Calendar

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Patrick County Education Foundation Chairman Dr. Stewart Robertson said the Patrick Promise ensures students can take the next step in their futures without financial barriers.

Patrick Promise opens college doors for county students

By Taylor Boyd

to their families through the new Patrick Promise program launched Foundation (PCEF).

The first group of Patrick Promise students will be those graduating in the spring of 2026.

P&HCC President Dr. Greg Hodges said the Patrick Promise is a "last dollar" funding program.

"That means all other aid — federal, state and scholarships — will apply first, and the Patrick Promise will fill in the balance," he said.

Like other P&HCC Promise pro-Patrick County students will soon grams, it covers tuition, textbooks be able to attend Patrick & Henry and fees for up to two and a half Community College (P&HCC) for years for graduates of public, priup to two and a half years at no cost vate, home school, or GED programs.

"Recent graduates who choose to by the Patrick County Education attend P&HCC the semester after they graduate will be able to earn their credential at what we say is no cost to the family," Hodges said.

"We avoid calling it 'free' because somebody is paying for it — and in this case, it's coming from the generosity of many donors you see in the building today and others who have been so gracious with their resources."

(See Promise p. 2)

NICW to unleash Halloween mayhem in Stuart Oct. 18

By Taylor Boyd

National Independent Championship Wrestling (NICW) will host its third annual Halloween Mayhem event on Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Stuart Rotary Memorial Building. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the first match begins at 7 p.m.

Scott Rutter, of Rutter's Martial Arts, said six matches are scheduled, including four championship bouts.

NICW World Heavyweight Champion "The Lariat" Eric Steel will defend his title against "The Hangman" Larry Cooter.

"It's actually the first time we've had our champion in Stuart in a while because he's been defending the title in places like West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee," Rutter said.

familiar with Cooter, who's "pretty popular in the area."

Another highlight will be the NICW Championship match, with "The Ragin' Rebel" Robert Stanley defending against "Lionheart" Chase

"Chase was on our last show, and the fans really took to him, so he's a pretty big favorite there," Rutter said.

The NICW World Tag Team Championship will also be on the line as "Team USA" Scott Lee and Tony Ray defend against the "Mid Atlantic Aces," Joe Brody and Tony Perdue, a new team from West Vir-

Kasper Lee will defend the NICW Cruiserweight Championship against Scorpion Jr.

In a special attraction, "Renegade Cowboy" Daniel Craig of Ridgeway will face "The Outlaw" Josh Tart in a Texas Bull Rope match.

"They'll have a bull rope tied to their arms so they can't get out of Rutter noted that local fans are the ring or run away. It's something new that the fans haven't seen in Stuart yet," Rutter said.

Other wrestlers scheduled to ap-Mid-Atlantic Heritage pear include Hillbilly Joe, Ace Englund, Shanghai Pierce Jr., and

(See NICW p. 4)

Apple Dumpling Festival set for Oct. 18

By Taylor Boyd

Festival is set for Saturday, October 18, in downtown Stuart.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with vendors setting up from 8-10 a.m.

Town Manager Bryce Simmons said late last month, about 70 vendors were registered to set up at the event.

"We usually start restricting about 100. Over the next month or so is when people really start to call in and request spots," he said.

Vendors are still being accepted, and there is a \$25 vendor fee.

Simmons said the turnout for the festival is heavily weather-depen-

"Last year, I think that we probably had anywhere from 3,000 to 3,5000 people that passed through downtown. If the weather's good, I would hope that we have that many people that come through town" for this year's event, he said.

Live music sponsored by August Heat will be performed throughout the day. Elijah Smith and Levi Head

"Bluegrass" will take the stage from The 24th annual Apple Dumpling 11-11:45 a.m. with Face 2 Face, a Christian Rock Band, following from 12-12:45 p.m. Marcie Horne and Company will perform from 1-1:45 p.m., and Warren, Bodle and Allen will play from 2-3:15 p.m.

In addition to the live music and vendors selling crafts, food, and other items, Simmons said there will be a free bobbing for books event at the Stuart Farmers' Market.

"It's part through the Reynolds Homestead and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission. I know that they are bringing in some children's authors. I think it is part of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and it is geared towards children and children's books," he said. That segment will be from 12-2 p.m.

The annual Apple Dumpling 5-K begins at 8 a.m. with registration at

The cost for early registration is \$30. To register, contact the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce at (276) 694-6012 or via email at director@patrickchamber.com.

See the schedule of events inside.



Wood Brothers Racing to Host 75th Anniversary Fan Day October 24 in Stuart

come fans back to its hometown later this month, leading into the Martinsville Speedway race weekend, Day celebration at the Wood Brothers Museum, located at 21 Performance Drive, Stuart.

The event will take place Friday, October 24, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., diamond anniversary season. Fans Bayne, Josh Berry, Ryan Blaney, can enjoy an afternoon filled with

Wood Brothers Racing will wel- driver appearances, Q&A sessions, autograph opportunities, raffle prizes, trivia, giveaways and more. The Wood Brothers Museum will be for a special 75th Anniversary Fan fully open throughout the day, featuring historic cars, artifacts and memorabilia spanning the team's

75-year history. Nine drivers connected to the Wood Brothers legacy are scheduled serving as one of the final corner- to attend throughout the afternoon, stone celebrations of the team's including Donnie Allison, Trevor

(See Wood p. 12)

Martin debuts children's book inspired by Fairy Stone State Park

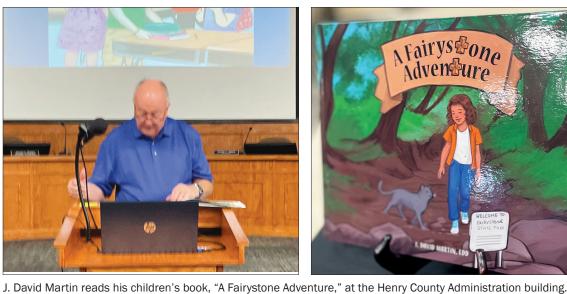
By Jessica Dillon

J. David Martin, EdD, a former member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors and school superintendent in both Henry and Patrick counties, held a live reading of his new book, "A Fairystone Adventure," on Sept. 27, in the Henry County Administration Building.

Several of Martin's former colleagues and friends attended the event, praising the author and his work in the community.

"We are just really appreciative of having a book that describes that in more detail. Thank you very much for the long time that you have worked in getting this today," said Karen Clark, a

former coworker. "He stood right be- celebrated



his book, he was willing to come back here. It means a lot to us," coworker.

former teacher, also noting that. Northern

with us, and we are fond anecdote about ity," he said. so appreciative that friendly banter over for the public debut of dress attire during their time working together. Now living in Win-

said another former chester to assist his family, Martin said Jean Hairston, a he misses the area,

side us and worked leadership, sharing a on the local "hospital- on a summer vaca-

local

folklore and her region's landof "A Fairystone Ad-Martin's Virginia has nothing young girl, embarks osity and fuels her ad-

tion like no other. Her His book captures journey takes her to grandparents' home, nestled in the scapes. According to beautiful landscapes the description, "In of Henry County and the captivating tale Patrick County, Virginia. Here, she unventure," Karen, an covers a local legend energetic and curious that piques her curiventurous spirit."

Martin said hopes the book will encourage readers to explore the region. "Yes, between Patrick and Henry, it's just a magical place. I'm hoping that by putting the website on the back of the book, people will get to experience it," he said. "Coming back here is always like coming home for me. We have so many friends here, and we just pick up where we left off the last time I was here. It is truly a place I call home." "A Fairystone Ad-

venture" is intended for children and is available for purchase online, including through Amazon. The book includes a website for Fairy Stone State Park to encourage families to visit.

Promise

(cont. from page 1)



Patrick & Henry Community College President Dr. Greg Hodges said the Patrick Promise is currently funded for the next three years.

The program's current funds are expected to support students for the next three years.

"While we are thrilled to announce that we've raised the first three years, we know that more is yet to come," Hodges said. "The work is just beginning."

The PCEF is already raising resources for year four and beyond. Hodges estimated the program will cost about \$150,000 annually.

"Every penny you give goes directly to the project," he said. "No one receives a salary, and there is no overhead. The P&HCC Foundation serves as the fiscal partner, so every dime goes directly to the project."

An anonymous estate has already bequeathed \$79,033.22 to the program.

"That means we've raised half of year four already," Hodges said.

PCEF Chairman Dr. Stewart Robertson said the foundation was formed 25 years ago by Gov. Gerald Baliles, Dr. Rick Cole, Joe Vipperman and himself to strengthen Patrick County's education system.

"We wanted to move Patrick from one of the lowest-ranked localities in Virginia to the top five in high school diploma and GED attainment," Robertson said. "We wanted to increase the number of students seeking post-high school education and to create more workforce training programs."

The group gave itself 10 years to succeed but met those goals in five, Robertson said.

After helping expand similar efforts statewide, PCEF began partnering closely with P&HCC to align its programs and expand opportunities for local students.

"Just before he passed away in 2019, Gov. Baliles exhorted the PCEF Board to embrace a simple but audacious idea," Robertson said. "If talent is universal — and he believed Patrick County talent was universal — but opportunity is not, then let's change the opportunity."

That idea became the Patrick Promise.

Robertson said the program was built "the Patrick County way," with donations from alumni, business leaders, civic groups, and faith communities.

He added that the announcement comes s Patrick County schools are performing strongly statewide.

"Our educators and staff have positioned our students to be ready," Robertson said. "The Patrick Promise ensures they can take the next step without the barrier of cost."

Patrick County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jonathan Wood, of the Peters Creek District, said the county supports its students by participating in the Promise.

"We know the importance of post-high school training and education to help not only the individual person, but our community as a whole," he said. "This opportunity will create a workforce of well-trained individuals that will help us become the county for new



Patrick County Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the Patrick Promise represents opportunity, equity, and belief in local students.



Del. Wren Williams announced that Patrick students will be able to attend P&HCC at no cost starting with the spring 2026 graduating class.



Several state, local, and school officials attended the Oct. 9 announcement. Pictured from left: Dr. Greg Hodges, Ron Haley, Del. Wren Williams, Jonathan Wood, Dr. Stewart Robertson, and Jason Wood.

businesses, business growth, and job opportunities."

