

Early morning fire claims the life of one



One person died following a house fire near the Virginia-North Carolina line on Sunday, Dec. 7.

By Taylor Boyd
A man died following an early morning residential structure fire at 154 Memory Lane near the North Carolina-Virginia border on Sunday, Dec. 7.

Patrick County Sheriff Dan Smith said the 911 Communication Center received a call on Sunday, at 3:01 a.m., from a caller stating that the residence was on fire. Multiple fire departments were dispatched and responded to fight the blaze.

Smith said the man was unable to escape and died inside the structure.

“Out of respect for the family, we are not releasing the name of the victim until proper notification has been made,” Smith said in a Sunday morning release.

Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Clint Weidhaas said fire officials received the call around 3:04 a.m. to report a mobile home fire with an entrapment.

“A resident called in advising her loved one was in the trailer still,” he said.

Moorefield Store Volunteer Fire Department, Patrick Springs, Stuart Volunteer Fire Department, and CCDF Volunteer Fire Department were initially toned out. As Patrick Springs had a crew at the station, Weidhaas said it had a truck on route within minutes.

Weidhaas was the first to arrive (See Fire p. 3)

Sammy Shelor’s ‘Banjorama’ set for Saturday

By Taylor Boyd
The Patrick County Music Association (PCMA) will end the year strong with the annual Sammy Shelor’s Banjorama on Saturday, December 13.

Sponsored by Hopkins Lumber, the event is free to the public. However, donations are appreciated and used to help the PCMA continue to support local musicians and provide free shows for the community.

The group is also partnering again with the Patrick County Food Bank, with non-perishable food items collected during the show to help those in need during the Christmas season.

The show will be held in the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Auditorium with doors opening at 5 p.m. and music starting at 6 p.m.

PCMA President Denny Alley said the annual event that features Shelor and the Lonesome River Band is the organization’s show of the year. He described Shelor’s band as a contemporary, bluegrass group.

“The Lonesome River Band is one of the top performing acts in the country, and you don’t get (See Sammy p. 3)



The spirit of Christmas — and this year’s parade theme, “Magic of the Season” — was captured in Evelyn Wade’s wonderful expression. She is the daughter of Erica and Robbie Wade. (More photos inside and online at theenterprise.net.) Photo by Pat Delaney.

Enterprise to close Stuart office, plans uninterrupted publication

For perhaps the first time since its founding in 1876, there will not be a physical newspaper office location for *The Enterprise*. The office, located at 129 N. Main Street in Stuart, will permanently close its doors to daily business operations as it transitions to a remote-first operating model on January 1.

Both *The Enterprise* and the *Henry County Enterprise* will continue to publish on their regular weekly schedules.

William Thompson, who once owned the building, estimated the newspaper moved its operations into the basement office in 1940.

With its December 31 closing, administrative responsibilities — including accounting, subscriptions, and classified ad placement — will be consolidated at the company’s home office in Lewisburg, W.Va.

The shift reflects an industry-wide move toward centralized administrative operations and reduced overhead costs. This decision is not a step backward, but rather a strategic move designed to help our local newspapers adapt to the changing media landscape and continue to move forward in ever-changing times.

Reporters, the editor and display advertising director will remain based in the communities they cover, and news gathering will continue as usual. Obituaries will be handled locally.

Readers and advertisers will continue to receive their weekly editions of *The Enterprise* and the *Henry County Enterprise* as if nothing has changed. Subscriptions, advertising, and news coverage will continue without disruption.

Beginning in January, current subscribers with questions about billing or delivery, and new subscribers, will be able to contact the home office, Mountain Media, (304) 647-5724 for assistance. A partial list of email addresses and contacts for specific departments is below; additional contact information will be provided in upcoming issues.

New Contact and Submission Information:

- **For News Tips and Submissions:** Please email our editorial team at dhall@theenterprise.net. We are always interested in local-interest stories and photos.
- **For Advertising Inquiries and Obituaries:** Please contact Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445, or email advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com.
- **For Subscription or Billing Questions:** Please call (304) 647-5724. Email addresses and contacts for specific departments will be provided in upcoming issues.
- **Legal Notices:** email to Kathleen Stickley at legalads@mountainmedianews.com.
- **Mailing Address for Payments:** P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901

We thank the community for its support over the years at our physical location and encourage you to continue supporting local journalism by subscribing, advertising, and engaging with our content.

The Enterprise will mark its 150th year of continuous publication in 2026, aligning with America’s 250th anniversary. We remain deeply committed to being out in the community and reporting the news that matters to you.



One of the many scenes from last year’s Festival of Lights at DeHart Park in Stuart.

Lighted tunnel added to growing Festival of Lights

By Taylor Boyd
A lighted tunnel for vehicles to navigate, new displays, and returning favorites are among the show-stopping offerings of the fifth annual Festival of Lights at DeHart Park in Stuart. The festival kicks off Saturday, Dec. 13, and runs through Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Open from 6–8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, the event aims to deliver holiday spirit for attendees of all ages.

Amy Corns, chairman of the Stuart Parks and Recreation Association Fundraising Committee, said this year’s festival will feature 64 displays from local businesses, churches, organizations, families, and others — the most ever.

“We’re really, really excited. We have lots of new businesses and community groups that are going to add to our festival this year, so that should be really exciting,” she said.

To meet the goal of offering something bigger and better each year, Corns said the 2025 festival will include a lighted tunnel for drivers.

“We had tremendous community support in helping us get this new addition,” she said. Numerous individuals and businesses “helped us plant the poles and run the wires for the lights to hang on, and we’re just truly appreciative of all the help that has gone into setting up for the lights.”

Admission is \$10 per car, and vehicles may drive through the loop as many times as they wish.

Corns said the festival typically draws 75–100 cars on weeknights and around 150 on weekends.

“Of course, each car, some of them have vanloads” of spectators, she said.

Last year, organizers tracked where visitors were coming from.

“I would say a good 75 percent of the festivalgoers are from Patrick County, but there is a good chunk, and I’d say it’s about 25 percent, that come from surrounding counties,” Corns said. “That just warms my heart, bringing people to see our beautiful county and all that we have to offer.” (See Lighted p. 4)

Reynolds Homestead hosts Victorian Christmas Open House on Dec. 14



Visitors gather in the Reynolds Homestead community engagement center for live music, crafts, and refreshments.



Reynolds Homestead docent John Reynolds leads visitors through the historic home.



Members of the Rock Spring Descendants Committee host visitors in the historic kitchen at the Reynolds Homestead. Photos by Kristin Hylton for Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech’s Reynolds Homestead will hold its annual Victorian Christmas Open House on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. This free holiday tradition invites guests to step back in time and experience the season much as it was celebrated in the mid-19th century when the historic home was built.

Costumed docents will lead visitors through the historic home, which has been richly decorated by Reynolds Homestead volunteers and staff. On the lawn, a carefully tended firepit will be available for fellowship and holly burning, an Appalachian tra-

dition that likely has roots in European Yule celebrations. At the community engagement center, guests will enjoy crafts, refreshments, and live music by a Christmas quartet.

Several activities will be led by the Rock Spring Descendants Committee to share stories and traditions of the enslaved community, including crafting corn husk dolls and other historical interpretations.

If you are a person with a disability and wish to request accommodation, please contact Kristin Hylton at krhylton@vt.edu or 276-694-7181 ext. 26.

The Spirit of Christmas

(cont. from page 1)



Wesley Tatum’s family served as the grand marshals of the 53rd annual Christmas Parade. Tatum was known and cherished for his annual Christmas display.



Interim County Administrator Michael McGuinness walks alongside the Hazel Y. Clark Patrick County Animal Shelter float.



Patrick County Schools message: “There is room for everyone on the nice list.”



Santa Claus prepared for his Christmas flight while participating in Saturday’s parade.

Chamber announces Inaugural Merry & Bright Market

The Patrick County Chamber of Commerce announced the inaugural Merry & Bright Market, a brand-new holiday shopping event designed to bring joy, community, and unique gift opportunities to the season. Bring your family and friends and enjoy an afternoon of festive fun while supporting local artisans and producers.

Shoppers can browse an array of one-of-a-kind, handmade, and locally crafted gifts from Stuart Farmers’ Market vendors and Bull Mountain Arts members, offering the perfect

presents for everyone on your list.

Come hungry—there will be delicious food available for purchase from Tony’s Pizza along with specialties from the Pickle & Ash food truck.

As a special treat, attendees can enter a drawing for a free pass to DeHart’s Festival of Lights for this year’s spectacular display.

Join us in celebrating the season while shopping local on Sunday, December 14, from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Calliope Building, 410 Patrick Avenue in Downtown Stuart.

Pets of the Week



Max, a Boxer mix, is an extremely good boy. He has been at the shelter since the beginning of August. Please give this boy 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



This sweet Shepherd mix female is shy at first but warms up quickly. She has been at the shelter way too long.

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.

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Grand jury returns 60-plus indictments

Grand jurors in Patrick County handed down more than 60 indictments on December 1, according to records in the Patrick County Court Clerk’s Office.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt, but a grand jury’s determination that enough evidence exists to warrant a trial.

