



A \$7,000 donation from the Stuart Rotary Club will allow the Patrick County Food Bank to distribute turkeys in its Thanksgiving boxes. From left: Austin Joyce, Jackie Denny, Anna Lester, B. Clark, Kristie Bentley, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Stuart Hampton, Rhonda Pruitt, Shonda Queen, Denise Clark, and Alisha Denny.

Rotary donation allows food bank to provide turkeys for Thanksgiving

By Taylor Boyd
Thanks to a \$7,000 donation from the Stuart Rotary Club, the Patrick County Community Food Bank will be able to include turkeys to clients in its Thanksgiving food boxes this year. Executive Director Rhonda Pruitt said the nonprofit had initially planned to skip turkeys due to rising costs and a drop in donations. “We have \$20,000 less in donations than last year. We just didn’t have the funds to do that and still remain financially stable for next year,” she said. Pruitt said the food bank spent more than \$7,000 last year on 450–500 turkeys and was quoted \$10,000 this year for the same quantity. The Rotary Club’s donation came as a surprise. “It was really a shock when they called and said, ‘Hey, we want to present you with this check,’” she said. In addition to turkeys, the Thanksgiving box-

es will include traditional items such as sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, and apple pie filling. Food bank members are excited that the organization can continue to distribute turkeys because the initial decision to not do it was a difficult one. “It’s one that we really didn’t like to make, but it’s one that we felt we had to make to survive. So now we’re excited we can get what we need and still be able to be okay for next year,” Pruitt said. She added the community’s response to the decision to include turkeys also has been overwhelmingly positive. “People on Facebook are saying, ‘Thank God we live where we do.’ It’s not the first time we’ve heard that,” she said. Rotary Club President Christie Bentley said the donation was prompted by the food bank’s Facebook post about not being able to provide turkeys.

(See Rotary p. 3)

County launches updated sponsorship grant program

By Taylor Boyd
The Patrick County Office of Economic Development & Tourism launched the updated Visit Patrick Sponsorship Program, its tourism sponsorship grant application, on Oct. 14. According to a media release, the program is a reimbursable funding opportunity designed for stakeholders seeking to create programs, projects, or events that attract visitors to Patrick County. “Each sponsorship will aim to foster partnerships between local tourism stakeholders, encouraging individuals to create experiences that elevate community presence and support the local economy,” the release states. Priority will be given to applicants who can demonstrate how their initiative will increase visitation and exposure of Patrick County through promotional efforts. Only one sponsorship grant per year will be allocated to the same project. However, Tourism Manager Grace Cooper said organizations hosting multiple, distinct events may submit separate applications for each event. “Of course, every application will be evaluated to determine funding. As long as it’s for separate projects, they can submit applications even if it’s from the same group,” she said. Sponsorships are awarded on a yearly basis and should not be considered an ongoing source of funding. Applications are open for projects, events, and programs scheduled between Jan. 1 and June 30. The deadline to apply is Friday, Nov. 7. Cooper said the revamped grant application will give the county more flexibility to market the program and hold workshops to guide applicants through the process. “We’re really hopeful this will streamline our application process and encourage new event planners and nonprofits to submit applications. This new program will be biannual, so we’ll

(See County p. 12)

Landmark Drive ownership debate put on hold pending planning commission review

By Taylor Boyd
The Stuart Town Council again tabled discussions on assuming ownership of a section of Landmark Drive until the town’s planning commission provides its recommendation. The planning commission is scheduled to meet Oct. 21, and the council will revisit the topic at its Nov. 19 meeting. Town Manager Bryce Simmons and Town Attorney Christopher Corbett supported waiting for the commission’s input. “I’d feel more comfortable,” Corbett said, noting the commission will determine whether assuming ownership aligns with the town’s comprehensive plan and can answer other questions the council may have. The topic was previously tabled at the September meeting while the

council sought Corbett’s legal opinion. “I have briefly talked to Chris about this. There have been a lot of questions about” the benefits for the town in “taking over this road, and ultimately, I’ve asked what’s best for the town regarding the property itself,” Simmons said. Simmons said town ownership could benefit potential developers along the road by providing public access to attractive properties. “Just because it is adjacent to some of the more attractive and developable properties in town,” he said. Assuming ownership would also allow the town to establish an easement for future expansion of the Mayo River Rail Trail from Landmark Drive across Woodland Drive toward the Stuart Rotary Club

(See Landmark p. 4)



VA250 Mobile Museum attracts hundreds

The VA250 Mobile Museum drew hundreds of visitors during Saturday’s Apple Dumpling Festival in downtown Stuart. The interactive, expandable exhibit offered guests a hands-on look at 250 years of American history, highlighting Virginia’s role in the nation’s founding. The museum’s visit was coordinated by Patrick County’s VA250 Committee alongside the county’s tourism and economic development departments. See inside for more festival coverage. (By Pat Delaney)

PCMA shows to return Saturday



The Country Boys will headline the Patrick County Music Association’s (PCMA) show on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Patrick County High School auditorium. The event marks the return of the monthly music series after a summer break and will also feature performances by Tobacco Road and Twin Creek String Band. Doors open at 5 p.m., and music begins at 6 p.m.

By Taylor Boyd
After a summer break, the Patrick County Music Association’s (PCMA) monthly shows will return Saturday, Oct. 25. The event will be held at the Patrick County High School auditorium, with doors opening at 5 p.m. and music beginning at 6 p.m. PCMA President Denny Alley said The Country Boys, a longtime favorite at PCMA shows, will headline the night’s lineup. Tobacco Road and Twin Creeks String Band will also take the stage. “Twin Creeks String Band — it took me two years to book them. They’re from Ferrum and very popular,” Alley said. While he’s unsure how to classify their sound, Alley said audiences really enjoy their performances. He described Tobacco Road, from Mount Airy, N.C., as a bluegrass group.

“They have a girl that plays the fiddle and sings like Alison Krauss. They’ve got a good band,” he said. The November show will be the Veterans Appreciation Show, featuring Harrison Ridge with special guests Starlett & Big John. Alley said the December show will be the annual Sammy Shelor’s Banjorama, sponsored by Hopkins Lumber. It will feature the Lonesome River Band along with about a dozen other musicians. Admission to all PCMA shows is by donation. Concessions will be available for purchase from the Patrick County Shooting Education Team, with proceeds supporting firearm safety education for local youth. For more information or to watch past performances, visit facebook.com/PatrickCountyMusicAssociation.

Apple Dumpling Festival provided sweet treats and sunshine



By Pat Delaney
Crowds packed downtown Stuart on Saturday for the annual Apple Dumpling Festival, which drew thousands of visitors under

clear blue skies and mild fall temperatures. Families filled the streets to enjoy local food, craft vendors, live music, and of course, the festival's signature apple dumplings. The

daylong event marked one of the biggest turnouts in recent years, with perfect weather making for a lively celebration of community, fall flavor, and small-town charm.

Local school districts among those to receive grants

The Virginia Department of Education recently announced that a total of \$12 million in School Security Equipment Grants were awarded to 433 schools across 99 school divisions, marking a significant milestone in the Commonwealth's ongoing commitment to student and school safety. Patrick County received \$62,800 Blue Ridge Elementary, Hardin Reynolds Memorial School, Patrick County High, Patrick Springs Primary, Stuart Elementary and Woolwine Elementary. Henry County received \$219,200 Axton Elementary, Mount Olivet Elementary, Rich Acres Elementary and Stanleytown Elementary. Martinsville City was awarded \$13,016 Albert Harris Elementary and Patrick Henry Elementary.

This latest round of school security funding brings the total enhanced security infrastructure investments to \$60 million since Governor Glenn Youngkin took office in FY2022, with 1,132 public schools benefiting across the Commonwealth. This continued investment underscores Virginia's dedication to creating safe, secure, and vibrant learning environments for every student in Virginia. "Every parent wants to know their child is safe at school and these school security infrastructure grants help make that promise real. By investing in secure entrances, updated cameras, and modern safety systems, we're giving teachers and students the peace of mind to focus on learning and families the confidence that their local public schools are protected," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Emily Anne Gullickson. "The



Pride of PC Wins Band of the Day

By Ashlee Mullis
The Pride of Patrick County traveled to Lord Botetourt on Saturday, October 18 to compete in the 28th Annual Cavalier Classic. They were named Band of the Day and 1st Place in Class in the 5A category. They received 1st Place in Drum Major, Percussion, Color Guard, Marching, General Effect, and Music.

fact that 99 school divisions across the Commonwealth received this support shows our shared commitment to safer classrooms and stronger communities. Protecting students is not a partisan issue; it's common sense and these funds will help ensure Virginia public schools are equipped with the tools they need to foster both safety and academic success." The 2025-2026 grants were awarded through a competitive process, with eligible school divisions receiving up to \$250,000 each. Funding decisions were based on a rigorous evaluation of need, prioritizing schools with higher offense rates, identified equipment gaps, and limited local resources. Approved equipment includes:

- Voice and video internal communication systems
- Mass notification systems
- Security card access and visitor ID badging systems
- Surveillance cameras and two-way radios
- Security vestibules
- Interior and bus-mounted cameras

The 433 schools were awarded funds based on a rank ordering of applications' point total on the competitive application criteria. The criteria developed by the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services give priority to schools most in need of modern security equipment, schools with relatively high numbers of offenses, schools with equipment needs identified by a school security audit, and schools in divisions least able to afford security upgrades.