By removing the financial burden of continuing education, Wood said the Promise creates a level playing field for the county's

"Post-secondary education is essential to allow students to have more career opportunities, higher salaries and room to grow," he said. "As the job market constantly becomes more competitive, students must earn a high school diploma and pursue further education or training to be of interest to employers."

Patrick County Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the Patrick Promise is more than tuition assistance — it's a promise of "opportunity, equity and belief in our students. It tells our young people: you matter, your future matters, and your community stands behind you," he said.

As educators, Wood said, teachers and administrators see the hopes and challenges of students. "Whatever their path, the Patrick Promise ensures that the door to higher education remains open," not closed "behind financial barriers, but defined by our youth and their purpose."

Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, said the program will give students a valuable boost in education and technical training — and the chance to do it locally.

"Regularly, I brag on P&HCC at the Richmond level," Williams said. "People are aware of it and of the education that's provided in our schools' programs and how well they do."

Williams said the Patrick Promise "is a big deal" for the county and its students.

"Going forward, I hope to continue to support it in any way we can, both at the local and state level," he said.

Patrick County students interested in the

program may contact their school-based career coach or P&HCC SEED Coordinator & Transfer Advisor Megan Willis at (276) 656-0348 or mwillis@patrickhenry.edu.

P&HCC will host a Patrick Promise Night at its Stuart site auditorium on Nov. 6 at 6

Registration Day will be held on April 22 at Patrick County High School.

More information is available at www.patrickhenry.edu/paying-for-college/pcefs-patrick-promise-fund.

Donations can be made at tinyurl.com/ bddjnppw or by contacting Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement and P&HCC Foundation Executive Director Tiffani Underwood at (276) 656-0281 or tunderwood@patrickhenry.edu.

Pets of the Week





These two males were owner surrendered and are available now for adoption. They are both very sweet, beautiful boys. The brindle Plott hound mix, Reese, is approximately 2 years old. The black male, Tommy, is a wired haired pointer mix, approximately 1 year-old.

All dogs and cats deserve a permanent loving home. 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/neu-

ter and vaccinations. Check out the new videos of many of these dogs on the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League Facebook page. BRAWL also provides



This calico beauty is a playful and loving female kitty, a little purr box.

food donations, especially cat food. Contact blueridgeawl@gmail. com for details. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League website pet food assistance and at www.blueridgeawl.

Applications now open through October 31 for certain grants

The Virginia Depart- port ment of Agriculture development projects cessing blue catfish. and Consumer Ser- that directly support vices (VDACS) is curlocal food production, rently accepting grant enhance environmenfunding applications tal sustainability, and for projects that will demonstrate a broad help expand the com- community mercial fishing and Grant funds should processing of blue cat- be used primarily for fish in the Common-capital expenditures. wealth. for the Governor's Blue Processing, Catfish Flash Freezing, and Infrastructure Grant processing, flash freez-Program will be ac- ing, and infrastructure able at www.vdacs. cepted today through capacity in proximity virginia.gov/agricul-Oct. 31, 202

The Blue Catfish Pro-fish watermen. cessing, Flash Freezreimbursable grants of packaging,

benefit. Applications Grant priority will be given to the following project types:

to small-scale blue cat-

ing, and Infrastructure that are primarily lo-grant Grant Program awards cally owned, including plications should be

infrastructure that are used for pro- of Agriculture and For-

Projects that involve or incorporate existing seafood processors and businesses.

Projects located in the localities of the Rural Coastal Virginia Community Enhancement Authority or in Planning District 23.

Additional information and applica-Projects that create tion for this grant opportunity are availture-afid-infrastructure-grants-blue-cat-Processing facilities fish.shtml. Completed funding freezing, emailed by Oct. 31 to up to \$250,000 to sup- and labeling facilities Rachel Meyers, Office

estry Development, at rachel.meyers@vdacs. virginia.gov or postmarked by Oct. 31 and sent by postal mail to VDACS Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development, 102 Governor Street, Richmond, Va., 23219.

is always in need of pet org. 1500 Kings Mtn Rd. Martinsville, VA, 276-638-2778 **Memorial Services** *Visit our website for pricing:* www.norrismemorialservices.com Johnson

Voter Guide for the November election







ning processes and encouraging innovation, we can create more affordable ptions. Partnerships with community colleges, trade schools, and the private sector can also elp train more builders and contractors to meet demand.

neig train more bulliers and contractions to meet cemania. Infally, expanding pathways to affordable rentals while protecting property rights will ensure stability for those not yet ready to buy. Housing is about more than shelter—it is about families putting down roots and communities thirring. My approach is focused on empowering localities, cutting costs and giving every Virginian a fair shot at the American dream of homeownership.

HEALTHCARE

How would you work to protect and improve health-care access for Virginians, particularly those who rely on Medicaid? What role do you believe the state should play in addressing rising healthcare costs and protecting vulnerable

Healthcare in Virginia is too expensive, too complicated, and too limited in choice. Families worry about affording a new baby, seniors struggle with proscription costs, and small business owners cannot keep up with premium. Publicians in Richmond have layered on red taped who rely pen business. The problems have layered on red taped who rely on it, but we also need to make the system more efficient and accountable. Protecting we have been sent the system of the red accountable. Protecting of the red without waste. More broadly, we must tackle the not issue: raing costs. Virginians deserve price transparency so they know what procedures and medicines costs before they walk into a hospital or plasmass; We need more competition—allowing insurance purchases across state insess and encouraging innovative modes like telemedicine. And we should reduce mandates that drive up premiums and limit chotecs.

The states or less bould be to empower patients, not bureaurats. I want families to be in chaige of their healthcare decisions, with real options that first interests. The means footaring competition, invavalence, and transparency to bring down costs and expand access. My approach is rocted in conservative, common senser principles; protect the virturesher, ensure efficiency, and trust Virginians to make the best choices for themselves and their families.



November's statewide elections, and includes candidate responses to key issues, links to biographies, campaign websites, and official voter resources.

Republicars in Washington have passed a bill, which my opporent supports, that will no away health care coverage from 222 000 Virginian and four trush hospitals at risk of closing. We have already hepsit no see the closure of clinics and hospitals in Southwest Virginian. These federal cuts to Medicald will less waterable Virginian without access to critical health care and will have injoin effects access our entire health care eystem. Virginian needs new leaders who take these cuts servoisly and act to ensure all Virginian have access to affordable and quality health care, including reproducible health care, and neglia abortino, contraception, and low-cost prescription drugs. As the Chair of the Sontate Education and Health Committee and as the Vice Chair of the Joint Commission on Health Care, I am fully aware of the looming crisis faining Virginia with the perfect of the Contracepterial loss of Medical depandson, Congressional failure or enauthorize the Enhanced Premium Tax Credits, and the devastating effects these cuts will have, especially on our rural Committees. That is will, 2025, I wride

VIEWPOINTS

NICW =



National Independent Championship Wrestling's (NICW) Halloween Mayhem III will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Stuart Rotary Memorial Building.

Douglas J. Wentworth III, Es- School Beta clubs. quire.

ing their debut. One of them, Hillbilly Joe, is a really good character Prints & Designs. that I know the fans in Stuart will love," Rutter said.

people typically attend the Stuart dren and \$15 for adults. Children shows.

"It just kind of depends on the

day and the show," he said.

event, fans are encouraged to wear Rutter's Martial Arts locations. costumes.

Sponsors include Rutter's Mar-"We have a few newcomers mak-tial Arts, Lawless Welding & Fabrication Inc., and Impressive

Advance tickets are \$10 for children ages 6-13 and \$12 for adults. Rutter said between 150 and 200 At the door, tickets are \$12 for chil-5 and under are admitted free.

Advance tickets can be purchased at Little Caesars, Stage-Because it's a Halloween-themed coach on Main in Stuart, and at

For more information, visit Proceeds from the show will Facebook.com/NationalIndepenbenefit the Patrick County High dentChampionshipWrestling.

Foster Farms recall expanded to include ground turkey products

3.8 dog and ground turkeyproducts on-a-stick

Poultry that may contain piec- were updated Oct. 6, Farms has expanded es of wood, according to its recall to include the U.S. Department million of Agriculture's Food pounds of chicken corn Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

Details of the recall

2025, to include the ground turkey-on-astick items.

The recalled products were produced between July 30, 2024, and Aug. 4, 2025, and shipped nationwide to retail stores, institutions, and food donation programs. The items bear establishment number "P-6137B" inside the USDA mark of inspection or printed on the packaging.

The recall was issued after several consumer complaints, including five reports of injuries. FSIS urges consumers not to eat the products and to throw them away or return them to the place of purchase.

For a full list of recalled products and labels, visit www.fsis. usda.gov/recalls.

Consumers with questions can contact Foster Farms Consumer Affairs at 1-800-338-

8051 or info@foster-

farms.com.

Shutdown Impacts Rural Health!

Democratic shutdown in Washington, D.C., is poised to become one of the longest in United States history.

As of Friday, October 10, it is the fourth-longest in U.S. history.

If it lasts another 7 days, it would become the third-longest.

The effects of the shutthird-longest down were felt in many parts of the country, including Virginia's Ninth District.

During that shutdown, President Obama decided to close down the Blue Ridge Parkway. Park concessionaries were ordered to close, and park rangers were ordered to block the entrances to various attractions along the Blue Ridge Parkway!

The National Park Service report estimated that Virginia communities lost more than \$20 million from the Obama shutdown.

The 2025 Democratic shutdown is also poised to inflict harms on Virginia communi-

I did not want this shutdown to happen. I voted to responsibly fund the government via a clean, short-term Continuing Resolution. The bill is noncontroversial. There are no poison pills or partisan policy riders attached.

But as Democrats continue to reject the clean Republican Continuing Resolution, they prevent Congress from delivering essential policies for the American people.

What is particularly bewildering about Democrats' rejection of

For starters, the bill extends the authority on some vital health care programs at community health centers (CHCs) and telemedicine. It replenishes the CHC fund.

CHCs fill in for hospitals and offer a variety of medical programs and services to rural, underserved areas.

During my time in office, I routinely vis-Federally Qualified Health Centers



Morgan Griffith

Representative

(FQHCs).

