



THE ENTERPRISE

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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE SINCE 1876 | Dedicated to serving the communities of Patrick County

Hospital reopens after eight years, “reigniting the heartbeat of a community”



Del. Wren Williams wielded a large pair of scissors — emblazoned with Stuart Community Hospital, 01.05.2026 — on Monday to cut the red ribbon and reopen Stuart Community Hospital.

Kyle Kopec, COO and Vice President of Government Affairs for Braden Health.

By Taylor Boyd
Eight years after it shuttered in 2017, more than 200 people bundled in winter coats gathered on Monday to witness something many once feared would never happen again — the reopening of the local hospital, now called Stuart Community Hospital.

Residents parked wherever they could, filling nearby lots at First Community Bank, the former Patrick Urgent Care, and Patrick County Eye Associates before walking to the hospital for a ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the fa-

city’s official return.
Stuart Community Hospital is a licensed 25-bed hospital that includes an emergency room, inpatient services, and a radiology department. It currently employs more than 150 people and has eight to 10 physicians on staff.

Kyle Kopec, MHA, chief clinical officer of Braden Health, said the moment represented far more than reopening a building.
“The journey to reopen Stuart (Community Hospital) has been a testament to perseverance spanning years of challenges since its closure,

from navigating the complex regulations and rallying support across every level. Every step was fueled by a shared belief in Patrick County and its people,” Kopec said.

He described the reopening as “reigniting the heartbeat of a community” that has waited far too long in the shadows.

A long road back
The hospital closed in 2017 and passed through several owners over the years, each transition bringing renewed hope — and repeated disap-
(See Hospital p. 6)

Naan Stop opens as county’s first Indian restaurant



Naan Stop, Patrick County’s first Indian restaurant, opened last month on Stuart’s Main Street.

By Taylor Boyd
Patrick County’s first Indian restaurant, Naan Stop, opened its doors to customers last month on Stuart’s Main Street.

Pranav Bahl said his father, Sumit Bahl, decided to open the restaurant after being contacted by Harjot Paul, of Singh Brothers Investments, LLC.

“He told us there was no hour from here just to eat Indian food. My dad’s been in the Indian restaurant industry for about 17 years now, so he thought, ‘why not,’” Bahl said.

When news of the restaurant’s opening was announced, Bahl

said community members expressed excitement, noting limited dining options in the area.

“It’s a good opportunity for us and for them. We can get more flavor over here,” he said.

Opening day was busy, Bahl said, with many customers trying Indian food for the first time.

“Some people even said that they hadn’t had Indian food before, but” liked the food. “I really loved that response,” he said.

Bahl said staff members are happy to help customers who may be unfamiliar with Indian cuisine or unsure what to order.

“We had people that said they have no idea what they’re doing over here, so I told them no problem. I helped them through the menu, I suggested some stuff, and helped them pick what they like. They said they didn’t want too much spicy, and I told them the options we can make mild for them, and they really loved it. They said they weren’t expecting that,” he said.

While some customers may worry about spice levels, Bahl said the restaurant uses a scale from one to five.

“If someone says five, I tell them that there’s Indian spicy and there’s American spicy. I kind of warn them,

and if you’re okay with five, it’s alright,” he said.

Bahl said the most popular items so far include tandoori chicken, which is cooked in a traditional clay oven, naan bread, and butter chicken.

“I mean, the white people - they like the mild stuff, so we can make the butter chicken mild,” he said.

Although his father previously owned restaurants in North Carolina, Bahl said Virginia regulations are different. The restaurant is currently working through the Alcoholic Beverage Control process to obtain a license to sell alcohol.

“We were in a hurry, and we opened in a hurry because people over here were really excited. I mean we had people walking in before we opened asking to place an order,” he said.

Because of the rush to open, Bahl said the initial menu does not yet include all advertised items. Chalupa, pizza, and bowl options are expected to be added in the future.

Naan Stop is open seven days a week from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information, visit Instagram. com/naan_stop.



Patrick County Republican Committee Chair Lynne Bogle is seeking the interim Republican Party of Virginia chair position.

Local Republican leader running for interim RPV chair

By Taylor Boyd
Patrick County Republican Committee Chair Lynne Bogle is seeking the interim chair position of the Republican Party of Virginia (RPV), becoming one of four candidates vying for the role.

Bogle is running against Mike Clancy, of Loudoun County, Cameron Hamilton, of Orange County, and Nicholas Proffitt of Hampton Roads.

The interim chair will be elected by the Republican Party of Virginia’s State Central Committee in January to complete the remaining two-and-a-half years of a four-year term.

“Which is how interim replacements are done,” Bogle said.

Rick Anderson, who was elected to a second term as chair in 2024, resigned earlier this year to accept a position as assistant secretary of the Air Force under the Trump administration.
(See Republican p. 2)

Tourism Talks



Happy New Year, Patrick. It is incredible, I haven't spoken to you since last year! Seriously, it has been a while since we

talked. We have been through a blessed holiday season, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and a New Year. The sights and sounds were festive, and the beauty of the season shone bright. We had several tourists travel through the community, visiting our fantastic home.

Thank you, Patrick, for all the work you put in over the last several months. With our historical attractions, natural beauty, location, rural hometown living, and the hospitality shown throughout our county, promoting tourism is effortless.

Now that we are in January, we are gearing up for another incredible year. The upcoming tourist season looks great. We have good news for travelers: Highway 58 is looking good, and they are close to finishing the "Lovers Leap" portion, which will take you to the top of the mountain with ease. Our hospital is slated to open on

Monday. We do not think much of it as a tourist thing, but it is essential to the traveler and to us, just in case you need it.

We have several significant events being planned this year to promote and celebrate America's 250th Anniversary. I ask that you keep an eye on our website. Also, in case you didn't know, WHEO 1270am and 92.7fm give daily updates on the community calendar. They can be heard all over the world online at www.wheoradio.com.

Next time I write, I will give you a year-in-review and drop more info about upcoming events.

As always! Come, Get Lost and Find Yourself here!!!

Love yaw!

James Houchins

Director of Economic Development and Tourism

Republican

(cont. from page 1)

State Sen. Mark Peake, R-Lynchburg, was elected in April to complete the term but is stepping down at the end of December to focus on his legislative duties.

Bogle said the State Central Committee is composed of roughly 80 members who are elected by the congressional districts.

While she said she never anticipated seeking the position, Bogle said frustration with how Southwest Virginia was treated during the last election cycle motivated her to run.

"I spent a lot of time begging campaign managers to come to Southwest," she said. "I tried to explain to them I lived 31 years in Northern Virginia and now five years in Southwest, so I understand in Northern Virginia you're not going to leave one county and go to the next county to go to an event — you expect them to come to you."

She said the expectations are different in Southwest Virginia.

"People will drive 100 miles just to meet a candidate and won't think anything of it," Bogle said. "But they didn't come, and when they did come, they didn't announce it in such a way we were able to let people know, and that drives turnout down."

"People feel disrespected when they don't feel seen," she said. "It's critical, we can't be successful in a statewide election unless Southwest turns out better than 50 percent, and we can't keep losing because candidates ignore us."

When Peake announced his decision to step down, Bogle said she

saw an opportunity to advocate more strongly for Southwest Virginia than she can in her current role.

"As far as I'm aware, the RPV's never had a chair from Southwest Virginia," she said. "I think it's important to recognize this part of the state. They usually come from farther north."

Bogle said her top concern is communication within the party.

"We need much, much better communication across the state," she said. "I think I have an advantage because I've lived in both areas, so I understand that we communicate for our audience, and it's not the same."

If elected, Bogle said her second priority would be improving support from the RPV for local party committees.

"Every county has a committee, but we're all sort of on our own," she said. "When I took over the committee four years ago, there was not much to help me, and we don't have any guides, we don't have any best practice information, we don't have anything to help a committee get started."

She said resources on fundraising, member recruitment, and voter engagement are lacking.

"That's not available, and that's something that I think is important," Bogle said.

In Patrick County, Bogle said the local committee implemented a "Vote Your Values" campaign at the annual agricultural fair.

With the campaign, the committee does not tell people who or what to vote for. Instead, it asks voters



Bogle, center, is one of four candidates. She is pictured with Cameron Hamilton (left) and Mike Clancy at a 6th District Congressional Meeting. Nicholas Proffitt is also running. He is not pictured.

questions about what is important to them and encourages them to vote for candidates who align with those priorities.

"That has really resonated," Bogle said. "I've gotten a lot of tremendous feedback now that we've done it for two years. People are catching on, and I've started hearing people say, 'Vote Your Values' back to me."

To enter the race, Bogle said she announced her candidacy to all State Central Committee members.

"So I sat down and did a very heartfelt letter and sent it out," she said. "Then my phone hasn't stopped since. Between messaging, emails and phone calls, I've been

answering questions for the last two weeks."

Because only committee members vote in the race, Bogle said most of her campaigning has focused on outreach to them directly. She has also shared information on Facebook and other social media platforms and encouraged the public to contact their state central representatives.

"I've also been doing a few posts and answering questions on various discussion groups on Facebook," she said.

Bogle also attended the 6th Congressional District meeting on Dec. 11.

Pets of the Week



This adorable dilute calico kitten and Bassett-terrier mix are just two of the many awesome cats, kittens, dogs and puppies in the Patrick County Shelter. More pictures and videos on the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/blueridgeawl/>.

Please save a life by adopting one or more of these fantastic pets! 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.

The Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League provides pet food and spay/neuter assistance. Contact blueridgeawl@gmail.com for details. Visit the Blue Ridge Animal Welfare League website at www.blueridgeawl.org.

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WWW.THEENTERPRISE.NET

Henry, Patrick, and Martinsville among localities to receive Growth and Opportunity grants

Last week, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced \$6.2 million in Growth and Opportunity for Virginia (GO Virginia) grants for 10 projects that advance Virginia's economic competitiveness through innovation, workforce development, and strategic industry growth. The awarded projects will leverage an additional \$4 million in investment.

Both Patrick and Henry counties, and the City of Martinsville, were among the localities to receive grants.

Regions 3 (Lead) and 2, which includes the counties of Franklin, Botetourt, Montgomery, Henry, and Pittsylvania and the cities of Martinsville and Danville, will receive a \$250,000 Planning, Feasibility, and Small-Scale Pilot Grant for Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Vision 2050.

The Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Vision 2050 project will develop a regional strategy to guide long-term economic growth across Regions 2 and 3. Led by Region 3, the study will produce strategic recommendations across seven focus areas, including advanced manufacturing, life sciences and biotechnology, IT and emerging technology, infrastructure investment priorities, a funding roadmap and a governance model to support implementation. Vision 2050 is in-

tended to position the corridor for coordinated investment, competitiveness, and cluster scale-up over the next 25 years.

Region 3, which includes the counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Notaway, Patrick, Pittsylvania and Prince Edward, and the City of Danville, will receive \$1,346,786 Implementation Grant for an Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion.

This regional initiative expands industrial skills trades training across Southern Virginia through partnership with Danville Community College (DCC) and Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC). The project will deliver industry-aligned programs in electrical, carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, and industrial maintenance.

"GO Virginia continues to be a catalyst for innovation and opportunity across the Commonwealth," said Youngkin. "Virginia is stronger than ever, but we have to keep going. By investing \$6.2 million in these projects, we are strengthening Virginia's workforce, advancing key strategic industries, and keeping Virginia competitive for years to come."

The latest round of projects includes investments in aviation

maintenance training, industrial trades expansion, talent pathways in emerging technology sectors, regional innovation ecosystems and long-term strategic planning to position regions for transformational industry opportunities.

Several projects also leverage partnerships with school divisions, community colleges, and research universities to ensure their graduates' skills align with emerging industry needs and Virginians can access high-quality pathways to higher-wage careers.

"Across the Commonwealth, we see alignment in support of stronger talent pipelines, commercialization activity, and the development of competitive sites," said Emily O'Quinn, Chair of the GO Virginia State Board. "This kind of regional collaboration is the key to new jobs

and more economic opportunities."

Since 2022, GO Virginia has played a pivotal role in creating 1,100 new businesses, expanding another 1,100 businesses, and generating 25,000 jobs by fostering innovation, workforce development, and industry growth across 131 localities across the Commonwealth. GO Virginia has supported 147 projects, awarding \$72 million in state funding and leveraging \$61 million in matching non-state investments. In addition to creating new jobs and businesses, these investments have retained 12,500 jobs and launched 125 new programs that have trained 45,000 Virginians.

To learn more about how GO Virginia continues to fuel economic progress across the Commonwealth, visit dhcd.virginia.gov/gova.

Fake Jobs, Real Losses

If your New Year's resolutions include finding a new job, work-from-home opportunities may sound appealing. While many remote positions are legitimate, some aren't what they appear to be. Criminals often pose as legitimate employers on job boards, social media, or send unsolicited texts, promising easy money, flexible hours, and a quick hiring process.

What they're really after is personal information or our money by asking to pay upfront for "training," purchase expensive equipment, or provide sensitive details—such as your Social Security number—as

part of the application.

Be cautious of sudden, unusually high-paying opportunities that require little to no experience. Avoid sharing personal data until you're certain the job offer is legitimate and take time to research the company by searching for its name along with the words scam, complaint, or fraud. If you see concerns from other job seekers, consider it a clear red flag.

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

Arrests Reported

The Patrick County Sheriff's Office reported the following:

*Hannah Brook Griffin, 23, of Lawsonville, N.C., was charged Dec. 12 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy H. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Terry W. Glenn, 51, of Ridge-way, was charged Dec. 12 with probation violation. Martinsville PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Bryant Lee Perkins, 45, of Stuart, was charged Dec. 13 with violation of protective order. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Christian Alexander Mende, 63, of Patrick Springs, was charged Dec. 15 with bomb threat. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer was the arresting officer.

*Jeffery Allen Bowman, 52, of Martinsville, was charged Dec. 16 with one count each probation violation, registration violation: no tier III or murder conviction, and fail to appear. Deputy C. Pilsen made the arrest for Henry County.

*Griffith Coy Goodyear, 35, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Dec. 16 with three counts probation violation on felony offense. Master Deputy M.T. Rorrer made the arrest for the City of Radford.

*Bobby Ray Barker, 34, of Collinsville, was charged Dec. 17 with probation violation. Deputy R. Dillon was the arresting officer.

*Thomas William Taylor, 38, of Patrick Springs was charged Dec. 17 with probation violation. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Jason Leigh Williams, 42, of Patrick County Jail, was charged Dec. 17 with four counts assault on family member and abduction by force, two counts strange another causing wounding or injury, and one count each break/enter and violate protective order. Sgt. T. Dalton made the arrest for Roanoke County.

*Kristy Lynn Miller, 42, of Ararat, was charged Dec. 18 with assault. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

*Terry Lee Cardwell, 55, of Madison, N.C., was charged Dec. 19 with warrant of extradition. Sgt. J.D. Lewis was the arresting officer.

*Israel David Branch, 47, address unavailable, was charged Dec. 20 with petit larceny. Sgt. J.G. Pickrel was the arresting officer.

*Jennifer Corms Thornton, 43, of Meadows of Dan, was charged Dec. 20 with drive while intoxicated. Trooper D. Bryant was the arresting officer.

*Anthony E. Hill, 65, address unavailable, was charged Dec. 21

with probation violation. Sgt. I.R. Wood was the arresting officer.

*Catlin Joe Moncus, 41, no address available, was charged Dec. 22 with three counts probation violation. Sgt. T. Dalton was the arresting officer.

*Justin Lee Morris, 45, of Ararat, was charged Dec. 22 with one count each abduction by force, brandish firearm, assault and battery, and possess Sch. I and II drugs. Senior Deputy Doug Perry and Sgt. C.L. Elgin were the arresting officers.

*Kelsey Patrice Wade, 37, of Martinsville, was charged Dec. 23 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy H.R. Hylton was the arresting officer.

*Pamela Hope Gorham, 61, no address available, was charged Dec. 23 with call officer by phone, etc. without just cause. Senior Deputy M.R. Hodges was the arresting officer.

*Franchesca Godoy Rivera, 22, of Danville, was charged Dec. 23 with fail to appear. Albemarle PD made the arrest for Patrick County.

*Cynthia Marie Hughes, 43, of Stuart, was charged Dec. 24 with drive motor vehicle while license suspended/revoked. Lt. D.L. Foley was the arresting officer.

*Erica Jane Lowry, 26, of Ararat, was charged Dec. 26 with assault. Sgt. C.L. Elgin was the arresting officer.

*Karson William Foley, 29, of Stuart, was charged Dec. 26 with drive motor vehicle while license suspended/revoked. Deputy J.L. Fain was the arresting officer.

*Kevin Wayne Woods, 52, of Stuart, was charged Dec. 27 with possess Sch. I or II drugs. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Tasha Rena Lowe, 40, of Stuart, was charged Dec. 27 with assault. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Antarius Tycedric Tinsley, 30, of Martinsville was charged Dec. 28 with drive motor vehicle while license suspended or revoked. Deputy C. L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*Miguel Angel Galdamez, 55, of Martinsville, was charged Dec. 28 with drive while intoxicated. Deputy C. L. Adkins was the arresting officer.

*James Charles Anderson, 41, of Stuart, was charged Dec. 29 with fail to appear. Senior Deputy A. Kinney was the arresting officer.

*Taylor Lynn Bowman, 27, of Stuart, was charged Dec. 29 with one count each fail to appear and fail to comply with terms of pretrial services. Sgt. L.K. Carroll, Jr., was the arresting officer.

New baby food testing, labeling law takes effect Jan. 1

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) advises manufacturers and parents that new regulations take effect on Jan. 1, to provide accessible information regarding testing of heavy metals in baby food.

Passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2025, the Baby Food Protection Act (House Bill 1844) requires manufacturers of baby food to test levels of four toxic elements and disclose the information on their website and via scannable QR codes on certain product labels.

The four toxic elements to be tested are lead, arsenic, mercury, and cadmium, which are heavy metals that may occur naturally in the environment or accumulate from human activities. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) provide guidance and action levels regarding toxic elements and contaminants in food.

Under Virginia's new law, the manufacture or sale of baby food products that exceed the FDA's action levels are banned in the Commonwealth. Action levels have been set for lead in fruits, vegetables, mixtures including grain- and meat-based mixtures, yogurts, custards/puddings, single-ingredient meats, single-ingredient root vegetables, and dry infant cereals; and for arsenic in apple juice. Alongside the required testing for the four heavy metals, baby food products subject to an FDA action level will also require a scannable QR code or other type of machine-readable code on its label to be sold in Virginia.

All baby food products produced Jan. 1, 2026, or later, that are manufactured, sold, distributed, or offered for sale in the Commonwealth of Virginia are required to comply with the new law. Baby food products manufactured before Jan. 1, 2026, may still be sold after Jan.

1 in order to allow retailers to use existing inventory. "Baby Food Product" refers to foods marketed specifically for babies and children younger than two years of age, excluding infant formula.

Under the Baby Food Protection Act, manufacturers of baby food shall test a representative sample of each production aggregate of the final product for a toxic heavy metal. Testing shall be conducted at least monthly by a proficient laboratory. Test results must be publicly available on the manufacturer's website for the duration of the product shelf life plus one month. When required, a QR code or other scannable code will also be placed on each product label, allowing consumers to access test results and FDA guidance related to the product.

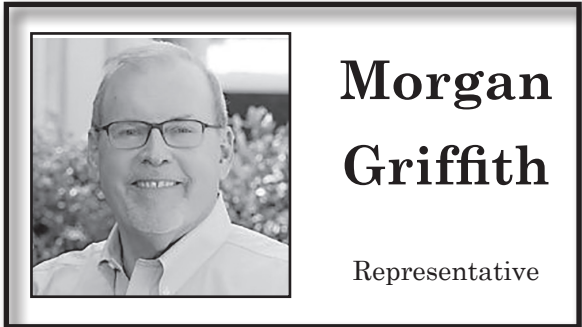
The VDACS Food Safety Program will enforce the Baby Food Protection Act by requesting a manufacturer's test results, reviewing baby food product labels, and responding to consumer complaints of suspected non-compliant products.

