scaffolding, battery charger, (Snap-On & Craftsman: wrenches, torque wrenches, socket sets, screwdrivers, pliers and more!), cordless & elec. drills, straps, tow ropes, creepers, press, comm. heater, industrial shop fan, chains, rolls of cable, leak detection system, body frame repair kit, **Shop Parts** (shop rags, cases of axle oil, cases of oil-brake fluid-trans. fluid, oil/fuel filters, auto manuals, front end alignment parts), **New** (belts/gaskets-brake lines-windshield wipers-fuses-tail pipes-tires-assorted muffler), hydraulic & diesel oil, rolls of sandpaper, wheelbarrow, yard sweeper, cement mixer, conc. floor float, 5' scraper blade

PERS. PROP./MISC.: 4-wheel scooter (1 hour on odometer), wooden Pepsi crate, Bridge Stone and Kelly tire signs, die cast cars, pool table, curio cabinet, rolling office chairs, miniature lights, wash tub & more!

TERMS: Cash, check or credit/debit card day of auction.

Credit/Debit – 3% Fee – We DO NOT charge a Buyer's Premium.

INSPECTION: 1.5 hrs. prior to auction.

DIRECTIONS: In Hillsville, VA at int. of Rt.# 48 & Rt.# 52

Go E. on Rt.# 58 for 13.3 miles to Sale Site (Orbie's Garage) on Right.



THANK YOU!!!

American Legion Post 105 wants to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets for the Henry Rifle Golden Boy rifles.

The proceeds of this sale will go to a scholarship for a senior at PCHS in 2026.

Winners this year
were Harless Belcher
and Roger Tuggle



Apple Dumpling Festival

Downtown on Patrick Ave. Stuart, VA

Saturday, October 18

SET UP TIME 8am to 10am

Festival starts at 10am until 4pm

Music • Crafts • Games

Music By:

11:00 - 11:45 am. Elijah Smith and Levi Head "Bluegrass"

12:00 - 12:45 pm. Face 2 Face - Christian Rock Band

1:00 - 1:45 pm. Marcie Horne and Company

2:00 - 3:15 pm. Warren, Bodle and Allen

Sound By: August Heat

Apple Dumpling 5-K

Early registration through Oct 5 - \$25.00

Oct 6 through Day of Festival - \$30.00

Contact Patrick County Chamber of Commerce-

276-694-6012 • director@patrickchamber.com

Registration at 7:00 am Race at 8:00 am

Outdoor Entertainment

For additional info. contact: Billy Gammons or Misty Disharoon @ 276-694-3811 or billy.gammons@stuartva.org or misty@stuartva.org

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Annual

(cont. from page 1)



A cow was one of the many exhibits in the agricultural building.



A ride takes off with many children shouting for joy.



Booths of all sorts were set up in and outside of the building.



fair was thriving. “The fair seems to be very busy compared to previous years. The food looks great. The food that I’ve eaten has been great, and I look forward to it every year,” she said. Emily Shuler agreed. “It’s very busy. I look forward to it every year,” she said, adding that the swings were her favorite ride and something she looked forward to annually.

In- and outside of the Rotary Building, visitors entered a room full of vendors. While inside, they also could vote for their favorite quilt in the competition, and many booths offered free items to take home. Valerie Lloyd represented Blue Ridge Animal Rescue, one of several charities set up inside. “Our organization works to find the cheapest way to spay and neuter and keep the number

of animals down,” she said. Fundraising efforts from veterans were also present, including a popular gun raffle. At night, the midway lit up with rides, food, and games. The agricultural building displayed farm animals, including cows. Children shouted with joy as rides lifted into the air, and both inside and outside the building, booths offered a wide variety of goods and information.