School board discusses Patrick Promise

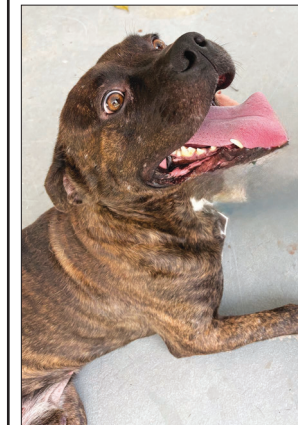
By Taylor Boyd
The Patrick County School Board discussed the Patrick County Education Foundation's (PCEF) Patrick Promise program at its Oct. 15 meeting. Schools Superintendent Jason Wood said the division is proud to have participated in raising funds for the program alongside the PCEF, the Board of Supervisors, and other community partners. "Graduating seniors

starting with the class of 2026 can attend Patrick & Henry Community College free to the family as a last-dollar balance. So any high school student wanting to attend, once they complete financial aid and scholarships, the PCEF and Patrick County Promise will pick up the tab," he said. Wood said the program levels the playing field for Patrick County students, allowing them to complete their first

two years at P&HCC at no cost. At the official launch of the Promise earlier this month, Patrick County High School Principal Hope Perry invited four graduating seniors to the event without telling them its purpose. "Just hearing some of the comments about what a blessing this will be for their families. Some of them were wondering if they'd even be able to afford to go to community college, so it

was just a great day and a proud one for Patrick County as a community," Wood said. In other matters, the board: *Approved the 2025-26 school-wide Executive Summary and Comprehensive School Support Plan as presented. *Presented Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Academy award certificates to Chairman Amy Walker of the Mayo River District; Walter Scott of the Smith River District; Lester Harrell of the Peters Creek District; and board clerk Sara Leigh Collins. *Heard an update on school division projects. *Proclaimed October as VSBA Bullying Prevention Month. *Approved the consent agenda. *Approved personnel reports as amended. *Approved the termination of Case Number 2025-2026-1.

Pets of the Week



Brandon is a wonderful, sweet, quiet, three year old Boxer mix. He has been at the shelter since August, waiting for a home. 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/neuter and vaccinations. Check out the new

Cain is a cute, young brindle mix. A waggy, happy, playful pup that would be a super pet. He has been at the shelter since early August. videos of many of these dogs on the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League Facebook page. These are fantastic pets. We also provide pet food assistance and are always in need of pet food donations, especially cat food. Contact blueridgeawl@gmail.com for details. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League website at www.blueridgeawl.org.

Norris

Memorial Services

Visit our website for pricing:
www.norrismemorialservices.com

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

Flood preparedness fund applications due Dec. 1

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation announced the opening of the sixth round of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

Communities across the commonwealth are invited to apply for \$50 million in grants and \$35 million in loans to support flood mitigation projects that enhance community resilience and reduce the impact of flooding. A further \$25 million in grants are available for Coastal Storm Risk Management and Flood Risk Management projects that have received construction authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 1.

The fund was established to provide funding for hazard mitigation and flood prevention projects to address the growing threat from recurrent flooding, sea level rise and extreme weather. The fund continues to prioritize projects that are in concert with local, state and federal floodplain management standards, local resilience plans and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan.

Information about the fund, eligibility rules, application procedures and instructions can be found in the fund’s grant manual posted on the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) website: www.dcr.virginia.gov/cfpf.

All CFPF Round 6 applications must be submitted through DCR’s WebGrants Portal. A training video demonstrating how to use the portal is available on the CFPF website.

Since 2021, the Community Flood Preparedness Fund has awarded over \$220 million to Virginia communities for innovative flood resilience and mitigation projects. Through these investments, communities are better prepared to address the challenges of increasing flood risks.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, in cooperation with the Virginia Resources Authority, administers the fund and grant program. DCR oversees the state’s floodplain management, flood resilience planning and dam safety programs and assists communities with requirements related to the National Flood Insurance Program.

Fatal crash in Henry County under investigation

A Patrick Springs woman died last week in a two-vehicle crash, and the Virginia State Police are investigating.

Cinderella Williams Carr, 80, was killed Thursday, Oct. 16, at 12:45 p.m. on A.L. Philpott Highway near Preston Road.

According to the state police, a 2012 Ford Fusion driven by Carr

was leaving the Dollar General parking lot and failed to yield while making a left turn. The vehicle was struck by a 2019 Mack Granite truck traveling east on the highway.

Carr, who was wearing her seatbelt, died at the scene. The truck driver was not injured.

No charges are pending.

Rotary

(cont. from page 1)

“The Rotarians felt strongly that they wanted to support the Patrick County Food Bank and help provide the turkeys for this season,” Bentley said.

The club has a history of supporting the food bank, but noted this year the need is particularly great. The club typically donates around \$1,000 annually, funding efforts through events like the Patrick County Agricultural Fair and the Stuart Beach Music Festival.

“Thankfully it was a successful fundraising year and we had the funds available to do it when the need presented itself,” Bentley said. She noted the food bank does a tremendous job with the resources it has.

“I know it was a very tough decision for them to decide they weren’t going to be able to have the funds to do that this year. I’m glad that they posted it on Facebook, and we had an opportunity to respond,” she said.

To help with its funding situation, Pruitt said the food bank started a GoFundMe page last month. However, it had raised \$400 of its \$25,000 goal by Oct. 8.

Pruitt said the group is also considering a variety of fundraising events, including raffles and a possible barbeque meal.

“We’re just basically trying to make up the money that we didn’t get in donations this year so that we can feel better about going into next year ready to serve everyone again,” she said.

Pruitt believes the decline in donations is caused by several factors, including increased prices.

“For just normal people who go to work every single day and those that get a Social Security check - it’s hard to buy what you need with the prices that we have nowadays. So, I get it,” she said.

Several lifelong donors have also passed away.

“We have a lady who used to

give us a couple hundred dollars a month, and she’s in the nursing home. So we don’t get that money anymore. We have people that will send us a check every month of \$25 here, \$50 here, I mean that all adds up and it makes a difference,” she said.

The food bank is receiving \$10,000 this fiscal year from Patrick County. Those funds come in \$2,500 increments every quarter of the year. Pruitt plans to request funding from the county next year as well.

“The Town of Stuart has been very forthcoming in previous years, so we hope to attend a Town Council meeting in the future and propose it to them as well,” she added.

In addition to the donations going to help those in need, Pruitt said funds also help pay for the group’s phone and light bills. “We don’t get special rates because we’re a non-profit. We still pay that just like the normal business would do,” she said.

Pruitt said she feels blessed to live in this area as the food bank can count on the county and its residents to help when possible, as it receives donations from churches, individuals, and businesses.

“It’s just right now it’s a struggle” for everyone. “I mean I feel like every time you go to the grocery store it’s higher, and it doesn’t matter where you go,” she said.

She also added that the food bank’s mission has grown more urgent since the Disaster Relief Food Ministry ceased deliveries in the area and as SNAP restrictions tighten.

Those interested in donating or volunteering can contact the food bank at (276) 694-6300 or (276) 806-4152, or via email at PatrickCountyFoodBank@gmail.com. More information is available on Facebook at [Facebook.com/PatrickCoFoodBank](https://www.facebook.com/PatrickCoFoodBank).



Blue Ridge Folklife Festival Returns October 25

The Blue Ridge Folklife Festival returns to Ferrum College on Saturday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The 52nd annual festival will celebrate the rich heritage and traditions of the Blue Ridge with music, crafts, horse and mule contests, coon dog competitions, vintage tractors and cars, kids’ games, and much more.

Advance tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors (55+) and youth ages 6-15; children 5 and under are free. Tickets purchased at the gate will be \$15 and \$10, respectively. Guests are encouraged to buy tickets early to take advantage of pre-sale pricing by visiting www.blueridgefolklifestival.com.

“Families and visitors can get the best value with pre-sale tickets for the 52nd annual Blue Ridge Folklife Festival, enjoying food, music, crafts, animal contests, coon dog races, antique cars and tractors, and much more at a lower cost than at the gate,” said Ferrum College President Mirta Martin.

Produced by the Blue Ridge Institute & Museum of Ferrum College, the festival is recognized as the largest regional event of its kind in Virginia. The New York Times has called the festival “thoroughly authentic,” and participants are the real thing—sharing folk traditions that have been part of their families and communities for generations.

Operation Christmas Child drop-off locations opening soon

Volunteers are preparing to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 17 – 24. Nearly 5,000 drop-off locations will open across the country in November, and shoebox packers can find their local drop-off locations in Virginia.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach another 12 million children in 2025 with the hope of Jesus.

Shoebox packing is fun for individuals, families and groups! Find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox webpage. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God’s love to children in need. Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through “Follow Your Box” and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

“Samaritan’s Purse works around the world to help people in need, but it’s not about good works— it’s about the Gospel,” said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan’s Purse. “Please prayerfully consider packing a shoebox this year with Operation Christmas Child. These simple gifts open the door for us to share the true meaning of Christmas.”