Those named in the indictments are:

- *Thomasena Elizabeth Collins, 57, of Stuart, possess firearm by non-violent felon, April 26.
- *Michael Paul Hartfield, 55, of Stoneville, N.C., one count each possession of Sch. I or II drug and possess a firearm while possessing a Sch. I or II drug, May 5.
- *William Carles Hall. Jr., 35, of Stuart, possess firearm by a non-violent felon, June 6.
- *Adam Michael Polzella, 45, of Martinsville, possession of burglarious tools, May 2.
- *Michael Logan Waldron, 28, of Spencer, one count each possession of Sch. I or II drugs, possessing a firearm while a violent felon, and possession of a firearm with Sch. I or II drugs, May 20.
- *Joshua Angel Valencia, 21, of Danville, elude, Jan. 21.
- *Sherman A. Dillinger, 78, of Stuart, unlawful wounding, June 8.
- *River Lee Helms, 27, of Woolwine, one count each propose sex act by communication system and possess child pornography, between June 21 and June 23.
- *Ricky Bradley Penn, 48, of Stuart, one count each possess firearm while possessing Sch. I or II drugs, possession of a firearm by non-violent

felon, and possession of Sch. I or II drugs, June 11.

- *Jade Anthony Phillips, 24, of Lawsonville, N.C., malicious wounding, June 26.
- *Joseph Michael Murphy, 39, of Stuart, possession of Sch. I or II drugs, Aug. 8.
- *Michael Patrick Carter, 53, of Stuart, threat in writing, July 26.
- *Mitchell Steve Slate, 50, of Stuart, possession of Sch. I or II drugs, June 11.
- *Shannon Gray Pack, 34, of Claudville, one count each strangulation and abduction, Aug. 15.
- *James Colton Wuchner, 38, of Stuart, unlawful shooting in occupied dwelling, July 14.
- *Amber Mary Kendrick, 25, of Woolwine, one count each conspire to commit malicious wounding and malicious wounding, March 17.
- *Freddie Lee Kendrick Jr., 22, of Woolwine, two counts solicitation of a juvenile to commit a felony and one count each malicious wounding and conspire to commit malicious wounding, on or between March 1 and March 17.
- *Robert Evan Mabe, 42, of Claudville, one count each malicious wounding and abduction, June 13.
- *Damien Drew Collins, 30, of Ararat, four counts distribute Sch. I or II drugs; two counts distribute Sch. I or II drugs while possessing a firearm, on or between July 18 - November 15, 2024.
- *Skilar Engman, 24, of Flint, MI, one count each shoplift, conspiracy to shoplift, and obtain money by false pretense, Aug. 5.

- *Christopher Kirk Gray, 55, of Ararat, one count each possession of Sch. I or II drugs and sale of Sch. I or II drugs, on or between June 20 - Nov. 21, 2024.
- *Kenneth Dane Gray, 56, of Claudville, one count each possession of Sch. I or II drug with intent to distribute and possess firearm by a non-violent felon, Aug. 19.
- *Deshaun Michael Hughes, 37, of Stuart, possession of Sch. I or II drug, Aug. 20, 2024.
- *Erin Moore, Aug. 15, 26, of Flint, MI, one count each shoplift, conspiracy to shoplift, and obtain money by false pretense, Aug. 5.
- *Brittany Marie Moss, 27, of Mt. Airy, N.C., two counts each distribute Sch. I or II drugs and distribute Sch. I or II drugs while possessing a firearm, on or between Aug. 6 - Nov. 15, 2024.
- *Thatcher Linwood Robertson, 30, of Ararat, 21 counts take part in or film child porn, three counts encouraging a minor to be a subject of sexual material, two counts propose sex act by communication system, and one count each take part in or film child porn, and possess child porn (first offense), on or between June 29 and Nov. 1.
- *Joseph Coy Setliff, 51, of Stuart, two counts possession of Sch. I or II drugs, March 9.
- *Nikolaus Ryan Tabor, 39, of Stuart, one count each forgery, uttering, and obtain money by false pretenses, March 8, 2024.
- *Mark Lukus Tatum, 48, of Stuart, perjury, July 16.
- *Yamonie Williams, 26, of Flint, MI, one count each shoplift, conspiracy to shoplift, and obtain money by false pretense. Aug. 5.

Fire

(cont. from page 1)



More than 30 firefighters from Patrick County and Stokes County responded.

at the scene at 3:15 a.m. He said the residence was two mobile homes put together in an L-shaped fashion.

“The mobile home nearest to the road was fully involved, and the mobile home in the rear was partially involved,” he said. “First responders

from Patrick Springs initiated a VES (Vent, Enter, Search) on the rear mobile home as it was the only part that was not on fire yet, and we were unsure where he was.”

Weidhaas said the firefighters were met with extreme heat as the search



Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Clint Weidhaas said firefighters had to use a pond about a mile away to get the necessary water to put out the fire.

for the resident was conducted.

“We were unsuccessful in locating him initially. There was a little confusion about where he was at first, because we did not have the other homeowner there. She’d actually ran up the road, a quarter mile away, to the neighbor, so I didn’t have that information when I first got on scene,” Weidhaas said.

When fire crews received word that the man stayed inside the front structure, Weidhaas said it had basically completely collapsed, with the roof down on the floor.

“So, firefighters had to meticulously remove debris to locate the deceased resident. It took about an hour to locate him,” he said.

Moorefield Store responded with units and three personnel, Patrick Springs had an engine and 10 personnel, Stuart had two engines and six personnel, and CCDF responded with tankers and two personnel.

Weidhaas said Patrick County also contacted Stokes County for the assistance of the Lawsonville and Sandy Ridge volunteer fire departments. Sandy Ridge responded with units and 11 personnel, and Lawsonville responded with units and five personnel.

Because the structure was in a rural area, Weidhaas said firefighters used a pond at Peters Creek Church off Route 8 in Stokes County as a fill site to get water.

It was “about a mile away from the scene. So, the turnaround time for the tankers was good. It wasn’t a long travel time to go get water, so that was a plus. I’m not sure how many gallons we used, but we did have six tankers” working to extinguish the blaze, he said.

Weidhaas estimated firefighters were on scene until about 5:45 a.m.

Investigators from the Patrick County Sheriff’s Office are being assisted by Virginia State Police fire investigators to determine the cause and origin of the fire, according to Weidhaas and Smith.

“At this point in the investigation, nothing stands out as being malicious or suspicious,” the sheriff stated.

“Anytime there’s a fatality like that, a lot of times your localities will call upon the state police for more assistance because you’re bringing in more experience to the investigation. The state police have some other resources they can pull on, too,” Weidhaas said, adding the agent was called out of Roanoke.

HVAC night courses offered in the spring



SCC is offering HVAC night courses from Jan. 9 through May 11. For more information, contact Timmy Overby, Lead Instructor of HVAC and Refrigeration, at (336) 386-3268 or overbyt@surry.edu, or Ray Hoots, Director of Engineering Technologies, at (336) 386-3268 or hootstr@surry.edu.

Surry Community College is offering HVAC night courses next spring.

Introduction to Refrigeration, AHR-110 or AHR-3131C, introduces the basic refrigeration process used in mechanical refrigeration and air conditioning systems. Topics include terminology, safety, and identification and function of components; refrigeration cycle; and tools and instrumentation used in mechanical refrigeration systems.

Upon completion, students should be able to identify refrigeration systems and components, explain the refrigeration process, and use the tools and instrumentation of the trade. Students can take this course to earn credit for

the HVAC certificate, diploma, or degree.

Classes are offered January 9 through May 11, Mondays and Wednesdays, from 6:30 to 10:20 p.m. This course is available to Virginia residents at in-state tuition rates.

For more information, contact Timmy Overby, Lead Instructor of HVAC and Refrigeration, at (336) 386-3268 or overbyt@surry.edu, or Ray Hoots, Director of Engineering Technologies, at (336) 386-3268 or hootstr@surry.edu. For help with college application, class registration, or financial aid, contact Student Services at (336) 386-3264 or student-services@surry.edu. The deadline to register is January 5.

Sammy

(cont. from page 1)

cheaper than free” to see them, he said.

Formed in Meadows of Dan in 1982, the group has released 15 recording projects. Shelor, the group’s leader, is a Virginia Country Hall of Fame member and a five-time International Bluegrass Music Association Banjo Player of the Year recipient.

Last year’s Banjorama garnered over 500 attendees.

“I think we got 640 seats in there. We just need people in each one of them,” Alley said. But “it depends on the weather. Right now, the weather’s the factor in everything. I’m not used to seeing snow and sleet this early in December,” he said.

Nick Goad, Kyser George, & Friends will open the show.

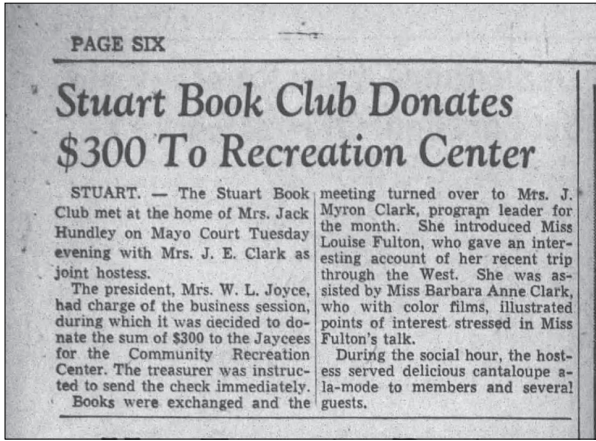
“Right now, Kyser has one of the hottest touring bands in the country. He’s a phenomenal musician,” Alley said.

Jay Adams, Clyde Bailey, Danny Bowers, Barry Collins, Ronny Harrison, Nessie Hunt, Doug Joyce, Tim Lineberry, Larry Mabe, and Tommy Morse are also expected to take the stage.

Alley said musical acts are also lined up for the first three monthly shows of next year.

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.



Martinsville Bulletin, 1948

Stuart Book Club-100th Anniversary: 1925–2025

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week we looked at the Stuart Book Club from its inception in 1925 through the social and altruistic activities of its first decade. This week, we explore additional ways the club continued to strengthen and serve the Patrick County community over the decades.