School

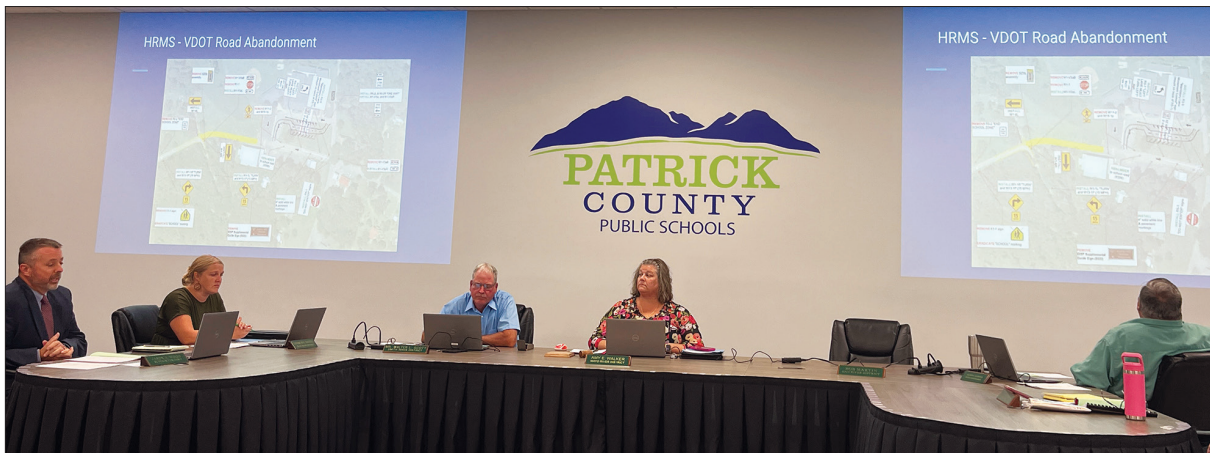
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that the division is looking into all of the concerns expressed to his office and at the supervisor meeting, because “we’ve had them before. We do have plans in place to ensure the safety of students, parents, buses, and also the community. “We have reached out to VDOT, they have yet to send us the plans, but verbally communicated that the Crossover Road will be widened, the intersection coming into Abram Penn will have a different angle to allow for buses and community traffic to turn easier on Abram Penn,” he said. Wood said several teachers also reached out to express their thanks for getting the project approved.