This summer, I visited Martinsville's Connect Health + Wellness, one such FQHC.

Through discussions with their leadership and staff, I received input and feedback on the services they provide to their local comincluding munities, dental care.

Connect Health + Wellness is just one of many of CHCs that serve Virginia's Ninth District. In fact, there are 61 FQHCs!

According to some, the impacts of the shutdown are immediately being felt by our CHCs. Without Congress extending certain program authority for CHCs, their ability to serve patients will be greatly hampered! The Democratic shutdowns means threats of staffing shortages, appointment delays and a hit to rural health care!

It is vital that we support our CHCs in this clean Republican Continuing Resolution.

A health care-related provision Republicans also voted to extend in the clean Continuing Resolution concerns the National Health Service Corps (NHSC).

The NHSC plays an important role in tending to the health needs of communities. It addresses medical workforce shortages, parthe clean Republican ticularly in rural and Continuing Resolution underserved areas, by is that they support deploying thousands many of the things in of medical personnel to help provide care at more than 7,800 CHCs nationwide.

Given NHSC's valuable work, I partnered with my friend and colleague from my Health Subcommittee, Colorado Democratic Congresswoman Diana DeGette.

I helped draft ideas for her bill, the Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act. The bill adds physical therapists to the NHSC.

Physical therapists deliver rehabilitative care that ensures better recovery health outcomes for patients. If leaving a patient untreated for an injury or chronic condition, that could cause greater hardships for the patient as well as our health care system.

This pro-patient bill empowers the NHSC to continue helping patients access the critical care that they need!

Another pro-patient feature of the clean Republican Continuing Resolution that I supported is the extension and strengthening of telehealth services.

In it, we expand the pool of eligible practitioners to deliver telehealth services.

We also enable telehealth services to continue serving patients for behavioral mental health.

For many rural communities, access to an in-person health care provider is a laborious process. Greater distances from home to a provider means a longer wait time and might deter people from trying to access treatment.

Telehealth is a major health care solution, and I am glad we extended telehealth programs in the clean Republican Continuing

Resolution. The clean Republican Continuing Resolution retains spending at current levels and

does a lot of good! While Democratic insistence on a shutdown delays our ability to act on these health provisions, I am poised as Health Subcommittee Chairman to advocate for the policies with- $_{
m this}$ pro-patient, pro-rural communities

Continuing Resolution. Democrats When shutdown, end this Congress is poised to explore health care solutions for America.

Public health alert issued for FreshRealm, Hello Fresh meals

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has issued a public health alert for certain HelloFresh ready-made meals produced by FreshRealm that may contain spinach contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes.

The alert covers:

- 10.1-oz. "Hello Fresh Cheesy Pulled Pork Pepper Pasta" (Est. 47718, lot 49107 or Est. 2937, lot 48840)
- · 10-oz. "Hello Fresh Unstuffed Peppers with Ground Turkey" (Est. P-47718, lots 50069. 50073, or 50698)

Both items were shipped directly to consumers.

FreshRealm notified FSIS after discovering that the spinach used in these meals tested positive for Listeria. No confirmed illnesses have been reported, but consumers are urged not to eat the products and to throw them away or return

FSIS expects additional affected products may be identified and will update the alert as needed. Consumers with questions can

contact FreshRealm's customer service at 1-888-244-1562 or customerservice@freshrealm.com.

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Wednesday, October 15, 2025 - **5**

Patrick Pioneers

& Orleana Hawks Puckett

By Beverly Belcher Woody

For the past three weeks, we have been looking at Jacob and Sarah Marshall Puckett and some of their children, nineteen which has turned into quite a monumental task. In the first story about Jacob and Sarah, I mentioned fifteen children. I later discovered they had nineteen! We have already looked at their eldest daughter, Sarah Jane their sixth child, Robert Lee Puckett, Sr.

Virginia.

sion application, John Lawson, formed company.

Although birth and near Puckett Memorial Zachary Taylor, born larger cabin was razed name, based in Ashe- or 276-692-9626.



Puckett Cabin photo from NPS

death records available for only two Puckett Gunnell, and of John and Orleana's children—Julia Ann (1861–1862) and John Jacob and Sarah (1885–1885)—we know thirteenth from the many stories John Puck- and fieldstones markett, married Orleana ing their tiny graves the "Mountain Mid- children, none of whom wife." John and Or- lived beyond infancy. 1859 in Surry County, away during the diph-North Carolina, and theria epidemic that first lived below the ravaged Patrick Councrest of Groundhog ty in 1862; her grave Mountain in the Doe lies, along with those Run section of Ararat, of nineteen siblings, in one long row at the According to Orlea- Reed Puckett Ceme-

na's Confederate pen- tery in Patrick County. John and Orlea-Puckett enlisted in the na moved above the the six-year-old middle 50th Virginia Compa- mountain in 1875 to a child and only daughter ny K on June 22, 1861, hand-hewn, two-story of Harden and Matilda at Reverend William log cabin in the Ren- Sarah "Matildy" Puck-Lawson's fro Spur communi- ett Hawks of Mount house in Meadows of ty of Carroll County. Airy, North Carolina. Dan. Rev. Lawson's The remaining four Orleana's older sibson, Jefferson Thomp- children of John and lings were Dickerson, was Orleana were buried born in 1839, and Wilcaptain of the newly nearby at the Jake liam, born in 1842; her Puckett

are Church. John passed in 1846, and Andrew away from tuberculosis in 1913. Orleana's headstone reads 1839-1939, making her 100 years old at her death. However, the application for her husband's pension, dated June Hawks Puckett, who that John and Orleana, 13, 1913, states in the many people know as in fact, had twenty-four notary public's handwriting that she was sixty-seven years old leana were married in Their first child passed at the time, which would place her birth year around 1846. This would also mean she was fourteen at the time of her marriage.

> It is more likely that she was born in 1844 because, in the 1850 United States Census, Orleana was listed as

Jackson Hawks, born in 1850. I am intrigued by Orleana's mother, Matilda Sarah "Matildy" Puckett, but I have been unable to confirm who her Puckett father

Orleana lived alone from John's death in 1913 until 1939, when she was forced to leave her cabin through eminent domain to make way for the construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway. She died three weeks later. Just as the National Park Service placed a rug-Ed and Lizzie Mabry's period of fifty years. actual modern clap- I must wonder what board home at Mabry Orleana might think Mill, the rough cabin of being named a 2012 that represents Orlea- Virginia Women in na and John Puckett's History Changemaker home at the Puckett Honoree, Cabin Wayside on the by the schoolchildren shall Puckett. If you Blue Ridge Parkway of Blue Ridge Elemen- have any questions, is believed to have be-tary School in Ararat, comments, or ideas for longed to John Puck- Virginia. Her name stories, you may conett's sister, Betty. Or- lives through the foun- tact Woody at rockcas-



John and Orleana Hawks Puckett photo from Hilda Vivier

during parkway con- ville and Morganton,

garden plot. During her remarkable life, Orleana successfully delivered over 1,000 babies from 1889 until shortly beged cabin in place of fore her passing - a Cemetery, younger brothers were leana and John's much dation that bears her tlecreek1@gmail.com

struction and was lo- North Carolina, which cated in the present is dedicated to research-to-practice activities that emphasize positive aspects of behavior supporting and strengthening child, parent, and family development.

Next week, we will conclude this very incomplete history with a look at Hosea Puckett, another son of the enormous family of nominated Jacob and Sarah Mar-

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 - Should I Take Social Security Now, or at age 70?

Dear Rusty: I was born in April 1958, and my plan has been to take my Social Security at age 70. However, my sister-in-law says that it is smarter to take it now while I am still working. I will be 70 in you need to make. "Average" life expectancy for a 2.5 years. Her husband collects his SS and has kept man your current age is about age 84, but if you'd your wife will substantially benefit from a "spousal working. She believes their strategy will net more money than mine due to the fact he has continued to pay into the system, and she believes it has super boosted his monthly benefit. What say you? BTW, Lord willing and the creek don't rise I plan on living at least till 87. Signed: Questioning My Plan

Dear Questioning: You have already reached your SS full retirement age (FRA), so you can earn as much as possible without your SS benefit being negatively affected by Social Security's Annual Earnings Test. In fact, if your current earnings are among the highest over your lifetime, your SS benefit amount will continue to increase because of your higher current earnings. You are now also earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), which will improve your monthly amount by .67% for each month (8% for each full year) you delay. That means that if you wait and claim at 70 you will get about 127% of what you would have gotten had you claimed at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months (plus you'll also get all COLA increases which occur between now and then). So your life expectancy is key.

It usually takes about 12 years to breakeven moneywise by claiming at age 70 vs. at FRA. In other words, if you claim at 70 instead of FRA, you'll have received the same amount of SS money after you are 82. Thus, if your life expectancy is greater than age 82, you'll get more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until 70 to claim. Of course, no one really knows how long they will live, so it is a judgement like to get a more personalized longevity estimate you can use this tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/

Another thing to keep in mind is whether your wife will get a widow's benefit if you die first. A widow will get the higher of either her own SS retirement benefit, or the husband's benefit amount when he died. So, if you claim at age 70, your surviving spouse will benefit (if her own SS is smaller) because you waited until 70 for your higher SS amount. Just something else to keep in mind.

Yet another is whether your wife will be entitled to a higher benefit as your spouse while you are both living. (FYI, a spouse will get a "spousal boost" if her own SS retirement benefit at FRA is less than 50% of her spouse's FRA entitlement). If so, your wife cannot claim her spousal benefit until you take your own SS retirement benefit. If your wife will be entitled to more as your spouse while you are both living, then delaying until age 70 means your wife cannot collect her higher spousal amount until you

claim. Depending on your financial needs as a cou-

ple, that may affect your decision as well. When to claim is always a judgement call which should consider your life expectancy, your financial needs, and your marital status. If you don't need the SS money now (while you are working) and believe you will, indeed, live "at least till 87," then waiting would likely be your best long-term decision. If you have doubts about your life expectancy, and/or if boost" if you claim earlier, then claiming now would

also be a wise choice. Finally, it's also important to understand that your SS benefits may be taxable by the IRS and, if you are still working, your IRS tax rate will likely be higher now than it would be after you retire from working. (Note: The so-called "one big, beautiful bill" provides only temporary tax relief (thru 2028) on SS benefits - the IRS will still tax SS benefits but also allow a separate tax deduction to offset those SS taxes you pay).