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation as they make plans to drop off their shoebox gifts. The online lookup tool is searchable by City or ZIP code. Signs at each location will identify the drop-off.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s Purse, seeks to demonstrate God’s love in a tan-

gible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 232 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Local drop-off locations for Operation Christmas Child:

Stuart — Minnie’s Chapel

161 Minnie’s Chapel Loop, Stuart, VA 24171

Nov. 17–21, 6–8 p.m.

Nov. 22, 10 a.m.–noon

Nov. 23, 1–4 p.m.

Nov. 24, 8–10 a.m.

Stuart — Nettle Ridge Church

70 Nettle Ridge Loop, Stuart, VA 24171

Nov. 17–18, 5–7 p.m.

Nov. 19, 7–9 p.m.

Nov. 20–21, 5–7 p.m.

Nov. 22, 10 a.m.–noon

Nov. 23, 1–5 p.m.

Nov. 24, 8–10 a.m.

Meadows of Dan — Meadows of Dan Baptist Church

2511 Jeb Stuart Highway, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120

Nov. 17–19, 2–4 p.m.

Nov. 20–21, 5–7 p.m.

Nov. 22, 10 a.m.–noon

Nov. 23, 1–3 p.m.

Nov. 24, 9–11 a.m.

Woolwine — Woolwine Methodist Church

10205 Woolwine Highway, Woolwine, VA 24185

Nov. 17–21, 5–7 p.m.

Nov. 22, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Nov. 23, 5–7 p.m.

Nov. 24, 10 a.m.–noon

For more drop-off locations, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.

For information on how to pack a shoebox, visit samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box.

DAR chapter explores 250th anniversary of U.S. Navy

The 250th Anniversary of the United States Navy was the topic for the program at the October meeting of the Abram Penn Chapter NSDAR. Chapter member Racquelle Snow led the program which highlighted the early history of the Navy, a lesson on battle groups and US Presidents who served in the Navy. Snow’s husband, Joshua, served twenty years in the Navy as a submariner.

Founded in 1890, the DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women’s service organization dedicated to historic preservation, education and patriotism. Any woman at least 18 years old who can prove direct lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. Contact Ann McConnell at nammccconnell@yahoo.com for more information.

Thank you for reading

FOR MORE, VISIT THE ENTERPRISE AT WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET.

VA250

The United States is approaching its 250th birthday in 2026.

In the run up to next July 4th, there are a series of 250th birthday or anniversary events in American and Virginian history that are also worth celebrating.

Recently, I attended an event hosted by the VA250 Commission, an initiative created by the Virginia state legislature to commemorate historical events from the American Revolution era.

The site location of the VA250 Commission event was at the Volvo Truck Plant in Dublin, Virginia.

The reason for this was because Volvo Trucks donated a brand new top-of-the-line VNL Volvo truck to the Commission. The donated truck will be used to haul a mobile museum as the Commission works to continue their public education and engagement efforts throughout the Commonwealth.

The mobile museum will help shed light on numerous events in Virginia history, particularly the formation of the nation.

A second mobile museum is in the works and will help draw attention to Western Virginians' contributions to the American Revolution.

Of course, one of the greatest figures from our region is none other than General Andrew Lewis.

I make it an annual routine to honor Lewis when we reach October 10th.

October 10, 1774, marks the famous battle between Lewis' men and the Native American tribal nations, primarily the Shawnee led by Chief Cornstalk.

In what is now modern-day West Virginia, Lewis and his forces triumphed at the Battle of Point Pleasant! Their victory is credited for bolstering Virginia's defenses, particularly as it came to the brewing American Revolutionary War.

Defeating the Shawnee opened up critical access for settlement expansion west of the Appalachian Mountains.

Figures like Daniel Boone, who leading up to the battle was in charge of supplies for Lewis, would help guide groups through the mountain range and facilitate settlements in the Kentucky territory of Virginia and in parts of Tennessee.

Such settlements allowed the colonies and their forces to bolster their defenses from their Western flank as the ongoing feud with the British crown grew.

When conflict erupted and the Revolutionary War started, Virginia's forces responded.

The Overmountain Men were one such unit, consisting of frontiersmen from Abingdon and the surrounding

area.

The colonies needed help from the Overmountain Men to counter Lord Cornwallis' lieutenants and challenge the British army's stronghold in the South.

Accordingly, the Overmountain Men marched south. One of their starting points was the Abingdon Muster Grounds.

On October 7, 1780, the Overmountain Men fought valiantly in the Battle at Kings Mountain in South Carolina. They delivered a blow to the British and helped secure part of the South. Thomas Jefferson described the victory as "The turn of the tide of success."

As a result of the defeat, Cornwallis had to readjust his army's strategy in the southern colonies, eventually resorting to a path that took him to Yorktown, Virginia.

There are other noteworthy October events to celebrate from this famous period of American history. We just recently celebrated the birth of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps!

October 13, 1775, is when the Continental Navy and the Continental Marine Corps were founded.

The Second Continental Congress established these vital organs of the U.S. military to help the colonies combat the superior naval force of the British Empire, considered by many as the preeminent and most powerful naval force of that period.

The British Navy totaled over 250 vessels of all sizes!

Nonetheless, it did not intimidate the American colonists and their nascent Continental Navy!

The Continental Navy, led by Captain John Paul Jones, dispatched several fleets in combat.

The Continental Navy's actions were not limited to the shores of America. We took the battle to Britain's very own backyard!

One such notable event is the Battle of Flamborough Head in 1779.

While the official impacts of the battle were disputed, Jones captured the British HMS Serapis. Not only did this action incense British leaders, but proved that American forces were more capable than previously perceived.

The heroic actions by Jones during the War earned him respects from the 1787 Continental Congress. The Congress awarded Jones a gold medal in honor of his "valor and brilliant

Morgan Griffith

Representative



Letters to the Editor

Endorsement for Rick Swink - Smith River District

I am writing to express my full support for Rick Swink, candidate for the Patrick County Board of Supervisors, representing the Smith River District.

Rick Swink is a man of integrity, responsibility, and quiet strength. As a self-employed professional who works full, productive days, he knows the value of hard work and personal accountability. His financial responsibility and strong work ethic will serve our county well, particularly when it comes to making sound decisions about budgeting and resource management.

What truly stands out about Rick is his genuine desire to listen to the people he hopes to represent. He is nonjudgemental, respectful of differing viewpoints, and committed to working with the community - not above it. He believes the voices of

Smith River residents should be included in every decision that affects them, and he will make sure those voices are heard.

Rick is not someone who simply says what people want to hear. He's thoughtful, honest, and grounded. While he may not be the most outspoken candidate, he is not afraid to speak up for what he believes is right. That kind of quiet, principled leadership is exactly what Patrick County needs right now.

I believe Rick Swink will be a steady, thoughtful and fair representative for the Smith River District. I encourage my fellow citizens to consider his character, his work ethic, and his commitment to our community when casting their votes.

Crystal Harris,
Woolwine

It's all about trust

Abigail Spanberger's campaign for the Virginia governorship mirrors Kamala Harris's and Joe Biden's campaigns for the Presidency. Like Biden, Spanberger claims to be a political moderate, or "pragmatic moderate" to use her campaign jargon. While in Congress, she wrote legislation that allows teachers to not inform parents of children who are considering changing sexes. This is hardly a moderate position. Refusing to call for the withdrawal of Jay Jones from the Virginia Attorney General's race is also hardly moderate given the overwhelming evidence that Jones advocates violence to change voters' minds. In essence, Spanberger has chosen to support her party over the safety of Virginia voters. During her one and only debate with Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears, Spanberger resorted to using word salads, like Kamala Harris, when moderators asked for a yes or no answer to their questions about biological men using women's locker rooms. This happened not once, but four times. During the debate, Spanberger also avoided answering Sears's questions about how Spanberger would like it if her daughters had to share a locker room with naked biological men. In sharp contrast, Sears gave open answers to questions posed by the moderators.

Spanberger advocates banning the sale and use of firearms magazines of over ten round capacity for anyone who is not in law enforcement or the military. Apparently, while functioning as a law

enforcement officer (postal investigator), she didn't learn that when citizens are assaulted by multiple criminals, they have to defend themselves adequately before the police arrive to help. She has also not kept up with recent crime statistics, which indicate that home invasions are increasingly committed by multiple assailants, again necessitating more rounds required for self-defense. Spanberger's opponent learned different lessons when she carried a rifle while serving as a Marine. Sears is for law-abiding citizens being adequately able to defend themselves and their families.

Unlike Biden or Harris, Spanberger has had CIA operations training. As a CIA case officer, her job was to convince people to betray their country by bribing, extorting, or stroking their egos with lies. In the past, it could have been argued that this training wouldn't disqualify her. As an Independent voter, I am uneasy. Given the current far-leftist takeover of the Democratic Party, I am uneasy about voting for someone trained in an organization with a history of toppling governments and perfecting the arts of misinformation, propaganda and psychological warfare.