Club membership has always been limited to 12 members, united in their devotion to cultural, educational, patriotic, and philanthropic service.

The Stuart Book Club was instrumental in establishing the first library in Stuart and played a key role in securing the county’s Home Demonstration Agents, as well as assisting with the organization of the first Home Demonstration Club. Members also sponsored the creation of the J.E.B. Stuart Woman’s Club.

Their early work included providing hot lunches for school children, supplying schools with a First Aid cot, venetian blinds, cafeteria equipment, playground equipment, and books, and contributing toward the purchase of a playground fence.

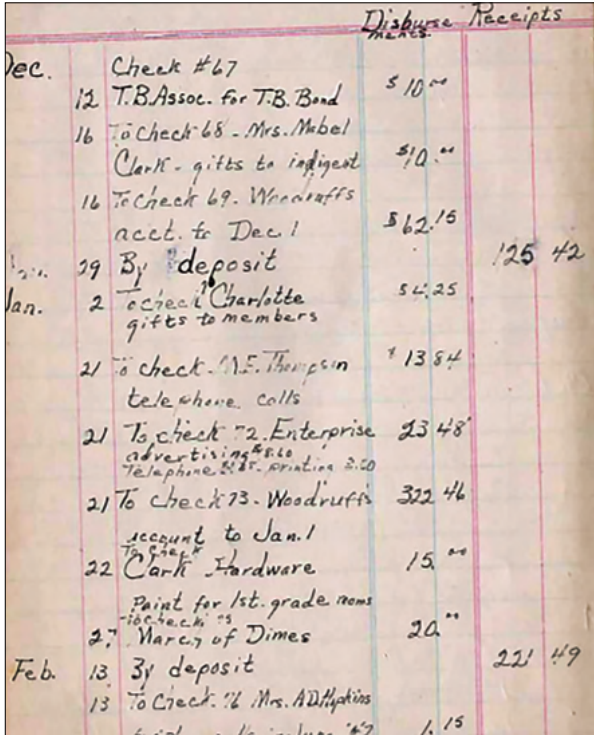
During the war years, the club supported patriotic efforts including bond rallies and assembling packs for servicemen after induction. Members also donated clothing to needy children and purchased wheelchairs for children with disabilities.

Financial support extended to many major charities through generous contributions to organizations such as the American Red Cross, March of Dimes, Salvation Army, and other benevolent causes. The club sponsored annual fundraising drives for the Children’s Home Society, contributed to children in need of medical and hospital care, and helped send a child to Camp Easter Seal.

One of the club’s most visible traditions was sponsoring the town’s first Community Christmas Tree on the courthouse lawn, complete with a visit from Santa Claus and treats for children. Members collaborated annually with the Rotary Club on this project and also contributed to Christmas Cheer efforts throughout the community.

When fundraising pledges were being accepted for the R. J. Reynolds Patrick County Memorial Hospital Building Fund, the Stuart Book Club donated most of its accumulated savings to help offset construction costs. In later years, members also funded the decorating of the hospital dining room.

In its earliest years, the Stuart Book Club established a corner lending library inside Clark’s Hardware at Main Street and Blue Ridge Street. Because Patrick County had no florist for many years, the club also served as the local agent for Woodruff’s Flowers. Mem-



Dec 1947 Stuart Book Club Ledger

bers managed orders for funeral arrangements, potted plants, and corsages, using proceeds to fund the club’s charitable and civic projects.

Newspaper Highlights

November 22, 1936 — Danville Register & Bee:

Twelve books of fiction were donated to the high school library. Mrs. Nash Thompson presented a program on “French Queens of the 16th Century.”

September 10, 1937 — Martinsville Bulletin: The Stuart Book Club announced plans to hold a children’s clinic at the courthouse.

April 28, 1940 — Roanoke Times:

The club voted to withdraw from the Virginia Federation of Women’s Clubs, directing that all funds be used solely for local community needs.

June 20, 1941 — Martinsville Bulletin:

Miss Ladye Clark, librarian of the Patrick County Library, thanked the club for a donation of 250 books. The club also purchased venetian blinds for the library’s main reading room at a cost of \$40.00.

May 4, 1945 — Martinsville Bulletin:

As local sponsor of the Girl Scouts, the club hosted both Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops at the Stuart Baptist Church playground.

May 25, 1945 — Martinsville Bulletin:

The club donated \$15.00 to the Cancer Fund, and two \$5.00 prizes for a War Bonds Auction scheduled for June 2. Prior to the business session, members attended the Star Theatre to view “Since You Went Away,” an event arranged by program leader Mrs. A. D. Hopkins.

December 7, 1947 — Danville Register & Bee:

The club purchased a \$10.00 tuberculosis bond, donated \$15.00 toward painting two first-grade classrooms at Stuart Elementary, and increased its support of the Infantile Paralysis campaign from \$10.00 to \$20.00.

March 26, 1948 — Martinsville Bulletin:

The annual Easter flower sale was held at Mills’ Store, with Mrs. John F. Clark and Mrs. J. Rucker Moore supervising sales. A \$25.00 contribution was made to the Cancer Fund campaign.

December 1, 1948 — Martinsville Bulletin:

Due to increased need for free lunches at Stuart Elementary, the club donated \$50.00 toward school meals.

February 24, 1957 — Martinsville Bulletin:

The club purchased playground equipment for Stuart Elementary School. They also fund-



Martinsville Bulletin, 1948

ed the basketball team banquet (\$25.00), donated \$50.00 to the American Red Cross, and \$25.00 to Easter Seal. I would like to interject here that the playground equipment was much appreciated by the students. I have fond memories of climbing that giant steel slide and riding the merry-go-round.

Betty Kirkpatrick, a former librarian and Stuart Book Club member, took on the monumental task of scanning each page of the decades of ledgers and treasury records which are housed at the Patrick County Historical Society & Museum.

Today Stuart Book Club continues to stay engaged with current events and community programs, fostering appreciation of literature within the group, in the schools and in the community, as they have done for a century. The club remains steadfast in its support of the Patrick County Library and its mission. Membership strongly believes that the love of books and the habit of reading developed early in life are vital to scholastic success.

Thank you to Suzanne Hutchens and Betty Kirkpatrick for assistance with this article. For questions, comments, or story ideas, please 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 – About Tax Filing Status and Medicare

Dear Rusty: I’m trying to figure out if I should change my IRS filing status to “Married – Filing Jointly” prior to getting reviewed for my Medicare Part B and Part D. My current IRS status is “Married – Filing Single” and I noticed this filing status is more stringent. I will be turning 62 this year (2025) and I’ve read that Medicare will review my income 2 years prior to turning 65. Any input would be appreciated. *Signed: Uncertain Senior*

Dear Uncertain: Your IRS tax filing status has no bearing on your eligibility for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) or Medicare Part D (insurance coverage for prescription drugs). Medicare is an individual healthcare program, so enrolling in Medicare provides coverage for you (only), not your spouse (your spouse’s Medicare eligibility will be individually evaluated).

What your IRS filing status may affect is the amount of your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. There is a Medicare provision called “IRMAA” (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount), which sets the income thresholds on which your Medicare premiums are based, and those thresholds are different if you file your income tax as a single, or as “married/filing jointly.” The IRMAA thresholds can change annu-

ally, and there’s no way to yet determine what they will be when you are able to enroll in Medicare at age 65 (they are currently \$106,000 if you file as a single, and \$212,000 if you file your taxes as “married/jointly”). If your “provisional income” (your combined income from all sources) exceeds the threshold for your filing status, you will pay higher (than standard) Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. If your income is lower than the threshold, you will pay only whatever the standard Medicare Part B premium is for the year you start Medicare, and there will be no supplemental premium for your Part D coverage. For information, the IRMAA supplements are progressive – that is, the more you exceed the threshold by, the higher your IRMAA premium supplement will be. To see the current IRMAA thresholds and supplements (again, these will likely change when you are eligible for Medicare): www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles.

You are correct that your Medicare premium, when you enroll, will be determined by your total income from 2 years prior. So, if you plan to enroll in Medicare at age 65 (sometime in 2028), it is your 2026 income which will determine your Part B and Part D premiums, and that income will be defined by your 2026 income tax return. Note, too, that Medicare premiums are reevaluated each year, based upon your IRS income tax return from 2 years prior.

FYI, there are advantages to filing your income tax as “married/jointly” (vs. married/filing separately), and those are best evaluated by

your tax advisor (we are not tax advisors here at the AMAC Foundation). And while it’s true that the IRMAA thresholds are higher when you file as “married/jointly,” it’s also true that your total income as a married couple will be used when determining your IRMAA premiums for Medicare. So, once again, it is probably best to consult with a qualified income tax advisor for guidance on whether it is best, financially, for you to change how you file your income tax in 2026, considering that you will be enrolling in Medicare in 2028.

One final thing: If you are still working and have “creditable” healthcare coverage from your employer (“creditable” is a group plan with at least 20 participants), then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends (thus temporarily avoiding the Medicare premiums). In other words, if you have creditable healthcare coverage from an employer, you don’t have to enroll in Medicare immediately at age 65.

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.



Trinitree Penn dribbles the ball after a steal against Chatham.

JV Girls Beat Chatham

By Ashlee Mullis
The JV Lady Cougars beat Chatham 42-12 on the road, Wednesday, December 3. Trinitree Penn led the Cougars with 15 points, 7 steals, and 5 rebounds. Hailey Lester had 10 points, 4 rebounds, and 1 steal. Sarah Lawson had 6 points, 1 assist, 1 steal, and 5 rebounds. Cassidy Brim had 4 points, 1 assist, 5 steals,

and 4 rebounds. Kiley Cain had 4 points. Bella Clark had 2 points, 2 steals and 1 rebound. Tiffany Eckrote had 1 point 2 steals and 6 rebounds. Bella Wright had 3 assists, 2 steals and 3 rebounds. “We played in a tough environment tonight,” said Coach Grace Helms. “The ladies kept positive attitudes and worked together!”

Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis

JV Lady Cougars Defeat Bassett
The JV Lady Cougars hosted Bassett, Tuesday, December 2, defeating the Lady Bengals 42-9. Trinitree Penn led the Cougars with 19 points, 4 steals, 4 rebounds, and 1 assist. Hailey Lester had 7 points, 1 steal, 1 assist, and 7 rebounds. Sarah Lawson had 5 points, 5 assists, and 7 rebounds. Bella Wright had 4 points. Isabella Martin had 2 points, 1 assist, and 1 rebound. Cassidy Brim had 2 points, 2 steals and 3 rebounds. Coach Grace Helms said, “The ladies played well tonight. I am grateful for their coachable attitudes and grit. I am blessed. They have lots of talent and have supportive families.”

Varsity Girls Beat Bassett
The Lady Cougar Varsity Basketball Team opened their regular season with a 48-30 home win over the Lady Bengals, Tuesday, December 2. PC took a 31-17 lead into halftime, never falling behind on the scoreboard. Kendra Worley led the Cougars with 14 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, and 1 block. She was 2 for 3 behind the three-point line. Gracen Conner had 12 points with 6 rebounds, 3 assists, and 1 steal, Sheyan Lester had 7 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, and 3 blocks. Chloe Hubbard put up 6 points and 6 rebounds. Journey Moore had 5 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, and 3 steals in the win.

JV Girls Win Three in a Week
The PC Lady Cougars hosted North Stokes, Thursday, December 4, getting a 45-30 win over the Lady Vikings. Leading the Cougars was Sarah Lawson with 13 points, 1 assist, 3 steals, 1 block, and 7 rebounds. Trinitree Penn had 13

points, 1 assist, 4 steals, and 3 rebounds. Hailey Lester had 12 points, 3 steals, and 5 rebounds. Alaina McBride had 6 points and 2 assists. Alie Lewis had 1 point and 3 rebounds. Tiffany Eckrote had 2 assists, 2 steals, and 5 rebounds. Bella Wright had 3 steals and 4 rebounds while Isabella Martin had 2 assists and 3 rebounds. Coach Grace Helms said, “We played 3 back-to-back games this week. I am so proud of these ladies! They work hard and are a joy to coach.”

Varsity Girls Knock Off North Stokes
The Varsity Girls Basketball Team hosted the Lady Vikings, Thursday, December 4, knocking off the Lady Vikings 50-32. Patrick County outscored Stokes every quarter going into the third with a 27-14 lead. Kendra Worley put up 12 points for the Cougars as well as 6 rebounds, 4 assists, and 6 steals. Abby Royall had 10 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 7 steals, and 1 block. Chloe Hubbard had 10 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, and 3 steals. Gracen Conner had 7 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, and 1 steal in the win. Journey Moore added 6 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 7 steals, and 1 block.

Varsity Boys Get First Win
The Patrick County Varsity Team got their first win of the season, Thursday, December 4. The Cougars hosted North Stokes, getting a 70-58 win over a tough Viking team. Jayden Corns led the Cougars in scoring, putting up 20 points. Corns also had 10 rebounds and 4 steals. Vishal Somasundaram had 18 points and 1 rebound. Brayden Hylton had 12 points and 3 rebounds. Bronson Edwards had 11 points and 8 rebounds. Anderson Brim had 6 points and 2 rebounds in the win.

PCHS Sports Schedule

The Patrick County High School Cougars Sports Schedule for the week of December 15-20:

12/17	7pm	Boys Basketball at Staunton River
12/19	6:15pm	Girls Basketball at North Stokes
	7:45pm	Boys Basketball at North Stokes
12/20	TBD	Wrestling vs TBA at PCHS
	9am	Indoor Track Meet at Roanoke College



Kendra Worley protects the ball against a Chatham defender.

PC Varsity Girls Fall to Chatham

By Ashlee Mullis
The Patrick County Varsity Girls Basketball Team traveled to Chatham, Wednesday, December 3, to take on the Lady Cavaliers. The Lady Cougars fell 16-50 to a very tough Chatham team in the second game of a 3-game week. PC kept it close in the beginning, trailing 5-9 at the end of the 1st. But the Cavaliers turned up the heat in the 2nd quarter and never let up. Gracen Conner led the Cougars with 6 points, 3 of those behind the arc. Chloe Hubbard had 5 points on the night. Sheyan Lester had 3 points, and Kendra Worley added 2 points on the night.

Volunteer fire agencies to receive federal funds

Bassett Volunteer Fire Company, Incorporated, will receive \$58,083, and Woolwine Volunteer Fire Department Inc. \$408,000, according to a release from U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine. The two announced over \$20 million in federal funding for Virginia fire departments, localities, and organizations last week.

This funding is awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and made possible by the Fire Grants and Safety Act, legislation supported by Warner and Kaine that reauthorized the Assistance for Firefighters (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Resources (SAFER) grant programs. The AFG and SAFER grant programs are used by fire departments and localities to address staffing needs, purchase equipment, develop fire training and education programs, and improve emergency medical services. “Every day, Virginia’s firefighters risk their lives to help and protect our communities,” said Kaine, D-Richmond, and Warner, D-Alexandria. “We are pleased to announce more than \$20 million in federal funding that will go towards ensuring our fire departments have the support, training, and resources they need.” The Assistance for Firefighters (AFG) grant program helps firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. A total of \$3,832,551 was awarded to 17 Virginia localities and fire departments for the 2024 Fiscal Year.



PCHS Sr. Beta students attend summit

Thirteen Patrick County High School Sr. Beta students went to Williamsburg for a leadership summit on October 27, and stayed at the Great Wolf Lodge. On the first day of the summit, October 28, the students competed in a couple of competitions including Being Better Betas: Ethical Decision Making and Collaboration Connection. On the second day, the rest of the students completed their competitions—Beta Blitz, All the

World is a Stage, and Project Proposal. In the last assembly, we learned that we qualified for nationals in all but one competition. Students participating in the trip were Jaxon Ayers-Rosas, Alexis Cox, Carson Farrar, Willow Hylton, David Lawson, Kylee Leonard, Draysin Maselli, Callie Montgomery, Elizabeth Post, Madison Purdy, Rylee Soliday, Lacey Sutphin, and Callie Wood.

THANK YOU FOR READING

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF
171 Russell Gunter Drive, Stuart, VA 24171

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$180,606.00 dated August 16, 2017 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Patrick County on August 24, 2017 as Instrument Number: 170001526, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W Blue Ridge St, Stuart, VA 24171 on January 15, 2026 at 11 AM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: All that certain tract of land, together with the improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being in Peters Creek Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia containing 1.000 acre. Tax ID: 4609-112-A.

TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 25-012326)

Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans Law Group PLLC
PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: [www. Orlans.com](http://www.Orlans.com)

BWW# VA-355050-2

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 326 HILL VALLEY ROAD, STUART, VA 24171. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 24, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$81,632.18 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Patrick County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000758. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Patrick County, 101 West Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on January 15, 2026, at 2:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL OF THAT ONE CERTAIN LOT, TRACT, OR PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, LYING AND BEING IN PETERS CREEK MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PATRICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON THE EAST SIDE OF STATE ROAD #730, THAT IS MORE PARTICULARLY BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:

BEGINNING AT A DRIVEN IRON STAKE, A NEW CORNER, ON THE EAST SIDE OF STATE ROAD #730, THENCE A NEW DIVIDING LINE S. 70 DEG. E. 157 FEET 7 INCHES TO A NEW CORNER IRON STAKE; THENCE ANOTHER NEW DIVIDING LINE S. 20 DEG W. 200 FEET TO A DRIVEN IRON STAKE IN THE LINE OF WITT ROGERS PROPERTY; THENCE WITH THE RODGERS LINE N. 64 DEG. 46 MIN. W. 181 FEET 3 INCHES TO A DRIVEN IRON STAKE ON THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE SAID STATE ROAD #730; THENCE LEAVING THE ROGERS LINE AND WITH THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID STATE ROAD #730; THENCE LEAVING THE ROGERS LINE AND WITH THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID STATE ROAD #730 N. 28 DEG. 45 MIN. E. 186 FEET 3 INCHES BACK TO THE POINT OF THE BEGINNING, CONTAINING 0.75 OF AN ACRE, MORE OR LESS, BY SURVEY TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH.

A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-9616555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-355050-2.

Trustee's Sale
153 Fairstone Church Loop, Stuart, VA 24171
(Parcel ID: 4915-90)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 25, 2022, in the original principal amount of \$153,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Patrick, Virginia on March 25, 2022, as Instrument Number 220000557, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on January 08, 2026 at 10:00 AM, in front of the building housing the County of Patrick Circuit Court, 100 N. Main Street, Stuart, VA 24171, the property designated as All that certain tract or parcel of land with improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being in the Smith River Magisterial District of Patrick County, Virginia, Containing 0.64 acre, more or less, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a cement marker belonging to the Virginia State Highway Department on the Southeast side of State Highway #57, thence with the right of way line of said State Highway #57, N. 52 deg. 40 min. E. 392.50 feet to a driven iron stake, a-new corner; thence leaving the said State Highway and a new dividing line, S. 40 deg. 55 min. E. 109.00 feet to a driven iron stake; S. 24 deg. 28 min. E. 31.72 feet to a driven iron stake on the North side of State Route #843; thence with the right of way line of said State Route #843, S. 66 deg. 30 min. W. 238.23 feet to a driven iron stake, S. 76 deg. 17 min. W. 126.40 feet to a Virginia Highway marker, S. 85 deg. 32 min. W. 60.94 feet back to the point of Beginning. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$15,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 5310 Markel Road, Suite 201, Richmond, VA 23230, File No. 23-000273, Tel: 804-525-1570.