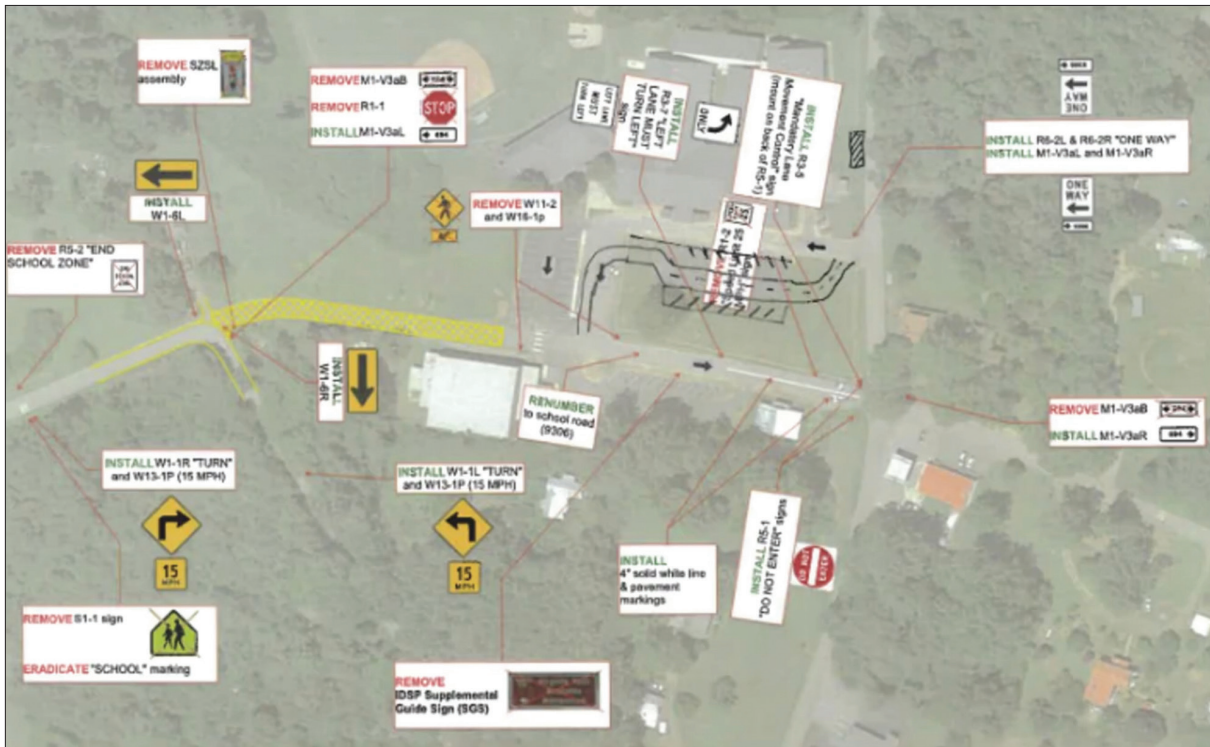
School officials are “just overwhelmed with joy that the concern daily walking across that road can be alleviated,” he said. School Board Chairman Amy Walker, of the Mayo River District, also thanked supervisors for their partnership. “I just wanted to publicly say thank you to the board of supervisors,” she said. Noting the conversation was typically centered around traffic, Wood said the safety audit includes closed school campuses and open ones. “In a lot of areas, open schools - they fence their schools completely in and things like that because traffic is so close. So, it’s not just traffic concerns. A closed school campus is a safer campus, and we are thankful for that partnership so that we can provide that at Hardin Reynolds,” Wood said. In other business, the board:

- *Approved the consent agenda.
- *Approved the 2025-2030 gifted plan.
- *Approved the 2025-2030 comprehensive plan.
- *Approved the personnel report as amended.
- *Approved religious exemptions 2025-26 05-10.

Board member Rob Martin, of the Dan River District, did not attend.



School officials discuss the path forward after their request was approved by the county.



Schools Superintendent Jason Wood presented a draft sketch of the future car-rider lane and parking spaces at HRMS.

Dogwood

(cont. from page 1)

beyond traffic. “I don’t want to put any ideas in anybody’s head, but any time you have an open campus that really creates additional situations, and it magnifies some bad things that can happen,” he said. He added that closing the section of Dogwood Road would also allow for a safer crosswalk across Abram Penn Highway from HRMS to the Envision Critz community center. “Because the closer to that hill you have a crosswalk—that’s a blind knoll and somebody pops over that and you got people walking across, where if you could have it further down and lower then people have more time to see crossing that

crosswalk from the community center to the school,” Perry said. While acknowledging the inconvenience to drivers, Perry said he believes the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. “That will improve with VDOT’s work, so I don’t have a concern about the visibility piece. It may be a little inconvenience, but I think the total overall safety of the school outweighs the inconvenience,” he said. Kendrick said he voted against the closure because of overwhelming community opposition. “Four hundred and sixty plus people from that area don’t want it closed, and we shouldn’t have done

it. VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) even offered two alternatives to it. We ought to have looked at it a little more, at least, instead of making such a sudden decision,” Kendrick said. Wood abstained, saying he wanted more information. “Options are always good, so you can weigh the good and the bad of everything, so I would have liked a little bit of time to look at those in order to make a more educated decision based on what they provided us,” he said. Before the vote, VDOT Resident Engineer Lisa Price-Hughes presented alternatives to closing the 0.06-mile section of Dogwood Road.