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) email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

The Key Vitamin That Prevents Dementia - Part 2

Traditionally recognized for its role in bone lar health, vitamin D may indirectly protect health and calcium homeostasis, vitamin D is now being studied for its role in maintaining cognitive health, particularly in the context of dementia. Dementia, characterized by a decline in cognitive function severe enough to interfere with daily life, includes conditions like Alzheimer's disease. With no definitive cure currently available, prevention and risk reduction strategies are critical. Emerging research highlights the potential of vitamin D as a protective agent against cognitive decline and dementia.

Mechanisms of Action

Several mechanisms influence how Vitamin D helps brain health and reduce dementia risk: Neuroprotection: Vitamin D has been shown

to have neuroprotective properties. It supports the clearance of amyloid-beta plaques, a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease, and reduces neuroinflammation, which is implicated in the progression of dementia.

Vascular Health: Adequate vitamin D levels are associated with better cardiovascular health, which in turn supports brain health.

Vascular problems can contribute to cogni-

tive decline, and by promoting cardiovascu-

against dementia.

Neurotransmitter Regulation: Vitamin D plays a role in regulating the production of neurotransmitters, which are crucial for cognitive function and memory.

Practical Implications and Recommendations

Given the potential benefits of vitamin D for brain health, maintaining adequate vitamin D levels could be a viable strategy for reducing the risk of dementia. Here are some practical recommendations:

Sun Exposure: Regular, moderate sun exposure can help maintain healthy vitamin D

levels. Aim for 10-30 minutes of sunlight exposure several times a week, depending on your skin type and geographical location. Diet: Incorporate vitamin D-rich foods into your diet, such as fatty fish (salmon, mackerel), fortified dairy products, and egg yolks. It's difficult to find good sources of vitamin D if

you are vegan. Mushrooms cultivated in sun-

light can be a great source. As mentioned ear-

lier, vegans can get their vitamin D from food

through supplements found in orange juice,

vegan "milks", soy products, and from cereals.

Supplements: For those at risk of vitamin D deficiency, supplements may be necessary. Many over-the-counter vitamin D pills work great. Consult with a healthcare provider to determine the appropriate dosage.

Conclusion

The emerging body of research underscores the potential role of vitamin D in reducing the risk of dementia. While more research, particularly long-term RCTs, is needed to establish definitive recommendations, current evidence suggests that maintaining adequate vitamin D levels could be a promising strategy for supporting cognitive health and preventing dementia. As with any health intervention, it's essential to approach vitamin D supplementasional.

tion under the guidance of a healthcare profes-By prioritizing vitamin D through sun exposure, diet, and supplements when necessary, we may be able to take a proactive step in preserving cognitive function and reducing the

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Danny Kwon, JD. Used by permission from www. lifeandhealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring – Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA)

burden of dementia in the aging population.





Berry Finishes 26th at Las Vegas

Josh Berry and the No. 21 Motorcraft/Quick Lane team were unable to recapture the magic from their win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway in March and left the track on Sunday with a 26th-place finish in the South Point 400.

Berry and the team started Sunday's race from 29th place and went a lap down on the 56th circuit. A caution flag for a wreck by their Ford teammate Ryan Blaney with eight laps remaining in the first Stage allowed the team to take the wave-around and rejoin the lead lap.

They wound up 25th after that 80lap segment.

In the second Stage, Berry and the Motorcraft/Quick Lane Mustang Dark Horse again lost a lap to the leaders and ended that 85-lap run in

30th place, one lap down.

In the third and final segment of the race, a tire issue led to an unscheduled pit stop that put them two laps down with just 37 laps left to run. Seven laps later, Berry dodged a wreck involving William Byron and Ty Dillon, and the ensuing caution period allowed Berry and the No. 21 team to regain one of their lost laps.

Getting back on the lead lap in the closing circuits of the race wasn't in the cards for Berry and the team, but they did improve their position in the running order and took the checkered flag in 26th place.

Berry and the No. 21 team now turn the focus to Talladega Superspeedway and next Sunday's YellaWood 500.

Radford Edges Patrick County 16–7 in Three Rivers matchup

By Pat Delaney

A third-quarter touchdown run from Avone Kidd gave the Cougars hope, but Radford's early lead and late field goal proved just enough in a tough 16-7 battle on October 10 at Radford

After a scoreless first quarter, Radford opened up the scoring with a 28-yard touchdown throw. The Bobcats would extend their lead late in the half with another touchdown pass, taking a 13-0 lead into the locker room.

Behind great blocking, Avone Kidd raced down the sideline for a 41-yard touchdown run with 6:40 receptions. to go in the third quarter. With the Erik Martinez-Tejada extra son County on October 17 at John point, the Cougars closed the gap D. Hooker Field.

The rest of the game was a defensive battle, with the only points coming on a Radford field goal very late in the fourth quarter, making the final score 7-16.

Defensively, Jackson Callahan and Wheeler Helms led the Cougars with 7 tackles each. Adin Geiger added 5 tackles, 2 for a loss and 2 sacks. Jayden Corns had 4 tackles and an interception.

Avone Kidd led the offense with 121 yards and a touchdown. Calvin Lancaster chipped in 63 yards on the ground and 11 yards on 3

Next up for the Cougars is Nel-

PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of October 20 - 25:

10/20 7pm Volleyball vs Galax 10/21 **Cross Country** at James River (Greenfield Park) 4pm Volleyball vs James River 10/23 7pm Volleyball at Franklin County Football 10/24 7pm at Glenvar



PC Varsity Volleyball Wins One, Loses One



Chloe Hubbard serves for the Cougars.

By Ashlee Mullis

Tuesday, October 7, the Varsity Volleyball Team swept Floyd with scores of 27-25, 25-20, and 25-14. Camille Gonzalez had 21 assists, 8 kills, 10 digs, and 2 aces. Jayden Callahan had 9 kills, 10 digs, and 2 aces. Kendra Penn had 8 kills and 2 blocks. Journey Moore had 14 digs. Thursday, October 9, the Lady Cougars traveled to Radford, losing in straight sets tonight 21-25, 20-25, 21-25. Callahan had 7 kills and 15 digs. Moore had 5 kills, 4 aces, and 22 digs. Gonzalez had 20 assists and 15 digs. Chloe Hubbard had 20

JV Volleyball Wins Three

By Ashlee Mullis

The JV Lady Cougars hosted North Stokes, on Monday, October 6, winning in two sets with scores 25-16 and 25-11. Reese Horton led the Cougars with 5 kills and 5 digs. Bailey Thompson had 4 kills, 7 digs, and 2 aces. Kaylene Garcia had 8 digs, and Meredith Wood had 13 assists, 7 digs, and 5 aces. Tuesday, October 7, PC hosted Floyd County, of 23-25, 26-24, and 15-7. Shey- while Wood added 18 assists. Lester had 8 kills and 3 blocks. Thompson had 5 kills, $16 \ digs$ and $2 \ sive$ 14-1 in the season.

aces. Horton had 2 kills, 4 digs, and 5 aces. Wood had 13 assists and 6 digs.

The ladies continued their winning season at Radford, Thursday, October 9, beating the Lady Bobcats 25-16 and 25-21. Lester had 8 kills and 1 block. Horton had 6 kills, 4 digs, and 3 aces. Madi Martin had 5 kills, and Savannah Fain contributed 4 aces on the night. Thompson going 3 sets, winning with scores added 5 kills, 11 digs, and 2 aces,

The JV Cougars are an impres

Lady Cougars Close with 14-0 Run to Sweep North Stokes



Lauren Hazelwood hits it by the blocker.

After falling behind 0-2, the Lady

5-0 run. Increasing their lead through-

out the set, the Lady Cougars finished

In the second set, Patrick County

jumped to the early lead and never allowed North Stokes any momentum.

An 11-2 Lady Cougar run gave them a

14-4 lead that they would extend to 18

by the end of the set. Controlling play

at the net, the Lady Cougars took the

It was North Stokes who sprinted out to the early lead in the third set,

taking the first six points of the set,

By Pat Delaney

strong, winning 25-13.

second set, 25-7.

7, and 25-15

Patrick County was dominant at the net in their 3-set win. and leading 15-11 with much im-With dominant net play and big proved play. Patrick County scored scoring runs, the Patrick County Lady the next four points, tying the match Cougars swept North Stokes in three at 15 all, then did not allow another sets on October 6, winning 25-13, 25-North Stokes point, closing the set

Cougars quickly took the lead with a Cougars controlled play at the net, putting away many balls at the net and blocking shots. "That's something that we struggle with from time to time, so it was really nice to see that tonight," said Lady Cougar head

> 5 aces on the night. Jayden Calahan had 10 kills, Lauren Hazelwood had 7 aces and 7 digs, while Brooklyn Barner and Sydney Tatum had 7 kills



Bella Lemons passes the North Stokes serve.

with a 14-0 run, and the 25-15 set win.

Throughout the match, the Lady coach Heidi Moore.

Brooke Collins had 15 assists and

With the win, the Lady Cougars improve to 9-4 on the season.



The Lady Cougars celebrate match point.

Crossing the Lines

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

Support for NCI, P&HCC proposal sparks questions from board, partners

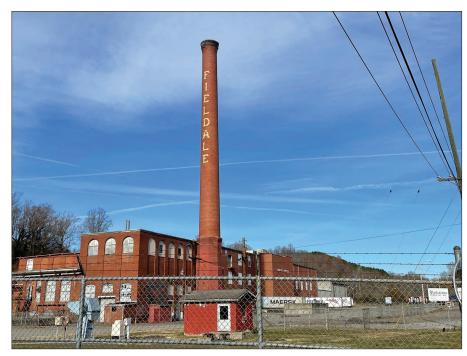
officials, County Board of Supervisors by two other board members. to support Patrick & Henry

force Economic Development housed at the institute.

partners, Building. County Adminisand business residents of trator Dale Wagoner said the New College Institute (NCI) request came from NCI Board said they were unaware of a of Directors member Dr. Mark resolution asking the Henry Crabtree and was supported

The decision has raised Community College (P&HCC) questions among NCI offioverseeing NCI's operations. cials, board members, and At its Sept. 23 meeting, partners who say the proposal the board unanimously ap- bypassed the usual processes proved a resolution endorsing and left some stakeholders P&HCC to convert NCI into uncertain about the future of the Patrick & Henry Work- programs and partnerships

Phase 4 of Fieldale Service Line Project to begin Oct. **20**



The Henry County Public Service Authority (PSA) has were awarded to Prillaman issued the Notice to Proceed and Pace, and C.W. Cauley for Phase 4 of the Fieldale and Son. Together, they will Service Line Project.

to begin on October 20, with infrastructure in Fieldale. final completion estimated around September 16, 2026. commitment

neighborhoods may experit vas much as possible." ence short, temporary water the work.