Not only is Abigail Spanberger not equipped to deal with a campaign debate, she is not equipped for the job of running Virginia. Spanberger is just too shifty. It all comes down to trust. Winsome Sears has earned our trust.

Joe Cadrin,
Stuart

services."

These monumental feats helped shape the founding of our country. I

look forward to sharing more stories like these as we get ready for America's 250th birthday.

Landmark

(cont. from page 1)

building.

"As far as any financial benefit, I don't think it would provide any. It wouldn't provide revenue for the town. It would be a maintenance cost. But right now, it's a private road that essentially serves a public function," Simmons said. "That's just my interpretation in looking at the route itself."

However, Corbett said that's why the council needs to make the decision.

"They may take the same trip I did and come back with a, 'You know, developers need to know about this because there will be interest,'" Corbett said.

After last month's meeting, Simmons said he also met with a resident who lives at the intersection of Woodland and Landmark drives.

"He informed me that he has a recorded ingress and egress easement for access to the back of his property. This is just information that I wanted to provide to council, that there would be another easement associated with taking over that road access," he said.

Mayor Terry Dalton asked if the resident would be able to develop his property and still have access to Landmark Drive if the town decides not to purchase it.

"He can buy the road," Simmons answered.

Dalton asked if the resident could access his property if use of Landmark Drive was not available.

"That's a 'his' problem not an 'us' problem," council member Erica Wade said.

Noting that the road is currently owned by the Williams family, Wade added there's a shared easement for most of the residents along Landmark.

"If the property is truly abandoned, and I've come across this only in a couple of situations where there was a state right-of-way, that the state had no interest in maintaining from then on out, and they truly abandoned the property. It typically goes back to the local government," Simmons said. Corbett concurred.

Having encountered similar situations in his past jobs, Simmons asked if the road parcel would revert to the town even if council chose not to purchase it if the property owner decides to truly abandon the property.

Corbett noted he hadn't seen the property's plats or knew where the boundary lines are located.

From his experience working in county government, Vice-mayor Dave Hoback said when the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) would abandon rights-of-way they would typically revert back to the adjacent property owners.

"But even then, that gets into the lines of like a prescriptive easement ..., but the property line goes to the sale of the road," Simmons said.

Hoback thinks this situation might be different since it's a private road instead of a public right-of-way.

Simmons added the road is deeded as a separate parcel.

"There is a 50-foot right-of-way that includes the road that is its own separate parcel," he said.

If abandoned by the current property owner, Wade said she thinks it would be put up for a tax sale like other properties.

"This doesn't even follow VDOT rules because it is a private road. I don't think the locality would ultimately get it unless we bought it at auction," Wade said.

In other matters, the council:

*Scheduled a public hearing Nov. 19 on VML/VACo Finance team and procurement of funds for filter backwash improvements.

*Discussed the upcoming Spooktacular on Friday, Oct. 31, on Main Street.

*Heard updates on the Stuart Downtown Revitalization Project and public works projects.

*Discussed town employees obtaining Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

*Reviewed town policy, approved meeting minutes, and paid bills as amended.

THE ENTERPRISE

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE SINCE 1876 - A PART OF PATRICK COUNTY'S HERITAGE

THE ENTERPRISE

Established in 1876

USPS 523-500

P.O. Box 348 - Stuart, Va. 24171-0348

Phone (276) 694-3101 Fax (276) 694-5110

www.theenterprise.net

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ADVERTISING

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The oldest continuously operated business in Patrick County

Published each Wednesday by Virginia Media, Inc.,

P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

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

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

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Patrick Pioneers



Falus and Mabel Bolt Puckett, from Hilda Vivier

Hosea and Sarah Young Puckett
By Beverly Belcher Woody

This week, we bring to a close—at least for now—our ongoing series on the children of Jacob and Sarah Marshall Puckett. We end with the story of their fifteenth child, Hosea Puckett, and his devoted wife, Sarah Ann Young. We may return later to explore the lives of the remaining Puckett children whose stories still whisper through the hollows and ridges of Patrick and Carroll Counties.

Hosea Puckett was born on April 13, 1842, into the bustling and faith-filled household of Jacob and Sarah Marshall Puckett. On February 21, 1861, as the clouds of war gathered over a divided nation, young Hosea married Miss Sarah Ann Young in Carroll County, Virginia. The ceremony was performed by Preacher Thomas Vass. Sarah was the daughter of Benjamin and Jane Carson Young of Patrick County—a union that joined two strong and deep-rooted mountain families. The couple set up house-keeping near Pilot View Church, at the foot of Groundhog Mountain.

Later that same year, in November of 1861, Hosea and Sarah celebrated the arrival of their first child, William Taylor Puckett. But before long, duty called. On March 10, 1862, Hosea enlisted at Patrick Court House, Virginia, as a Private in Company I of the 24th Virginia Infantry Regi-

ment on the Confederate side. His service record lists his age as twenty-one. By November of that same year, he was marked as absent without leave (AWOL)—a term that may not reflect desertion, but the crushing grief and hardship surrounding his family during those dark days of war.

Between 1862 and 1864, sorrow struck the Puckett family with unimaginable force. Within just two years, Hosea lost six of his brothers to war or to the hardships of the time:

Churchill Puckett (1833–1862) – died March 30, 1862, in Carroll County.

Kelsey Puckett (1830–1862) – died April 5, 1862, at the Russell County Courthouse, Virginia.

Jubal Puckett (1850–1862) – died September 27, 1862.

Doctor Floyd Puckett (1836–1863) – died March 28, 1863.

Lewis Puckett (1827–1863) – died in Ohio later that same year.

George Washington Puckett (1836–1864) – lost his life in 1864 and rests in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.

In the midst of such sorrow, new life brought healing. Hosea and Sarah's daughter, Elizabeth J. Puckett, was born on June 13, 1863, in Patrick County. Together, Hosea and Sarah would welcome eleven children who lived to adulthood, and one infant who tragically died only a few days after birth.

William Taylor Puck-



Hosea and Sarah Young Puckett, photo from Hilda Vivier

ett married Miss Emma Stanley. He lived around Gladys, West Virginia, about 1908, and by 1910 resided in Dry Fork, Randolph County, West Virginia. He passed away in March 1920 in Allegany County, Maryland.

Elizabeth J. Puckett married Benjamin Ellis Bowman (1857–1943) on October 13, 1883, in Patrick County, Virginia. Elizabeth and Benjamin raised a couple of children in Carroll County, Virginia.

Eli Alonzo Puckett married Rosabelle Marshall (1871–) on January 17, 1888, in Carroll County, Virginia. Eli and Rosabelle raised at least seven children.

Ulysses Grant Puckett married Iowa M. Smith (1871–1929) on January 15, 1889, in Patrick County. Ulysses supported his large family of at least nine children by running a sawmill in Ararat, Virginia.

Walter Staples Puckett married Ruby King Cranford, a young widow, in the fall of 1896. Ruby was the daughter of Albert King and Matilda Norman King of Ararat. Her first husband, Alison Cranford, son of William and Susan Dunkley Cranford, had passed away at only twenty-three. Walter and Ruby raised five sons.

Hosanna Puckett married William Walker Marshall of Carroll County on July 16, 1891, in Patrick County. The couple later moved their eight children to Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, and by 1920 were in Durbin, West

Virginia, where William worked as a mechanic and Hosanna worked as a photographer. What an interesting life that must have been for a woman working in a trade that was in its' infancy at a time when most women did not work outside the home! Hosanna passed away on September 23, 1956, at age 82.

Barbra married George Cabel Marshall (1878–1941) who was the brother of William Walker Marshall on December 5, 1899, and lived in the Dan River district, Patrick County, before moving to Cumberland, Maryland, where she died in 1963.

Rutherford Hayes Puckett married Clara Hussey (1877–) on June 21, 1899, in Marshall, Iowa. He later married Maude Fern Hamilton (1895–) on September 2, 1920, in Clarke County, Iowa. He died on July 2, 1930, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was buried in Davis City, Decatur County, Iowa.

Falus Penn Puckett married Mabel Clara Bolt (1886–1978) on October 26, 1903, in Surry County, North Carolina.

Their granddaughter, Hilda Stanley Vivier, shared treasured memories of her grandparents: "My grandfather was Falus Penn Puckett (1883–1951), the tenth child of Hosea and Sarah, and my grandmother was Mabel Clara Bolt (1886–1978). They married in 1903—he was twenty; she was seventeen. They had twelve children, including twin sons who were either stillborn or



Falus Puckett family Hilda Viviers mother on far left

died shortly thereafter. My mother, Audrey Lula, was their fourth child.

After marrying, my grandparents moved to West Virginia, where their first child, Serle, was born in Durbin. They then moved to Dyer, Indiana, where my mother and two other children were born. My grandmother had siblings who had moved from Laurel Fork to Indiana, and that's what drew them there. I often wonder how they traveled. These were people who had never been anywhere—how did they manage? They returned around 1910 and lived out their days not far from Hosea's old home."

In 1940, Falus and Mabel lived in the Laurel Fork District of Carroll County, Virginia, where he worked in the grocery business. Falus passed away the following year on July 6, 1951, in Hillsville, Carroll County.