Many companies that manufacture, sell, distribute, or offer for sale baby food products in the Commonwealth of Virginia already meet the requirements of the Baby Food Protection Law testing and labeling, because the state of California enacted a comparable law effective January 2024, and Maryland had a comparable law take effect in January 2025. The VDACS Food Safety Program sent an email communication regarding the Baby Food Protection Act to retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, and home-based operations in its database on Dec. 16, 2025.

For questions regarding the Baby Food Protection Act, call the VDACS Food Safety Program at 804-786-3520 or email foodsafety@vdacs.virginia.gov.

To advertise in The Enterprise
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or email
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Immigration and Inflation



Morgan Griffith
Representative

As we near the conclusion of President Trump's first year of this term, I thought we should look at two issues he faced, immigration and inflation.

Trump acted swiftly to try to repair the damage done by the Biden-Harris Administration.

For many, the Biden-Harris era will be remembered for its failures to contain illegal immigration and tame high levels of inflation.

More than 11 million illegal aliens entered the United States thanks to Biden-Harris open borders policies!

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reports that in Fiscal Year 2023, nationwide encounters topped more than 200,000 every month. Some months even eclipsed 300,000!

At one point, Biden and Democrats erroneously claimed they could not fix the illegal immigration problem. They argued that it was a problem for Congress to solve!

Trump proved them wrong.

Since February 2025, CBP reports significant declines in nationwide encounters. Monthly reports show that encounters dipped to an average of under 30,000 encounters nationwide!

The progress on the border has been significant!

Recent signs show that we are making some progress on inflation as well.

At one point under Biden-Harris, the inflation rate hit 9.1% year-over-year. That number had not been seen in the United States in four de-

ades!

Interestingly, the last time the yearly inflation reached that level was when a Republican president inherited a similar troubling economy from an unpopular Democratic president.

It was November 1981. President Ronald Reagan had been elected to office a year prior largely on a promise to fix the U.S. economy.

Americans were fed up with President Jimmy Carter, who is also remembered for his failure to address high inflation.

As Reagan went about his first year in office, the inflation issue did not go away. Despite passage of a major tax cuts bill in his first year, Americans were still reeling from the Carter economy.

The public was beginning to doubt Reagan's economic vision. His approval ratings were dipping.

Nonetheless, Reagan persisted with his free market reforms. After some time, Reagan's economic measures to cut taxes and regulations started to pay off!

Ironically, Trump finds himself following in Reagan's footsteps.

After nearly a year in office, a majority of Americans feel dissatisfied with the economy. Patience appears to be running thin.

Like you, I am eager to see Trump fix the Biden-Harris economy. If it could happen tomorrow, I would be ecstatic!

But as was the case with Reagan, it can take time to implement economic reforms and to see them yield results.

Recently, we received good economic news.

A report from the Consumer Price Index shows that the annual inflation rate in November slowed to 2.7%, better than what economists predicted.

While some urge caution that this number may not be wholly reflective because of the government shutdown, no one is arguing the annual inflation rate is anywhere close to 9.1% like it

was under Biden-Harris.

The Federal Reserve generally regards 2% as the target annual inflation rate.

A 2% annual inflation rate helps show that the economy is healthy enough for people and businesses to spend money and make investments, driving economic growth and helping stabilize prices for consumers.

We are seeing gas prices coming down, which indicates future price drops in goods because many goods are transported by truck.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) also grew at 4.3% in the 3rd quarter of 2025.

While it is a work in progress, I believe that Trump's efforts to reverse Biden-Harris inflationary policies will yield benefits for U.S. consumers.

The reconciliation bill that I voted for, and Republicans passed, this summer should also help our economic prospects.

Just like Reagan's tax cuts bill in his first year, we delivered Trump a tax cuts package in his first year.

The bill preserves the 2017 Tax Cuts, prevents a massive tax hike on American consumers and helps deliver American communities better economic opportunities.

Such economic opportunities will stem from new policies that include no taxes on tips, no taxes on hourly overtime and a senior tax bonus.

While these strong provisions will support our economy, it should be noted that Democrats, who gloated about the Biden-Harris economy and dismissed the inflation issue, opposed our reconciliation bill!

Going into 2026, I will continue to support securing our borders and advocate for policies that lower taxes, promote deregulation, and in turn, tackle inflation.

As progress continues on these fronts, Republicans in Congress will continue to support Trump's efforts to clean up Biden's inflation mess and help steer the U.S. economy to new heights.

DAR Marian Anderson Legacy

Scholarship now accepting applications



Renowned singer Marian Anderson performing in DAR Constitution Hall in 1943. Students studying music can apply for a one-time \$5,000 scholarship honoring her legacy through Jan. 31.

Her legacy lives on in others who aim for excellence in musical studies, are committed to their communities, and willing to stand up for what is right," said Ginnie Sebastian Storage, DAR President General.

Applications should be accepted or currently enrolled in an accredited university or college in the United States and have a concentration in music in their course of study. Music performance, composition, theory, or education are all areas that students may be specialized in to qualify for the scholarship. They should have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent GPA on the scale used by the institution.

Applications are available at <https://www.dar.org/outreach/education/scholarships>. Applications require references sent through the application system, so students need to request their references ahead of the Jan. 31st application deadline. In honor of Ms. An-

erson's commitment to the community throughout her life and her willingness to share her incredible talent with the world, applicants are asked to write a personal statement describing their humanitarian or volunteer contributions on behalf of their community and/or country. To recognize the city Marian Anderson called home, preference is given to students from the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania metropolitan area, even if they are not pursuing music studies in the Philadelphia area.

While this scholarship is not automatically renewed, recipients may reapply for consideration each year for up to four consecutive years.

The scholarship is supported by the Daughters of the American Revolution's Marian Anderson Legacy Fund. Learn more about the relationship between Marian Anderson and the DAR, and the organization's on-going efforts to honor her memory at www.dar.org/Marian-Anderson.

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Postmaster: send address changes to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 348, Stuart, VA 24171-0348. Subscription Rates: \$41 per year in Patrick County; \$48 per year in state; \$48 per year out of state. Single copies \$1.50.

Undergraduate and graduate students studying music can apply for the DAR Marian Anderson Legacy Scholarship through January 31. Sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the scholarship provides a one-time \$5,000 award to one student annually who is pursuing undergraduate or graduate study in music. Marian Anderson (1897-1993) was a groundbreaking African American contralto and an inspiration for civil rights. "This scholarship pays tribute to Marian Anderson's life, and the Daughters of the American Revolution seeks to honor her legacy through aspiring musicians.



Thank You for reading
The Enterprise

Patrick Pioneers

DIED.
Of a cancerous affection of the breast, on the 31st of January last, at the residence of her husband, near Mount Airy, N. C., in the thirtieth year of her age, Mrs. **MAGGIE B.**, wife of James O. Norman, and daughter of the late A. A. Moir, of Patrick Courthouse, Va.
Richmond and Petersburg papers requested to copy.

Richmond Dispatch Apr 13, 1868

The Moir Family—From Forres, Scotland to Patrick County, Virginia (Part II)

By Beverly Belcher Woody

Last week, we examined Scottish immigrant and Taylorsville merchant Alexander Anderson (A. A.) Moir; his wife, Mary Holt Cogbill; their son, William Wallace Moir; William's wife, Carolina Virginia Martin; and their children.

This week, we turn our attention to the remaining children of A. A. and Mary Cogbill Moir.

James Cogbill Moir, born in 1824, married Louisa E. Carter and became a merchant in Leaksville, North Carolina. Their children were Mary Alice Cogbill Moir and John Alexander Moir. John Alexander married Bertha Lee Richards but left no descendants.

A.A.'s oldest daughter, Lucy Ann Elizabeth Moir, was born April 26, 1826, in Leaksville, North Carolina. She married Henry Tuggle on July 29, 1846. Henry Tuggle served as sheriff of Patrick County, Virginia, and through this marriage, the Moir and Tuggle families became closely intertwined in the civic and social life of the county.

Lucy and Henry Tuggle raised a large family in Stuart. Their children included James Edwin Tuggle, born in 1848. According to Patrick County Death Records, James died of a fever at the age of seventeen. Other children included Henry Irving Tuggle, born in 1849; Thomas Alexander Tuggle, born in 1851; and Mary Elizabeth Tuggle, born in 1853. Mary Elizabeth married Rev. D. Johnson Scales and became the mother of six children: Jessie Evelyn Scales, Harriet Mae Scales, Marguerite Lucy Scales, Thomas Henry Scales, Nellie Noel Scales, and Robert Emmett Scales—firmly establishing the Scales family in Patrick and Henry counties.

A. A.'s son Alexander Thomas Moir, born in 1828 in Leaksville, North Carolina, became a merchant and settled in Westfield. He married Elizabeth Jane Smith, daughter of Jabez H. Smith of Floyd County, Virginia. Their children included Mary Alice Moir, who married Henry Clay Allen and became the mother of Henry Moir Allen; Edgar Percival Moir; and Lucien Alexander Moir, who died in early childhood.

HON. PERCY M. MOIR. One of the most forceful citizens of Roanoke, Hon. Percy M. Moir has always used his fine legal talents in the furtherance of what he has conceived to be for the best interests of his country, merging the two characters of citizen and lawyer into a high personal combination which, despite differences of intellectual opinion, has been generally recognized as an example well worthy of emulation. Honors of a high class have been bestowed upon him, and he has discharged the responsibilities connected with them with dignified capability. His record as a district judge and as a justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia alone entitles him to the lasting gratitude of the people of this state, but he has accomplished even more, for he served the Government in the Philippines, and he has made valuable contributions to agriculture, to legal literature, and to the advancement of his home city.

Judge Moir was born in Stuart, Patrick County, Virginia, February 24, 1870, a son of William W. and Caroline Virginia (Martin) Moir, both of whom were born in Virginia, and are now deceased. For forty years the father served as deputy county clerk of Patrick County, and during the war between the states he served as superintendent of iron mines. In political faith he was a Democrat. While both he and his wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, only she was active in church work. Of the nine children born to the parents seven are living, and Judge Moir was the seventh child in order of birth. The paternal grandparents were Alex A. and Mary Moir, he being a native of Scotland who was brought to Virginia in childhood by his parents. The maternal grandfather was a native of Virginia, so that on both sides of the house Judge Moir has the distinction of coming from families long established in the Old Dominion.