The Phase 4 contracts continue the PSA's ongoing Construction is scheduled effort to modernize water

"This project reflects our to This phase will impact service and safe drinking approximately 150 custom- water," said PSA General ers as outdated water lines Manager Dale Wagoner. "By and service connections are phasing this work, we are replaced. During construc- making long-term improvetion, those residents and ments while minimizing others in the surrounding disruption to the communi-

For more information shutoffs as crews complete about the project, call the PSA at 276-634-4776.

Crabtree and P&HCC outline proposal rationale



Dr. Mark Crabtree (Contributed)

Dr. Mark Crabtree ad- Phillips, R-Martinsville. dressed questions about the 'Proposed New College cussion with P&HCC Presi-Institute Resolution Estab- dent Greg Hodges, who enlishing the Patrick & Henry visioned a transformation Community College Center of the NCI building and its Development at the Bald- P&HCC," Crabtree said. win Building.'

adding the resolution to the path forward and what he county's annual legislative wanted to do. He needs the agenda.

olution to the supervisors, was the top partner consid-Crabtree said he assessed ered.

community needs and determined the higher education environment had changed significantly since NCI's founding. "The communities' efforts must evolve to improve the lives of our citizens," he wrote in an email.

Crabtree said individual discussions were held with local leaders Jay Dickens, Lee Prillaman and Del. Eric

"We eventually had a disfor Workforce and Economic programming as a part of

"Dr. Hodges and I were The Henry County Board actually talking about what Supervisors approved he envisioned as a good space, and he could use it," Before submitting the res- he said. He noted P&HCC

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Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Department receives \$15,000 grant



From left: Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Department Treasurer John Adams, Fire Department President Tim Decker, Ridgeway Town Council member Maeve McCulloch, and Mayor Craig

The Town of Ridgeway pre-tion equipment, which is tools 1. The funding comes through the Virginia Fire Programs Fund, for which the town applied earlier this year.

"We're glad to support them O'Der said.

yet decided how to spend the grant. Treasurer John Adams said officers will determine the most pressing needs, which could include turnout gear, hoses, or other equip-

President Tim Decker said the department is considering replacing aging extrica- ipants in that program."

sented a \$15,000 check to the used to rescue entrapped peo-Ridgeway Volunteer Fire De- ple from vehicles. "Some of partment on Wednesday, Oct. that stuff is getting so old it's getting more and more maintenance, it's getting hard to use. It just needs to be updated," he said.

Decker noted the rising cost in any way," Mayor Craig of equipment. A new Airpack costs about \$10,000, and a hy-The department has not draulic rescue tool, commonly called the Jaws of Life, costs \$14,000-\$15,000. roughly "Needless to say, we're very appreciative of the grant," Adams said. The program "allocates funds based on population, and we're very fortunate that Henry County and the Town of Ridgeway are partic-







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THE ENTERPRISE

OBITUARIES

Harvey Jackson Cassady

Harvey Jackson Cassady, age 81 of Patrick Springs, Virginia, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 surrounded by his beloved family. Born on January 17, 1944, in Patrick County, Harvey graced the lives of many with his friendly demeanor and infectious spirit. Harvey was preceded in death by his parents, Henry Jackson Cassady and Thelma Inman Cassady; beloved wife of 60 years, Kathy Anne Holt Cassady; son, Barry Jackson Cassady; granddaughter, Megan Leigh Palmer. Harvey was known for his unwavering ability to connect with others, famously never having met a stranger. His captivating conversations often included jokes and light-hearted teasing, qualities that remained with him even in his final days. This ability to is survived by three lov-



around him reflected his warm personality and generous heart. Whether he was tinkering away in his workshop or lending a helping hand to fix something for a neighbor, Harvey's resourcefulness was admired by all who knew him. An avid hunter and fisherman, Harvey spent countless hours enjoying the great out-

Harvey's family was everything to him. He engage with everyone ing daughters, Laurie

Anne Cassady, Rebecca Gail Palmer, and Beverly Dawn Reynolds. He proudly watched his family grow, leaving behind grandchildren, Kelly Younger, Randale Palmer, Shea Reynolds, as well as a great-grandchild, Ti'Lee Hayden. He shared a special bond with his grandson, Jamir Leftwich, and is also remembered by two sisters, Lorene Martin (Ronnie) and Frances Roberson; brother Leon Cassady; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service to honor Harvey's life and legacy will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2025, in Patrick Memorial Gardens at 3:00 p.m. with Pastor Shaun Draughn officiating. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the services, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodvfuneralser-

Raymond Boyd Wells

Mr. Raymond Boyd Wells, III, age 80 of Woolwine. Virginia, passed away at The Blue Ridge Therapy Connection in Stuart on Tuesday, October 7, 2025. He was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, on February 5, 1945, to the late Raymond Boyd Wells, Jr., and Katherine Kelberer. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Linda Sue Wells. Raymond retired from the United States Navy with 20 years of service. He was a founding member of the Smith River Rescue Squad and dedicated many years to running calls with E.M.S. One of his proudest accomplishments was becoming a registered nurse. He worked at the hospital in Patrick County



was a truly remarkable man, both intelligent and caring. He had an abundance of hobbies, a jack of all trades. Raymond was dedicated to his community and his family.

Left to cherish the memories of Mr. Wells are his beloved wife of 62 years, Bessie Lou Dough Wells; two children. Traci Sims (Curtis) of Woolwine and

Raymond Boyd Wells, IV (Susan) of Charity; three grandchildren, Jacob Sims (Dianne), Jerry Wells (Ashley), and Zander Wells (Teddy Jo Boatman); four great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild: close family friend, Marvin Elgin of Woolwine; and many cousins.

A celebration of life memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Smith River Rescue Squad, Smith River Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 122, Woolwine, VA 24185. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www. moodyfuneralservices.

Farm Bureau hosts event forging partnership between EPA and Virginia agriculture

The U.S. Environmen- for EPA and VDACS: tal Protection Agency Region 3 and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize their partnership and expand collaborative activities related to agricultural practices that benefit the environment, regulatory and compliance programs, outreach, training, communication and

The first-ever MOU between the two agencies, it was signed by EPA Regional Administrator Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey and VDACS Commis-The signing was held at attended by state agriculture officials and industry leaders.

The five-year agreeemphasizes a ment shared commitment besupport well-managed, sustainable farms local communities and coming year. a clean environment for everyone. The MOU outlines shared goals and stakeholders activities to strengthen relations and outcomes

*Increase state-federal collaboration by participating in organized meetings, sharing updates and communicating about program activ-

*Encourage honest and recurring discussions between EPA and the agriculture community by participating in roundtables, farm tours and events.

*Recognize, measure and promote environmental stewardship by documenting and sharagricultural best practices and case studies with farmers.

*Enhance regulatory sioner Joseph Guthrie. compliance and improve water quality by partici-Virginia Farm Bureau pating in joint trainings Federation on Oct. 6 and and program assessmunications about com- tect Virginia's environpliance and enforcement activities.

EPA and VDACS will produce an annual retween EPA and VDACS port to highlight collective achievements realized under the MOU and that produce food for to outline plans for the

> A roundtable discussion with agricultural followed the MOU signing.

seeking farmers' and foresters' perspectives when it comes to requirements impacting the No. 1 industry in the commonwealth," said VFBF President Scott Sink.

He emphasized the importance of agriculture and forestry industry representatives having their questions answered, their input considered, and the door opened for future dia-

"I hope this will be one of many conversations between our members and EPA," said Martha Moore, VFBF senior vice president of governmental relations.

This marks chapter for partnership commonwealth to proment and help its agricultural economy thrive, Blarcom-Lackey Van

"I look forward to strengthening our collaboration under this agreement," she said. "We're here as a partner, and we're here to listen and understand."

The partnership with EPA will further the de-"Virginia Farm Bu- velopment of solutions

H. Ray Branum, 88, of Stuart, VA passed away on Wednesday October 1, 2025, at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem rounded by his family. Ray was born on September 24, 1937, in Lenna, OK. He was the son of Arthur James and Florence Warf Branum, both deceased.

and Martinsville. He

attended A&M University be- places on earth. fore graduating from gree in Civil Engineer- also loved to travel mont, NC 28012.

between EPA and the for environmental protection and to simultaneously keep Virginia agriculture productive, Guthrie said.

"By entering into this agreement with the EPA, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is reaffirming our commitment to Virginia farmers and agribusinesses by working together to strengthen the commonwealth's agricultural communi-

H. Ray Branum



Ray graduated from ing. After graduation, Stidham High School he worked for Shell in Oklahoma before Oil for six years before joining the Army. He moving to Charlotte, was a paratrooper NC to start his own in the 82nd Division business, Branum, Inc. at Fort Bragg, NC. which he operated for During his time in the 34 years. After retireservice, he met his wife ment in 2014, they of 63 years, Ruby Bur- moved to Stuart, VA to roughs Branum. Ray live on Bull Mountain Oklahoma one of Ray's favorite will be planned at a

North Carolina State and fish and took many donations to Holy An-University with a de-trips to enjoy both. He gels, PO Box 710, Bel-

and see nature and the outdoors. Above all he loved spending quality time with his family.