In my opinion, soy is not only safe but potentially beneficial. Soy has a long history of use in Asia, and within vegetarian populations throughout the world. Two of the healthiest, long-lived populations in the world – the Okinawan Japanese and the Seventh-day Adventists in Loma Linda California – are frequent soy consumers. The tradi-

tional Okinawan diet derives about 5-6% of calories from soy or about 2 servings a day. If soy foods were dangerous, its effects would be reflected in the health and longevity of these populations. Soy has been extensively researched — about 2,000 new studies on soy are released yearly. The value of soybeans for human health depends on the form and quantity eaten.—

There is considerable negative press about soy on the internet. It can usually be traced back to groups that promote animal-based diets. These groups are strongly invested in encouraging the consumption of meat, eggs, and dairy, and they do an exceptional job of convincing consumers to steer clear of soy. When plant-based enthusiasts jump on the anti-soy bandwagon, they remove a whole category of food that has the potential to make the diet more nutritious, more healthful and more enjoyable. While it is not necessary to eat soy, it is not necessary to avoid it either. Some individuals need to avoid

or limit soy due to allergy or severe thyroid problems, however, for most people, soy foods are safe and nutritious.

The nutritional benefits of soy are similar to other legumes, although soybeans are higher in protein and fat, and lower in carbohydrates. Soybeans derive about 25-38 percent of their protein from protein, compared with about 20 to 30 percent for other legumes. The quality of protein in soy is similar to that of animal products and is better than that of other legumes. While most legumes are low in fat (about 2-15% of calories), soybeans derive about 40 percent of calories from fat. The fat in soybeans is mainly polyunsaturated, including 7 percent alpha-linolenic acid (an omega-3 fatty acid),

Whole soybeans are a rich source of fiber, although processing diminishes fiber content. Soybeans are high in B-vitamins, especially niacin, pyridoxine, and folic acid. They are also good sources of minerals such as calcium, iron, magnesium, and copper. Calcium is often added to soymilk, and

tofu is commonly set with calcium, so these products are particularly rich calcium sources. For many years experts thought that iron was poorly absorbed from soy, however, more recent evidence suggests absorption is quite high. When consumed with vitamin-C-rich fruits and vegetables, absorption is further enhanced. Nutrient absorption is also improved when soy is soaked, cooked or fermented.

Is soy safe for children or the elderly?

Absolutely. Again, look at the use of soy around the world. People in Asia consume soy throughout their lives, as do many vegetarians and vegans in Western cultures. There is no evidence that this use has adverse consequences for health when soy is used in reasonable quantities as part of a healthful diet.

And for men? See Part 2 of this article.

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

According to records in the Patrick County Circuit Court Clerk's office, the following marriage licenses were issued:

October	November
Conner Stanley and Mackenzie Belcher	Nathan Fernanders and Emily Ruff
Charles Ray III and Miranda Carroll	Jacob Hall and Brooklynn Cavinness
	Jeffery Inman and Brenda Hylton
	Branson Bolt and Autumn Lawson
	Luke Jessup and Emily Chitwood



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1-3-5-7-9

Sellinah Lomalangeni Hill

Left to cherish her memories are her loving companion of over



30 years, Lavoy Bray Sr; sons, Dennis L Helms and wife, Deborah P Helms; Clayton L Helms and wife, Earlene S Helms; three granddaughters, Alice Derrow, April Helms and Angela Helms; also three step grandchildren, Crissie Snyder, Carla Pavon, and Ashley Whitehead; one great granddaughter, Olive R Derrow; sisters, Barbara Luckado and Hettie Webb; brother, Roger Harris; and many nieces, nephews, other family members,

tian Church, where he
 taught Sunday School
 and helped visit the
 sick and the shut-ins.
 He dearly loved his
 family and was always
 willing to help others
 and put others before
 himself.

Left to cherish the memories of Doug are his devoted wife of 45 years, Phyllis Goard Griffin of the home; son James "Jamie" Griffin (Vicky) of Fresno, California; grandson, Andrew "Griff" Griffin

had many strengths. Whether she was selling Princess House crystal and earning trips, building houses, coaching a basketball team, dressing up for a re-enactment to run the tea party, or volunteering her time in her community, she did it all with so much heart and her big, wonderful personality.

Joan was very active in her church, faithful to her beliefs, and was appreciative of her church family.

She lived in several places throughout her life, but Patrick County remained in her heart and she was happy to be able to live and retire here.

She always had a positive attitude and a solution to every problem and always led by example. She was generous, kind, strong, smart, and simply a very good human and she will be dearly missed. The world has lost a bright light.

Funeral services will be held at Connors View Primitive Baptist Church, 3408 Mountain View Road, Meadows of Dan, on Friday December 5, at 1:00 p.m. with Elder Tim McGrady officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the church cemetery. Family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. The family requests in lieu of flowers that donations be made to Connors View Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Barry Fain, 459 Woodland Drive, Stuart, VA 24171 or to the Glaucoma Research Foundation, 131 Steuart Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94105. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Following Doug's request, the family will have a private service officiated by Pastor Curt Ashley. Military rites will be provided by the Patrick County Veterans Memorial Honor Guard. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the services, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

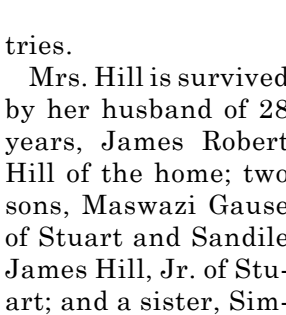
Doug's family wants to express their gratitude to Mountain Valley Hospice and Moody Funeral Home for their care and kindness.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents; Thomas Conner and Nannie Ruth Conner and 3 siblings; Michael Conner, Marcus Conner and Diane Gillespie. She is survived by her siblings; Donna Jewel (Ray), Jeannette Belcher (Ellis), Ronnie Conner, her spouse; Terry Williams; ex-husband Richard Caudill; children; Cory Bryant (AnnMarie), Logan Bryant (Catherine), Melissa Caudill (Phil), Paul Williams, and Matthew Williams; 7 grandchildren, David, Tyler, Daniel, Hannah, Corie Marie, Ashley and Callie, several nieces and nephews and dear friend Elizabeth Armendi.

Joan's memorial service will be held at True Gospel Baptist Church, 7403 Salem Hwy, Stuart, VA on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor J.R. Shelton officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the church cemetery. Family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Joan's name to the True Gospel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 504, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Nellie Jean Joyce Terry, 93, of Henry County formerly of Patrick County, Va passed away on Monday, December 1, 2025 at Stanleytown Health Care. She was born in Patrick County on August 26, 1932 to the late Nannie Sue Tuggle and Louie Washington Joyce. She is preceded in death by one daughter, Joyce Kaye Cobbler, son, Carl Louie Terry, five sisters Edith Wray, Ilda Mitchell, Racine Craig, Geneva Dillon, Annie Bea Adams and four brothers, James Curtis Joyce, Dolphus Joyce, Bobby Joyce and Ronnie Joyce.

She was a member of Long Branch Primitive Baptist Church, celebrated a milestone of seventy five years of marriage on November 7, 2025, was a wonderful cook, devoted wife, enjoyed canning, loved her family, and babysitting children. Cared for approximately up to 40 children over



tries.

Mrs. Hill is survived by her husband of 28 years, James Robert Hill of the home; two sons, Maswazi Gause of Stuart and Sandile James Hill, Jr. of Stuart; and a sister, Sim-

her years and collecting dolls loved to read, loved to garden, loved to quilt and crochet, and loved home. She joined the Primitive Baptist Church in 1957, at the time of her death, was a member of Long Branch Primitive Baptist Church in Ferrum, VA

She is survived by her husband, Carl Terry of the home, one daughter, Bonnie Jean Terry Gourd, two sons, George William Terry of Holly Lake Ranch, TX, Mark Terry of Bassett, VA, , one sister, Peggy Merriman (Moyer), of

Funeral services will be held Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Greater Tabernacle of Praise with Pastor Melton Roberson officiating. Burial will follow in Patrick Memorial Gardens. A wake will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is handling the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Bassett, VA, Tommy Joyce (Emma- Dean) of Bassett, VA, eight grandchildren, Susan Davis, Victoria Owens, Tommy Bell, Terry Cobbler, Amanda Olivera, Wilson Cobbler, Lanca Foster, Leah Johnson, seventeen great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

A funeral will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at Norris Funeral Services Chapel in Stuart with Elder Mark Terry and Elder Junior Conner officiating. Burial will follow at Dan River Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in Vesta, Va.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

Norris Funeral Services in Stuart is serving the Terry family

Online condolences may be made at www.norrisfuneral.com.

a devoted wife, loving
mama, adoring gran-
ny, and caring sister,
aunt, and friend.

Mrs. Hubbard is survived by two daughters, Cindy Hylton (Randy) of Stuart, Katina Hylton (Brad) of Stuart; two grandsons, Brent Hylton (Michaela) of Woolwine, Chase Hylton of Stuart;

es cont. o

two great-grandsons, Dawson and Riley; three sisters, Vera W. Wood of South Boston, Joan Smith of Stuart, Essie Holt (Guy) of Stuart, one brother, Riley Williams (Geraldine) of Bassett; brother in law, Larry Flippin of Stuart; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held Monday, December 8, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Jacksonville Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery with Elder Tim McGrady officiating. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart is handling the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Force.