Maude Evelyn Puckett married John William Weddle (1876–1967) on September 28, 1901, in Patrick County and they had several children. Maude passed away on October 22, 1961, in Hillsville, Virginia.

Patred Matthew Puckett married Ina C. Marshall (1883–1945) on January 3, 1906, in Carroll County. Patred and Ina raised several children on Bell Spur Gap Road and later Pilot View Road in Patrick County. Patred later died on February 18, 1954, in Mount Airy, North Carolina.

Through hardship, heartbreak, and endurance, the lives of Hosea



Hosanna Puckett Marshall, the photographer, picture from Hilda Vivier

(1842-1913) and Sarah Young Puckett (1841-1919) reflect the unbreakable spirit of Patrick County's mountain families—men and women who worked hard, loved deeply, and rebuilt after war and loss. Their children and grandchildren spread across Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Iowa, Indiana, and beyond, carrying the Puckett name and legacy into new generations.

Though this chapter concludes with our present look at the children of Jacob and Sarah Marshall Puckett, their stories still echo across our Blue Ridge valleys—testaments to courage, faith, and family. Each one adds another thread to the tapestry of Patrick County's past, woven by hands that endured and hearts that remembered.

Thank you so much to Hilda Stanley Vivier for the information and photographs for this story. For questions, comments, or ideas for a story, contact Woody at rockcastlecreek1@gmail.com or 276-692-9626.

Social Security Matters

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

Ask Rusty – How Do I Navigate the Social Security Maze?

Dear Rusty: I am a woman, turning 65 this October (2025). It seems that deciding when to claim Social Security is complicated. I would like more information to navigate through this maze. Thank you. *Signed: Ready to Claim*

Dear Ready: Deciding when to claim Social Security can be challenging, but we hope to make it a bit easier for you. You can, of course, call us at any time to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors, but I'll share some pertinent information here as well.

Be aware that at age 65, you have not yet reached your Social Security (SS) full retirement age (FRA). Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, and that is when you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. If you claim SS at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced by about 13.3% from your age 67 entitlement (a permanent reduction). If you wait a bit more and claim at age 66 the reduction would be about 6.7%. To get 100% of your "primary insurance amount" you should wait until age 67 to claim. Note you can also wait longer than your FRA and earn Delayed Retirement Credits up to age 70, when your monthly amount would be about 24% more than your FRA entitlement.

If you are still working, at age 65 you will also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn when collecting SS benefits before your full retirement age. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 (changes annually) and if you earn more than that, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. There is also a special rule for the first calendar year you are collecting early benefits, which will result in you not getting benefits for any month your work earnings are more than \$1950 after your early benefits start. So, if you claim SS at age 65 and con-

tinue to work, you won't get any SS benefits in any 2025 month thereafter that you earn more than the monthly limit (unless your total annual; 2025 earnings are less than the annual limit). FYI, the earnings limit no longer applies once you attain your full retirement age.

In the end, deciding when you should claim Social Security should consider your need for Social Security money, your life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. If you are (or were) married, you might be eligible for a spousal (or ex-spouse) benefit. You may also want to peruse the Social Security Q&A section at our website www.SocialSecurityReport.org. So, as you have already discerned, deciding when to claim Social Security can be confusing, but we are always here to assist you as needed. You can

either call us directly at 1.888.750.2622 or email your specific Social Security questions to us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org. In either case, we will be most happy to help you decide when to claim, based on your unique personal circumstances.

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

Local tourism programs receive state marketing grants

Tourism programs in Martinsville and Patrick County are among 104 recipients statewide of more than \$625,000 in matching grants announced by Gov. Glenn Youngkin to strengthen off-peak travel and promote Virginia as a year-round destination.

The Patrick County Tourism Office received a \$5,000 grant through the Vacation Starts with Virginia program for its "Patrick County Vacation Starts with VA Influencer" campaign.

In Martinsville, the Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation was awarded \$10,000 through the VA250 Marketing Leverage Program to support "Celebrating 250 Years of Natural History in Virginia."

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission, on behalf of the Mountain Spirit Trail Committee, received \$2,720 through the Microbusiness Marketing Leverage Program for Phase 3 of the "Mountain Spirit: Virginia's Moonshine Heritage Trail" project.

Statewide, the \$627,877 in awards are funded through three Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC)

programs: the Microbusiness Marketing Leverage Program, the VA250 Tourism Marketing Program, and the Vacation Starts with VA DMO MMLP Co-op Program. Local partners matched the VTC grants with more than \$729,000 in additional funding, generating over \$1.3 million in new marketing initiatives.

"Virginia's recent record-breaking tourism numbers reflect the strength and potential of this industry to drive economic growth across the Commonwealth," Youngkin said. "These grants will expand that impact by helping destinations and small businesses market themselves more effectively, thrive during the shoulder season, and welcome travelers year-round."

Each program is designed to help destinations and small tourism-related businesses amplify marketing efforts during the slower travel months, foster partnerships, and encourage longer visitor stays that boost local economies.

For more information about VTC's grant programs, visit vatc.org/grants.

Cross Country Members Win Meet

By Ashlee Mullis
The PCHS Cross Country teams competed at Carroll County on Wednesday, October 15. Greely Terry won the boys' varsity race with a time of 17:44. Cameron Rakes won the girls' varsity race for Patrick County with a time of 22:44. Patrick County's Callie Wood, Emma Purdy and Lexus Owen also finished inside the top 5.

The PCHS Cross Country teams will compete in the James River District Championship on Tuesday, October 21 at Greenfield Recreation Park in Troutville, Virginia.



Greely Terry and Cameron Rakes were the winners of the boys and girls race, respectively.



Berry Leads 27 Laps Before Early Exit at Talladega

For the first two Stages of Sunday's YellaWood 500 at Talladega Superspeedway, Josh Berry was wheeling a blazing-fast eero Ford Mustang Dark Horse.

After starting sixth, Berry took the lead from polesitter Michael McDowell on the second lap and went on to lead six more times for a total of 27 laps. Even when the No. 21 wasn't out front, it was a fixture inside the top 10 — and often among the top five.

Near the end of Stage 1, Berry avoided a large multi-car crash and pitted just before the end of the 60-lap segment. He restarted the second Stage from third and immediately retook the lead, but mechanical issues soon began to take their toll. His promising day came to an early end shortly after the start of the final Stage, leaving him with a 33rd-place finish.

Despite the disappointment, Berry's performance added to an impressive stat line. His 27 laps led at Tal-

ladega pushed his season total to 207 — the most for the No. 21 team since Ryan Blaney led 301 laps in 2017, and the second most since 1982 when the late Neil Bonnett led 412.

Berry and the Wood Brothers Racing team now turn their focus to Martinsville Speedway for next Sunday's Xfinity 500 — but before that, the team will host its 75th Anniversary Fan Day on Friday, Oct. 24, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Wood Brothers Racing Museum in Stuart, Va.

The celebration will feature driver appearances, Q&A sessions, autograph opportunities, raffle prizes, trivia, giveaways and more. Nine drivers are expected to attend, including Berry, Donnie Allison, Trevor Bayne, Ryan Blaney, Harrison Burton, Dale Jarrett, Paul Menard, Elliott Sadler and Michael Waltrip.

The museum is located at 21 Performance Drive, Stuart, VA 24171. For more details and a full schedule of events, visit woodbrothersracing.com.

JV Volleyball Wins Two More



Meredith Wood serves for the Cougars in the win.

By Ashlee Mullis
On Tuesday, October 14, the JV Lady War-

rior Volleyball Team defeated Martinsville at home, in two sets

with scores of 25-13 and 25-11. Bailey Thompson led the way with 7 kills, 3 digs, and 2 aces. Sheyan Lester added 5 kills, and Addy Foley had 5 assists. Meredith Wood had 16 assists, 5 aces, and 3 digs.

On Thursday, October 16, the Cougars traveled to Glenvar, winning in two, 25-12 and 25-15. Thompson had 5 kills, 13 digs, and 5 aces on the night. Madi Martin had 8 kills. Reese Horton had 5 kills, 5 digs, and 4 aces. Lester added 5 kills, Kaylene Garcia had 5 digs, and Wood added 21 assists and 4 aces.

The JV Cougars are 16-1 in the season.

PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of October 27 - November 1:

10/28 TBD	Cross Country	at Greenfield Rec Park (Troutville)
10/31 7pm	Football	vs James River

Cougars Bounce Back with 35-7 Win Over Nelson County



Jayden Corns about to fire a 62-yard pass to Jaiden Wilson.



Aiden Geiger recovers the Nelson County fumble.

By Pat Delaney
The Cougars got back into the win column Friday night with a dominant 35-7 victory over Nelson County, fueled by a fast start, relentless defense, and a punishing ground game led by Calvin Lancaster and Jayden Corns.

On the opening kickoff, the Cougars recovered the onside kick, giving them the ball inside Nelson County territory. Aided by a 15-yard facemask penalty, the Cougars drove downfield and opened the scoring with a Calvin Lancaster touchdown run. Less than two minutes into the game, the Cougars led 7-0.