Ray was preceded by a sister, Leatrice Sargent, and a brother Arthur James Branum. He is survived by his wife, Ruby, of the home, a son, Mike (Lisa) of St George, UT, a daughter, Audra Rickman (Tommy) of Southport, NC, grandchildren Devyn Fruge and Keegan Branum of Tucson, AZ and Grace Rickman and Bailey Rickman of Southport, NC. He will also be missed by his numerous beloved nieces and

A celebration of life later date. In lieu of Ray loved to hunt flowers, please send

nephews and friends.

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PATRICK PULPITS

Find Your Challenge

By Van Yandell

Philippians 4: 12-13 "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in ment "If you achieve all your goals, be full and to be hungry, both to enough." In a movie a police offido all things through Christ which strengthens me."

is to be motivated. Motivation is the key to action and ultimately success and that great feeling of accomplishment. Unchallenged people may be sad

and have not a clue why. An uncle retired from an automotive plant in Ohio and moved back to Kentucky. I'll never forget him saying "The biggest mistake I ever made was moving back with nothing to do."

He left all his friends in Ohio and the area he was familiar with. He fished with a neighbor friend but never found it necessary to wet a line in one of the many Kentucky

He never found his challenge. To try to give him suggestions would have been counterproductive because a person must find his/her own challenge.

A student in my industrial arts wood shop asked if he could build a guitar. I did not tell him "No, that's never been done before!" Instead I asked him, "What do you need me to do to help you get started?"

He was an already accomplished craftsman. Being a second year student, he knew the materials, tools and processes necessary to produce the product. I was there if he needed me but the challenge was his.

A person without a challenge faces every day without a goal. Without a goal what is there to live for? Is a simple existence actually worth living? In this writer's opinion, the answer to that is an absolute NO!

To wake up each morning with the thought of one's challenge is a life fulfilled. Waking up wondering "Well, what am I going to do today?" is a bland and boring exis-

Talking to a young person recently, I asked, "How's school?" His answer was "Boring." My next question was "Why?"

His answer did not surprise me. "It's so simple, I finish while the I learned in your class." others are trying to figure out what not as important as the child with our glorious Savior, Jesus, no parental motivation and inspiration? He/she will be the mover and shaker of the future!

If a teacher regards all students as equal in everything, their teacher certification is in question. Students are as different in intelligence, motivation and creativity as they look. None of us look alike or think alike. Why would our personal achievement capabilities be equal?

A challenge is personal. Whether it is climbing a mountain, building a guitar or reaching an unchurched

BITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLIN MONDAY AT NOON

person with the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

A young friend made the stateall things I am instructed both to you did not set your goals high abound and to suffer need. I can cer said to a thief "You got to know your limitations."

Do you have limitations? Oscar One of life's greatest rewards is Pistorius, a South African sprintto find a challenge, study it, work er was born with a birth defect it and achieve it! To be challenged in his lower legs. His lower legs were amputated when he was eleven months old. Pistorius became known as "the blade runner." His achievements as a runner were a result of his personal challenge.

> Christians regard Acts 1: 8 as "The Great Commission." "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

> Did Jesus issue to us an admonition, a mandate or a command? Perhaps! But it is, to the analytical mind, a challenge! Why must we regard it as an order to be done by another?

Should our Great Commission challenge be to send another person? Absolutely not!

Acts 1: 8 states what on the surface appears to be four geographic locations. "Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth."

But are they? The Samaritans were a despised people by the Jews; they were "half breeds." The Samaritans did not determine their ancestry and could not change it.

My dad told me of five nationalities in my blood and I do not remember for sure what they are, or care. Perhaps Jesus was telling His disciples "If you are waiting for someone just like you, to tell about Me, you will never tell anyone about My saving power."

In stating the "uttermost parts of the earth" He was telling them to go everywhere in the world. However the uttermost parts to us individually, may not be thousands of miles away. It may be a difficult neighbor or even in one's own home.

A former student told me (twenty years after he was in my construction tech class), "I was able to build my family's house because of what

Wouldn't it be cool to be in Heavto do." Why do many teachers not en some day in eternity and somerecognize that gifted child of high- one tell you, "I'm here because you er intelligence and initiative? Is he told me about the saving power of

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).

Your challenge is before you. Don't ignore it!

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

BIBLE TRIVIA

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

2. From Genesis 32, who was "greatly afraid and distressed" about a reunion with a brother he had wronged? Joseph, Jacob, Cain, Peter

3. What city was beat down and sowed with salt? Shechem, Caesarea, Gaza, Berea

on a mountaintop after having his garment stripped? Moses. Abraham, Noah, Aaron

4. From Numbers 20, who died

5. Who lost all his horse-drawn chariots in a sea? Ornan, Balaam, Pharaoh, Benaiah

6. Where did Abraham meet angels? River, Tent door, Juniper tree, Prison

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Jacob, 3) Shechem, 4) Aaron, 5) Pharaoh, 6) Tent door

Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church 1515 Rock Church Rd. Meadows of Dan, Virginia

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unday School for all ages 9:45 am Wednesdays ommunity Meal & Service 6:00 pm Food Distribution Ministry: Monday, Wednesday and Friday

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7 Air again

8 Many a

past

11 Part of

10 Shows up

102-Across

old comedy

of question

beakers, in

15 Disease-free

16 Engrossed by

17 Building top

21 Game of

27 Find out

28 "The Clan

of the Cave

12 Johnson of

13 Simple kind

14 Place with

brief

prep sch. 9 Star of the

THINK INK

ACROSS 1 Direct applause toward 8 Finder's cry 11 April follower 14 Mimic a bird 19 Singer Patti

20 Take by force 22 Capital on the Red River 23 Art studio 24 Phases

25 "Tiny Dancer" singer John

of old, in brief 30 Inseparable 31 Spike of corn 32 Olive bugged by Bluto

33 Prefix with light or night 35 Part of AOL 39 Thing with rungs

44 Riddle, part 2 48 Zac of 2017's "Baywatch' 49 German

linking word 50 Org. for teachers

51 "Sure, we

should do it!' 52 Desperate, as a situation 54 Syrian president

102 "No more 58 Auto racer's details!.' in texts

61 Riddle, part 3 103 Sushi tuna 64 In-vogue thing 65 Brand of fuel additives 66 Forearm

bone 67 Crew tool 68 "You folks." 118 Annuls in the South 70 West of

warm-up

circuit

Chinese support cuisine 78 Museum

overseer 82 Golfer Sam 83 Eighth parts of circles

84 Redding of soul 85 Sly laugh

merit badges

Easton

98 Affirm strongly 99 Flying geese formation

100 High peak:

105 Archer's skill 108 Riddle's

answer 116 Really virile **117** Apolló 7 astronaut Wally

as a law 119 Resilient "Diamond Lil" strength 73 "General" of 120 Certain

group for 121 Lay out for printing 122 Gather

bit by bit 123 Ad-(improvise)

124 Zig's reverse 125 Rind-shaving tools 87 Gp. with DOWN

89 On a cruise 90 End of the

97 "Strut" singer

1 Feline nails 2 Trellis strips 3 Skip -(flutter, as

informally

product of

6 Butterlike

beef fat

the heart 4 Bombard 5 French policeman.

Bear" heroine 33 Rosebush sticker 34 Hurricane hazard

36 Win gold, say 37 Rice of Bush's Cabinet. informally

38 Prop- or 40 Meted 41 Mano-a-

hex- ender mano fight 42 "At Last

singer

James

45 Common baby ailment arrive 47 Interval

55 Feel faint

56 Divide up

blood line

duck icon

60 Sch. with

branch

63 Thesaurus

69 Score

supervisors

word: Abbr

(earn some

residence

in "Frozen'

73 Eat a bit of

points)

70 Minister's

71 Modify

falling shapes 62 Univ. dorm

57 Vital

43 Filing tool

44 In progress

grades 46 Scheduled to 88 Scandinavian "Salut!" 91 1986 #1 hit 48 Ice cream brand

for 19-Across and Michael 53 Inuit dwelling McDonald 92 Vow from ecstasy 93 Revel at a

81 Pi-sigma

86 Very bad

link

really hoppin' party 94 "Carlos" star Edgar

59 Insurer with a 95 Neighbor of Ethiopia gaze

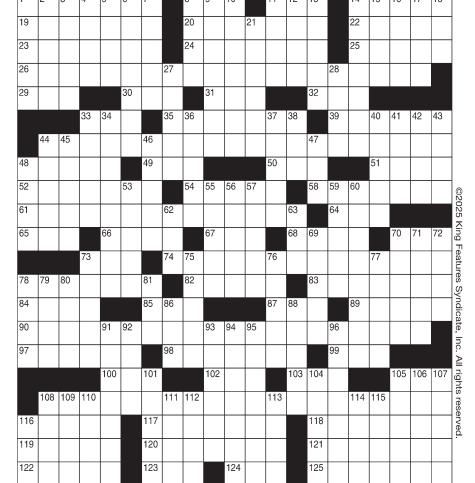
101 Like some congestion 104 Rival of Avis 105 Demean

106 Lazybones 107 Ship spars 108 Postmarked pieces

109 Zapzyt target 110 Perlman of 72 Anna's sister "Cheers" 111 Roman 651 112 "Moby-Dick'

75 "Poppycock!" 76 "Sounds captain 113 Zingy flavor likely to me" 77 Unglossy 114 Smartphone games, often photo finish 78 Simple beds 79 Neighbor of

115 Cross paths 116 Soup flavor Colorado enhancer, 80 Initiation, e.g for short 16



Puzzle answers page 11

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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: $\spadesuit \spadesuit$

Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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Saturday, October 18

SET UP TIME 8am to 10am

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Music By:
11:00 - 11:45 am. Elljah Smith and Levi Head "Bluegrass"

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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THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 - **11**

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

Meetings

Wednesday, Oct. 15

The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Patrick County School Board

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

Monday, Oct. 20

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

Tuesday, Oct. 21

The Patrick County Planning Commission will meet at 6 p.m. in the community room of Patrick & Henry Community College.

Events

Wednesday, Oct. 15

The DMV Connect will be inside the Stuart site of Patrick & Henry Community College from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Patrick Community Food Bank will distribute food boxes from 8:30-11 a.m. and again at 5-6:30 p.m. at 108 Commerce Street, from 8-10 a.m. at Fellowship Church in Ararat, and from 5:30 p.m. until all boxes are gone at the Community Building in Meadows of Dan. For more information, call 276-694-6300 or email Patrickcountyfoodbank@gmail.com.