Virginia Rebirth of the Old Dominion Vol 03 Author Bruce, Philip Alexander, 1856-1933

Another son of A. A., John William Moir (born 1833), settled in Rocky Mount, Virginia, and married Barbara Adeline Burnette. Their children included Margaret Moir, who married Walter Holdersby and became the mother of Elise Holdersby; Ida Moir, who died shortly after the birth of her son, Moir Alexander Stephens; James Cogbill Moir, a merchant of Roanoke; and John William Moir, Jr., a merchant of Kingston, North Carolina. An anonymous letter published in The Enterprise in 1910 recounts the author's memories of some of the Moir children: "Miss Margaret (b. 1838) married James Norman and moved to Mount Airy, N.C. They had children, one of whom, Miss Bertha, married C. T. Noel, who built and lived where Dr. W. C. Akers now resides." I later discovered a newspaper article stating that Margaret died of breast cancer at the young age of thirty, leaving behind children aged eight, four, and one year.

The same Enterprise letter also noted: "Robert Forsyth Moir (b. 1823) was a physician who married Miss Serena Jane Clark of this county and is located at Francisco, N.C. Their son, Dr. S. A. Moir, lives at the homestead."

The youngest child of A. A. Moir was daughter Cybella Susan Moir, born in 1840. She married Walker Timberlake Noel. Their children included Julia Fenwick Noel, who died in childhood; Moir Alexander Noel; Charles Wallace Noel; Robert Boisseau Noel; Walker Timberlake Noel; Clayton Beason Noel; and John Forsyth Noel.

One of the most professionally accomplished later descendants was Alexander "Sandy" Moir, a physician, merchant, and farmer of Francisco,

NOTICE!

I will be at:-

S. P. Smith's Store	October 5,	to 2 p m
Fayerdale	" 5,	at 3 p m
Dodson	" 6,	
Charity	" 7,	
H. L. DeHart's Store	" 8,	
Woolwine	" 9,	
Elamsville	" 10,	to 3 p m
Buffalo Ridge	" 12,	to 2 p m
Bowling Bros. Store	" 12,	at 3 p m
C. B. Agee's Store	" 13,	to 3 p m
Ballard	" 14,	to 2 p m
Meadows oy Dau.	" 15,	
Vesta	" 16,	to 1:30 "
J. D. Hopkins' Store	" 17,	
D. T. Boyd's Store	" 19,	to 2 p m
Bell Spur	" 20,	to 2 p m
D. G. Smith's Store	" 21,	to 12 m
Belton's Store	" 21,	2:30 to 4 "
Gates' Store	" 22,	to 12:30 "
J. H. Bondurant's Store	" 22,	1:30 to 4 "
X Roads	" 23,	to 2:30 pm
Nunn's Store	" 24,	to 1 p m
King's Store	" 26,	
Liberty	" 28,	
Stella	" 29,	
Penn's Store	" 30,	
Nettle Ridge	" 31,	
Ortiz	November 2,	
Shuff	" 4,	
Palmetto	" 5,	
Moorefield & Grogan's Store	" 6,	to 2:30 p m
Five Forks	" 7,	

For the purpose of collecting the 1914 Taxes
A penalty of 5 per cent will be added after
December 1, 1914.

H. M. MOIR,
Treasurer Patrick County

Enterprise, 1914

North Carolina. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, he married Alpha Dunkley and became the father of Robert Dunkley Moir, Lucy Serena Moir, Samuel Alexander Moir, and Emma Lillian Moir, all born between 1894 and 1901.

From Scotland to the rolling hills of Patrick County, the Moir family story reflects the broader pioneer experience—migration, endurance, public service, and adaptation. Sheriffs, merchants, soldiers, ministers, physicians, farmers, and tradesmen emerged from this single Scottish family line, leaving an indelible imprint on Patrick County and the surrounding region.

For questions, comments, or story ideas, 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 - My Wife Believes She Can Get a Spouse Benefit While I'm Still Alive; Can She?

Dear Rusty: A friend of my wife told her, and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? *Thank you.*
Signed: Uncertain Husband

Dear Uncertain Husband: Well, surely don't want to get in the middle of your martial discussion, but I'll be happy to explain Social Security's rules about your wife's eligibility for spousal benefits while you are both still living. And just for awareness for both of you, the rules about spousal benefits are one of the most confusing areas of Social Security.

Per Social Security's rules, a spouse (e.g., your wife) can receive a "spousal boost" from you — while you are still living — if the SS retirement benefit she is personally entitled to at her full

retirement age (FRA) is less than 50% of the SS retirement benefit you are (were) entitled to at your FRA (full retirement age amounts are used to calculate living spouse benefits, regardless of when each of you actually claimed your Social Security).

So, if your FRA entitlement benefit amount is more than twice your wife's FRA entitlement benefit amount, she can, indeed, get a "spousal boost" from your record while you are both still living. The spousal boost is added to her own SS retirement amount and will be based on the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement. Thus, in this discussion, your wife may be correct - she may be able to get a spousal boost from you while both of you are living, depending on how your personal FRA retirement amounts compare. The best way for your wife to find out is to contact Social Security on 1.800.772.1213 to inquire, and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner passes away, but only if the deceased spouse's current benefit (at death) was more than the surviving

spouse is already receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security benefit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's full retirement age, the payment amount is permanently reduced (both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's full retirement age). And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also entitled to a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled to.

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.

Faith-Based Resolutions for the New Year

It isn't a bad thing at all to have resolutions and goals. The desire for a balanced life, bank account, and health are all good things. But...What about my walk with God? My faith in Him?

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

My days are better when I put God first. When I try to make plans without including Him, it never seems to work out.

I won't exactly list out resolutions, but rather, ways to consistently nurture and nourish your spiritual health and wellness, especially as Christians. Being healthy and happy doesn't only involve what we eat, but the state of our minds and hearts. We may not always feel happy, but it is possible to possess an inner peace and joy under circumstances. How is this possible? I know it can't be done alone.

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever." Psalm 73:26

The greatest battle waged is one against our own minds. With so many distractions and evil in the world, it may seem impossible to truly have a healthy spiritual experience. God cannot be tired with our burdens. If we give it all to Him, He will take care of it. This is where faith comes in.

What are some key components to developing and maintaining a healthy spiritual experience?

Take it from David the Psalmist, who said:

"I thought on my ways and turned my feet unto thy testimonies." Psalms 119:59

Consider our current experience and look to God for improvement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. That means it's a moment by moment, day by day experience. It's not achieved overnight, but God walks along with us on that journey. This is the pathway for true success in God.

1. Read Your Bible

If you have not made it a habit to read your Bible daily, start small. Don't feel pressured to read and study your Bible for an hour at first. Let it come naturally over time and ask God to put that desire in you to read His Word. Begin by claiming a Bible promise in the morning before beginning your day. It only takes a couple of minutes. Once you have established that, add more Bible promises. Then, begin reading a passage, and take time to understand what God is conveying to you through His Word. You can start to incorporate a short Bible study for yourself, or read a devotional book, and find yourself enriched.

2. Pray

Pray without ceasing. What does that mean? We should definitely keep our eyes on the road when driving. This means to keep our minds in a state of open communion with God. I like to pray in the morning before reading my Bible. We can pray while we drive, before we eat, while getting ready for our day, shopping, while interacting with others.

You can even set an alarm to pray in the middle of the day to recharge. If you are not sure what to pray about, ask God to bring things into mind.

Start by prayer for a few minutes, and over time you will find yourself praying more. Ask others around you for prayer requests and keep a list. You'll be amazed by the experience gained by witnessing the answers to prayers.

3. Stay Faithful

Stay true to the truths God has revealed to you and ask Him to help you stay faithful in all your duties.

4. Join a Bible study

This is a great way to be enriched and engage in Biblical discussion. It's a way to help you grow spiritually, share each other's burdens and victories, and feel that sense of community. If you don't know of any Bible studies happening near you, you can always start with this one: www.truthlink.com, a self-guided study.

5. Attend church weekly

This is a larger scale experience of joining a Bible study. Remember that church is not for a perfect elite group. God asks us in His Word to assemble ourselves together in church, to serve others, and it keeps each other accountable. "Church" is about worshipping God and serving others.

6. Invite others to join you

Share the good news of how God has changed your life for the better (and still is!) Even if they say no, they may agree to it one day.

(Submitted by Betty Dean. Written by Sarah Woo. Used by permission from www.LifeandHealth.org. Courtesy of LifeSpring - Resources for Hope and Healing Stuart, VA.)

Hospital

(cont. from page 1)



Stuart Mayor Terry Dalton



Jonathan Wood, chairman, Patrick County Board of Supervisors



U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith



State Sen. William "Bill" Stanley



The Pharmacy Department was moved to the first floor.



Crowds of local residents attended the reopening.



Newly renovated patient rooms include an HVAC register that is controlled by patients.



Larry Henson, CEO of Stuart Community Hospital, spoke at the event.



Dr. Beau Braden, of Braden Health, which owns and operates the hospital, addressed the hundreds gathered Monday.

pointment — to the community.

Hospital CEO Larry Henson said the building itself underwent extensive upgrades, including overhauls to HVAC systems, plumbing and sewage, electrical work, IT and security infrastructure, along with a new roof and parking lot.

"But the best transition of all was the transition that we encountered in the community," Henson said. "Obviously, this building has gone through five or so different owners since it closed down in 2017, and every time a new owner came in this community felt a little bit of hope."

That hope, he said, was often followed by frustration.

"However, that hope and the community kept on getting burnt by owners coming in saying the hospital was going to open and then never reopening it," Henson said.

"Well, this time we actually made it happen," he added, drawing applause and cheers. "The best part was the community's transition. The community — they welcomed us, they had hope, but they were also apprehensive because they knew what happened to this building in the past."

It didn't take long, Henson said, for skepticism to turn into excitement.

"It didn't take a month before the community's apprehension turned into excitement because they saw workers and local vendors come in and start working on the building," he said. "We did not mess around. We got in here, and we got to work, and it was awesome to see that support from the community."

Advocacy and investment
Kopec credited Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart, with helping preserve the hospital's Certificate of Public Need (COPN), a key regulatory requirement.