Left to cherish the memories of Roger are his loving and devoted wife of 41 years, Joanne Martin Echols, and his faithful companion Skye.

All services for Mr. Echols will be private. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

PATRICK PULPITS

A Genealogy of Hope, Grace, and Providence

By Pastor Wayne Moore
High Point Baptist Church
2381 Big A School Road, Stuart

Genealogies are boring, unless they are yours. Few people find excitement in long lists of names, but when those names connect to your own story, suddenly the record becomes alive. Matthew begins his Gospel with a genealogy. For his Jewish audience, this was not a dull introduction but a powerful attention-grabber. Genealogies mattered deeply to them, and Matthew knew that tracing Jesus' lineage would immediately establish credibility. Even today, Jesus' genealogy remains an effective way to introduce Jewish people to their Messiah.

Matthew presents Jesus' genealogy as compelling evidence that He is the long-awaited Messiah, the fulfillment of God's covenant promises. More than a list of names, it is a testimony of hope, grace, and providence. God sent His sinless Son through sin-stained families like ours to save us from our sins. The genealogy of Jesus reminds us that God works through broken people and broken histories to accomplish His perfect plan.

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.... So, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations." (Matthew 1:1, 17, NKJV)

Matthew's arrangement is purposeful. He begins with the phrase "The book of the genealogy," echoing Genesis, and tying Jesus' coming to God's plan of salvation across all of history. He gives Jesus three titles: Christ, the Son of Abraham, and the Son of David. Each title is loaded with covenant meaning. Jesus is the Messiah promised through Abraham's seed and David's royal line. Matthew then divides the genealogy into three sections. From Abraham to David, the line highlights God's covenant promises. From David to the exile, the dynasty continues through kings, even in corruption and decline. From the exile to Jesus, the line endures despite judgment, culminating in the One who reigns forever on David's throne. Finally, Matthew summarizes the genealogy in three sets of fourteen generations, underscoring God's

providential order. Jesus' genealogy assures us that God is our hope. It is hope that endures centuries. From Abraham to Jesus spans 2,000 years. From Jesus to today is another 2,000 years. God did not forget to send His Son the first time, and He will not forget to send Him back again. It is also hope that endures circumstances. Matthew wrote to Jewish believers in the latter half of the first century, at least twenty years after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Times were hard. Persecution was increasing. Division with Judaism was widening. Believers were labeled traitors by fellow Jews and persecuted by Rome for refusing pagan worship. They suffered the same disasters and economic struggles as everyone else. Yet Matthew reminded them: God's promises endure.

Jesus' genealogy also assures us that God offers grace. It is grace for men and women, Jews and Gentiles, saints and scoundrels. Judah and Tamar remind us of scandal and sin. Rahab, a harlot, shows God's mercy. Ruth, a Moabitess, demonstrates the inclusion of Gentiles. David, though a man after God's heart, fell into grievous sin. The genealogy is not a pristine record of perfect people. It is a tapestry of brokenness woven together by God's grace.

Finally, Jesus' genealogy assures us that God provides. Jeconiah was respected and provided for even in captivity. Remarkably, a conquering king treated him well. God preserved the royal line through exile and return, ensuring that His promises would not fail. Providence means God's hand is at work, even when circumstances seem hopeless. The genealogy testifies that God's plan cannot be thwarted.

Matthew's genealogy is far more than a list of names. It is a declaration of God's faithfulness. Through centuries and circumstances, through saints and sinners, through exile and restoration, God was weaving His plan to bring forth His Son. For us, the message is clear: God is our hope—He has not forgotten His promises. God is our grace—He redeems broken people. God is our provider—He sustains His plan through history. Genealogies may seem boring, but when they tell the story of Jesus, they become the most compelling introduction of all.

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Immanuel (KJV) in the *Old or New Testament or neither?*
2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ? *Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah*
3. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ...? *Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers*



4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the shepherds learn of Christ's birth? *Magi informed, Joseph announcement, Mighty wind, Angel appearance*
5. Where did the wise men go first when they arrived in the Holy Land? *Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron*
6. What does the Bible record as to when Jesus was born? *Late September, Dec. 25, March 17, Does not*

ANSWERS: 1) *Neither*, 2) *Isaiah*, 3) *Engaged*, 4) *Angel appearance*, 5) *Jerusalem*, 6) *Does not*

Skyline Pentecostal Holiness Church
1515 Rock Church Rd.
Meadows of Dan, Virginia
Rev. Tommy Gosnell
CHURCH SERVICES
Sunday School 10 am
Worship Services 11 am



Risen Lord Catholic Church

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(actually in Patrick Springs)
276.236.7814
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Mass Schedule
Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation
Sundays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m.

Patrick Springs Pentecostal Holiness
260 Spring Rd., Patrick Springs, VA - 276-694-6357
Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm
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www.stuartbaptist.org

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11:00 Worship Service
office@stuartbaptist.org



Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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Super Crossword

MECHANICS OF SOLVING

- ACROSS**

1 Has a snooze

5 Workout unit

8 Anti-DUI ad, maybe

11 "The Maltese Falcon" hero

19 Conical-bore woodwind

20 Log chopper

21 Possess

22 Former airline to Rome

23 Composer of the 1938 ballet "The Incredible Flutist"

26 Squirrel-sized monkeys

27 Super-cold

28 Podded plant

29 What a dieter may reduce

31 Pressure-reducing elastic stockings

34 Mork's home planet

35 German city

36 Ordinal suffix

37 Yvette's "yes"

38 "Gremlins" actress Cates

44 Folk great Bob

47 Edison's phonograph medium

49 Writer Rand

52 Prefix with treat or trust

53 Bird bill

55 Booting out

56 Horn honk

58 Cleans up, as code

60 Hit PC game of the 1990s

62 Director Premiering

63 Heater along the bottom of a wall

67 Houston ballplayer

68 Ending for Gator

69 CIO partner

70 Greek vowels

75 Bracing wear for a body-builder

81 Dog in "The Thin Man"

85 "Little" actress Rae

86 Mrs. with a famous cow

87 "500" auto race

88 Hone

90 William of "Hopalong Cassidy"

91 Its cap. is Buenos Aires

93 Levy

94 Video surveillance device, briefly

97 Of — (somewhat)

99 Bit of skin art

100 Timid
- DOWN**

1 Not at all, quaintly

2 Ancient calculator

3 Corals, e.g.

4 Workout unit

5 Less ordinary

6 Brit living in America, e.g.

7 Architect I.M.

8 Soil-enriching compound

9 Very muscular, in modern lingo

10 Year, to Nero

11 Like "Weekend Update" reports

12 "Alas and —"

13 "Bosch" actress Rogers

14 Lee of Marvel

15 Component

16 Et — (plus others)

17 Rinky- —

18 Relieve

24 Person for whom a thing is named

25 Kilt wearer

30 Butter-and-flour mixture

32 Crosswalk user, for short

33 Coop female

37 Tree of Illinois

38 Largest dwarf planet

39 — and hers

40 Aware of

41 Revise text

42 Crooked

43 Therefore

45 Venice beach resort

46 Totally lost

47 "That — close call!"

48 Former Royals manager Ned

49 "Mamma Mia" group

50 In-favor votes

51 Chick's home

53 Indian religion founder

54 White heron

57 For each

59 Talks big

60 Ticked off

61 Crimean resort port

64 Cuntsy, e.g.

65 How often the sun rises

66 Fix, as a fight

71 Osaka sash

72 Festival shelter

73 Actor Alan

74 River of myth

76 "Old Mac-Donald" letters

77 Lacks entity

78 Impend, as a deadline

79 Investments for later yrs.

80 Songwriter Laura

81 Helper: Abbr.

82 Old New York ballpark

83 Diplomacy

84 In — (mired)

89 Expert

90 Large inlet

92 Actor Lorne

95 Like a slingshot or a wishbone

96 Schmoose

97 Singer DiFranco

98 Pampering, for short

101 Cowboy doing a roundup, say

102 Eye affliction

104 Peter of "Becket"

105 Spongelike

106 Wears away

107 Grab — (eat fast)

108 Actress Eilfman

109 Hot rod fuel

110 Long — (winter undies)

111 Singer Falana

112 Santa — (hot winds)

113 Name of 12 popes

114 Ripped

115 Small bills

116 Sidewalk smooches, e.g., for short

117 Melody

122 Leg it

123 Prez after FDR

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CLASSIFIED

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The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for a part-time Solid Waste Transfer Station Attendant. Duties of the position will include, but are not limited to, customer assistance, operation of scales, loading trailers, and facility maintenance. The preferred candidate must be capable of performing manual labor, possess good interpersonal skills, and be able to communicate effectively with the public. Basic math, clerical, and computer skills to prepare customer tickets and perform record keeping are required. A high school diploma or GED is required. Applicants must be willing to submit to a background check and drug screen. This is a part-time position with no benefits. Hourly wage is \$15.45. Hours will be scheduled as required between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with rotating Saturdays. Hours are limited to 29 or less per workweek. The Patrick County

employment application is available at <https://www.co.patrick.va.us/Jobs.aspx>. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application to be considered for the position. The position will remain open until filled. The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.

The County of Patrick is accepting applications from qualified applicants for a part-time Parks & Recreation Assistant. Duties of the position will include, but are not limited to, operating grounds maintenance mowing equipment, including tractors, mowers, and weed eaters; preparing ballfields; trash and debris collection and disposal; assisting with landscaping; miscellaneous general grounds maintenance tasks; assisting with recreational sporting events; and other duties as assigned by the Parks & Recreation Director.