Nelson County answered with a long, 7-minute drive to tie the score at 7-7 with 2:33 to go in the first quarter.

After failing to convert on fourth down, the Cougars gave the ball back to Nelson County on their own 10-yard line. A few plays later, the Cougar defense forced a fumble, recovering it on the Nelson County 24-yard line with 6:00 to go in the half. The Cougars found



Calvin Lancaster darts through the line on his way to the end zone.

the end zone on a Jayden Corns quarterback keeper through traffic, giving the Cougars the lead, 14-7 with 3:39 to go.

The half would end with a Cougar defensive stand in the red zone as time ran out, keeping their 14-7 at halftime.

On their opening drive of the second half, the Cougars turned the ball over on a fumbled hand off, but once again, the defense came up big, stopping Nelson County on fourth down and giving the ball back to the offense near midfield.

With great blocking from the Cougar offensive line, and physical running from Calvin Lancaster, they drove deep into Nelson County territory, and increased

their lead on a 6-yard Jayden Corns touchdown run. Following the Erick Martinez-Tejada extra point kick, the Cougars led 21-7 with 3:09 to go in the third.

On their next drive, Nelson County drove into the redzone only to have the Cougar defense hold firm and stop the Governors once again on fourth down, ending the threat and giving the ball back to the offense. Taking over on their own 16-yard line, Jayden Corns connected on a 62-yard toss to Jaiden Wilson before being brought down inside the 10-yard line. Corns connected with Jackson Callahan for an 11-yard touchdown throw to make the

score 28-7 with 6:28 left in the game.

The Cougars would add another touchdown when the offensive line opened up a huge hole that Calvin Lancaster burst through, then outraced the defenders to the end zone, closing out the scoring for the 35-7 final score.

Despite Nelson County's size on both lines, the Cougar offensive and defensive lines were outstanding the entire game.

Cougar head coach David Morrison said the offensive line has "progressively been getting better. To me, the offensive line is the most important part of the game. If you can't control the line of scrimmage, you

really don't have much of a shot. I was very proud of the way of our offensive and defensive lines played tonight." He added that the defensive line play was "a testament to the work our boys have been putting in."

Winning in such a dominant way was big for the Cougars coming off two very close losses. "We've lost some really close games, and sometimes our guys forget how good they actually are. I think a lot of things came together tonight. We've still got a lot we can improve on, but I was very proud of the effort from our guys," said Morrison. "I think we're trending in the right direction."

Calvin Lancaster picked up 167 yards on 20 carries and had two touchdowns. Avone Kidd had 15 carries for 62 yards. Quarterback Jayden Corns rushed for 55 yards and two touchdowns while going 2-2 passing for 73 yards and a touchdown.

Kicker Erick Martinez-Tejada was perfect on the night, going 5-5 on extra point attempts.

Defensively, Jackson Callahan and Wheeler Helms led the way with 9 tackles each. Aiden Geiger had 6 tackles and a fumble recovery, and Tyler Cobbler chipped in 6 tackles.

Next up, the Cougars travel to Glenvar to face the unbeaten Highlanders on October 24.

Crossing the Lines

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

Inclusive playground opens at Meadow View Elementary



Meadow View Elementary School Principal Anthony Swann spins Director of Special Education Emily Taylor and Special Education Coordinator Jeanette Hurd.

Laughter and cheers filled the air Monday at Meadow

View Elementary School as students, educators, and Lions Club members cut the ribbon on a new inclusive playground. For the first time, children of all abilities can play, learn, and grow together on equipment designed with accessibility in mind. Schools Superintendent Dr. Amy Blake-Lewis said, “Meadow View has long been a place where students with disabilities are not only supported but celebrated. This inclusive playground reflects that spirit. It represents our shared commitment to ensuring that all students have access to the same opportunities for connection, joy, and discovery.” Blake-Lewis said the playground also stands as a symbol of what can happen when

educators, families, community organizations, and leaders work together. “It is a place where students will laugh, play, build friendships, and feel included for years to come,” she said. The playground features three distinct areas. One includes a variety of swings, seesaws, an American Sign Language guide, a tic-tac-toe game, and other equipment. Another has sensory cubes and xylophone-like flowers that students can play to create noise. A third includes a spinning roundabout and a wheelchair-accessible boat that rocks back and forth with movement. The Lions Club International donated \$190,062.19 to the project.

Martinsville Council approves economic development plan, rezoning ordinances



City Council presented a proclamation to Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley noting his long tenure with the city.

Martinsville City Council met Oct. 14 for several public hearings on rezoning ordinances and presented proclamations to promote community Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley. Council discussed and confirmed support for the BRIC Vision 2025 GO Virginia grant request.

“This area is growing,” City Manager Rob Fincher said. He noted that the region is the fastest-growing in Virginia. The first stage of the grant, for \$1 million, will fund a study on economic development in the area. “The only thing we are required to do is an in-kind matching \$10,000,” Fincher clarified. “It can just be \$10,000 worth of labor, not money.”

Masquerade ball coming to Spencer-Penn Center



Guests show off their costumes ahead of the masquerade ball at Spencer-Penn Center, where games, prizes, and a costume contest await. (Contributed)

Rachel Kirchner and the Operation SpiritSeekers Paranormal Team are bringing a touch of mystery to Martinsville. The local paranormal investigation group is hosting a masquerade ball at Spencer-Penn Center on Oct. 25, complete with games, prizes, and a costume contest. Kirchner said the idea came after attending a masquerade ball last year at Saint Albans Sanatorium in Radford, Virginia. “I’ve always wanted to host my own ball, and so I said,

well, we’ve got costumes now, and let’s, let’s get one going,” she said. After exploring several venues in the area, the couple booked Spencer-Penn Center. Friends and family are helping to bring the event to life. Kirchner hopes the community embraces the event. The event is alcohol-free, but food and drinks will be provided. Doors open at 6 p.m., and tickets are \$25 each, available on Eventbrite. Anyone who is 13 and older may attend.

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PATRICK PULPITS

Carefully choose your ancestors

By Van Yandell

Deuteronomy 4: 9 “Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons.”

Have you ever wished you could have chosen your ancestors? Perhaps you’ve looked in a mirror and noticed personal characteristics that seem to be family directed. Traits such as height, facial shape and even hair loss in older males seem to be a predisposition.

Proclivity toward diseases and related ailments also appear to be family peculiarities. The thickness of one’s blood and heart conditions apparently are inherited. Arthritis, kidney problems, diabetes and even such problems as ingrown toenails seem to be family oriented.

We acquire more from our ancestors than we usually think about. When I was teaching I couldn’t help but notice characteristics in students assimilated from parents. Language, personal dress or cleanliness values and attitudes toward authority are taken from the mostly constant exposure to parents and/or siblings.

One’s levels of perseverance and determination are taken from the teachings of parents and other close relatives. Work ethic, a desire to learn new concepts and ideas are passed on from generation to generation. The “never give up” attitude can be successfully instilled in an offspring.

Attitudes toward authority such as police and teachers are partially controlled by parental influence. Children of convicts are more likely to spend time incarcerated than children of the non-convicted. This of course is not a 100% statement but statistically, is true.

When I heard a student use the word “hate” or “I hate” that feeling of aggression had to come from the home. A baby is not born hating anyone. Prejudice toward other races, ethnic groups or national origins are not natural. Eye color is natural, hatred is not!

There are many examples of familial influence in both physical and attitude attributes in one’s life. Conversations even appear to be consistent with family values. We have a slate wall hanging stating “Intelligent people talk about ideals, average people talk about things and simple people talk about people.”

People that perpetually complain very likely were raised in a household of complainers. The continually focusing on “what’s wrong” rather than “what’s good and right” sets a pattern for one’s life and that is not a life of happiness and successes.

One very significant discovery in the “fingerprinting” of the family and genealogy study is that of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). Friedrich Miescher first isolated the DNA molecule in 1869.

DNA was first used as a forensic tool in a criminal case in 1986 in England to identify a serial killer. The study of

DNA over these last forty years has provided us with human information never before even imagined.

We have learned that when we realize many of our personal qualities we can either blame or credit our ancestors. The old saying considering a father and son “The apple doesn’t fall very from the tree” applies in more ways than we may at first realize.

Of course, the title of this article is “tongue-in-cheek.” We can no more choose our ancestors than we change the orbit of planet earth. The point being, we are either blessed or cursed by many of the characteristics of our ancestors.

What is controllable is what we become as ancestors of future generations. Should we teach hate, negativity toward authority, poor health habits, and negative attitudes about life in general?

We often want to “hand down” to our children and grandchildren such things as riches, land/real estate, keepsakes and various other items considered by ourselves to be of value.

But are these tangible items really of great value? Why not pass on to our offspring higher quality values such as love of country, love of family, benevolent attitudes, and religious concerns.

Proverbs 22: 6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” There are numerous scriptural verses that pertain to the raising of our offspring. This verse perhaps leaves us with the question, “What is the way he should go?” Where one would spend eternity would be of great importance.

What is a correct belief concerning our eternity? The God of the Bible teaches love, respect, consideration of others, freedom of choice and freedom from sin. Above all He paid the price for our sins rather than telling us of something we must do to earn our eternal life. Jesus paid the price for our sin in full.