"His legislative advocacy was nothing but transformative, and his fight to ensure the COPN remained a viable pathway for rural hospitals like ours made this reopening possible," Kopec said.

He emphasized that the hospital reopened without public funding.

"What sets us apart is how we've

done it: without burdening the community. We took zero taxpayer funding to open this hospital, and we rely on no subsidies from Patrick County or beyond," Kopec said, prompting applause. "This is a self-sustained effort born from a profound commitment to service because we believe rural health is a calling, not a handout."

Braden Health founder and CEO Dr. Beau R. Braden, DO, MPH, MS, said the project reflected faith, perseverance, and determination.

"We didn't arrive here by accident; we arrived here by providence, hard work, determination, perseverance. Make no mistake, it was a fight to get here, but here we are, and it feels good," he said.

Lives and livelihoods

Williams said the hospital's return addresses both health care access and economic development.

"Seconds matter in healthcare," Williams said. "We've seen people lose their lives in trying to travel outside of our county lines just to receive healthcare. So, trying to get this ER was the most important thing on my legislative to-do list when I got elected back in 2021."

He said the lack of a hospital had discouraged potential employers.

"What kind of business, what kind of manufacturing facility wants to come in when they know they can't get somebody to the ER, and now they can," Williams said.

Williams also said the hospital will ease pressure on emergency medical services.

"Station 8 was doing everything that they could to fill that role, but now we have a dedicated ambulance service out of our emergency room again, and that will work to save lives here when our volunteers are unavailable," he said.

State Sen. Bill Stanley, R-Moneta, said the reopening stands as a testament to the community's resilience.

"Because you never gave up, you never gave in. You prayed about it, you called us about it a lot, and you made sure we never forgot how important it is to the community," Stanley said.

Although it took years for the hospital doors to reopen, Stanley said he promised they would never close again.

In a statement, U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Salem, said rural communities benefit from expanded health care access.

"In my role as Healthcare Subcommittee Chairman, I will continue to support policies that help rural communities like Patrick County deliver critical health care resources, administer quality health care, and improve rural health care outcomes," he said.

Patrick County Economic Development and Tourism Director James Houchins said the hospital's return marks a turning point.

"Where you have a hospital, you can bring industry in. I'm so excited, it's good to see all the people that came out today, and we are so

Sports Briefs

By Ashlee Mullis
Varsity Girls Beat Carroll

The Varsity Girls Basketball Team beat Carroll 45-33 on the road, Friday, January 2. Gracen Conner had 14 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, and 3 steals for the Lady Cougars. Sheyan Lester had 7 points, 4 steals, and 2 blocks. Kendra Worley had 6 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 deflections, and 1 block. Journey Moore had 6 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 deflection, and 1 block. Chloe Hubbard had 6 points, 2 rebounds, 1 deflection, and 3 steals.

Varsity Girls Fall to LCA

The Varsity Lady Cougars traveled to Liberty Christian Academy, Tuesday, December 30, to play in a tournament. The Cougars fell 40-71 to Liberty. Kendra Worley made 11 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, and 1 steal. Gracen Conner had 9 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 2 deflections, and 1 steal. Sheyan Lester had 8 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, and 2 steals. Lauren Hazelwood and Bella Wright both

had 3 points and 1 rebound. Chloe Wright had 3 points, 3 rebounds, and 1 steal.

JV Girls Defeat Carroll

The JV Lady Cougars traveled to Carroll County, Friday, January 2, beating the Lady Cavaliers 43-26. "We battled all night and into overtime. We overcame much adversity," said Coach Grace Helms. Hailey Lester led the team with 19 points, 2 assists, 5 steals, 5 rebounds, and 2 blocks. Alaina McBride had 9 points, 3 steals, and 1 rebound. Trinitee Pann had 6 points, 2 assists, 3 steals, and 4 rebounds. Tiffany Eckrote had 4 points, 4 rebounds, 1 block, and 1 steal. Isabella Martin had 3 points, 2 steals, and 3 rebounds. Cassidy Brim had 2 points, 2 steals, and 2 rebounds. Allie Lewis had a steal and a rebound. "The ladies worked hard and earned the win. I am proud of their effort. We have some work to do and will have a home game Tuesday night. We hope you can make it," said Coach Helms.

Homestead Happenings



Sunday, January 25
 Burned Hats with Linda Wilson. Contributed photos



Sunday, February 21
 Intro to Creating Alcohol Ink Art with Ginnie Conaway



Sunday, March 21
 Beginner's Pen and Ink Drawing with Karen Sigmon



Sunday, April 19
 Turkey Wing Whisk Broom and Cake Tester Making with Erin Simons

Beginning in February, the Reynolds Homestead will begin to collect input for the upcoming strategic plan development, which will guide operations at the center over the next decade. Input from patrons, residents, and the public will be collected through on-line surveys, community listening sessions,

focus groups, and personal interviews. Opportunities to participate will be shared on social media as well as in newsletters and on the website.

Homestead Artisan Series

January

This month, a new Homestead Artisan Series

kicks off, with a curated selection of traditional artisans who will share their crafts in a series of beginner-friendly, accessible workshops. Sign up at bit.ly/homesteadartisan. Find class descriptions and more details at reynoldshomestead.vt.edu/upcoming-events/ArtOfferings.

Stokes County Art Gallery announces new exhibit



An exhibit of original art by Sarah Schwalm will open in the Apple Gallery later this month. A meet and greet is scheduled for Sunday, January 25, from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Stokes County Arts Council 500 Main Street Danbury, N.C.

Schwalm grew up in eastern Michigan. She spent early childhood drawing and painting as well as pursuing other creative venues in music and culinary arts. She shared that her dad taught her how to be creative on paper, and her mom taught her how to be creative in the kitchen, while also providing opportunities for her to pursue her art and other interests.

Schwalm works in acrylic, colored pencil, and watercolor pencil media. She began exploring watercolor painting as a child and developed her skills with acrylic painting in college.

Schwalm said: "I grew up in the country and always loved animals, so combining both of those themes in art is my passion. I also love adding a bit



of fantasy to my artwork, being creative is such an outlet for me."

Schwalm is an award-winning artist. She placed third in the Tauni De Leseps Art Contest at Palm Beach Atlantic University in 2019. She then placed first in 2020 and 2021.

Along with painting, Schwalm has continued her interest in culinary arts as well. She runs a baking blog and Instagram called "Feed Your Soul Sari."

Schwalm currently lives with her husband, Man-



ny, in Winston Salem, and their two dogs, Benji and Piper.

This exhibit will be on display January 2-February 15, in the Apple Gallery. The Stokes County Arts Council is open to the public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 - 5 p.m. For additional information about the exhibit, please contact the Stokes County Arts Council at (336) 593-8159 or visit www.stokesarts.org.

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Carlene Light Inman



ly loved her animals and her family. She loved everybody, and she loved life.

Mrs. Inman is survived by three daughters, Judy Hutchens, Carol Lee Light, Michelle Fain, all of Stuart; one son, Leonard Dale Light of Stuart; six grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren; two children at heart, Jody Stowe of Sandy Ridge, and Georgia Worley of Stuart; one sister, Lena Inman of Martinsville; one

sister-in-law, Rachel Martin of Danville; and several adoring nieces and nephews.

A funeral service for Mrs. Inman will be held on Friday, January 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Tommy Nichols and Pastor Ricky Rogers officiating. Burial will immediately follow in Patrick Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 1:30 p.m. until the time of the service on Friday at the funeral home. Flowers will be accepted, or memorials may be made to Trinity Baptist Church in Westfield, North Carolina. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Richard Truman Conner



County Parks and Recreation Commission. Richard loved his community and took great joy in his family. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father, caring grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend.

Left to cherish the memories of Richard Conner are his wife of 59 years, Ann Ayers Conner of the home; two sons, Richie Conner and wife, Renae of Gainesville, Georgia and John Conner of Meadows of Dan;

two grandsons, Chase Conner and Ian Conner; one brother, Roger Conner and wife, Brenda of Meadows of Dan; one sister-in-law, Sharon Parker of Meadows of Dan, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Jeff Garrison and Pastor John Franklin officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. until the service on Saturday morning at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Mayberry Presbyterian Church, c/o Jack Palmer, 995 Willis Road, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120, or to Meadows of Dan Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 830, Meadows of Dan, VA 24120. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

William "Jesse" Jones



ty) and Donnie Jones (Peggy); three grandchildren, Matthew Jones (Emily), Kacey Jones (Emily), Kacey Latham (Josh), and Kelly Parker (Shane); six step-grandchildren, Josh Potts (Amber), Jonathan Cook (Alyson), Robbie Cook (Mikayla), Colt Fain, Kurt Fain (Katie) and their two children, Allison Jeffries (Jody) and their daughter; eight great grandchildren, Landon Jesse Easter, Kloeey Noel Easter, Lilith Quinn Parker, Nova Kenzington Parker, Mia Jane Katherine Parker, Parker Ryan Jones, Carter Owen Jones, and Tucker Levi Jones; seven step-great-grandchildren, Austin Latham (Chloe), Alyssa Bridges (Avery), Jackson Latham, Teagan

Potts, Atlas Potts, Addie Cook, and Sawyer Cook; a double great-grandson, Zayden Easter; three sisters, Lou Biggs (Grandy), Lois King, Bertha Goins; two sisters-in-law, Minnie Mae Jones, and Linda Jones; and several special nieces and nephews and many special friends.

Funeral services for Mr. Jones will be held Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at Hills Grove Baptist Church in Claudville with Pastors Ricky Rogers and Alan Vass officiating. Burial will follow in the Hills Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:30 until time of the service at the church. Memorials may be made to Hills Grove Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 1220 Little Dan River Road, Claudville, VA 24076 or to Peters Creek/Dry Pond Community Building, c/o Patsy Oakley, 1295 Colinstown Road, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Bradley Alex Joyce



memories of Bradley are his wife, René Barnard Joyce of the home; his mother, Dena Gregory Cockram of Stuart; one brother, Kevin Joyce (Diana) of Radford; one sister, Amanda Joyce Cassell (Dwayne) of Meadows of Dan; one brother-in-law, Jason Barnard (Elizabeth Tilley); two nieces, Reagan Joyce and Lilly Joyce; two nephews, Dalton Joyce and Hayden Joyce; one aunt, Connie Nunn (Norman) of Stuart;

father-in-law and mother-in-law, Tom and Marcia Barnard of Stuart; and beloved dog, Frito.