Thursday, Oct. 16

The Patrick County Republican Committee will meet at 6 p.m. in the Motorsports Hall of Fame at P&HCC.

The Patrick County Library will host its monthly trivia night with the theme of Halloween. Dress in your Halloween costume without masks. Come by yourself, bring a friend, or even create a team of four. Registration not Required. Free. Ages 12 and up. Call 276-694-3352 for more information.

Friday, Oct. 17

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

The Patrick County Library hosts Sit and Stitch, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free and no registration required. Call 276-694-3352 for more information.

Saturday, Oct. 18

Country breakfast at Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department, 6687 Fairystone Park Highway, 6:30-10 a.m. Dine in adult plates are \$10 and children's are \$5. All take out plates are \$10. Orders can be placed by calling (276) 930-2113.

Mobile Museum ¬ Experience. The Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission will bring the traveling museum to Patrick County, in conjunction with the Town of Stuart's Apple Dumpling Festival. The travelling museum, housed in an expandable tractor trailer, will be parked at 140 South Main Street, Stuart, with interactive exhibits, engaging storytelling, and innovative technology. Free and designed to appeal to a wide audience, including families, students, history enthusiasts, and anyone interested in learning more about Virginia's role in the American Revolution. Visit the VA250 Mobile Museum Experience at the Apple Dumpling Festival, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Limited to pedestrian foot traffic only.

Thursday, Oct. 23

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Patrick & Henry Community College will hold a How to Establish Business Credit workshop from 12-1 p.m. at the Patrick County site. The cost is \$15.

The Patrick County Library will hold the "Homeschool Bookworms" meet from 10:30-11:30 a.m. This is an informal meeting for homeschool children age 6 and up to come to the library to learn about the elements of stories and also learn presentation skills. Free and no registration required. Please call 276-694-3352 for more information.

Friday, Oct. 24

The Patrick County Library will hold its Senior Social at 11 a.m.; enjoy coffee, pastries and bingo. Free. No registration required. Call 276-694-3352 for more information.

Saturday, Oct. 25

Providence United Methodist Church men's group in Patrick Springs will hold a community breakfast 7:30-10 a.m., with bacon, sausage, eggs, apples, gravy, and biscuits. Donations will help fund local mission projects. The food pantry will be open for those who are in need of non-perishable foods. The Patrick County Master Gardeners will follow the community breakfast with an educational workshop in the church fellowship hall.

Fall Festival from 4-7 p.m. at Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church on Spring Road, Patrick Springs, with hotdogs, hayrides, trunk

or treat, a bouncy house, and carnival games.

Patrick County Library will hold a Monster Mat making program at 11 a.m. Registration is required. Limited spots available, \$5 supply fee. Call 276-694-3352.

Friday, Oct. 31

Halloween event at the Meadows of Dan Community Building from 5-8 p.m. Those wishing to help hand out candy should contact Katlyn Boyd at (276) 952-8379.

Ongoing

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Willis Gap Community Center: Members Meeting, the first 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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Congressional staff to visit areas

Congressional staff to visit ar-

Congressman Griffith's Ninth District staff will be in Stuart and Martinsville on October 22.

Staff will be in the City of Mar-Church St.

They will be in Patrick County from 12:30-2 p.m., in the Patrick County Administration Building Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart.

For questions or more informatinsville from 10 - 11:30 a.m., tion, call the Christiansburg Ofin City Hall, Room 208, 55 W. fice at 540-381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at 276-525-1405.





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



Wood

(cont. from page 1)

Harrison Burton, Dale Jarrett, Paul Menard, Elliott Sadler and Michael Waltrip. Each group of drivers will participate in a Q&A session followed by an autograph signing. Wristbands are required for driver autograph sessions and will be distributed beginning as early as 11:30 a.m. on the morning of the event, with limited quantities available for each group.

Members of the Wood family will also host autograph sessions throughout the day – no wristbands required – allowing fans to meet multiple generations of the family behind NASCAR's oldest active team.

Additional attractions include a NASCAR Hall of Fame booth and a team store offering special anniversary apparel and collectible sheet metal. Local favorites Palumbo's Food Truck and Kona Ice will also be on site, serving food and refreshments throughout the event.

The Kids Zone will offer plenty of fun for younger fans, including bounce houses, a scavenger hunt, free gift bags and hands-on activities at the NASCAR Hall of Fame booth.

Primary parking will be available in the grass lot to the left of the main museum entrance. Once that lot reaches capacity, overflow parking will be directed to a nearby location. A continuous shuttle service will operate throughout the event, transporting guests to and from the museum for convenient access.

Pride of PC Named Band of the Day





By Ashlee Mullis

The Pride of Patrick County traveled to Wytheville, Satur-

other bands, bringing home the Color Guard members. coveted Band of the Day.

the 46th Annual George Wythe by PCHS Band Director, Mr. Joguard competed against nine talents of band members and 21 Major, Percussion, and Music.

In addition to Band of the Day, Their award-winning show, they were named Class 5A Best day, October 11, to compete in "Advant Garden," was written in Class and received 1st Place in Color Guard, General Effects, Band Festival. The band and seph Whitt, and showcases the Visual, and 2nd Place in Drum

Fans invited to join the Wood Brothers for a day of history, activities and fun

Wood Brothers Racing's 75th Anniversary Fan Day is set for Friday, October 24 at the Wood Brothers Museum, located at 21 Performance Drive, Stuart. The museum opens at 9

Driver Autograph Sessions (100 Wristbands Available for Groups 1 and 2; 200 Wristbands Available for Group 3)

Group 1 - 2:30 p.m.: Donnie Allison, Trevor Bayne, Dale Jarrett

Group 2 - 3:30 p.m.: Harrison Burton, Michael Waltrip, Elliott Sadler

Group 3 - 5:15 p.m.: Josh Berry, Ryan Blaney, Paul Menard

Wood Family Autograph Sessions (No Wrist-

band Required) Group 1 - 2:15 p.m.: Wood Family Members

Group 2 - 4:15 p.m.: Wood Family Members Group 3 - 5:30 p.m.: Wood Family Members Activities & Activations Open All After**noon** (2 p.m. - 7 p.m.)Team Museum & Store (Opens at 9 a.m.)

Leonard Wood, Delano Wood Exhibit NASCAR Hall of Fame Booth Activities No. 21 Ford Motorcraft Show Car Display Inflatables

Scavenger Hunt Palumbo's Food Truck Kona Ice

Full Schedule of Activities

11:30 a.m.: Wristband Distribution Begins 2:00 p.m.: Fan Day Officially Opens, Activi-

2:05 p.m.: Welcome & Introduction Q&A with Ford Motor Company Representatives 2:15 p.m.: Donnie Allison, Dale Jarrett, Trevor Bayne Q&A Session

2:15 p.m.: Wood Family Autograph Session 2:30 p.m.: Donnie Allison, Dale Jarrett, Trevor Bayne Autograph Session

2:45 p.m.: Trivia Round 1

3:15 p.m.: Harrison Burton, Michael Waltrip, Elliott Sadler Q&A Session

3:30 p.m.: Harrison Burton, Michael Waltrip, Elliott Sadler Autograph Session

3:45 p.m.: Trivia Round 2

4:00 p.m.: First & Second Generation Wood Family Q&A Session

4:15 p.m.: Wood Family Autograph Session 5:00 p.m.: Ryan Blaney, Josh Berry Q&A

5:15 p.m.: Trivia Round 3

incoordination; and diarrhea.

5:15 p.m.: Ryan Blaney, Josh Berry, Paul Menard Autograph Session

5:30 p.m.: Wood Family Autograph Session

State agencies encourage biosecurity, ask for reports of deceased wild birds

As the annual migration of wild waterfowl regenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). sumes this fall, the Virginia Department of Agriecurity to protect their flocks from Highly Patho-

LEGAL

TRUSTEE'S SALE 174 DEVELOPMENTAL ROAD **STUART, VA 24171**

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$53,000.00, dated October 2, 2003, and recorded as Instrument Number 030003408 in Patrick County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia 24171-0148 on November 19, 2025 at 1 PM, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

ALL THOSE TWO CERTAIN TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND SITUATED AT THE END OF STATE ROAD #888, MAYO RIVER DISTRICT, PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, CONTAINING 0.467 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY FOR V. R. WILLIAMS, PREPARED BY A.M. BARNARD, CLS, DATED SEPTEMBER 18, 1979, OF RECORD IN THE PATRICK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 228, PAGE 36 AND CONTAINING 0.379 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY FOR V. R. WILLIAMS,

PREPARED BY A.M. BARNARD, CLS, DATED SEPTEMBER 18, 1979, REVISED MAY 3, 1982, OF RECORD IN SAID CLERK'S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 285, PAGE 508. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO GRANTOR BY

DEED FROM EDWARD M. PILEGARD, JR. BEARING EVEN DATE AND RECORDED CONTEMPORANEOUSLY HERE-WITH. REFERENCE TO SAID MAPS AND DEED IS HERE MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND HEREIN CONVEYED.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a

debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 101 North

Lynnhaven Road, Suite 104, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452 FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee

(470) 321-7112

c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 11350 McCormick Road, Executive Plaza I, Suite 302 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031 (844) 442-2150

The public is also encouraged to report instances culture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the of wild bird deaths that meet the following criteria Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to wildlifehealth@dwr.virginia.gov or by calling the encourage backyard bird owners to practice bios- DWR Wildlife Conflict Helpline at 855.571.9003.

· Five or more dead vultures, waterfowl, shorebirds, or seabirds in the same area within five days

· Sick or dead eagles, hawks, owls, or turkeys, excluding carcasses found on the road

· Ten or more dead wild birds of any other species in the same area within five days

"As wild bird migrations are underway along the Atlantic Flyway, the HPAI virus remains present in our environment. All poultry owners, especially backyard flock owners, should maintain the highest level of biosecurity to protect their flocks," said Dr. Charlie Broaddus, State Veterinarian,

HPAI is a highly contagious airborne respiratory virus that spreads quickly among birds through nasal and eye secretions and manure. The virus can be spread through interaction between wild birds and domestic birds, flock to flock, equipment, vehicles, and on the clothing and shoes of caretakers. This virus affects poultry, like chickens, ducks, turkeys, and wild bird species such as ducks, geese, shorebirds, and raptors. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service maintains a list of all HPAI detections in commercial and backyard flocks at www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-2022/2022-hpaicommercial-backyard-flocks.