Other faiths teach varying beliefs demanding certain actions of their practitioners. Those actions range from to kill those of other beliefs, to condemnation, to shunning. At any rate, the teachings of the God of the Bible are more in line with civilized humanity than many of the others.

If your good fortune is to have had ancestors that line you up with Biblical teachings you have been blessed.

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).

We will be an ancestor to someone. What are we going to pass on? Many things we cannot control but there are many things we can control. Will those traits be good or bad? You decide.

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

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Romans (KJV) in the *Old or New Testament or neither*?
2. From Exodus 34, who was frightened of a man who came down a mountain with a shining face? *Laban, Stephen, Aaron, Cornelius*
3. During a famine, who set out with another man to find grass to feed his horses and mules? *Abishag, Ahab, Abner, Agrippa*



4. From Esther 7, who met his death on the gallows he built for another man? *Herod, Haman, Peter, Ezekiel*
5. What charioteer rode to Jezreel to find King Joram? *Jehu, Omri, Naboth, Jethro*
6. From Acts 5, who fell dead after lying about a property deal? *Nehemiah, Shimei, Levi, Ananias*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Aaron, 3) Ahab, 4) Haman, 5) Jehu, 6) Ananias

Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church
1515 Rock Church Rd.
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Rev. Tommy Gosnell
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Worship Services 11 am

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Reconciliation
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Super Crossword THE NIGHT BEFORE

- ACROSS**
1 For the stock issue price
6 Low voices
12 Test version
16 Aykroyd of "Coneheads"
19 Small wine or oil container
20 "Fighting" NCAA team
21 Epochs
22 Logging tool
23 * Fourth-day gifts in a Yuletide song
25 * Warming Yuletide drink
27 Earthen cooking pot
28 Bedazzled
29 Suffix with art
31 President Reagan
32 * Flying Yuletide team
34 * Leafy Yuletide door decoration
37 Tooth: Prefix
38 Fashion flair
40 Shared by us
41 Soften
45 Fed, e.g.
47 High trains
48 Ill. neighbor
49 Religious branches
50 Figure skater Dorothy
54 Some toy batteries
- DOWN**
1 Honda model
2 Seat of Ireland's County Kerry
3 Arrive at a stop, as a bus
4 Tilted
5 Camping gear retailer
6 Conference for UC Davis
7 Einstein or Camus
8 Lost traction
9 Knightly title
10 Alternatives to escaroles
11 Spacek of "Carrie"
12 Scrooge's cry
13 Vanity
14 "Neon" fishes
15 Chichi scarf
16 Father, to a wee tot
17 Skating jump
18 "Adorkable" sort, perhaps
24 Scot's denial
26 Wearing stilettoes, say
30 Involving give-and-take
33 *— for Murder" (Hitchcock film)
34 Troubles
35 Totally spoil
- ACROSS**
55 * Much-anticipated Yuletide visitor
57 * Yuletide tinsel, ornaments and lights
59 Wray of "King Kong"
60 Circular square dance maneuver
61 Actress Reid
62 Keeps pelting
64 Eat away (at)
66 Backup strategy
68 * Plant hung up for Yuletide
70 Jessica of "King Kong"
75 Roaring cat
77 Bombardier's attack
79 Paper pack
80 Quality evoking pity
84 In time past
85 * Phrase from the Yuletide carol "Silent Night"
87 * What "it's lovely weather for" in a Yuletide tune
90 NFL scores
91 To a huge degree
92 Church cries
- DOWN**
93 Nav. leader
94 Be litigious
95 Buddy
96 Zesty taste
97 Intl. 1940s conflict
98 Misstep
100 Edge along
105 * Yuletide tree, e.g.
108 * Time off for Yuletide, say
110 "Scram!"
113 Office tel. add-on
114 — fire under (stirred up)
115 Make — for it (try fleeing)
116 * Scrooge in a Yuletide classic
119 Apt phrase spelled out by the first letters of the answers to the starred clues
122 Spock's pointy part
123 Toon frames
124 Tough trial
125 Capital of Ghana
126 Seeded loaf
127 Jenner of reality TV
128 Subtle distinction
129 Detested
- ACROSS**
36 Word before while
39 Brewing fungi
42 Brazilian juice berry
43 Kind of poker
44 Canadian gas station name
46 Smooth but unconvincing
49 Meanie's look
50 URL opener
51 Asia's — Sea
52 Actress Sorvino
53 One-named supermodel
54 Once more
55 More reasonable
56 Oral health org.
58 Pixar title fish
59 Book leaf
63 Rocket part
64 Targets
65 Astrophysicist — deGrasse Tyson
67 Online journals
69 Wall Street worker
71 Circle parts
72 In tidy order
73 Chutzpah
74 TV trophy
76 "Sorta"
78 Opera queen
80 Jr.'s exam
- DOWN**
81 — mater
82 Adolescent
83 Be determined by
84 Be a fan of
86 Chip topper
88 Texters' playful growl
89 "Yeah, dude"
90 Rotate
94 Transparent, informally
95 Empty talk
97 "Buddy Holly" rock band
99 Egg-holding capsule
101 Lake that feeds the Mississippi
102 Fortnight
103 Paris art museum
104 Group of nine
106 Sweater type
107 Parolee, e.g.
109 Vid recorder
110 Bar brew
111 Auction site
112 Richard of "First Knight"
114 Legal claim
117 Roth of horror films
118 Web feed format initials.
120 Dietary std.
121 Sigh of relief

OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE
MONDAY AT NOON

Weekly SUDOKU

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9	8			6	5			

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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CLASSIFIED

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All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin," or an intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. Our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate or employment which is in violation of the law.

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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.

The 2025 Veterans' Day Parade will be held at 1 p.m., from Moody's Funeral Home at West

Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard meets on the

A	T	P	A	R		B	A	S	S	E	S		B	E	T	A		D	A	N
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R	Y	E		K	R	I	S		N	U	A	N	C	E		H	A	T	E	D

Terms: Cash, check or credit/debit card day of auction | Inspection: 1.5 hrs. prior to auction.
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County

(cont. from page 1)

have a grant cycle twice a year,” she said. Previously, the grant was offered once a year, most recently on a rolling basis. For fiscal year 2025, more than \$80,000 was awarded to 12 applicants for 20 events. This cycle has \$20,000 available, with recipients announced in December. The next cycle for the second half of 2026 will be announced in March. The application and

related paperwork, including a final report and reimbursement request form, are available on the Patrick County Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) page at www.co.patrick.va.us/198/Tourism-Advisory-Council.

Two applicant workshops will be held Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the community room of the Patrick & Henry Community College Stuart site.

For more information, contact the Tourism Office at (276) 693-2005 or Cooper at gcooper@co.patrick.va.us.

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LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN
APPLICATION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
TO DECREASE ITS CURRENT FUEL FACTOR
PURSUANT TO VA CODE § 56-249.6
CASE NO. PUR-2025-00147**

On September 12, 2025, Appalachian Power Company (“APCo” or “Company”) filed with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) an application (“Application”) as required by § 56-249.6 of the Code of Virginia (“Code”) and 20 VAC 5-204-80 of the Commission’s Rules Governing Utility Rate Applications and Annual Informational Filings of Investor-Owned Electric Utilities, 20 VAC 5-204-5 *et seq.*, requesting approval of a fuel factor of 3.133 cents per kilowatt-hour (“¢/kWh”) – a decrease of 1.006¢/kWh from its current fuel factor. The Company states that if approved, this decrease would take effect November 1, 2025, and would result in a bill reduction of \$10.06 per month for customers using 1,000 kWh.

The Company’s proposed fuel factor consists of both an in-period component and a prior-period component for the period November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026 (“Fuel Year”). APCo’s proposed in-period component is designed to recover its estimated Virginia jurisdictional fuel cost projected during the Fuel Year of approximately \$366,252,068, which includes: (a) the non-incremental costs associated with APCo’s wind contracts; (b) a credit for 75% of projected Off System Sales margins; (c) PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (“PJM”) Load Serving Entity transmission losses; (d) PJM congestion charges; (e) 100% of incremental transmission line loss margins; and (f) Financial Transmission Right revenues. The Company proposes an in-period factor component of 2.678¢/kWh.

The prior-period component is a true-up component designed to recover from customers the estimated \$62,165,518 under-recovered fuel balance as of October 31, 2025. The Company proposes a prior-period under-recovery component of 0.455¢/kWh.

The Commission entered an Order Establishing 2025-2026 Fuel Factor Proceeding (“Order”) that, among other things, directed the Company to place its proposed fuel factor into effect on an interim basis for service rendered on and after November 1, 2025. The Order further scheduled public hearings on APCo’s Application. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company’s Application shall be convened telephonically at 10 a.m. on March 3, 2026. On or before February 24, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission’s website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/webcasting; or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on March 3, 2026, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On March 3, 2026, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

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

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company’s Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Elisabeth M. Bruce, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or elbruce@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

On or before February 24, 2026, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00147.

On or before January 9, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company, any other respondents, and Staff electronically as described above. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* (“Rules of Practice”), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00147.