A graveside service for Bradley will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in Snow Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in Lawsonville, North Carolina, with Pastor Danny Redman and Pastor Mark Wright officiating. Flowers will be accepted, or memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1079C Spruce Street, Martinsville, VA 24112. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements, and online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

Anne Gunter Smith Cox



Left to cherish her memory is one daughter, Leanne Cox of Patrick Springs; two sons, Stephen Cox of Stuart and Wayne Cox (Danielle) of King, NC; nine grandchildren, Britany Keyser, Sarah Alvarez-Garcia, Ariana Collins, Ava Love, Aaron Cox, Hayden Childress, Devin Cox, Brianna Sigmon, and Clay Griffin; four great-grandchildren,

Addi Collins, Aubri Collins, Ellie Love, and Benny Alvarez-Garcia; one sister, Candace Sammons of Mt. Airy, NC.

Funeral service will be held, Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Gary Combs officiating. Burial will be private. Family will receive friends from 12:30 until time of the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Five Forks Wesleyan Church, 3778 Salem Hwy., Stuart, VA 24171. Moody Funeral Home in Stuart has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences may be made by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

USDA sets new priorities for upcoming year

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, signed a Secretary's Memorandum that puts forth a focused effort to establish new priorities for future research and development activities funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to strengthen U.S. Agriculture for farmers and consumers.

Moving forward, new research and development activities funded by USDA will be focused on projects that address one or more of the following priorities that put Farmers First:

1. Increasing Profitability of Farmers and Ranchers: While research to increase productivity has allowed American farmers and ranchers to provide the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food and fiber supply, the volatility in profitability of American agriculture leads to significant uncertainty for producers. Research and development that results in increased profitability—such as reducing inputs or increasing mechanization and automation—will benefit American farmers and ranchers.

2. Expanding Markets and Creating New Uses of U.S. Agricultural Products: With

many producers experiencing record yields this growing season, it is more important than ever to ensure USDA is expanding markets and creating new uses for these American-grown commodities. Research and development that seeks to open new markets—such as generating science and data to resolve longstanding sanitary and phytosanitary trade barriers—or expand the utilization of these commodities in novel biobased products and bioenergy (including biofuels) will result in increased demand.

3. Protecting the Integrity of American Agriculture from Invasive Species: The resurgence of New World Screwworm in Mexico, continued westward expansion of the Spotted Lanternfly, persistence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in poultry flocks, and decimation of our domestic citrus industry due to citrus greening are just a few examples of how invasive pests and diseases threaten American agriculture and natural resources. Research and development focused on new and effective methods for preventing, detecting, controlling, and eradicating these threats is a

(See USDA p. 9)

PATRICK PULPITS

A Challenge for the New Year

By Alan Dean, retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her."

This is a very challenging request that the Apostle Paul makes for husbands – to love as Christ loves the church. Even a quick survey of our country, the world, and even in the church shows husbands falling far short of this goal. But it is so important for the family. Family counselor, Gary Smalley, has said that the best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother. It's amazing to see the positive influence this makes upon the children, just to see their dad warmly embrace their mother.

Of course, this type of love expressed to the wife has great value to her as well. Psychologists say that it is love that has the greatest value to women, whereas respect generally has the greatest value to men. However, I believe respect would come if the wife received the love due her.

Men need to understand that love can be expressed in different ways. Besides warm embracing, love is expressed by quality time together. Women especially love this, even if it is only an hour per day. Our busy American lifestyle makes this hard for many couples. However, it's very important to set aside some quality time daily.

Love can also be expressed through service. Being a help to the wife in the home or doing yard, garden, and maintenance work is much appreciated by most wives. Keeping the home and the grounds in shape is important to them.

Some women feel loved when they receive gifts such as flowers, a card, or a little box of candy. They are impressed that their husband thought of them earlier in the day and took time to buy a gift. It can be inexpensive because it's as much the thought as the gift.

And lastly, love can be expressed to the wife by affirmation. Wives (and husbands) enjoy hearing appreciation for a work well-done. It can be for a good meal, a clean house, a pretty dress or for men a pretty landscape, a healthy garden, or his sharp-looking pickup. It encourages this person to continue doing their best.

However, the important thing to know is that most women (and men) have a favorite way of receiving love. It is up to the husband and wife to learn the favorite love language of their spouse in order to have the greatest impact. Buying gifts for a wife who wants quality time is of little value.

Finally, it's important to know which type of love the husband likes to give, and not expect what he doesn't naturally give. He may like to give service (do things for her) rather than giving her quality time. Good communication is needed to work out the proper priorities. So husbands, getting to know your wife's love language is the first step in improving a loving relationship. Good communication can accomplish this.

Good marriages are the foundation to a strong family, a strong church, and a strong society. May the Lord help men to begin a true revival in our country in 2026 that will please Him.

BIBLE TRIVIA

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Titus (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Joshua 2, who hid two spies on a roof? Hosea, Ezra, Satan, Rahab
3. What was the first bird released from Noah's Ark? Raven, Pigeon, Sparrow, Dove

5. Which of these worked seven years to earn a wife? Isaiah, Abraham, Jacob, Joshua
6. From Joel 3, what was the mountain of the Lord? Sinai, Zion, Nebo, Moriah

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Rahab, 3) Raven, 4) Dogs, 5) Jacob, 6) Zion



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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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Stuart
(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
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Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Wednesdays
Community Meal & Service 6:00 pm
Food Distribution Ministry:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Stuart Baptist Church
Bringing the World to Christ
108 W. Blue Ridge St. 9:45 Sunday School
276-694-3440 11:00 Worship Service
www.stuartbaptist.org office@stuartbaptist.org

Stuart Seventh-Day Adventist Church
220 Patrick Avenue, PO Box 1078, Stuart, VA 24171
276-694-7677 • www.stuartva.adventistchurch.org
SATURDAY SERVICES:
Sabbath School - 9:20; Worship 11:00 a.m.
Come visit our Bible-believing church

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USDA

(cont. from page 8)

top priority for USDA and the security of U.S. agriculture.

4. Promoting Soil Health to Regenerate Long-Term Productivity of Land: American farmers and ranchers are the original conservationists as no one stewards their land more than those whose entire livelihood, and that of their successive generations, depend on it. Research and development that promotes soil health practices, increases water-use efficiency, and reduces inputs will ensure farms and ranches remain productive for generations to come.

5. Improving Human Health through Precision Nutrition and Food Quality: Substantial

and increasingly robust evidence shows that a healthy diet can help people achieve and maintain good health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases throughout all stages of life. Rigorous research on precision nutrition is needed to better understand how healthy dietary patterns impact people at the individual level with the goal of more targeted nutritional recommendations to encourage healthy choices, healthy outcomes, and healthy families. Additionally, research and development on increasing the nutritional content and quality of foods will lead to increased demand for American agricultural products.

Read Local
Keep up with your community!

OBITUARY SUBMISSION DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

Weekly SUDOKU

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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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Super Crossword

FAMILY EXPANSION

- ACROSS**
- 1 It turns litmus paper blue
 - 7 Strip a disguise from
 - 13 "— Baby" (#1 U2 album of 1991)
 - 20 Arrive like the tide
 - 21 Savage
 - 22 Less dull
 - 23 Rural lumber-jack resting after chopping?
 - 25 Lounged around
 - 26 Dreamcast producer
 - 27 Get as clear profit
 - 28 100-yr. period
 - 29 Heap (up)
 - 30 Trough for toting bricks
 - 33 Extended cloth used for messy cold-weather meals?
 - 38 Hostile force
 - 40 Down food
 - 41 Purple spring blooms
 - 42 Wide-shoe letters
 - 43 Spool
 - 44 Gets firm
 - 46 Produced a napped surface on
 - 48 Chart showing the highs and lows of actress Ellen's career?
 - 51 LP replacers
 - 52 KGB's milieu
 - 56 "— all over!"
 - 57 Asian dress
 - 58 Alex of "The Godfather"
 - 61 Unit of work
 - 62 Orioles great Ripken
 - 63 Gp. for Qatar
 - 64 Sea in 75-Across
 - 65 "Now I see!"
 - 67 Matchstick-removing game
 - 68 Suffix with señor
 - 69 Item pinned on to support a Russian poet's election to office?
 - 72 Sarge, e.g.
 - 73 Abbr. for a handy-andy
 - 74 Mil. missions
 - 75 Qatar locale
 - 76 Lovers' deity
 - 77 Still
 - 78 Revise
 - 80 Prepare to give a ring?
 - 81 Horse father
 - 82 Beijing-to-Shanghai dir.
 - 83 Shot fluids
 - 84 "— see it ..."
 - 86 One of the Skywalkers dressed up as St. Nick?
 - 89 Kind of pear
 - 93 With skill
 - 94 Fir's cousin
 - 95 "Ender's Game" star
 - 98 Unmoving machine part
 - 99 Troop gp.
 - 100 They negate dees
 - 101 Afghan-wrapped football?
 - 106 "Help!"
 - 107 Guthrie at Woodstock
 - 108 B-to-F string
 - 109 Thai tongue
 - 110 "Think of — a loan"
 - 112 Foot lever
 - 114 Clean a jack-o'-lantern with a Hoover?
 - 120 More weighty
 - 121 Alicia of ballet
 - 122 Choose
 - 123 Aden citizens
 - 124 French edict site of 1598
 - 125 Nail coater
 - 126 Big name in shortening
 - 30 Weedkillers
 - 31 Singly
 - 32 James Fenimore Cooper novel, with "The"
 - 34 Grow wealthy
 - 35 "I — Male War Bride"
 - 36 History unit
 - 37 Suffix of enzymes
 - 39 Monogram in civil rights
 - 44 Grab quickly
 - 45 Departure
 - 46 Most prickly
 - 47 Trio less one
 - 49 Crustacean such as a wood louse
 - 50 Kudos
 - 53 Features of cloudless days
 - 54 Cuts, as pie
 - 55 Far-off distance
 - 59 Jewish mysticism
 - 60 "McQ" actor
 - 61 Speed skater Dan
 - 65 Of a heart chamber
 - 66 Shout of joy
 - 70 State east of Colo.
 - 71 Nuclear trial prohibition
 - 79 Catch cold
 - 80 Tartan skirt sporter
 - 84 First Constitution section
 - 85 Risen people
 - 87 Galileo's gp.
 - 88 Inclined (to)
 - 90 Petition, e.g.
 - 91 History unit
 - 92 Light refrain
 - 95 Disinterest
 - 96 "No —!" ("Uh-uh!")
 - 97 Glistening
 - 99 Hall-of-Fame footballer Mel
 - 100 Flower organ
 - 102 Dry, white Italian wine
 - 103 Strips for breakfast
 - 104 Currency unit of Laos
 - 105 Musical exercise
 - 111 Lab safety org.?
 - 113 Major racket
 - 114 U-Haul rental
 - 115 Capitalize on
 - 116 Cal. dozen
 - 117 — Jong-un
 - 118 Suffix with chlor-
 - 119 "— Blu Dipinto di Blu" (1958 hit)

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE ENTERPRISE

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

Events

Wednesday, Jan. 7

The Patrick County Parks and Recreation Department will offer Free Tai Chi Flow classes for seniors. Join us to improve your balance, flexibility and coordination. The 1-hour classes will meet every Wednesday and Thursday in January and February at 3 p.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. For information, email Keith at kskallapos@gmail.com.