One option was a speed table, a gradual version of a speed bump. “That’s about 22 feet long, and it’s tapered. It does slow vehicles down, it’s proven to slow vehicles between nine and 10 miles an hour down from their current speed,” she said. Another option was a rapid flashing beacon, a push-button crosswalk with signs to warn drivers that people are crossing the road. “In conjunction with that, we’re recommending kind of redoing the crosswalk, extending some sidewalk so the students would be using the sidewalk all the way from school, across to the gym, and into the gym,” Price-Hughes said. (See Dogwood p. 14)

Jeb Stuart in the U. S. Army



In his extensive research, Perry has found only this one photo of Jeb Stuart while he served in the US Army.

By Tom Perry
James Ewell Brown “Jeb” Stuart served in the army of the United States of America for seven years from 1854 to 1861. If you count

his time at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, he served eleven years. He graduated thirteenth of forty-six in the class of 1854, a class that lost more men, twelve, than any other class from West Point that served in the Civil War.

Stuart was first sent to Texas, serving in the Regiment of Mounted Rifles. His trip west took him from Patrick County to Wheeling, Virginia, now West Virginia and down the Ohio to the Mississippi River and up to Saint Louis, then down to New Orleans into the Gulf of Mexico disembarking at Galveston, Texas and from there to Laredo and across the “Lone Star” state to Fort Davis in far west Texas, near present day El Paso.

In 1855, Stuart was transferred to the elite First United States Cavalry, a regiment developed by U.S. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis. Stuart was not the only future Confederate to serve the United States. Jefferson Barracks near Saint Louis was Stuart’s destination, and then onto Fort Leavenworth, Kansas Territory. For the next six years, Stuart served in the cavalry, rising to the rank of Captain, commanding troops, and serving as regimental adjutant and quartermaster.

Stuart served in many forts such as Fort Larned, Kansas Territory, along the Santa Fe Trail, forts Kearney and Laramie along the Oregon Trail in Nebraska and Wyoming, Forts Davis, Clark, and McIntosh in Texas, he helped to build Fort Wise in eastern Colorado

in 1860, but he spent most of his time at Forts Riley and Leavenworth in Kansas Territory.

Stuart married Flora Cooke and began a family. He would dabble in real estate, livestock, and inventions to supplement his army income. He wrote articles for newspapers, poetry, and many letters, kept up with politics, grew a beard, and passed the bar exam, allowing him to practice law.

He crossed paths with many people who would affect his future, such as John Brown in Kansas Territory in 1856 at the Battle of Black Jack and again at Harper’s Ferry, Virginia, in 1859. Stuart was the only one to recognize the terrorist. Stuart crossed paths with many future Union and Confederate officers such as John Buford, Robert E. Lee, Alfred Pleasanton, and Joseph E. Johnston.

In July 1857, along the banks of the Solomon River, in Kansas, Stuart nearly lost his life when saving the life of future Confederate General and President of Virginia Tech, Lunsford Lomax, grappling with a Cheyenne Indian. Shot in the chest, Stuart survived only because the bullet hit him square in the breastbone and ricocheted just under his skin. Indeed, history would have been changed if the Dog Soldier had been more successful.

Near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers near Cairo, Illinois, on May 10, 1861, Stuart resigned from the U.S. Army. He offered his sword to Virginia, and the rest is history.

Dogwood

(cont. from page 13)

About a dozen residents held signs reading “No Road Closing” during the meeting.

Ed Anthony presented a petition with 460 signatures from residents, business owners, and farmers who opposed the closure.

“Everybody is basically agreed on what they feel we need more than anything else is an improved crosswalk there. Hardin Reynolds still has no flashing light on it. When people come up, they see this 25 miles-per-hour speed limit sign that’s right there at the school, so people don’t know any better. It’s 25 any time of the day, so there needs to be a flashing light,” he said.

Anthony suggested flashing lights, barrier rails to stop traffic during crossings, or speed bumps. He also said the closure would hurt local commerce.