On or before January 21, 2026, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness’s testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on the Company, Staff, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00147.

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

The Commission’s Rules of Practice, the public version of the Company’s Application, the Commission’s Order, and other documents filed in this case may be viewed on the Commission’s website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/case-information.

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ABC NOTICE
Country Convenience Market LLC trading as Country Convenience Market LLC, 2365 Fairystone Park HWY, Stuart, Patrick County, VA 24171-3442. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store, Beer and Wine, Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Brenda Collins, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

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**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 HEREWITH. 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
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
11350 McCormick Road, Executive Plaza I, Suite 302
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031
(844) 442-2150
(470) 321- 7112

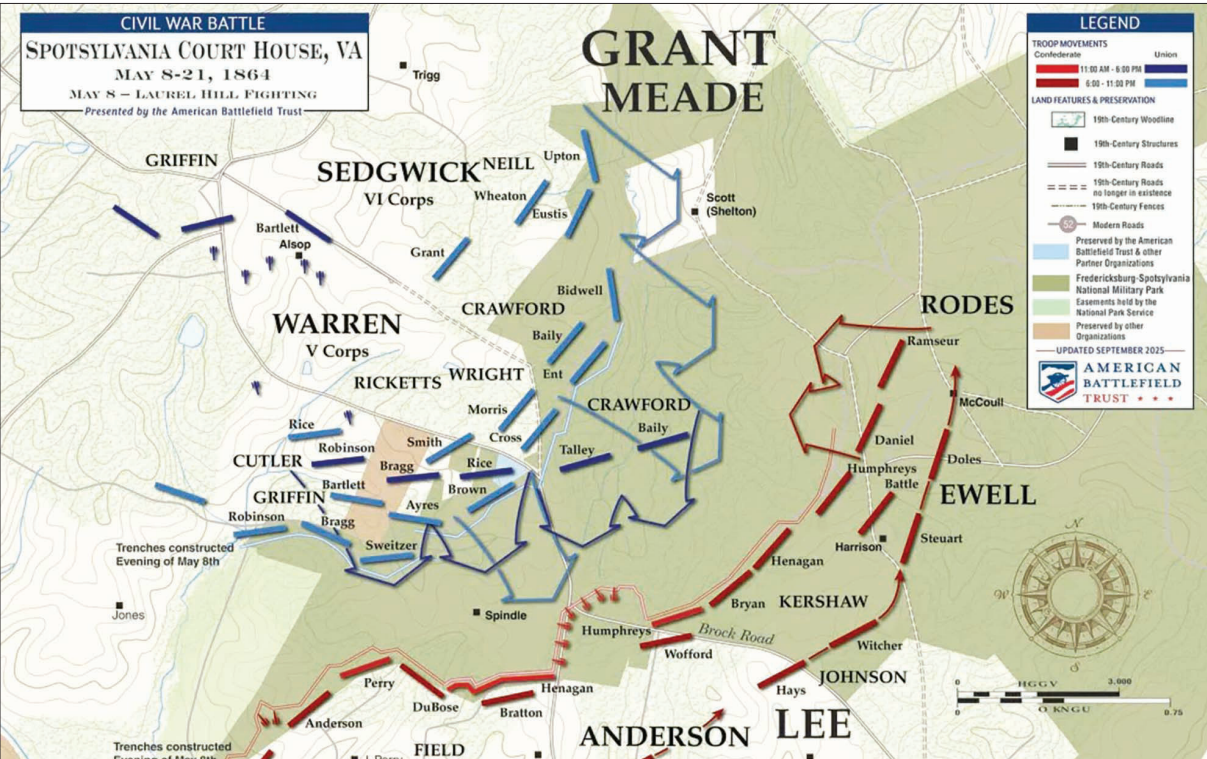
Ninth graders explore water quality through macroinvertebrates



As enrichment for the 9th grade Earth Science and Environmental Science curriculum Patrick County HS teacher Tracy Case invited Southwest Piedmont Master Naturalist Norma Bozenmayer to do a program on Aquatic Benthic Macroinvertebrates for her classes.

Specimens caught in the South Mayo River were brought to the science classroom for examination. The students learned the techniques for identifying the organisms and how to assess water quality using biodiversity of organisms and the presence of sensitive organisms like stonefly larva, mayfly larva, hellgrammites, water pennies and dragon fly nymphs. The headwaters of the Mayo, Smith and Dan Rivers are in Patrick County, making it extra important to keep the water clean.

Walk This Hallowed Ground



By Tom Perry

Many times when I visit the birthplace of James Ewell Brown “Jeb” Stuart in Ararat, Virginia, I enjoy seeing people appreciating the natural beauty of the place. Often, I see people walking the trails with their dogs, which have enough room to

room without leashes, without worries about the animals getting in the road.

Multiple trails lead visitors down to the Ararat River, as does one that follows along it. There are beds of running cedar and mountain laurel, which give the property its name, Laurel Hill. Many trees and plants are labeled to help visitors identify the various species. Laurel Hill is on the Virginia Bird and Wildlife Trail system. It is a classroom to learn about nature.

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The J. E. B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit that owns 75 acres of the 1,500 acres the Stuarts owned. The site includes interpretation of a Native American site that was discovered during archaeological work by the College of William and Mary nearly 30 years ago. There is a Slave Cemetery, interpreted based on oral histories from George Elbert “Shug” and Icy Bowman Brown. Laurel Hill is on the Virginia and National Registers of Historic Places based on its Antebellum Farm Site. The role J.E.B. Stuart played in the War Between the States is interpreted in a pavilion featuring five signs written by Robert J. Trout. The property is on the Virginia Civil War Trails and the Civil War Discovery Trail, and it has two of the Virginia Historical Highway Markers from 1932 and 2000.

Thirty years ago, I saw Laurel Hill as more than just the birthplace of James Ewell Brown “Jeb” Stuart. I saw it as an outdoor classroom where our nation’s history could be studied through a leisurely walk along the banks of the Ararat River, from prehistoric times to the present day. These are Laurel Hill’s Many Histories.

We invite everyone to learn about Laurel Hill’s Many Histories. If you ever want a walking tour, please drop me an email, and with enough notice, I will be happy to meet your group and tell you about the history of the Laurel Hill Farm. There is another Laurel Hill in Virginia you can walk, and it too is hallowed ground.

J. E. B. Stuart fought his last battle at the ironically named Laurel Hill, where he helped put Richard Anderson’s men into line on May 8, 1864. “Benjamin Humphreys’ Mississippians and John Henagan’s South Carolinians, along with John Haskel’s guns, were led by famous cavalry commander J.E.B. Stuart onto the field at Laurel Hill. Utilizing the element of surprise, the men slipped behind the earthworks without raising any alarm to the Federals until it was too late. With gray coats stretching well across Brock Road – Henagan on the left flank and Humphreys on the right – Stuart told them, “Hold your fire until the Federals are well within range and then give it to them and hold the position to the last man. Plenty of help is near at hand. The entire time, one Confederate observer witnessed Stuart “sitting on his horse amidst a storm of bullets, laughing and joking with the men and commending them highly for their courage for the rapidity and accuracy of their fire. Stuart’s leadership of the cavalry helped buy enough time for Anderson to hurry up and reinforce the line along Laurel Hill.”

The next day, May 9, 1864, Major General John Sedgwick lost his life. “He was well-liked by his men, who referred to him as ‘Uncle John.’ On May 9, he was overseeing his troops moving to the front under a light harassing fire when a passing soldier dropped to the ground in front

(See Hallowed Ground p. 14)

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Hallowed Ground

(cont. from page 13)



of him after a near miss from a sharpshooter. According to his Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Martin McMahon, Sedgwick told the soldier ‘Why, my man, I am ashamed of you, dodging that way. They couldn’t hit an elephant at this distance.’ The soldier stood, saluted, and replied, ‘General, I dodged a shell once, and if I hadn’t, it would have taken my head off. I believe in dodging.’ Sedgwick laughed and replied, ‘All right, my man; go to your place.’ A few seconds later, Sedgwick was hit beneath his left eye and died instantly. He was the senior Union officer killed in the Civil War.”

John Sedgwick was a friend of J. E. B. Stuart. They served together in the First U. S. Cavalry, mainly in the Kansas Territory. Sedgwick once said Stuart was the “best cavalry officer ever foaled in America.” When Stuart heard of Sedgwick’s death, one diarist reported, “Stuart expressed his sorrow and ‘told me that if he could only have been taken instead of being killed he would most gladly have shared his blanket and last crust (of bread) with him, as he was one of the best friends he had in the old army.”

Many years ago, I watched the audiovisual program at the Chancellorsville Battlefield, which is part of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, which includes four battlefields that J. E. B. Stuart fought on with Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, including Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Courthouse. The program at Chancellorsville concluded with the following, which I find particularly suitable for walking Laurel Hill:

“Walk this hallowed ground where the story was written.

For the distant voices of the ageless wind
These quiet, peaceful woods and fields,
Now silent are here to remind us of how much
We owe to the sacrifice of others.
Here they came, here they lived.
Here they died.
What they lost, we lost.
What they gained, we gained.”



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