Thursday, Jan. 8

The Patrick County Senior Citizens Group will hold its monthly meeting at 11 a.m. in the Hooker Building at Rotary Field in Stuart. Entertainment will be provided by Junior Cassady and Friends. Beverages will be provided. The menu is potluck, so bring your favorite meats, vegetables, and/or desserts to share.

Sunday, Jan. 11

The Genealogy Society of Rockingham and Stokes County's next program is at 2:30 p.m., in Danbury Public Library. Program will be presented by Elvin Perkins on the Workers Progress Administration (WPA) and slave narratives.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Food Bank distribution: 8:30 - 11 a.m. at 108 Commerce Street, Stuart and again 5- 6:30 p.m.; 8- 10 a.m. at Fellowship Church in Ararat; 5:30 until out of boxes at the Community Building in Meadows of Dan.

Friday, Jan. 16

The Community Food Pantry will be at the Fairy Stone VFD from 3-4 p.m.

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

Ongoing

The Patrick County Parks and Recreation Office are holding sign-ups for grades K-3 basketball season through 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.

JANUARY						PATRICK COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARY						2026	
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday			
								1		2		3	
Interested or have questions about our programs? Call us at 276-694-3352. *Registration required. Walking Club meets at the Food Bank parking lot at the Rail Trail on Tuesday mornings.						CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS DAY		Sit & Stitch 11:00					
5		6		7		8		9		10			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00		Walking Club 9:00		Not Your Mother's Book Club 5pm		Homeschool Bookworms 10:30		Book Bedazzling Club 11am			
LEGO Club 4:00		Storytime 10:30 Black Bears Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*		Gentle Yoga 12:30*									
12		13		14		15		16		17			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Rubber Ducks Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*		Walking Club 9:00 Book Bingo 10:30 Gentle Yoga 12:30*		Open Art Studio 1:00 Decades Trivia 6:00-7:00		Sit & Stitch 11:00		Dolly Celebration 10:30			
19		20		21		22		23		24			
CLOSED FOR MLK DAY		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 NO STORYTIME Chair Yoga 2:15* Gentle Yoga 5:15*		Walking Club 9:00 Retired Teachers Book Club 11am Gentle Yoga 12:30* Library Board Meeting 3pm				Senior Social 11:00		Living w/ Black Bears in VA 11am			
26		27		28		29		30		31			
Barre Yoga 10:00*		Walking Club at the Rail Trail 9:00 Storytime 10:30 Games Chair Yoga 2:15*		Walking Club 9:00 Gentle Yoga 12:30* National Shelfie Day		Basic Technology 2 Smartphones 1pm							

Super Crossword

Answers

A	L	K	A	L	I	U	N	M	A	S	K	A	C	H	T	U	N	G				
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3	7	6	9	2	8	1	5	4
1	9	8	3	4	5	2	7	6
4	5	2	1	7	6	8	3	9
7	4	1	8	6	3	5	9	2
8	2	3	7	5	9	4	6	1
5	6	9	2	1	4	3	8	7
9	1	5	6	3	2	7	4	8
6	3	7	4	8	1	9	2	5
2	8	4	5	9	7	6	1	3

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Pre-apply now for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is currently accepting pre-applications for the 2026 Specialty Crop Block Grant program. The United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS) provides VDACS with Specialty Crop Block Grant funding to increase the competitiveness of Virginia specialty crops in the marketplace.

Pre-applications are due by 5 p.m. on Feb. 6, and should be submitted using the agency's online portal, which is available at www.vdacs.virginia.gov/sales-specialty-crop-competitive-grant-program.shtml. Applications received after 5 p.m. on Feb. 6 will not be considered. Project leaders will receive notification by Feb. 23, as to if their project is selected to develop a full proposal. Full proposals will be due on March 13.

The program grant period is

expected to begin on Oct. 1, and the duration of each grant is up to two years. This program is contingent upon the availability of federal funding.

A virtual information session will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 10 a.m., to detail the 2026 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program round of funding and application process. Please visit www.vdacs.virginia.gov/sales-specialty-crop-competitive-grant-program.shtml for the virtual information session link and additional information including previous year's guidelines, instructions, and application.

VDACS will accept pre-applications of up to \$100,000 per project from state and local government agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and agricultural associations, industry and producer groups. Individual producers are not eligible to apply for this grant.

Specialty crop competitive

grant proposals must be specific and explain how an association, industry group or organization will use the funds to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Some examples include research, promotion and marketing plans, as well as food safety projects and projects that improve food access. In awarding USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funds, VDACS will give priority to projects that have the sole purpose of enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops as they pertain to the following issues:

- Enhance food safety.
- Improve the capacity of all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain to comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act and in cost-share arrangements for finding audits of such systems, including USDA Group-GAP, for small farmers, packers, and processors.
- Invest in specialty crop re-

search, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes.

- Develop new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops.
- Improve pest and disease control.
- Increase child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops.
- Improve efficiency and reduce costs of distribution systems.
- Enhance sustainability.

Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops to include floriculture. Visit www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop for more information on eligible and ineligible crops.

Questions regarding the pre-application process should be directed to Janelle Otieno at janelle.otieno@vdacs.virginia.gov or Melissa Ball at melissa.ball@vdacs.virginia.gov.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING: The Patrick County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, January 12, 2026 on proposed increase of income limit for the Elderly and Handicapped Tax Relief Ordinance. The hearing will be held in the 3rd floor Courtroom on the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, Virginia. Anyone wishing to view the proposed revisions to the current Elderly and Handicapped Tax Relief Ordinance may do so at the County Administration office, Suite 218 located in the Patrick County Veterans Memorial building.

If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please contact the County Administration Office at 276-694-6094.

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT

Solutions That Empower People (STEP) Inc., Senior Services, Senior Transportation proposes to provide flex-fixed route and demand response transportation throughout Patrick County. Funds are being requested from the Commonwealth of Virginia to purchase one (1) 5-Passenger minivan with ramp and one (1) 9-Passenger high roof van with wheelchair lift through the FTA Section 5310 Capital Program to replace two (2) older, high mileage vehicles currently being used in Patrick County.

We invite any interested public or private transit or Para-transit operators in Patrick County to comment on the proposed services by sending a written notice by February 1st, 2026 to Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation - Public Transportation Division, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219 and to Solutions That Empower People (STEP) Inc., 4559 Wayside Road, Stuart, Virginia 24171.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE

4844 Fairystone Park Highway, Stuart, VA 24171
Patrick County

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$83,315.08, dated March 7, 2005 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Patrick County, Virginia, in Document No. 050000662, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee and will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Circuit Court of Patrick County, 101 W. Blue Ridge Street, Stuart, on February 4, 2026 at 11:30 AM the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

Containing .9893 acres, more or less, as shown on plat of survey, recorded in Deed Book 190, Page 118, with any improvements thereon

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than \$9,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the validity of the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.c., Substitute Trustee

This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C. (91659)
448 Viking Drive Suite 350
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757-457-1460 - Call Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
or visit our website at www.siwpc.net

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TRUSTEE'S SALE

110 Mountain View Heights, Stuart, VA 24171

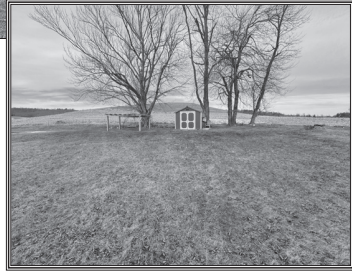
In execution of the Deed of Trust dated September 30, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$132,000.00, recorded as Inst. 160001585, assigned as Inst. 250001994, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Patrick, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Patrick on January 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lots 5B and 4A, containing 1.049 acres, as shown on survey recorded in Plat Cabinet 1, slide 249 J, County of Patrick. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$10,000.00 or of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status available at dolanreid.com/foreclosure-sales. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

For Information Contact:

DolanReid PLLC and G. Benny Moore, Substitute Trustee(s)
12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. D, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255, Ext. 220 or Ext. 260

ABSOLUTE REAL ESTATE AUCTION SAT., JANUARY 10, 2026 - 10:00 AM

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Rail Trail enhancements aim to attract year-round use



Patrick County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rebecca Adcock displays items included in the River Ranger boxes available along the trail.



A ribbon cutting was held Oct. 18 to celebrate the monarch waystation pollinator garden along the Mayo River Rail Trail.



Lisa Garrett, of Bull Mountain Arts, created a mural that placed on the back of a kiosk at the end of the Mayo River Rail Trail.



By Taylor Boyd

Even in the quieter winter months, the Mayo River Rail Trail continues to draw walkers, families and visitors — and recent enhancements are designed to encourage even more people to explore the community asset year-round.

Upgrades along the trail focus on adding amenities that support recreation, education and visual interest, building on what users already value about the space.

Sarah Wray, regional outreach coordinator at the Reynolds Homestead, said the work grew out of the Appalachian Gateway Community Initiative, which is funded through the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Conservation Fund.