The preferred candidate will have experience with grounds maintenance equipment operation and be able to perform manual labor. A valid Virginia driver's license with an acceptable driving record to Patrick County and its insurance carrier(s) is required. This is a part-time position with no benefits. Hourly wage is \$15.45. Hours will be scheduled as required between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Evening, weekend, and flexible/irregular work schedules may be required. Hours are limited to 29 or less per workweek. The Patrick County employment application is available at <https://www.co.patrick.va.us/Jobs.aspx>. Applicants must submit a Patrick County employment application to be

considered for the position. The position will remain open until filled. Applicants must be willing to submit to background and drug screenings. The County of Patrick is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, or age.



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

Meetings

Thursday, Dec. 11

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

Tuesday, Dec. 16

The Patrick County Planning Commission will meet at 6 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of the Patrick County Administration Building.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

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

Thursday, Dec. 18

The Patrick County School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the school board office.

Events

Wednesday, Dec. 10

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

Book bingo, Patrick County Library, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will meet at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart, with entertainment provided

by Jimmy Handy. Attendees are requested to bring finger foods and desserts to share. Also, in support of the local food bank, each attendee is requested to bring two cans of nonperishable food as a donation.

Grace Baptist Church will hold a blood drive in the fellowship hall from 1-6 p.m. To schedule an appointment, go to RedCrossBlood.org and enter GBCS.

Friday, Dec. 12

The Patrick County Library will hold its Homeschool Bookworm program at 10:30 a.m. with homeschoolers aged 6-10 welcome.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Sammy Shelor's annual 'Banjorama,' will be held in the Patrick County High School (PCHS) Auditorium, 215 Cougar Lane, Stuart. Doors open at 5 p.m., music starts at 6. Admission is free, courtesy of Hopkins Lumber and Patrick County. However, donations are appreciated. Nonperishable food also will be collected, and donated to the Patrick County Food Bank to help those in need.

Sunday, Dec. 14

The Reynolds Homestead will hold its Victorian Christmas Open House from 1-4 p.m. Members of the Rock Spring Descendants committee will be hosting special crafts, historical interpretation, and other activities. The event is free to the public.

Thursday, Dec. 18

Trivia Night, Patrick County Library, 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19

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

Saturday, Dec. 20

The Patrick County Democratic Committee will hold an assembled caucus beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Patrick County Library to elect members of the committee for 2026-2027. No one admitted after 11a.m. Call 276-957-2506/229-2084 for more info.

Sunday, Dec. 21

Indoor Christmas Play: "Promise Fulfilled," 11 a.m., High Point Baptist Church, 2381 Big A School Road, Stuart.

Ongoing

Saturday, Dec. 13 - Tuesday, Dec. 23

DeHart Park's Festival of Lights will be held nightly from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday-Thursday nights and from 6-9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

The Patrick County Parks and Recreation Office are holding sign-ups for grades K-3 bas-

ketball season. The deadline is Monday, January 12. Students in grades K - 1 and students in grades 2-3 will play on co-ed teams according to the two described grade-level groupings on Saturdays during February and March. Forms are available at any elementary school or the recreation department. Contact the recreation department at 276-694-3917 or recdept@co.patrick.va.us with questions.

The Patrick County Patriots will hold a Turkey Shoot each Saturday in January and the first Saturday February in 2026. Events will be held at the Smith River Wildlife Building. Practice starts at 12:30 p.m. and the shoot starts at 1 p.m. Factory chokes only, no sleeves are allowed.

Inside yard sale to benefit Patrick County Alzheimer's Group LLC. 109 Buena Vista, Stuart, Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members meet on the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Alzheimer's office. New members are welcome. For more information, call (276) 693-6018.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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OBITUARIES cont. from p. 8

James Richard Reynolds

James Richard Reynolds, 83, of Patrick Springs, Virginia, passed away Thursday, December 4, 2025. He was a loving and devoted husband to his wife Hannah Philpott Reynolds for over 62 years. Born July 10, 1942, he was the eldest son of the late Lemley and Louise Spencer Reynolds of Patrick Springs. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Lee Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds worked in sales and consulting in the forest products industry. He devoted his life to his faith, his family, and his community. Although he traveled all over the world for his career, in Patrick County, with his family, was where he always felt most at home. He never hesitated to help a neighbor, friend, or stranger in need. Mr. Reynolds was a member of Pleasant View Baptist Church and a



founding member of Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department. He was also a proud veteran, faithfully serving his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was an avid reader and was often found enjoying a good book. His granddaughters were his absolute pride and joy.

Left to cherish his memory in addition to his wife, are two children, James Richard Reynolds II (Kimberly) and Jennifer Turner (Matthew); three grandchildren, Jillian Turner, Ella Reynolds,

and Juliet Turner; one brother, Edgar Reynolds (Bea); two sisters, Marie Waller and Carol Faye Reynolds; and several nieces and nephews as well as great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Patrick Springs with Pastor Joey McNeill officiating. The family will receive friends on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Pleasant View Baptist Church. The funeral service will begin at 1:00 p.m. at Pleasant View following the visitation. Interment will follow at Foley Family Cemetery in Patrick Springs. Any donations may be made in his name to the Bookmobile at the Patrick County branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, P.O Box 787, Stuart, VA 24171, or Pleasant View Baptist Church, 4432 Pleasant View Drive, Patrick Springs, VA 24133.

William Letcher's Story Lives On

By Tom Perry

With the recent renewed interest in the American Revolution, I thought it would be good to remember the most crucial event that actually occurred at Laurel Hill in Patrick County, Virginia, involving J. E. B. Stuart's great-grandfather, William Letcher. The following is from the multiple interpretive signs placed at Laurel Hill by the J. E. B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust, Inc., the 501 (c) (3) non-profit that owns and operates the site, which is on the Virginia and National Registers of Historic Places.

"William Letcher, the maternal great-grandfather of James Ewell Brown Stuart, was born about 1750 near Petersburg, Virginia. He was the second son of Giles Letcher of Goochland County, who was born in Ireland, and his wife, Hannah Hughes, who was of Welsh descent. Giles established himself as a successful merchant in Petersburg, but unfortunately lost his property in a fire. He eventually prospered and, at the time of his death, was a well-to-do landowner. By the late 1770s, William Letcher was described as 'a man of fine appearance and greatly beloved and esteemed.' Ventured out of his own. On November 20, 1778, he married Elizabeth Perkins of Perkins Ferry near Danville, Virginia. After their marriage, William and Elizabeth decided to head west towards Kentucky, as other settlers were doing at the time, but they stopped in the far southwestern part of what was then Henry County, Virginia. Patrick County was not formed from Henry until 1791.

He chose a place known as "The Hollow" due to the circular bend the mountains made around it. The Blue Ridge Mountains sweep around the west side, while Slate and Little Mountain are on the east and south sides. The Ararat River runs through the length of the valley and empties into the Yadkin River to the South. On a slight elevation along the banks of the Ararat, William Letcher built his home, which was probably of log construction, as were any other supporting structures. No documentation is known to exist that William Letcher ever held title to this land. The deed could have been lost or destroyed, or, given the short time Letcher was here, he may never have had the opportunity to record it. There is some evidence suggesting that Letcher's connection to this property may have come through his wife's family, the Perkinses.

William Letcher had as many as nine enslaved people while living here. He grew corn and tobacco in the bottomland and had many livestock, including cattle, hogs, and horses. An inventory in the Henry County Courthouse includes many household and farm items such as saddlebags, rifles, featherbeds, and a looking glass. William and Elizabeth were blessed on March 21, 1780, with a daughter, Bethenia, who was named after her grandmother.


William Letcher was said to be a born leader and an ardent supporter of the Patriot cause during the American Revolutionary War, and was active and very prominent in the local militia. In 1779, Letcher ap-

pears on the payroll list of Captain David Carlin's Henry County Militia. In a letter written by Letcher's granddaughter, she states, 'He was a volunteer at the Battle of Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River near the village of Huntersville, North Carolina.' He likely participated in other skirmishes and raids against Tories and other British sympathizers in the area, but he appears to have never been in any major battle, nor was he a member of the Continental Army. Letcher was appointed Justice of the Peace for Henry County by the Governor of Virginia in 1779. The area around The Hollow and along the Virginia and North Carolina border, spreading into Western North Carolina, was a hotbed for Tories and others loyal to the British Crown. The people who settled this western backwoods region were far removed from the more populated eastern sections of the colonies and had no quarrel with the British government.

A large number of these individuals aligned themselves with the British Army and harassed and threatened the colonists in the area who were supportive of the Revolution. William Letcher was a loyal supporter of the latter, which put his life in jeopardy. The letter from Letcher's granddaughter goes on to state that 'He had the promise of long years of happiness and domestic felicity, but a serpent lurked in this path, for whom he felt too great a contempt to take any precautions. He had been warned that his life was in danger, but being naturally fearless and thinking the Tories too few, he underrated the danger. He had helped defeat them once and thought them too cowardly to attack again. He would frequently go alone, armed only with a shotgun, into the most inaccessible recesses of the mountains and hunt the Tories from their hiding places.' Threats to his life and property became more and more common and culminated in his death on August 2, 1780. There are several versions as to how Letcher was murdered, but the most accepted is that the perpetrator of this foul deed was a local Tory by the name of Nichols, who came to the home and demanded him in His Majesty's name, and shot Letcher in the presence of his wife and daughter. Nichols was later apprehended, and after evidence was found on him that linked him to the murder, he was promptly executed. One other man who was involved tried to escape to Kentucky with his family, but Native Americans killed them along the Holston River. Prompted by Letcher's death and seeking vengeance, the Patriots and Whigs in the area rounded up numerous Tories around The Hollow, and several were hanged without mercy or delay. After William Letcher's death, his wife and daughter returned to Pittsylvania County, where Elizabeth later married George Hairston, a large landowner and one of the wealthiest men in the region. They made their home at Beaver Creek Plantation in Henry County, which still exists. This estate contains the grave of George and Elizabeth Perkins Letcher Hairston and numerous family members. William Letch-

(See William p. 13)

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William

(cont. from page 12)



er lies in a grave not much more than a stone's throw away from the site of his home along the Ararat River, and sadly, the place of his murder.