“A tractor-trailer, I don’t care what we do up there, is not going to make that turn on Crossover (Drive). It’s not going to happen. I’ve had several guys that I already know of that have trucks, and they’ve gone up there and looked at it, and they said, ‘We will not be able to make it,’” Anthony said.

He added that buses and car riders would also be affected.

Joy Branham noted that HRMS has operated for 100 years, with its gymnasium in place for about 75 years.

“There has never once been a child hit by a car crossing that road,” she said. “A child has never been hit, there has never been an accident there. If that didn’t happen when they were running wild back over there, I can’t see it happening now when every time the children cross the road, they have a teacher with them, which wasn’t the way at one time.”

Branham also doubted that two school buses could pass each other on Crossover Road, even if widened.

“That is a very narrow place. If you’re going to really widen it, you’re going to have to take quite a bit, and you’re going to have to take people’s land. You’re going to have to do an awful lot of work, and you still” have a difficult route. “I don’t think it’s feasible,” she said.

Several other residents—including Galen Gilbert, Steve Hall, and others—argued that flashing beacons, radar enforcement, and additional crosswalk protections would be preferable to closing the road.

Some residents spoke in favor of the closure.

Kurt Bozenmayer said he’s happy to see the issue is being taken seriously by the board, the school system, and VDOT.

“I don’t often go through there... but if I go up Santa Claus Lane and take Dogwood out to Abram Penn Highway usually when I get to that last turn when Crossover turns out and you’re just going around that turn to see the gym there I watch the speed limit because I know there’s a school up there and I know there’s kids, but I’ve had people riding six inches off my bumper that would gladly go through that area doing 55 or 65 miles an hour,” he said.

Bozenmayer said something needs to be done, whether it’s closing the road or another suggested alternative.

“I’ve also come out from the Reynolds Homestead, come up Abram Penn Highway, and watched cars blow right through those stop signs from Hardin Reynolds road and from Dogwood,” Bozenmayer said.

Walter Scott, the Smith River District representative on the Patrick County School Board, spoke in support of the closure.

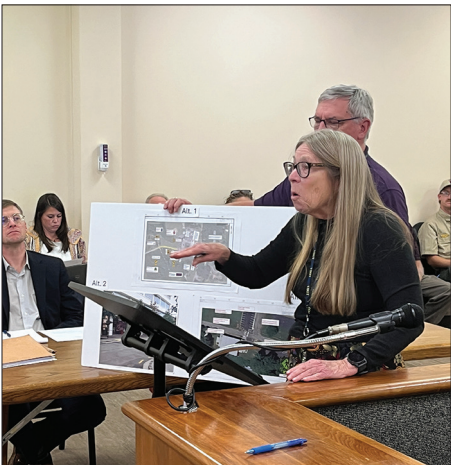
“One of the big hurdles that the school board has on any project is funding. We are very grateful for VDOT for fully funding this project, no local tax dollars. That says



Walter Scott, Smith River District representative on the Patrick County School Board, supported the closure.



Ed Anthony presented a petition opposing the closure.



VDOT Resident Engineer Lisa Price-Hughes discussed alternatives to closure.



Joy Branham said no accidents have occurred in the nearly 75 years since the gymnasium was built.

a lot in itself,” he said.

Scott asked those who are against the road closure to imagine facing and listening to parents of children who got “squished” in front of HRMS.

“Would you then support this? What is your number? One, two, three? My number is zero, I hope that’s yours,” he said.

After the vote, many attendees expressed frustration, with one man booing the board.

“The school always wins. Don’t worry, we’ll remember in election season,” Rachel Martin said.

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SMITH RIVER DISTRICT

- BOARD OF

SUPERVISORS ELECTION

TOWN HALL MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPT 26 | 6:30 TO 8:00PM

Fairystone Church

82 Fairystone Church Lp, Stuart, VA

FRIDAY, OCT. 24 | 6:30 TO 8:00PM

Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department

6687 Fairystone Park Hwy, Stuart, VA

Everyone Welcome!!