It works “to provide communities with technical assistance and support as they think about ways to connect their public lands to economic sectors and downtowns and to build some long-term vitality and sustainability in communities all across the country,” Wray said.

The initiative comprises the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, Master Naturalists, the Town of Stuart, the Dan River Basin Association, the Reynolds Homestead, Bull Mountain Arts and Patrick County Tourism.

Planning for long-term use

In April 2024, Patrick County was one of seven communities across the nation selected to attend a workshop in Alabama.

“During that week, we learned from a lot of professionals that are doing outdoor recreation works, they’re doing cultural tourism work, and they’re really trying to find out ways that they can amplify their natural assets and their public lands,” Wray said.

While at the workshop, participants developed a plan to enhance the Mayo River Rail Trail.

“We really identified early on that this is a community asset. It’s something that people find a lot of peace and solitude in, they use this as recreation, for exploration, and curiosity. We just wanted to amplify what was already taking place, add a few amenities, and encourage more people to come and utilize this incredible trail,”

Wray said.

The group is also looking ahead to developing a comprehensive plan to help extend and expand the trail to connect it with other assets across the county.

New features along the trail

One of the first enhancements added was a Little Free Library box built and donated by Nelson and Ann McConnell. The box is located beside the trail’s parking lot off Commerce Street.

“They’ve been really strong advocates for literacy and little free libraries across Patrick County and in their neighborhood and we’re really grateful they were able to donate this to us,” Wray said.

She noted the library had been full the week before but was then half-empty.

“We’ve got some restocking to do,” she said.

Nearby are River Ranger boxes funded by the Dan River Basin Association.

“They are river exploration kits that families, youth, or individuals can check them out, take them to the river, and explore the natural habitats,” Wray said.

The boxes include small hand fishing nets, informational booklets, macroinvertebrate identification sheets and clipboards that can be used to document findings.

“To help us make sure that we are maintaining a healthy ecosystem for our rivers,” Wray said.

The River Ranger boxes were launched on Trout Fishing Day in April.

Education and ecology

Master Naturalist Norma Bozenmayer said seeing children use the kits has been particularly rewarding.

“They’re out in the river and they’ve looking for macros and learning that macroinvertebrates are related to water quality. That’s probably the thing that excites me the most about that project. It’s also making them excited about ecology in general and how to protect the environment and that’s our passion as well, so we’re really excited that it has worked so far,” she said.

The Master Naturalists also installed a monarch waystation pollinator garden near the Lit-

tle Free Library.

Bozenmayer said the location was selected because it met the requirements for a waystation, including proximity to water and trees and access to sunlight.

“The Town of Stuart helped us bring in a lot of mulch, and we put cardboard out and unloaded the mulch, and it was quite a project. Then I think we planted about 110 different plants. You can’t see them all now, some of them bloom at different times of the year, some of them look weedy, some of them probably have died,” she said.

Over the summer, Bozenmayer said monarch butterflies were observed at the site.

“The monarchs showed up, and they actually consumed all of our milkweed, which isn’t necessarily a good thing, but it shows if you plant it they’ll come. I saw the eggs, I saw the caterpillars, then I saw the butterflies,” she said.

Art adds visual interest

The final enhancement was a mural placed on the back of a kiosk at the end of the trail.

As the backs of the kiosks were left open, Wray said the group saw an opportunity to add artwork to the space.

“We worked with Bull Mountain Arts and a SEED grant that we received from our participation” in the initiative, she said. “Bull Mountain Arts went to their membership and put out a call for proposals, and Lisa Garrett stepped up to the plate and made this beautiful piece of artwork that just a few minutes ago she titled, ‘Stop and Smell the Flowers.’”

The mural depicts three bears in a field with the Blue Ridge Mountains in the background. One bear cub is shown in the foreground smelling wildflowers.

Ribbon cutting held

A ribbon cutting was held Oct. 18 to celebrate the enhancements made along the Mayo River Rail Trail.

Organizers said the upgrades are intended to encourage continued use of the trail throughout the year, offering visitors something new to experience even during the colder months.

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Laurel Hills Many Histories: The Pedigos Part One

By Tom Perry

In 1854, James Ewell Brown “Jeb” Stuart, sporting a new beard, was riding with the Regiment of Mounted Rifles in far western Texas, near present day El Paso and Fort Davis, today a national park. Laughingly described as “the only man he ever saw that a beard improved,” he wrote that the whiskers had “so much altered my physique that you could not recognize me.” He commented, as he often did, about his Birthplace in Patrick County: “Love still retains some deathless chains to bind the heart to home.” About this time, Stuart encountered his “countryman,” who might have been Ira Pulaski Pedigo, riding with some Texas Rangers.

History has known them as Peregoy, Perigoy, Pedigoy, Pedigee, Perigords, but J. E. B. Stuart knew them as his neighbors, the Pedigo Family. The story of Pedigo begins in France, where Joseph Peregoy was born in 1665. These



Photo by Lewis R Pedigo and Pedigo Cemetery in Ararat, Virginia.

French Huguenots arrived in North America in 1685 and lived in Maryland for five years. Joseph married Sarah Manford in 1688. Their son, Henry Peregoy, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1690. Henry married Amey Greene in 1716, but her death in 1744 and Henry’s remarriage to Providence Corbin led the Peregoy or Pedigo family to live in Ararat.

Having suffered the “oppressions of a tyrannical stepmother,”

two brothers, sons of Henry, ran away from their home. The brothers felt that the “menial service” and with “no opportunity of education” was too much for them to bear, and used the “high maintenance” ways of their stepmother to their advantage.

The brothers made their way to the York River Valley, where they stayed until they matured. They went west across the piedmont of Virginia to the Smith Riv-



er. Robert settled on the north bank and Edward on the south bank near present day Mulberry Creek in Martinsville.

Edward Pedigo married Hannah Elkins in 1760 in Halifax County, Virginia, and produced fourteen children. Born in Baltimore County, Maryland, on December 10, 1730, Edward enlisted in the Patriot cause of the American Revolution on February 13, 1778. He found himself in Captain Charles Flem-

ing’s Company of the 70th Virginia Foot. He served at Valley Forge with Washington and at Morristown along with D’Estaining’s fleet in Savannah. Edward’s life ended in Barren County, Kentucky, on April 26, 1834.

Robert Pedigo’s (1728-1822) descendants stayed in the area. Edward’s son Abel (1770-1849) married Susannah Ray Ross, the daughter of Daniel and Betty Garth Ross, in 1792. Abel and Susannah lived in Patrick County. Among their seven children born in the Elamsville area, Patrick was Lewis R. Pedigo (October 7, 1794 to December 31, 1877), who married Sarah Harbour.

Lewis and Sarah Pedigo moved to “The Hollow” and began raising their family near where Clark’s Creek emptied into the Ararat River, on adjoining property to the Laurel Hill Farm. Their children were Judge Henry Clay “HC” Pedigo 1820–1881, Albert Gallatin Pedigo 1821–1910, John Harden Pedigo 1823–1920, Carolina Matilda Pedigo 1827–1915, Susan Joyce Pedigo 1829–1912, Dr David Floyd Pedigo 1834–1920, Loui-

sa Elizabeth Pedigo 1836–1865, Abram Lincoln Pedigo 1838–1908, McRobert Pedigo 1842–1865, Joseph Reed Pedigo 1842–1921, and Mary Bethenia Pedigo 1844–1913.

The story passed down to me was that among their children was Ira Pulaski Pedigo, who encountered his neighbor, J. E. B. Stuart, in Texas in 1854, but I have not been able to find anything about him. Tradition says he went to Texas with his oldest brother, Henry Clay Pedigo, a lawyer and judge in Hardin County, Texas. Ira spent many years in Texas, but eventually returned to Henry County, Virginia.

Butting up next door to the 75 acres owned by the J. E. B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust is the Pedigo Cemetery, where nearly every stone tells a story. The simple graves tell a story of a family whose descendants remain within sight of the national landmark made famous by a young man named “Jeb.”

Tom Perry can be reached at freestateofpatrick@yahoo.com, and the Stuart Birthplace website is www.jebstuart.org.

Twelve graduate from Surry’s BLET Program



A total of twelve students recently graduated from Surry Community College’s Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program. Eight students graduated from the Day II class. Front row, L to R: Gracie Brindle, Jaedon Hill, and Lauren Mulleady. Back row, L to R: Joshua Tulbert, BLET Qualified Asst/Law Enforcement Training Coordinator; Beau Booker, Wesley Ratledge, Christian Balloveras, Logan Fonville, and Barry VanHoy, Director of BLET. Not pictured: Anthony Licea.



A total of twelve students recently graduated from Surry Community College’s Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program. Four students graduated from the Evening class. L to R: Joshua Tulbert, BLET Qualified Asst/Law Enforcement Training Coordinator; Farren Sullivan, Nicholas Worrell, Patrick Shannon, Rylan Venable, and Barry VanHoy, Director of BLET.

Twelve students graduated from Surry Community College’s Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program on December 16 in the Grand Hall of the Shelton-Badgett North Carolina Center for Viticulture & Enology on SCC’s Dobson campus.

The BLET Day II class graduates are Gracie Brindle, Jaedon Hill, Lauren Mulleady, Beau Booker, Wesley Ratledge, Christian Balloveras, Logan Fonville, and Anthony Licea.

The BLET Evening class graduates are Farren Sullivan, Nicholas Worrell, Patrick Shannon, and Rylan Venable.

Both BLET classes achieved a 100 percent pass rate for first-time test takers on the BLET State Comprehensive Examination.

The Basic Law Enforcement Training Program is an 868-hour program designed to pre-

pare individuals with cognitive and physical skills to become entry level certified police officers and deputy sheriffs in North Carolina. Persons desiring to become sworn law enforcement officers in North Carolina must successfully complete this course in its entirety and pass a state exam. To qualify for admission, an individual must meet the same requirements as those mandated by the N.C. Criminal Justice Standards/N.C. Sheriffs’ Standards Commission for a sworn law enforcement officer.

If you’d like to find out more about the Basic Law Enforcement program at SCC, contact Barry VanHoy, Director of the Public Safety Complex and Director of Basic Law Enforcement Training, at vanhoyb@surry.edu or (336) 386-3696.



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