His daughter Bethenia had a white marble slab placed over the grave from a Richmond, Virginia, stonecutter before she died in 1845. On the stone was carved a fitting tribute to her father. The grave, the oldest known in Patrick County, with an

inscription reads: 'In Memory of William Letcher, who was assassinated in his own house in the bosom of his family by a Tory of the Revolution, on August 2 1780, age about 30 years. May the tear of sympathy fall upon the couch of the brave.'

"One of the enduring mysteries in the preservation of Laurel Hill has been finding the location of William Letcher's home. Recent discoveries

Farmers learn strategies for building resilience in life, business

A mental health workshop held Dec. 2 at the 2025 Virginia Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Williamsburg challenged Virginia farmers to reclaim control by confronting the uncomfortable.

When Mind Your Melon founders Marshal and Taylor Sewell asked workshop attendees why they may be reluctant to talk about mental health, they heard familiar responses.

"The idea that it reflects weakness—that's something we've heard a lot in our work," Marshal remarked.

The Mind Your Melon Foundation is a nonprofit organization focused on improving mental health and wellbeing among farmers and rural families. The foundation was created to raise awareness about farm stress and connect agricultural communities with meaningful sources. Through writing, workshops, speaking engagements and digital outreach, the foundation now reaches rural audiences across the country and around the world.

The workshop, titled "Taking Back Control: Building Resilience in your Life & Business," centered around "flipping perspectives" on mental health.

"There's so much power and strength in being able to look inward, figure out what's going on, and figure out what you need to do to help yourself," Taylor emphasized.

Workshop participants were introduced to resilience concepts, stress mapping and management strategies to navigate stress and find balance in business, family and personal decision-making.

Rooted in the science of resilience—specifically the "3 Cs: Commitment, Challenge and Control"—the sessions blended personal reflection with hands-on tools to help participants manage stress, uncertainty and risk in everyday farm life.

Participants were asked to write down what they are committed to,

a challenge they can reframe as an opportunity for growth, and an area they can take control of.

"You have to find a fine balance between being able to control what you can, and being able to admit and acknowledge the things that you can't," Marshal noted. "You look at things you can control and influence, and on some days, that's no more than ourselves—our own actions, perspectives and how we respond."

The Sewells encouraged proactive, protective and preventive thinking for reclaiming control in farming and life—like developing a farm succession plan, diversifying the business, or building up "your bench" of professional advisers and supportive peers.

"Who are your 'oh no' people—the ones you can call when it's going sideways and you need some help?" Marshal asked participants.

"Think about who you want to show up for, and are you taking the best care of yourself to be able to do that?" Taylor added.

Marshal shared his personal experiences with the stresses, grief and challenges of farm life. His father died by suicide amid a devastating crop failure—showing "no real signs" of mental health struggles.

"I don't mind being vulnerable about the things my family experienced, because I saw how it impacted us, and I don't want to see something similar happen to any of you or your families."

He encouraged applying the "ACE method of Ask, Care, Escort" in proactive conversations with loved ones who may be struggling—asking questions like, 'How are you doing really?'; offering a listening ear; and being prepared to provide needed support and resources.

Taylor reminded participants to "ask for help" when needed.

"You're not a burden, it's not trouble, there are people in your life that care about you," she emphasized.

Visit mindyourmelon.org for more information.

have shed some light on that question. In June of 2009, several students from Radford University, led by Dr. Cliff Boyd, Dr. Rhett Herman, and Dr. Susan Christopher, attempted to answer that question. Using modern methods, including ground penetrating radar, the group set out to locate foundations and other evidence dating back to William Letcher's time. After an initial evaluation, a grid was laid out over the area and then scanned with radar. The area before you showed clear evidence of a previous structure. After surface excavation, numerous foundation stones and other small items were uncovered. This location was where what appeared to be foundation stones lay on the surface, and where local and oral tradition states was the location of the Letcher's home.

Additional studies are planned for the future.

It must be noted that the Stuart Family also occupied this area at a later date, as was evidenced by a Scottish Thistle button found near the old well by Tony Marks. The button was dated about 1840. A second mystery was finding the graves listed as 'others' that Elizabeth Stuart designated when she sold the Laurel Hill Farm in 1859. These graves were for an infant son, who died in 1834, and a daughter who died at the age of six in 1842. These burial plots, children of Archibald and Elizabeth Stuart, were thought to be near William Letcher's grave. After initial scans, at least one spot looked promising, but further study determined it was not a grave. At this time, the location of 'others' remains a mystery."

Low-cost spay/neuter shuttle set for Dec. 29



To participate in the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League's Angels of Assisi spay/neuter shuttle later this month, complete the form at blueridgeawl.org/spay-neuter-shuttle-form.

By Taylor Boyd

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League (BRAWL) is hosting a low-cost spay/neuter shuttle for Patrick County residents on Monday, Dec. 29.

BRAWL Vice President Lynn Chipkin said the \$50 fee includes a rabies vaccine.

"If it's the primary, if it's their first one, then it's a one-year" vaccine, she said. "If they have proof of subsequent vaccines that are still in date or not too far out of date, then they could get a three-year" vaccine.

The shuttle is by appointment only. Those interested should fill out the form on the group's website to reserve a spot for this shuttle, which will include 14 dogs and 20 cats.

Dogs must be younger than 6 years old and under 50 pounds, and cats must be friendly and in carriers. There is a limit of two pets per owner.

Chipkin said Angels of Assisi, a Roanoke-based animal shelter, will pick up the animals that morning and return them the same afternoon.

Because of the expense, Chipkin is unsure when the next spay/neu-

ter shuttle will be held.

"Each one is very expensive for us. We're only charging the public \$50, but that's not what Angels is charging us. It's very expensive," she said.

To help cover the cost, Chipkin said BRAWL is seeking sponsors and/or donors.

"If people want to sponsor shuttles, we would certainly advertise their name. That would be great because each one costs us over \$1,000. Like this one with all the cats and dogs, it is going to be tremendously expensive for us, and we're a new organization," she said.

Chipkin said BRAWL's November rabies vaccination day was a success, with 57 cats and dogs vaccinated. She expects the next event to be held in the spring.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/BlueRidgeAnimalWelfareLeague or blueridgeawl.org.

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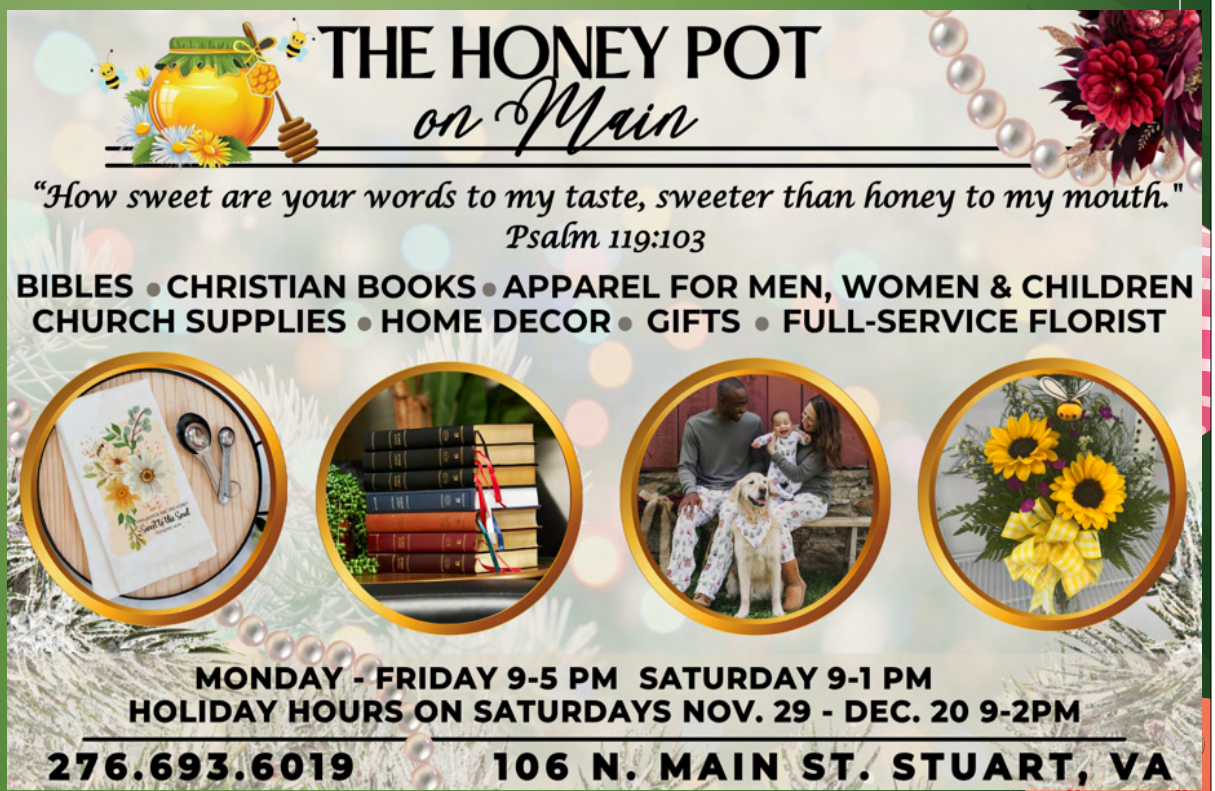
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