Signs of HPAI include sudden death without

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FOR PUBLIC NOTICE: The Town of Stuart will hold a Planning Commission Meeting on

Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Stuart Town Office, located at 100 Patrick Avenue. The Stuart Planning Commission will consider the Zoning Ordinance and other business Those interested in providing comments to the Planning Commission

but unable to attend may contact Bryce Simmons, Town Manager, by phone at (276) 694-3811 or by email at bryce.simmons@stuartva.org.

LEGAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP 2026-001-43200-2 LANDSCAPING SERVICES/GROUND MAINTENANCE The County of Patrick is seeking proposals from qualified professional

are due no later than Friday, October 31, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

firms to provide landscaping services/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

clinical signs; lack of energy or appetite; decreased egg production; soft-shelled or misshapen eggs; swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, hocks; nasal discharge; coughing; sneezing;

Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard flock to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds. The following are a few steps backyard bird owners can take to protect their flocks:

Prevent contact between domestic and wild birds. Ensure poultry cannot access areas where wild waterfowl or vultures are present.

Wash your hands before and after handling birds as well as when moving between different

· Disinfect boots and other gear when moving

· Do not share equipment or other supplies between coops or other farms.

Cleaning and disinfecting equipment and other supplies between uses. If it cannot be disinfected,

·Use well or municipal water as drinking water

Keep poultry feed secure to ensure there is no contact between the feed/feed ingredients and wild birds or rodents.

· Look for signs of illness. Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases.

Report sick or dying birds immediately by calling a local veterinarian or the State Veterinarian's Office at (804) 692-0601 or at vastatevet@vdacs. virginia.gov, or the USDA's toll-free number, (866) 536-7593.

Biosecurity information and resources are available at www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals-avian-influenza.shtml and www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/ avian/defend-the-flock-program/dtf-resources/ dtf-resources. Additional information on biosehealthybirds.aphis.usda.gov.

curity for backyard flocks can be found at http:// For more information about HPAI in wild birds including guidelines for waterfowl hunters, please

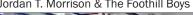
visit the DWR Avian Influenza webpage.

za webpage.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention assessed the risk of HPAI infections to the general U.S. population as low. The proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165°F kills bacteria and viruses, including HPAI. For more information, please visit the Virginia Department of Health avian influen-

Woolwine festival draws large crowd







Crowds gathered for music, food and more



Shirley Tatum was among the dancers to a song by Larry



Couples also took to the dance floor.



Several vendors were featured at the event.

al October festival on Saturday attracted a have lunch. large turnout.

In addition to crowds, attendees had oppor- performed traditional feel-good favorites like played a mix.

The Woolwine Fire Department's annu- tunities to enjoy music, dancing, shop and "Fox on the Run," while Larry Sigmon & the Virginia Girls performed slower dance songs Jordan T. Morrison & The Foothill Boys and the Friday Night Dance Band sang and



SMITH RIVER DISTRICT - BOARD OF **SUPERVISORS ELECTION** TOWN HALL MEETING

> FRIDAY, Oct 24, 2025 6:30рм то 8:00рм

Fairystone Volunteer Fire Department

> 6687 Fairystone Park Hwy Stuart, VA

Everyone Welcome!!



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. Elljah 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

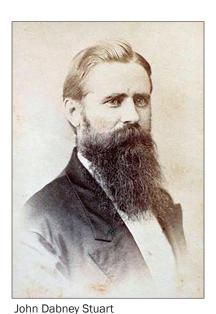
Early registration through Oct 5 - \$25.00 Oct 6 through Day of Festival - \$30.00

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

Jeb Stuart's Siblings







William Alexander Stuart as a young and older man.

By Tom Perry

Sometimes, we forget that Archibald and Elizabeth Stuart had ten other children besides their

most famous son, James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart. We thought it would interest our readers to learn something about these "other" Stuart children. We know more about the lives of some children than about others. They are presented in birth order.

The first child of Archibald and Elizabeth Stuart was a daughter named Anne Dabney Stuart. She was born on March/April 24, 1818, at Chalk Level in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, the home of her maternal grandmother Bethenia, who was born at Laurel Hill in 1780 during the American Revolution. Anne married Mr. James Peirce of Wythe County, and they had three children: Mary Belle, Elizabeth Pannill, and David Stuart Peirce. Anne died in Pulaski, Virginia, in 1846 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery beside her brother, David Pannill Stuart. This author believes a contagion claimed the lives of both Stuart siblings.

The second child was Bethenia Frances Stuart, born on September 10, 1819, at Seneca Hill, Campbell County, Virginia. She married the Reverend Nicholas Chevalier, who was originally from Connecticut. They would have four children: Archibald, Bertha, Lilly, Alexander, and William. Bethenia lived until 1910. She died on October 25, 1905, and is buried in Eastern Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1821, Archibald Stuart moved his family to St. Louis, Missouri, where his father, Alexander Stuart, served as a United States Judge in Illinois and Missouri. It was here that their third child, Mary Tucker Stuart, was born on July 20, 1821, at her paternal grandfather's home. Mary married Dr. Tazewell Headen of Floyd, Virginia. They lived at Glenanna. The house still stands in Floyd, Virginia. Dr. Headen represented Floyd County in the Virginia Legislature and died during the Civil War after reportedly a bout with mental illness. Mary moved to Saltville after the War, where she taught school in a cabin that still stands, once home to J. E. B. Stuart's wife, Flora Cooke Stuart. Mary died on May 21, 1888, and is buried beside her parents and brother, William Alexander Stuart, in Elizabeth Cemetery in Saltville, Virginia.

to Virginia. On September 10, 1823, their first son, David Pannill, was born at Chalk Level, Pittsylvania County, Virginia, at one o'clock in the morning. David became an attorney and served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1844, which nominated James K. Polk for President of the United States. David died in 1845 of typhoid fever at the age of 23. In 1846, he was remembered by a special order of the Patrick County Court. He is buried beside his sister, Anne Dabney Stuart, in Pulaski's E. B. Stuart. John studied medicine under his



Columbia Lafayette Stuart Hairston and her children.

Oakwood Cemetery.

The fifth child, William Alexander, the first child born at Laurel Hill, appeared at 11 o'clock on May 2, 1826. William first married Mary Taylor Carter, by whom he had three children: Henry Carter, Dale C., and John James Stuart, who became a well-known lawyer in Abingdon, Virginia. After the death of his first wife in 1862, he married Ellen Spiller Brown, the widow of his cousin Alexander Stuart Brown. William and Ellen would have five children: Susan, Alexander, William, Archibald, and James Ewell Brown

William was a highly successful businessman who operated a dry goods store in Wytheville. He built a home in Wytheville called Oak Levwhich still stands named Loretto. William was a Deputy Clerk of Court in Giles and Wythe counties, the Clerk of Court in Wythe, and the cashier of the Bank of Southwestern Virginia. He operated the salt works in Saltville, Virginia, during and after the Civil War as President Stuart, Buchanan, and Company. William Alexander Stuart became the largest landowner in southwestern Virginia. He eventually settled in Russell County and founded the Stuart Land and Cattle Company. His son, Henry Car-Within two years, the Stuarts had returned ter, served as Governor of Virginia from 1914 to 1918. William died in Philadelphia on February 6, 1892. He is buried in Elizabeth Cemetery in Saltville with his two wives, his parents, and his sister Mary.

The next child was a son, John Dabney Stuart, born on November 15, 1828, at Laurel Hill. John went to Wytheville to school and then to Emory and Henry College. Their uncle, Judge James Ewell Brown of Wythe County, assisted the Stuart brothers, John, William, and J.



Graves of Ann Dabney Stuart and David Pannill Stuart in





Grave of Mary Stuart Headen in Saltville, Virginia.

brother-in-law, Dr. Tazewell Headen of Floyd, Virginia, receiving his medical degree in 1851. He practiced medicine in Floyd and Wythe counties. He served in the Civil War as a surgeon in the 54th Virginia Infantry, Army of Tennessee, and practiced medicine in hospitals in Staunton, Charlottesville, and Warrenton. John married Anne Elizabeth Kent of Wythe County, and they had five children: John, Alexander, Elizabeth, Ellen, and Flora. He eventually returned to farming and spent his remaining days in Wythe County. He died in 1877 and is buried in East End Cemetery in Wytheville, Virginia. His home still stands just off the Rural Retreat exit of Interstate 81.

The seventh child was Columbia Lafayette Stuart, born at Laurel Hill on May 28, 1830, and married Peter W. Hairston on November 8, 1849. They made their home in Cooleemee, Davie County, North Carolina. She bore four children: Samuel, Archibald, Agnes, and Elizabeth. None survived to adulthood. Columbia was the favorite sister of J. E. B. Stuart, and he visited her at Cooleemee in the 1850s. She died in 1857 and is buried at Berry Hill, Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Her husband served on the staffs of J. E. B. Stuart and their cousin, Jubal Early, during the War Between the States.

James Ewell Brown Stuart was born at Laurel Hill on February 6, 1833, and died on May 12, 1864, after serving as a Major General in the Army of Northern Virginia. A son, Daniel Patrick Stuart, was born at Laurel Hill on April 21, 1834, and died on July 17, 1834. Virginia Josephine Stuart was born at Laurel Hill on April 21, 1834, and died at home on May 6, 1842. Virginia and Daniel are buried at Laurel Hill in Ararat, Virginia.

Victoria (Virginia) Augusta Stuart was born at Laurel Hill on July 19, 1838, and married Nathaniel A. Boydton (Boyden) of North Carolina. They had one daughter, Columbia Stuart Boydton, who is buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Mount Airy. Nathaniel is buried near Shoals, North Carolina. Victoria attended Salem College in Salem, North Carolina, from January 1852 until June 1853 with her cousin, Bettie Hairston, whom J. E. B. Stuart often wrote to.

